

Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission

2012

ANNUAL REPORT



2012 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION MEMBERS



Susan Mays, Vice Chair

Judy Johnson, Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Patricia Boortz

Jane Foley

Cheryl Hart

Lisa Hughes

Susan Leibel

Stephen N. Livingston

Max Madrid

Rick Martinez

Eula Nelson

John D. Nguyen

Judy Zorrilla



Seated from left to right:

Commissioners William Steiner, Cynthia Coad, Judy Johnson, Susan Mays, and Michael Schumacher

Middle row from left to right:

Commissioners Susan Leibel, John Nguyen, Jane Foley, Lisa Hughes, Max Madrid, Judy Zorrilla, and Eula Nelson

Back row from left to right:

Administrative Officer Beverly MacLaren, Commissioners Stephen N. Livingston, Cheryl Hart, Rick Martinez, Patricia Boortz, and Office Specialist Vanessa Martinez

Not Shown:

Commissioner Adrienne Jennings McMillan

Commissioners Cynthia Coad and Michael Schumacher retired after serving for over eight years each; and, Commissioner William Steiner retired after serving for over seven years. Commissioner Lisa Hughes tendered her resignation after serving for over six years. Commissioner Adrienne Jennings McMillan tendered her resignation for health reasons after serving on the Juvenile Justice Commission for one year.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank and acknowledge each of the Commissioners for their contributions, diligence, and commitment to improving the lives of children in Orange County.



**Superior Court of California
County of Orange
Juvenile Justice Commission**

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Max P. Madrid
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John D. Nguyen
Judy Zorrilla

December 31, 2012

Dear Reader:

The 2012 Annual Report of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission covers the past year's efforts and accomplishments. The Commission consists of dedicated volunteers who possess a broad spectrum of experience in law, politics, education, local government, social welfare, law enforcement, and probation. Commissioners serve on committees and as liaisons to various government and community-based organizations.

This year, the Commission's social services/group homes and probation committees inspected a wide variety of group homes/temporary shelters, issued correction action notices (CAN) when necessary, and are pleased to report that there was full compliance with these notices. The education committee visited several ACCESS school locations, attended meetings with teachers and administrators, attended Independent Living Program workshops (ILP), attended many graduation ceremonies throughout the year, and worked closely with the Department of Education to ensure all minors who are in the juvenile justice system received appropriate classroom education. The law enforcement agency committee performed the annual inspections of 28 police departments and Sheriff's facilities that detain minors. Committee members also inspected all of the Probation Department's custody institutions housing juveniles and the Orangewood Children and Family Center for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Although it was another year of county budget cuts reducing the number of agency workers and programs, the Commission still found the care these institutions provide for minors to be outstanding.

Commissioners continued to monitor the implementation of mental health treatment and prevention programs in the Health Care Agency that have been funded by Proposition 63. Other areas of focus for the Commission included juvenile sex trafficking, gang prevention and awareness, truancy prevention, the operation of the Tustin Family Campus, the reduction in the number of children being placed at the Orangewood Children and Family Center, the operation of juvenile collaborative courts, the continued use of the Probation Department's Risk Assessment Instrument, monitoring legislation, and serving on the Child Death Review committee. Throughout the year, the Commission also continued to monitor county budgetary adjustments, including program reductions, staff layoffs, and the effects of AB 12 and AB 109 legislation and their impact on the children in the justice system.

Central to the mission of the Commission is the cooperation and collaboration with the many public and private agencies working with the children in the juvenile justice system. These agencies send representatives to attend our monthly meetings to share information and answer questions. Several of these agencies provided the Commission with guest speakers. This year's speakers included: Sheriff Sandra Hutchens, Honorable Maria Hernandez, Honorable Richard Lee, Commissioner Jane Shade, Chief Deputy Probation Officer Bryan Prieto, Dr. James Harte of Health Care Agency, Santa Ana School District Police Chief David Valentin, Vanguard University Professor Sandra Morgan, Juvenile Court Unit Manager Anaruth Gonzalez, Gang Prevention/Safe Schools Coordinator Jim Perez, Irene Briggs and Ilan Wolf of Social Services Agency's Children and Family Services, Tony Gibson and Betsy DeGarmoe of the Department of Education, Jack Stanton of the Regional Center of Orange County, and GET S.A.F.E. Executive Director Stuart Haskin. The Commission would like to again thank all of the speakers for their time, for their informative programs and for providing detailed answers to the Commission's questions.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their selfless dedication and numerous hours of work this past year. Because it was another year of serious cuts in the County budget, all of the Commission's work, but especially its inspections and site visit work, was even more important and necessary this year. I would also like to thank Judge Hatchimonji for his on-going support and for his informative presentations at some of this year's meetings. I also extend my appreciation to our wonderful, talented, and hardworking Administrative Officer Beverly MacLaren and her assistant Vanessa Martinez. Special thanks to Commissioners Cynthia Coad, William Steiner, Michael Schumacher, and Lisa Hughes, all of whom retired in 2012, for their years of service and leadership to the Commission and to the children of Orange County. The entire JJC would like to express our sympathy and thanks to the family of Commissioner Adrienne Jennings McMillan who passed away earlier this year.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to have served as chairperson this past year.

Sincerely,



Judy J. Johnson
Chair

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is a statutorily mandated group of private citizens who perform a variety of advocacy and regulatory functions on behalf of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The JJC is empowered by the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 225 – 231 to “inquire into the administration of juvenile court law.” The JJC adopts a goal-oriented and proactive approach in meeting its responsibilities throughout the year.

Functions and Responsibilities

The JJC conducts inspections of law enforcement agency facilities temporarily housing minors; county operated juvenile facilities including Juvenile Hall, Youth Leadership Academy, Youth Guidance Center, Joplin Youth Center, and Orangewood Children and Family Center; and group homes where wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court are placed. The Commission reviews and monitors the educational, medical, and mental health programs within these facilities. The JJC also monitors adoption and foster care programs, group homes, and proceedings of the Juvenile Court.

The Commissioners participate as liaisons to various county agencies and community-based organizations. These liaison activities provide the opportunity to offer input as to the special needs of wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court, to keep informed on current county agency and community-based organization activities, to monitor budget cuts and their impact on programs, and to be advised of collaborative efforts made by these groups for the benefit of the youth within the system.

The Commission investigates citizen complaints regarding allegations of unlawful or inappropriate treatment of children and inquires into the administration of juvenile court law to ensure the highest standards are maintained for the youth in the juvenile justice system. The results of these studies, reviews, and inquiries are filed with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. The JJC also conducts special investigations and studies at the request of the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court.

The Commission can hold public hearings and request the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to issue subpoenas to require attendance, testimony of witnesses, and the submission of documents and other evidence.

Appointment of Commissioners

The Commissioners are appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to serve a four-year term. The recruitment for new commissioners is an ongoing process and an active applicant list is maintained. The Commission is comprised of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens. Two of the positions are youth members between the ages of 14 and 21. This year the two youth member positions remained vacant. The JJC continues to encourage applications from the residents of Orange County.

