

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER  
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868  
Wednesday May 1, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

## **AGENDA**

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & COMMENTS**
  - a. JUVENILE COURT**
  - b. DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
  - c. PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)**
  - d. PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)**
  - e. COUNTY COUNSEL**
  - f. PROBATION DEPARTMENT**
  - g. SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**
  - h. HEALTHCARE AGENCY, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES**
  - i. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS**
  - j. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING**
  - k. ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
  - l. POLICE REPRESENTATIVE**
  - m. LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME**
  - n. CASA**
  - o. PROJECT YOUTH OCBF**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- 4) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 5) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 6) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 7) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 8) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
Wednesday May 1, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice Chair Winder. The meeting was held at the Betty Lou Lamoreaux Juvenile Justice Center, 341 The City Drive, Orange, California, in the second floor Commission Conference Room.

**COMMISSIONERS**

**PRESENT:** Denise Churchill  
Marcy Garfias  
Silvestre Lopez  
Connie Marshall (Teams)  
Wyatt McClean  
Nicholas Moreno  
Lynda Perring  
Ryan Rising  
Madelyn Rodriguez  
Mary Lou Vachet  
Steve Winder, Vice Chair  
Dolores Yost

**COMMISSIONERS**

**ABSENT:** Judy Johnson, Chair

**STAFF:** Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist

**GUESTS:** Anna Beltran, Deputy Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court  
Katie David, District Attorney  
Arlene Speiser, Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)  
Richard Cheung, Public Defender (Juvenile Dependency)  
Dana Stits, County Counsel  
Chief Daniel Hernandez, Probation Department  
Jyothi Atluri, Director of Children & Family Services  
Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, Social Service Agency  
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services  
Katy Ramezani, Ed. D. Director, Orange County Department of Education  
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Foster Youth Services  
Deputy Jeff Jacques, Orange County Sheriff's Department  
Robert Rodriguez, Acting Chief, Santa Ana Police Department  
Brian Bronson, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)  
Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate Supervisor, CASA  
Manuel Gutierrez, Associate Director, Project Youth OCBF

**COMMENTS BY THE JUVENILE COURT**

Anna Beltran, Deputy Court Operations Manager reported no updates.

**COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Katie David, District Attorney reported merging of programs.

**COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)**

Arlene Speiser, Public Defender, reported their focus is to lift families and youth.

**COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)**

Richard Cheung, Public Defender, gave a brief introduction and reported the timeframe for youth placement.

**COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL**

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported that currently there are 3,200 children who are dependents of the Court.

**COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

Chief Daniel Hernandez reported a successful Career and College Fair. He reported 42 agencies participated and 118 youth attended the fair. Construction for the new facilities will begin once the updated design/blueprints are approved. Car show will be held on June 2, 2024. The events are planned by the Juvenile Hall Youth Council.

**COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**

Jyothi Atluri, Director of Children & Family Services, reported new hires will receive substance use training. Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, reported Orangewood currently houses 66 youth.

**COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES**

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, reported staffing challenges which Human Resources is working to address by filling current vacancies.

**COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS**

Katy Ramezani, Ed. D. Director, gave a brief introduction and reported 100% of English learning students have taken assessment to receive appropriate education. Raina Lee, Coordinator, Foster Youth Services reported Orange County Department of Education is refurbishing Orangewood with funds from a state grant.

**COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

Deputy Jeff Jacques gave a brief introduction and reported meeting with Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) psychiatric unit to discuss future partnerships.

**COMMENTS BY SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Acting Chief Robert Rodriguez reported no updates.

**COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)**

Brian Bronson provided a brief update. He reported that the office will take over Juvenile Dependency cases by July 2024.

**COMMENTS BY CASA**

Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate Supervisor gave a brief update. CASA will participate in an inhouse quality assessment to determine the impact CASA has on youth.

**COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF**

Manuel Gutierrez, Associate Director gave a brief introduction and reported Youth Reporting Centers (YRC) is providing services to the youth.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The April 17, 2024, revised minutes were approved by unanimous consent.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was reviewed.

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

**A. Education**

Commissioner Vachet reported staffing issues is still a concern. She informed the Commission that the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) superintendent will be retiring. Commissioner Winder reminded the Commission that the subcommittee will meet with OCDE administrators on the last Thursday of each month.

**B. Non-Institutional Placements**

No updates to report.

**C. Law Enforcement Agency**

No updates to report.

**D. Legislation**

Commissioner Winder reported bills that are pending which increase health services in education for foster youth.

**E. Essay and Art Contest**

Commissioner Vachet reported the contest will be in October.

**F. SB - 823 – Realignment**

No updates to report.

**G. Annual Report**

Commissioner Perring reported that the subcommittee will review the annual report upon Commissioner Johnson's return.

**H. JJC/ Probation Book Club**

Commissioner Lopez reported the book club is finishing the book "Atomic Habits" by James Clear. He informed the Commission that the book club participated in a game of basketball which the youth enjoyed.

**I. JJC Working Group re: substance use program/services**

Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) reported Wel Mor has tour dates available in June for the subcommittee. EAA is in contact with Chelise Gordon from Twin Town for possible tour dates also in June. Phoenix House has not responded to initial request.

**J. Away from Care**

Commissioner Churchill will follow up with Social Service Agency to revisit their last meeting and discuss what is being done to prevent youth to go away from care. She requested to add Commissioner Rising to the subcommittee.

**REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**

**Juvenile Justice Executive Committee Meeting**

Commissioners Johnson, Perring, and Winder attended the Juvenile Justice Executive Committee meeting on April 17, 2024. Commissioner Perring expressed the importance of recruiting candidates. EAA reported Juvenile Presiding Judge, Judge Arthur suggested the Commission brainstorm different ways to recruit candidates.

**CAST Policy Committee Meeting**

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 15, 2024.

**Continuum of Care Reform Coordination Steering Committee (CCR SOC)**

Commissioner Churchill attending the CCR SOC meeting on April 25, 2024. Commissioner Churchill reported Sanctuary Recovery Center Trabuco Canyon is now open for girls and will be a treatment center. She also reported that the Health Care Agency made drug test strip for fentanyl available to youth and who would administrate the test was a topic of discussion.

**Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Placement Subcommittee**

Commissioner Yost attended the CSEC Placement Subcommittee meeting on April 25, 2024. Commissioner Yost reported “what is a family?” was a topic of discussion.

**Juvenile Hall Career Fair**

Commissioners Lopez and Vachet attended the Juvenile Hall Career Fair on April 26, 2024. Commissioner Lopez reported it was a fun and well-organized event. Commissioner Vachet gave a brief description of who was there and the amount of useful information that was provided to the youth.

**JBAY Webinar – Removing Obstacles: Implementing AB 789 Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements**

Commissioner Vachet attend the JBAY Webinar-Removing Obstacles: Implementing AB 789 Satisfactory Academic Progress Requirements on April 30, 2024. She reported topics of discussions included ensuring students maintain good satisfactory academic progress, friendly appeal process, and enhance communication.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS**

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Children Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) on May 2, 2024

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Vachet, and Winder are planning to attend the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) meeting on May 6, 2024.

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, Vachet, and Yost are planning to attend the Ward Death Review meeting on May 15, 2024.

Commissioner Perring is planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee on May 16, 2024.

**COMMISSIONER COMENTS**

Commissioner Moreno gave his insight, based on his background experience as an EMT, and discussed the intent of providing drug test strips to youth which can be use as a form of harm reduction.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The executive session was convened from 11:13 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

*Steve Winder*

Steve Winder, Vice Chair