Budget

The approved budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 was \$159,568. Budget expenditure categories for Fiscal Year 2011/2012 remained at relatively the same levels as in previous years. Staffing expenditures continue to be approximately 92% of the total budget allotment. Commissioner attendance at the JJC meetings was 85.5% in 2012. The legally mandated meeting reimbursement continues to be \$25 per meeting, not to exceed two meetings per month. The Commissioners travel hundreds of miles at their own expense and contribute hundreds of hours of their personal time to perform their duties throughout the year.

Staff

Ms. Beverly MacLaren has the role of Commission administrator, advisor, facilitator, liaison, and budget cost center manager. Her responsibilities include oversight and production of the Annual Report; coordination of annual institution, law enforcement agency, and group home inspections; staffing investigations; participating in child fatality reviews; overseeing the preparation and review of the Commission meeting agendas and minutes; compiling special reports; answering inquiries from citizens, organizations, and county departments; drafting written communications; assisting with the training of new commissioners; and acting as the liaison to the Juvenile Court, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, Probation Department, and other county departments and community based organizations.

The Juvenile Justice Commission Operations Unit has Vanessa Martinez, Office Specialist, to assist the Administrative Officer with her duties on a part-time basis.

II. MANDATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Inspections of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 209, the Juvenile Justice Commission annually inspects law enforcement agency facilities with respect to the handling of juveniles who come into their care. Those minors should not be detained in excess of six hours pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 207.1. The total number of minors held in excess of six hours and minors detained in 2011 and 2012 are noted in the following table. These statistics have been provided by the law enforcement agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	2012 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS		TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	
		2011	2012	2011	2012
Anaheim	03/14/12	0	0	538	436
Brea/Yorba Linda	03/16/12	1	0	52	32
Buena Park	03/07/12	2	1	217	126
Costa Mesa	05/02/12	0	0	285	170
Cypress	03/26/12	0	0	57	48
Fountain Valley	06/06/12	0	0	101	77
Fullerton	04/03/12	0	0	261	209
Garden Grove	03/26/12	0	0	815	855
Huntington Beach	06/06/12	0	1	206	187
Irvine	03/21/12	0	0	170	81
La Habra	04/03/12	0	0	266	212
La Palma	03/07/12	1	2	24	24
Laguna Beach	05/02/12	2	1	118	98
Los Alamitos	03/26/12	0	0	9	6
Newport Beach	05/02/12	0	0	221	168
Orange	03/28/12	0	0	71	71
Placentia	03/16/12	0	0	146	85
Santa Ana	03/13/12	0	0	399	313
Santa Ana Unified School District	06/01/12	N/A	0	N/A	19
Seal Beach	06/06/12	0	0	12	12
Tustin	03/28/12	0	0	184	174
Westminster	03/29/12	0	4	171	161
Totals		6	9	4323	3564

Inspections of Orange County Sheriff's Department Facilities

The statistics provided by the Sheriff's Department are dissimilar from other Orange County law enforcement agencies because they do not operate as a "station centric" agency. The policy of the Sheriff's Department is to detain the majority of minors in the field to be released to a responsible adult, with only a limited number of minors brought into a Sheriff's facility.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITY	2012 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS		TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	
		2011	2012	2011	2012
Dana Point	05/16/12	0	0	15	6
North Operations □ Santa Ana	03/13/12	0	0	0	0
San Clemente	05/16/12	0	0	77	34
San Juan Capistrano	05/16/12	0	0	3	1
South Operations □ Aliso Viejo	05/16/12	0	0	11	3
Stanton Police Services □ Stanton	03/14/12	0	0	31	22
Totals		0	0	137	66

Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions

Joplin Youth Center

Unannounced Inspection: October 25, 2012



Description of Facility

The Joplin Youth Center (JYC) is operated by the Probation Department and is located on 336 acres in the Santa Ana Mountains at an elevation of 1800 feet. The buildings, utilities, and play areas consist of approximately 20 acres. Housing for boys is in a dormitory style building. The facility has the capacity to accommodate a maximum of 64 boys age 13 to 17. The population on the date of the inspection was 57 boys. The average age is 15 years old. Boys sent to JYC usually have 30 to 90 days remaining on their Court ordered commitment.

Some of the benefits for boys at JYC:

- Boys live in a dormitory style room with other youth
- Staff members are stationed in the room with the boys (good interaction)
- Boys learn to mingle with youth from different cultures and gangs
- Daily outdoor activities and responsibilities
- Numerous special programs

On-Site Observation

The facility is more than 50 years old. It appears to be well maintained. Major maintenance projects are on-going. The lawn and asphalt are in fair condition and the playing fields need to be seeded. The bathroom in the dormitory is in poor condition; however, repairs are in progress. Bathroom repairs include the showers and sink area. The carpet is to be replaced and painting of the dormitory and adjoining rooms is scheduled. The kitchen is organized and clean. Weekly menus are posted in the kitchen and in the school rooms. The boys are allowed 20 minutes for meals.

The boys wear county issued clothing. Their shirts are color coded indicating the level the boys have achieved for their behaviors and length of stay at the institution. Green shirts are worn by the boys for the first 30 days which is considered the orientation phase. Red shirts indicate the boys have reached the intermediate level. Burgundy shirts mean the boys have participated in the program for 60 days. Blue shirts are worn by boys who have participated in the program for 90 days. Black shirts signify the boys have achieved the highest level. Privileges at this level include the use of a weight room and furloughs of six to eight hours to help them transition back into the community. If minors are on a restricted status due to behavioral issues, they are assigned yellow shirts. The minors may be limited in their ability to participate in special activities, i.e., movie night, kitchen duty, water play day, and store incentives.

Visitation hours are on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for parents and other approved family members. Girlfriends who have received prior permission may visit. The families visit in the picnic area

at the center. If it is a rainy day, the visits are moved indoors. Parents are allowed to bring packaged food items. If parents are unable to travel to JYC, the boys can be transported to Juvenile Hall to visit their families.

Programs

There are between 33-35 staff members who implement more than 25 programs available to youth at JYC. The medical nurse is at the center three days a week. If an injury or illness occurs when the nurse is not at the JYC, a staff member contacts the Medical Unit at Juvenile Hall. If the minor needs treatment by medical personnel, he is transported to Juvenile Hall by a staff member. In the event of a medical emergency, 9-1-1 may be called and the minor transported to a hospital in Mission Viejo. There is one full-time mental health therapist at the center Monday through Friday. The boys attend substance abuse individual and group counseling sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays as part of the *FEAR* \square *Face Everything and Recover* program.

The school program consists of five classes daily (each 55 minutes in duration) and a lunch break after fourth period. The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:10 p.m. The boys work on general education subjects and individualized courses of instruction, depending on their academic grade levels. A Special Education teacher is available to work with special needs youth. Boys can earn up to ten school credits for completing courses in library apprenticeship and culinary arts. Neither the principal nor vice principal is onsite daily. The school program needs a full-time administrator. Currently the secretary is charged with gathering student information, as well as performing other administrative responsibilities.

The culinary arts and woodshop programs are very popular. Participation in both programs is based on the minor's level of behavior. In the woodshop, minors build skateboards they can take home with them. Art Teacher Ruth Rosen is at JYC every Tuesday to assist with the artwork on the skateboards. At the conclusion of the culinary arts program, the minor plans and cooks a meal for the entire institution.

The *Thinking For A Change (T4C)* program implemented at the Joplin Youth Center has three components: cognitive self-change teaches a process for self-reflection aimed at uncovering antisocial thoughts, feelings, attitude and beliefs; problem solving skills provide a step-by-step process to address challenging and stressful real life situations; and social skills prepare group members to engage in pro-social interactions based on self-understanding and consideration of the impact of their action on others.

The programs detailed in this report, as well as the other programs utilized at JYC, validate the primary goal of programs at JYC: "to develop academic, social, emotional and mental competence within the minor which allows him to return to the community and his home, and function in a successful and socially acceptance manner."

Action Requested by the Commission

A full-time principal, vice principal, or administrator should be placed in the school at JYC.

A full-time nurse should be placed at JYC.

The Culinary Arts, Woodshop, and Art teachers are to be commended and congratulated on their commitment, innovation, encouragement, and support of the minors learning these skills.

Orange County Juvenile Hall

Unannounced Inspection: July 12, 2012



Description of Facility

On the date of inspection, the facility housed 319 youth. There were 293 males and 26 females. Five years ago, the population hovered at 500. The drop is attributed to a point system established in 2009 to improve efficiency in the use of secure detention beds, and maximize the use of more cost-effective detention alternatives. Of the secure population, 12 percent of the minors were charged as “direct files” by the Orange County District Attorney’s Office; 29 percent were involved in the court process, and 7 percent were minors waiting to appear before the court for the first time. In addition, the Accountability Commitment Program (ACP) has 270 youths enrolled on GPS monitoring devices.

Staff

There are currently 200 staff members at Juvenile Hall, which meets the State requirement. Many members of the staff are bilingual in Spanish and Vietnamese languages. During sleeping hours the ratio of staff to youths is 1:30, the ratio for daytime hours is 1:22.

Description of the Units

Unit A is a High Security unit that houses minors who have been classified as Extreme Security Risk (XSR), and have been charged with serious and/or violent felonies. Their cases have been filed directly in adult court.

Some other minors also housed in this unit have been identified as needing protective custody from the general population. This group includes minors who have been charged with egregious sex offenses, minors testifying against their co-defendants, and minors subject to “no contact” orders.

Unit B is a twenty-bed detention unit for boys. This unit frequently houses minors in need of chronic medical attention.

Unit C houses the adult inmates. An adult inmate is a legal term that refers to youths who are at least 18 years of age and under the jurisdiction of the criminal court. These youth remain at Juvenile Hall because the Juvenile Court has ordered them to be detained, or to serve their commitment in a juvenile facility. Some of these youth may have a prior or pending misdemeanor or felony charge in adult court. The unit has a secure recreation area and classroom.

Units G and H are “pre-camp” units. The primary function of these two units is to house minors who have already received their commitments and are pending transfer to one of the three camp facilities that deal primarily with treatment and rehabilitation. Additionally, minors who have been removed from the camps and are awaiting transfer back to the removal site are housed in these units.

Unit I is set aside for youths with significant emotional or psychiatric needs. The unit predominantly houses male youths, but not exclusively. It is not uncommon to have multiple youths on suicide levels concurrently. The staff works with youths with a variety of diagnoses such as manic depression, oppositional defiance disorder, autism, and other severe intellectual disabilities. Suicidal youths or minors with medical conditions requiring one-to-one observation may be housed in this unit.

Unit J is a specialized unit that houses pre-adjudicated (non-committed) juvenile sex offenders. The male minors in this unit range in age from 11 to 18 years old. These minors attend a segregated school for their safety and are generally segregated from the general population.

Unit K houses adjudicated male juvenile sex offenders between the ages of 10 and 18. All juvenile sex offenders, both adjudicated and pre-adjudicated, are housed separate from the general population. The school has accommodated these minors with two separate classrooms. As a specialized unit, partially funded by a grant, adjudicated sex offenders are provided with weekly group counseling to address their court ordered sex offender therapy. Additionally, Deputy Juvenile Correctional Officers provide both individual casework counseling and unit programming to address each minor's social and behavioral needs.

Unit M is an intake unit for females. After female minors have been processed through the Intake and Release Center upon entry to Juvenile Hall, they are housed in this unit.

Unit O is a detention unit for female minors who are awaiting court adjudication, or for those who have received their commitments and are waiting transportation to Youth Guidance Center, or are medically directed to stay at Juvenile Hall.

Unit Q was created to establish a rehabilitative community for wards who fit the following criteria:

1. Formerly sentenced to the Department of Juvenile Justice or non 707(b) charges.
2. Long-term commitments of 180 days or more.
3. Wards with long-term commitments that need a more secure environment.
4. Wards who have, after numerous attempts, been unsuccessful at other treatment programs.

The *PRIDE (Progressive Rehabilitation in a Diverse Environment)* program utilized by Unit Q has a total of four phases. Wards are promoted as they meet the required progress toward their goals and case management treatment plan. Their privileges and rewards increase according to the phase they have earned. The program provides interaction with staff who teach financial awareness, community responsibility, selective service, job skill development, restorative justice concepts, and character building.

Unit R and **Unit S** are currently vacant. (Both are utilized on a temporary basis when another Juvenile Hall unit needs to be shut down for renovation.)

Unit T is for male minors who have been classified as Extreme Security Risks (XSR). The cases have been directly filed in adult court, or the minor has been remanded to adult court.

Unit Y is an intake unit housing male minors 16 and older. **Unit Z** is another intake unit housing male minors between the ages of 16 and 18, as well as minors of all ages charged with sex offenses.

The main function of these units is to provide orientation to all minors entering Juvenile Hall regarding the rules of conduct.

Typically, the following activities occur while a youth is housed in an intake unit:

- Completion of a physical by the Medical Unit
- Mental health evaluation
- Referral to the Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) when needed
- Institutional orientation
- Completion of a religious preference form
- School enrollment
- Initial visit with parent/guardian
- Detention Hearing

Education

The education program conducted by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is located at the Otto A. Fischer School within Juvenile Hall. Minors are given the opportunity to complete requirements for a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. High School diplomas were earned by 55 youths this past fiscal year and GED certificates were also awarded to 65 youths during this time. Several graduation ceremonies are conducted each year to honor those who have completed the requirements for California graduation.

Commissioners were encouraged to note a change from the previous year's visit when minors in the Extreme Security Units were not attending school in a regular classroom or receiving the State-required four hours of instruction. Two new classrooms have been added in another area and designated for instruction for this group. A para-educator was also added for each classroom to assist with instruction. The principal reported discipline problems were fewer in these classrooms than in regular classrooms.

Meals

The food is prepared in a central kitchen with menus posted in each unit. Special meals are prepared to accommodate minors with dietary restrictions. Twenty minutes are permitted for each mealtime. Administration policy allows all minors to talk with each other during meals.

Clothing

All clothing is furnished to the minors by Juvenile Hall with the exception of shoes. Youths are allowed to keep their own shoes if they are appropriate and their personal shoes may have shoestrings. All shoes are kept outside the room and used only when the minor is not confined to his/her room. Slippers are provided for use in the rooms. Juvenile Hall provides shoes with Velcro closings if the youth's personal shoes are not appropriate.

Social Awareness Programs

Staff reported a positive change in the approach to discipline utilizing a program entitled, *Thinking For A Change (T4C)*. The approach is an integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for delinquent youth that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and development of problem solving skills. The program is recognized as an evidence-based best practice proven through research to reduce recidivism. Designed for delivery to small groups in 25 lessons, the *T4C* program can be expanded to meet the needs of specific participant groups. It is offered both in specific living units at Juvenile Hall in addition to groups formed with minors from multiple units.

The following is a list of many other programs offered at Juvenile Hall that are designed to promote social awareness and reduce recidivism:

Baby Elmo teaches structural parenting-infant/child visits focused on parent/child interactions through modeling behaviors.

Be the Change (BTC) provides mental health treatment/crisis intervention as needed.

Girls Inc., New Leash on Life, and While You are Becoming a Mom are specialized programs for girls. Girls Inc. provides programs for female minors serving their commitments. The *New Leash On Life* program is a foster program for young puppies that have been rescued by the Orange County Animal Shelter. The program exposes the girls to empathy, socialization, and responsibility for the puppies under their care. The *While You are Becoming a Mom* program focuses on health education for pregnant girls and for their newborn.

Puppies and Wards Program (PAW) is a collaborative effort between the Orange County Animal Shelter, a non-profit organization *Pathways to Hope*, and the Probation Department. The program pairs shelter dogs with minors serving commitments in the *PRIDE* program. The minors receive four weeks of classroom training on canine development, behavior, and training from a certified dog trainer.

Religious Ministries provides church services, bible study, and one-on-one visits.

Sex Offender Treatment provides group therapy, anger management, social skills, character building, and drug awareness.

Volunteers in Probation (VIP) and Juvenile Hall staff conduct many programs throughout the institution including *Alcoholic Anonymous*, arts and crafts, cultural awareness, current events, decision making, study hall, movie night, physical fitness, and sportsmanship.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

Orangewood Children and Family Center

Unannounced Inspection: September 19, 2012



Description of Facility

The Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) campus is located in the City of Orange. On its campus is a large group home that provides temporary emergency shelter care for dependent children. Its campus is also the location of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST), the Placement Coordination Services team, the supervised Family Visitation Center and the First Step Assessment Center. During its annual unannounced inspection, the Juvenile Justice Commission's inspection team focused attention on the temporary emergency shelter facilities, the First Step Assessment Center, and the on-campus school.

On-Site Observations

The temporary emergency shelter facility portion of the campus is designed to accommodate up to 215 children. On the date of our inspection, there were 65 children in the emergency shelter group home and six children in the First Step Assessment Center. The Social Services Agency has recently discouraged the placement of babies and toddlers at OCFC so most of the children placed there are over six years old. Every effort is made to house brothers and sisters together at OCFC. Some of the children require one-on-one supervision and on occasion even more supervision for medical, emotional, or behavioral reasons. Several of the older children are classified as "court returns," meaning their previous placement setting was terminated by the court. The children stay at OCFC until a new and hopefully more successful long-term placement setting can be found for them. The OCFC staff does a very good job providing enhanced supervision and specialized staffing for these children. Since 2011, OCFC has been considered by the Social Services Agency to be a "place of last resort" for these children.

At the time of this inspection, OCFC staff members provided 24-hour supervision for the emergency group home, the First Step Assessment Center, and for the Family Visitation Center. The staff included: group counselors, social workers, cottage supervisors, Community Program Specialists, kitchen staff, laundry staff, clerical support staff, supplies staff, Senior Social Services Supervisors, and an accountant assistant. Several staff members are bilingual and the languages spoken are Spanish, Vietnamese, Farsi, Roma, and Hindi.

Staff members have been flexible in assisting other programs where possible, including transportation to schools, Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) appointments, transitional services, monitoring visits, and providing child care and training services to Spanish-speaking foster parents.

The campus consists of hacienda style cottages, child friendly decorated interiors, and park-like grounds. The facility is in remarkably good condition considering it is over 25 years old and the population it

serves is children. OCFC continues to provide a warm, cheerful, and safe haven for dependent children and is the nicest large group home in Orange County.

Programs

OCFC with the help of staff, over 250 volunteers, and several community groups, offers a wide array of programs to engage the children. Some of the new and continued programs this year are designed to stimulate wellness and exercise. One new program is called *Fit Club* which offers children two hours of additional exercise three times a week supervised by a recreational director. There is also a new nutritional program called *Nutrition Champions* in which the children survey each other about favorite healthy foods and design new menus with the help of the Health Care Agency Nutritionist. There is a gardening area where organic vegetables are raised by the older children. Another new program involves the older children who plan and attend monthly teas for senior citizens. The librarian at OCFC started a new program this year inviting authors to come and speak to the children about their books. There is also a golf program on site, visits from *Pups & Wards* (PAWS) program volunteers and dogs, movie nights, pool parties, and birthday and holiday celebrations. Other programs offered to the children are the *Drum Circle* music appreciation program, yoga classes, tobacco cessation classes, church services, and group counseling sessions such as *ALATEEN*. In addition to these programs, the children have daily access to the athletic facilities on the OCFC campus including the gymnasium, swimming pool, playground, and baseball field and can participate in team sports. On occasion, children are able to go on sponsored fieldtrips to sporting events and cultural arts performances.

OCFC uses *Orangewood Active Therapeutic Teaching Approach (OATTA)*, a custom designed cognitive behavioral model to assist children in developing and strengthening targeted social skills. This program incorporates a “cooling off” period and group therapy sessions.

The OCFC staff continues to work closely and has monthly meetings with the Sheriff’s Department and the Boys Court and Girls Court personnel regarding the issue of runaways and has formed a “runaway and recovery team.”

William Lyon School

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) continues to provide educational assessments and a full day of school for children at OCFC who are not continuing at their school of origin. There were six teachers at the school as well as one para-educator assigned to each classroom plus a school librarian on the day of this inspection. The library and the classrooms on the OCFC campus are attractive, well-lit, and fully furnished with age appropriate school furniture and classroom equipment. The bulletin boards in the classrooms were filled with student work and other interesting visual aids. Because OCFC is a temporary emergency shelter home, the on-campus school population is constantly changing. During this inspection, all of the children attending this school were taking state required language assessment tests.

The Orange County Department of Education Foster Youth Services Team and the computerized special education intake system have made the transitions into the school and back out into community schools easier and more appropriate.

Action Requested by the Commission

According to information obtained by the JJC, almost all of the children who run away from OCFC leave through the unlocked emergency exit door in the back of the gymnasium. For the sake of protecting the safety and well-being of these children, and to cut down on the staff time and costs involved in locating, returning, and providing any necessary medical treatment to these runaways, the JJC recommends that this exit door be reconfigured so that it opens onto the campus yard rather than onto the outside alley.

OCFC is by far the nicest large group home in the County. It has a full staff consisting of many dedicated professionals from many fields, and has an attractive and well established on-campus school. It also has a fully equipped and staffed medical center. Additionally, it has the support of numerous volunteers and community groups. For these and many other reasons, the JJC recommends that OCFC be considered as a “place of first choice” for children needing placement in a temporary emergency shelter, rather than its current status as a “place of last resort.”

Program Manager, Jaime Munoz, and his staff at OCFC are to be commended for continuing to maintain an exceptional facility for temporarily housing children in need, and for providing additional supervision for the many children whose behavior or physical condition requires close monitoring. The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank the Orangewood Program Manager and his staff for preparing the comprehensive and helpful written reports provided to the Commission each month and for their full cooperation whenever the Commission has requested additional information about the Orangewood Children and Family Center.

Youth Guidance Center

Unannounced Inspection: October 3, 2012



Description of Facility

The 80-bed Youth Guidance Center (YGC) is operated by the Orange County Probation Department. The program offers substance abuse rehabilitation for minors ranging from 13 through 20 years of age. The primary goal of the programs offered are to provide cognitive-behavioral interventions to encourage pro-social thinking and to develop the minor emotionally, behaviorally, vocationally and academically to prepare the minor for re-entry back into the community. The facility currently houses 60 males (three separate units) and 20 girls (one unit) and has maximum capacity of 125.

On-Site Observations

The facility is in good condition. The grounds are nicely landscaped and well maintained. The living units were neat and orderly. There are both single rooms as well as rooms housing several minors. Minors are permitted to keep personal possessions in their rooms. The staff is diverse and many are bilingual.

Meals are served in a central dining facility where staff is seated with the minors. During the meals the male and female population is separated. A weekly menu is prepared by staff. The meals are prepared by staff with a select group of minors in the program.

Programs

The staff at YGC continually seeks programs to focus on reducing recidivism among high-risk youth. The most effective program to date is the *Aggression Replacement Training (ART)*. The old programs were based on a therapeutic community model which was hard to implement in the YGC setting. ART consists of three components: skill streaming, anger control training, and moral reasoning. In addition, minors participate in the *Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Step Program* and drug and alcohol abuse group therapy. Every unit has at least one therapist and a number of interns who are supervised by the Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) and the Orange County Department of Education. Therapists offer a wide array of services including basic therapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, and staff training.

YGC continues to offer programs in family therapy, gang prevention, sexual harassment, dating violence, as well as the *Baby Doll* program where a girl is assigned a life like doll to care for full time. There is an extensive *Regional Occupational Program (ROP)* including classes in carpentry, landscape, culinary arts, business technology, laundry, and horticulture. Assistance is also offered to minors in preparing for and finding a job and includes resumé writing and interview preparation. The Laguna Culinary Arts Academy donates training in culinary preparation.

During the summer, minors may participate in a creative arts theater program offered in conjunction with the Orange County Performing Arts Center (Summer Nights Concert series). Minors are encouraged to take part in a variety of community service programs, including visits to the Ronald McDonald House, domestic violence shelters, tutoring and Operation Santa Claus.

The Orange County Department of Education operates the Rio Contiguo School on site. The school has a principal, vice principal, seven teachers, six therapists and interns, and one special education teacher who provide assessments and services. There is also a sports program available for minors who have maintained a certain level of behavior and a 2.5 grade point average. These educators collaborate with a supportive staff from the Probation Department and therapists from CEGU, to provide individualized treatment and education plans for the minors.

YGC staff work closely with minors who have been released from the program to ensure their smooth transition into the community. This often includes probation supervision, counseling and continued attendance at the *Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Step Program* meetings.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

The Juvenile Justice Commissioners continue to be impressed with the dedication of the staff at YCG. The programs have benefited many minors. The staff is to be commended for their enthusiasm and impact.

Youth Leadership Academy

Unannounced Inspection: October 30, 2012



Description of Facility

The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is a secure treatment facility operated by the Orange County Probation Department. The facility has two modular living units designed to each house up to 60 youths. Due to budget restrictions, only one unit is currently being utilized. The buildings are physically located within the grounds of Orange County Juvenile Hall, but operated as a separate facility. On the day of the inspection, there were 54 males at the facility.

YLA's population consists of youths between 17.5 and 20 years of age who are at moderate to high risk to re-offend in the community. These young men are often drug and alcohol dependent and lack self-control. They have issues with aggression, antisocial attitudes, belief systems, behavior problems, and peers. The average length of stay is 43 days.

Staff

YLA has a total of 31 staff, 28 are sworn and 3 are non-sworn personnel. Some staff members are bilingual and speak Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and Hindi. The ratio of staff to youth during waking hours is 1:10 and during sleeping hours is 1:15. The *Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)* standard is 1:8 and the Department of Justice is allowing time for the institutions to meet the standard.

Programs

The Youth Leadership Academy provides a residential program designed to prepare the youth to re-enter and transition back into the community. There are approximately 21 gangs represented at the YLA. The youth are not separated based on gang affiliation as they are expected to develop skills to coexist with each other.

The youth participate in rehabilitative treatment programs, substance abuse programs, mental health services, remedial education, and community outreach opportunities.

Mental health services are provided by the Health Care Agency through the Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) and include crisis, individual, group, and family counseling. Drug and alcohol education, assessments, individual and group treatment, and sober activities are provided by community based programs. On-site medical services are provided by the Health Care Agency. The *Volunteers in Probation (VIP)* provide educational tutoring, community service, religious programming, reading skill building, and restorative justice opportunities.

The *Thinking For A Change (T4C)* was started at YLA and is now used in other Probation Department facilities. The program is designed to help youth learn how they impact the world around them and to think about themselves in a different perspective. It is a cognitive approach to changing behavior

through social skills development, cognitive restructuring, and problem solving. Staff training includes the embodiment of the principles of *T4C*, which facilitates the staff's mentoring of the youth.

Visiting

Visiting takes place within the unit on Saturday mornings for two hours. Visits are private, but supervised. CEGU staff is present and available for interaction with the youth and their families. Special visiting hours and visitors can be arranged on a case-by case basis.

Clothing

Clothing is provided by the Probation Department and consists of gray pants and solid color shirts. The shirt color designates the minor's level of progress.

Food Service

Meals are prepared in the Juvenile Hall kitchen and transported to the facility via carts. Mealtimes last about a half hour and are an opportunity for positive socialization.

Education

Youth attend the Otto A. Fischer School at Juvenile Hall, which is staffed by Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) personnel. Four classrooms are dedicated to YLA students. The YLA students are separated from the Juvenile Hall population. The OCDE also provides vocational and employment instruction, as well as referrals for wraparound services.

Action Requested by the Commission

The Commission's inspection of the facility identified a need for cleaning of several vent covers for air conditioning ducts, a floor drain covered with debris and partially obstructed, and hard water stains on the stainless steel shower doors.

A response from the Director of YLA reported correction of the noted problems and outlined changes in procedures to address the prevention of reoccurrence.

The JJC would like to acknowledge Division Director Brian Johnson and his staff for being very responsive in addressing the facility maintenance concerns.

III. COLLATERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Death Review Committee

The committee was formed to examine reports by the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) and the Probation Department containing case background information of children who died while in the juvenile justice system. The committee's purpose is to review the causes of death, including potential system failures, to determine methods to avoid unnecessary deaths in the future.

During 2012, the Child Death Review Committee met on only one occasion, July 18, 2012. At that meeting, one case was presented for review. The case involved a teenaged boy who committed suicide by overdosing on prescription medications. A few weeks before this boy overdosed, he was hospitalized for a short time because he was exhibiting suicidal tendencies. He was released from the hospital with recommendations and referrals for follow-up treatment. Health Care Agency (HCA) personnel made an unsuccessful attempt to contact the boy and his parents by phone to discuss follow-up treatment options. The boy and his parents had not made arrangements for him to receive any follow-up treatment before he overdosed and died.

After this committee meeting, HCA revised its procedures so that when a minor is evaluated by the Crisis Assessment Team (CAT) and referred for follow-up services, there will now be a least one phone call by the CAT staff to a "real person" in the minor's family checking on current status and encouraging follow-up on the aftercare plan.

Education Committee

Members of the Commission attended graduation ceremonies held throughout the year at Juvenile Hall, Youth Leadership Academy, and Youth Guidance Center to honor the youths who had completed the necessary requirements for California graduation. High School diplomas were awarded to 55 students this past year and 65 GED certificates were awarded to students during the same period. The education program conducted by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) for Alternative, Community and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) provides year-round educational options aligned with local districts and with the California State Frameworks and Standards.

In addition to typical day school programs provided for youths housed at correctional facilities, we observed programs offered at the Greeley School located at New Alternatives Court Replacement Facility (CRF), and Phoenix House. The year began with the two facilities sharing one teacher who spent a half-day at each school. Both sites offered contract/packet learning programs designed to meet the individual needs and grade levels of their students. The Commission was not pleased with this arrangement, and encouraged the OCDE to provide a full-time teacher at each school. At a follow-up visit, the Committee observed each school had been assigned a full-time teacher.

The Committee visited multiple school sites throughout Orange County to become familiar with the variety of offerings provided by the OCDE to meet the needs of a constantly changing and diverse student population. ACCESS programs are provided for homeschooled students, teen parents, probationers, district expelled students, working teens, homeless children in transition, children in

group homes and other students who benefit from a non-traditional learning environment. Student grade levels range from K-12 and cover a distribution curve from high to low skill levels.

Commissioners observed one of the required monthly meetings where students come together to share and benefit from the extensive involvement required of parents who choose to home school their children. On another visit, Commissioners observed the Project Hope School operated by the OCDE. Instruction is offered in small multi-grade classrooms and students work at their own level. Each day, children are bused from motels and shelters throughout central Orange County, including Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Orange, Santa Ana, and Stanton. Upon arriving at school, the students receive breakfast before beginning their day and have a hot lunch before being transported to an after-school program at the Tustin Boys and Girls Club.

The Committee was impressed with the Harbor Learning Center located in Fountain Valley. Students are referred to this school by other school districts, the Probation Department, Social Services Agency, or if they are homeless. Students spend the first 15 days in an orientation program called *Believing, Doing, and Knowing (BDK)*. At the completion of orientation, students move on to the next phase. The object of the program is to prepare the students to return to regular school. The minimum length of stay is completion of one semester, but many students cycle in and out for up to two years.

The Committee toured the *Sunburst Youth ChalleNGe Academy (SYCA)* which operates in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education and the California National Guard. The Academy houses 200 students between the ages of 16-19. The mission is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of high school dropouts, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. The Academy is a 5 1/2 month long residential "military style" program structured to promote an academic environment where students can earn up to 60 High School credits; develop leadership, cooperation, and academic skills; and improve their self-esteem, pride, and confidence.

Law Enforcement Agency Committee

The Juvenile Justice Commission is mandated to inspect all Orange County police department and Sheriff's facilities that hold minors in a secure detention or non-secure custody setting. The Commissioners and the Administrative Officer participated in the inspections. A total of 28 facilities were inspected. Many of the law enforcement agencies reported increase usage of marijuana, prescription drugs, methamphetamines, heroin, and Opana by juveniles.

Legislation Committee

The Legislation Committee monitored and reviewed legislation in the California Assembly and Senate pertaining to juvenile justice issues.

Bills Reviewed by the Legislation Committee which went into effect on January 1, 2013:

- AB 2040 (Swanson), Prostitution: human trafficking expungement
- SB 1088 (Price), Pupils: readmission
- AB 1712 (Beall), Minor and nonminor dependents: out-of-home placement
- AB 1751 (Pan), Child support: access to information
- AB 1856 (Ammiano), Foster care services: cultural competency
- AB 1909 (Ammiano), Foster children: placement suspension and expulsion: notifications
- AB 2060 (Bonilla), Juveniles: educational decisions
- AB 2209 (Hueso), Juveniles: dependent children placement
- SB 121 (Liu), Pupils: foster children special education
- SB 1048 (Liu), Juveniles: services
- SB 1064 (De León), Child custody: immigration
- SB 1425 (Negrete McLeod), Juveniles: dependent children
- SB 1568 (DeSaulnier), Pupils: foster children educational placement

Mental Health Committee

The Mental Health Committee of the JJC is primarily concerned with the monitoring of and participation in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). The components of the MHSA (Proposition 63), which specifically relate to the health and welfare of juveniles and transitional age youth are reviewed by members of the JJC Committee and are subject to its oversight duties.

JJC Commissioners attend regularly scheduled meetings of the Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee. As a voting member of this Steering Committee, they participate in discussions of County plans that involve the implementation of the MHSA and help determine the allocation of funds for specific programs. Commissioners serve on various subcommittees that provide resources and support for children (0-17 years) and transitional age youth (18-25 years). The monthly subcommittee meetings that Commissioners attend include: *Prevention and Early Intervention, Children and Transitional Age Youth, Workforce Education and Training, and Innovation*. The programs that are approved for funding provide services to families and caregivers of juveniles and young adults through community based partnerships, early intervention and prevention, and treatment that will reduce the number and severity of psychotic episodes and have a better outcome for the individual, their family, and the community.

Additional participation in mental health forums, conferences, and specifically designed presentations (i.e. Violence in Schools, Bullying, Gang Education, etc.) offered throughout the county are also attended by Commissioners.

Probation Committee

The Probation Committee focused on the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) undertaken by the Orange County Probation Department. Activities of this initiative included attendance at alternatives to detention meetings, involvement in the purposes of detention meetings, participation in a Juvenile Hall Assessment Team, awareness of the studies of racial and ethnic disparity in detention, and continued review of the use of the detention Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI). The goals have been to define the purposes of detention in Orange County, assessing the current uses of detention, identifying and creating alternatives to detention, and studying and evaluating the ethnic and racial disparity present in the Juvenile Hall population.

The Probation Committee participated in the inspection of the Probation institutions: Juvenile Hall, Joplin Youth Center, Youth Guidance Center, and Youth Leadership Academy. Also, the quarterly reports provided by the Probation Department Resources Unit on Group Home Activities were reviewed. Both facilities operated by the Boys Republic were inspected.

Monthly meetings of the stakeholders were attended to increase our awareness of the rapport among the collaborative agencies providing services to the court and the youth who are entering the justice system. The constant improvements and challenges in systems and processes are reviewed.

Social Services/Group Homes Committee

In 2012, the members of this committee inspected several group homes and facilities serving wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court. Areas of inquiry, review, and evaluation included the physical facility, staffing, education, records and paperwork, discipline, medical issues, treatment services, programs, auxiliaries or community involvement, placement permanency, and clients. The committee also carefully reviewed reports prepared by the Social Services Agency and reviewed Special Incident Reports (SIRs) for group homes and foster family placements.

As was discussed in last year's report, some group homes still have not hired cooks or cleaning staff to replace those staff positions which had been eliminated in 2009 due to budget cuts. Although those funds were reinstated and increased in 2010, it was observed during inspections in 2012 that the staff counselors and the older children are still doing the cooking and cleaning duties at these facilities. There are still no plans to hire new staff for those positions. The Commission continues to be concerned and respectfully requests these facilities use the increased funding they now receive to hire cooks and cleaning staff. This would allow their staff counselors to spend more quality time helping these children.

Members of the committee toured several small group homes and found them to be in compliance, except for one small group home which housed older girls. The inspection team found some deficiencies including damaged asbestos ceilings, a poorly insulated heating system, cracked kitchen countertops, and the backyard lacked landscaping. When information about these deficiencies was presented to the entire Commission, it was decided to send a Corrective Action Notification (CAN) letter. The response letter from this group home confirmed every repair requested by the Commission has been made and the home was re-inspected for compliance.

Members of the committee toured the Tustin Family Campus and were impressed by the on-site programs and the new facilities.

Starting in 2013, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) will no longer provide a clothing allowance to group home clients. This is unfortunate since many clients need these funds to have an adequate school and work wardrobe. The Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) will provide a smaller clothing fund for a short time; however, the JJC would like SSA to commit to a larger permanent clothing fund. Something which might help the situation is to allow group home clients to leave their unusable clothes at the group home. Current policy dictates all clients must leave the group home with the clothes they brought, even if the clothes no longer fit them.

Members of the committee have concerns about the unlandscaped backyard of a larger group home. It is recommended they seek funding to make the yard more enjoyable for their 30 clients.

Special Issues Committee

The Special Issues Committee is comprised of three Commissioners and the Administrative Officer. In 2012, the Special Issues Committee revised the Policies and Procedures Manual. Areas of attention included clarification of maintenance of applications for appointment to the Commission; clarification of Commissioner terms of service; a requirement for confidentiality policies to be reviewed annually; additional definition of police department, institution, and group home inspection procedures; and organization for reporting on liaison activities.

The Committee also reviewed the Bylaws and made revisions as needed. The documents were submitted to each member of the Commission for review and approval. Once the Commission approved the Policies and Procedures and revised Bylaws, both documents were submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court for review and final approval.

COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Child Abuse Services Team Policy Board

The Policy Board of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) is made up of representatives from the Social Services Agency, District Attorney's Office, Health Care Agency, law enforcement, Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, and the Juvenile Justice Commission. CAST utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to investigate sexual and severe physical abuse of children in the County by bringing members of the above organizations together to ensure children are not further victimized by the system intended to protect them. During 2012, the Policy Board focused on budget issues as well as the development of a training video for law enforcement.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to commend the CAST staff and volunteers for another year of excellent work with Orange County children and their families.

Child Welfare Redesign Planning Council

The Council is comprised of many stakeholders in the child welfare system who meet to discuss goals and identify available resources. By attending their meetings, the JJC is kept updated about the goals, activities, and events sponsored by the Children and Family Services Division of SSA and the many stakeholders who participate.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Workgroup

The JDAI Workgroup seeks to improve the effective use of secure detention beds, identify and maximize the use of detention alternatives, and produce and analyze the collected data. As a component of the JDAI, a Juvenile Hall Assessment Team comprised of various representatives from collaborating agencies and groups, inspected and evaluated programs, policies and procedures in Juvenile Hall. Their report is anticipated in 2013.

Orange County is one of the California JDAI sites participating with the Corrections Standard Authority (CSA) to work on racial and ethnic disparity. The study of racial and ethnic disparity and JDAI efforts will be simultaneous. All participants are seeking to define the purposes of detention.

The Commission maintains an interest in the process and outcomes of these endeavors.

Foster Family Agency Forum

JJC members attended the Foster Family Agency Forum meetings and gained information about the implementation of AB 12 services, the availability of Title I academic tutors for foster children, respite care, home investigations, car seat safety, clothing allowances for foster children, transportation of foster children to their schools of origin, the new database designed to facilitate placing foster children with foster families closer to their schools of origin, and the increased need for emergency shelter foster family placements. Foster families who participate in the forum are very active and provide support to each other.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee

The MHSA, Proposition 63, was passed by California voters in 2004 to fund a community mental health system that adequately meets the needs of children, adults, and older adults with serious mental illness and reduces the long-term adverse impact resulting from untreated serious mental illness.

The primary role of the JJC includes input as a voting member of the Steering Committee and subsequent participation on subcommittees. The JJC participation, while global in nature on this committee, is focused on and specifically attentive to the wraparound services provided for Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI).

As a member of the MHSA Steering Committee, Commissioners attend regularly scheduled meetings to discuss, review, evaluate plans and vote on budgets that provide benefits to four age groups: children (0-17 years), transitional age youth (18-25 years), adults (25-59 years) and older adults (60 + years). The MHSA Steering Committee discusses and votes on the viability of proposed programs/budgets as presented by County staff. A thirty day posting for public comments is followed by submission to the Board of Supervisors for approval with final funding and implementation review completed by the Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Orange County Children's Partnership

The Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP) is a 22-member advisory board established by the Board of Supervisors in 1982 to provide a unified voice that champions health, education, safety, and economic stability by advancing more responsive services that effectively meet the needs of children and families in Orange County communities. The Juvenile Justice Commission has always had a representative on the OCCP, which since 1993 has sponsored the Annual Report on the Condition of Children in Orange County.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Special Guests and Presentations

The Juvenile Justice Commission invited guest speakers to give presentations on many topics of interest.

Tony Gibson, Director, Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), provided a description of the OCDE school sites. Betsy DeGarmoe, Coordinator, Foster Youth Services, described the challenges for the AB 12 non-minors who have left the foster care system and wish to return in order to continue their education.

Orange County Superior Court Commissioner Jane Shade presented an overview of Girls Court. The program supports young women involved in the court system, many of whom are in long term foster care. Participants of Girls Court can receive services until the age of 25.

Jack Stanton, Chief Counselor, Regional Center of Orange County, described the Interagency Juvenile Competency Attainment Team (IJCAT). To assist in recognizing persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, informational cards and a DVD entitled, *First Responder Training* ☐ *Working with People with Disabilities* were developed with Project GET S.A.F.E.

Mr. Stuart Haskin, Executive Director, GET S.A.F.E., explained how the program works with people at all levels, including domestic violence victims, sexual assault survivors, and people with mental disabilities.

Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens covered a broad range of topics regarding the many programs, trainings, and facilities operated by the department. The Sheriff's Department collaborates with local law enforcement and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in order to leverage resources to be the most effective.

Anaruth Gonzalez, Juvenile Court Unit Manager, at two meetings gave updates on the Local Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Children in Foster Care and each of its five standing committees.

Chief David Valentin, Santa Ana Unified School District Police Department, discussed the operation of his department. It is the only dedicated school police department in the county. The dispatch is open 24-hours a day. There were over 11,000 calls for service last year.

Sandra Morgan, Vanguard University, made a powerful presentation on the topic of *Justice for Exploited Juveniles*. The JJC is very interested in the problem of human trafficking. Approximately 83% of human trafficking cases prosecuted were domestic and not international.

James Harte, Ph.D., Program Manager, at two meetings gave an update regarding the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Programs. The funding and services provided for the five MHSA programs were reviewed.

Bryan Prieto, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, presented an overview of the Probation Department placement process and assessment of group homes. The Probation Department follows the same guidelines as Community Care Licensing when preparing a monitoring report.

Jim Perez, Coordinator, provided an overview of the ACCESS Safe Schools and Support Services. The programs and support services offered include Gang Prevention/Intervention, Young American Outreach, Crisis Response, Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Education/Tobacco Use Prevention Education (ATOD/TUPE), Parent Outreach, Youth Development, Juvenile Justice Advocate Program (JJA), Clinical Services, and Grant Development. The Probation Department and Orange County Department of Education work closely to coordinate the services being provided to the minors through the ACCESS Safe Schools and Support Services.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Maria Hernandez described the Boys Court Program. It is a collaborative and intensive intervention for high risk long-term foster boys, many of whom have cases pending in both dependency and delinquency courts. Boys represent seventy percent of all juvenile arrests. Over seventy percent of state prison inmates had been in foster care. Ninety percent of the boys have a minimum of one mental health diagnosis. Seventy percent have experienced multiple types of abuse as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Section 300. Over fifty percent have a known history of substance abuse.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Richard Lee presented an overview of the Dependency Drug Court (DDC). DDC is a family reunification program designed to address the issues of parents whose children have been removed from the home due to substance and/or alcohol abuse. The goal of the program is to assist participants to become sober and responsible parents, improve the safety of their children, and create a more stable family environment. Parents have 18 months to complete the program and reunify with their children.

The JJC members in the performance of their duties and mandated responsibilities must stay current on the issues, facilities, and programs available to the minors and their families. The JJC would like to thank all of the presenters for the time spent preparing and presenting their respective topics.

Court of Appeal Art Exhibit

Associate Justice Eileen Moore and Orange County Department of Education Art Teacher Ruth Rosen hosted a tour of the art exhibit housed at the Court of Appeal. The history of each of the pieces and the creative process undertaken by the students was explained to the Commissioners.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank Associate Justice Eileen Moore and Art Teacher Ruth Rosen for their hard work and dedication in bringing the Court of Appeal art exhibit together.

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, SECTIONS 225-231

225. In each county there shall be a juvenile justice commission consisting of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens. Two or more of the members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority. Each person serving as a member of a probation committee immediately prior to September 15, 1961, shall be a member of the juvenile justice commission and shall continue to serve as such until such time as his or her term of appointment as a member of the probation committee would have expired under any prior provision of law. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission and upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court for a term of four years. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

Appointments may be made by the presiding judge of the superior court, in the same manner designated in this section for the filling of vacancies, to increase the membership of a commission to the maximum of 15 in any county which has a commission with a membership of less than 15 members.

In any county in which the membership of the commission, on the effective date of amendments to this section enacted at the 1971 Regular Session of the Legislature, exceeds the maximum number permitted by this section, no additional appointments shall be made until the number of commissioners is less than the maximum number permitted by this section. In any case, such county's commission membership shall, on or after January 1, 1974, be no greater than the maximum permitted by this section.

226. In lieu of county juvenile justice commissions, the boards of supervisors of two or more adjacent counties may agree to establish a regional juvenile justice commission consisting of not less than eight citizens, and having a sufficient number of members so that their appointment may be equally apportioned between the participating counties. Two or more of the members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority. The presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court of each of the participating counties shall appoint an equal number of members to the regional justice commission and they shall hold office for a term of four years. Of those first appointed, however, if the number appointed be an even number, half shall serve for a term of two years and half shall serve for a term of four years and if the number of members first appointed be an odd number, the greater number nearest half shall serve for a term of two years and the remainder shall serve for a term of four years. The respective terms of the members first appointed shall be determined by lot as soon as possible after their appointment. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission and upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court of the county which originally appointed such

vacating or retiring member. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

227. The clerk of the court of the appointing judge shall immediately notify each person appointed a member of a county or regional juvenile justice commission and thereupon such person shall appear before the appointing judge and qualify by taking an oath faithfully to perform the duties of a member of the juvenile justice commission. The qualification of each member shall be entered in the juvenile court record.

228. A juvenile justice commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman annually.

229. It shall be the duty of a juvenile justice commission to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county or region in which the commission serves. For this purpose the commission shall have access to all publicly administered institutions authorized or whose use is authorized by this chapter situated in the county or region, shall inspect such institutions no less frequently than once a year, and may hold hearings. A judge of the juvenile court shall have the power to issue subpoenas requiring attendance and testimony of witnesses and production of papers at hearings of the commission.

A juvenile justice commission shall annually inspect any jail or lockup within the county which in the preceding calendar year was used for confinement for more than 24 hours of any minor. It shall report the results of such inspection together with its recommendations based thereon, in writing, to the juvenile court and to the Board of Corrections.

229.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children of the juvenile court and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

(b) In conducting its review, the commission shall respect the confidentiality of minors' records and other information protected under other provisions of law. It may review court or case records of a child provided it keeps the identities of minors named in those records confidential, and may review the financial records of a group home. However, the commission may not review the personnel records of employees or the records of donors to the group home.

(c) The commission shall give the group home manager at least 24 hours' advance notice of a visit to a group home. If the commission believes that there is a serious violation of applicable licensing laws or regulations or that residents of a group home are in danger of physical or mental abuse, abandonment or other substantial threat to their health and safety, the commission shall notify the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services for appropriate action, shall consult with the presiding judge of the juvenile court and chief probation officer as to whether or not a visit is appropriate, and shall notify other juvenile justice commissions of its actions, as appropriate.

(d) Upon the completion of a visit, if the commission finds any condition in the group home that poses a danger to its residents or otherwise violates any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation, the commission shall verbally advise the group home manager of its findings, unless it determines that the advisement could be detrimental to the children placed there, and shall send written confirmation of its findings to the group home manager within 14 days. The commission may also report its findings to the presiding judge of the juvenile court, chief probation officer, State Department of Social Services, or other juvenile justice commissions as appropriate. A group home manager may meet with the juvenile justice commission, chief probation officer, county welfare director, juvenile court, or the State Department of Social Services to resolve any problem or to submit a plan of correction.

230. A juvenile justice commission may recommend to any person charged with the administration of any of the provisions of this chapter such changes as it has concluded, after investigation, will be beneficial. A commission may publicize its recommendations.

231. Members of a juvenile justice commission shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such reimbursement shall be made by the county of appointment or, in lieu of such actual and necessary expenses the board of supervisors may provide that the members of the commission shall be paid not to exceed the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per meeting not exceeding two meetings per month. In the case of a regional justice commission, the duty of reimbursement shall be divided among the participating counties in the manner prescribed by agreement of the boards of supervisors.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO CYNTHIA COAD AND WILLIAM STEINER,
FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**



Cynthia Coad served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from August 18, 2004 to August 19, 2012.

William Steiner served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from September 7, 2005 to September 16, 2012.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO MICHAEL SCHUMACHER AND LISA HUGHES
FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**



Michael Schumacher served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from February 4, 2004 to November 2, 2012.

Lisa Hughes served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from May 17, 2006 to December 31, 2012.



<http://www.occourts.org/directory/juvenile/jjc/index.html>