

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday August 7, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & COMMENTS**
 - a. PRESIDING JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURT**
 - b. JUVENILE COURT**
 - c. DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
 - d. PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)**
 - e. PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)**
 - f. COUNTY COUNSEL**
 - g. PROBATION DEPARTMENT**
 - h. SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**
 - i. HEALTH CARE AGENCY, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
 - j. HEALTHCARE AGENCY, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES**
 - k. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS**
 - l. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING**
 - m. ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
 - n. LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME**
 - o. CASA**
 - p. PROJECT YOUTH OCBF**
 - q. PROJECT KINSHIP**
- 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 August 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Johnson. 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: Marcy Garfias
Silvestre Lopez
Judy Johnson, Chair
Wyatt McClean
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising
Madelyn Rodriguez
Mary Lou Vachet
Steve Winder, Vice Chair (Teams)

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Denise Churchill
Connie Marshall
Nicholas Moreno
Dolores Yost

STAFF: Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist
Jazz Hoxsie, Collaborative Court Coordinator

GUESTS: Craig E. Arthur, Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court
Katie David, Orange County District Attorney
Arlene Speiser, Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)
Richard Cheung, Public Defender (Juvenile Dependency)
Martha Franco, Executive Director, Juvenile Defenders
Dana Stits, County Counsel
Chief Daniel Hernandez, Probation Department
Isabell Gutierrez, Director of Juvenile Court Service, Probation Department
Priscilla Suzuki, Director of Juvenile Hall, Probation Department
Mo Sapiga, Deputy Director, Social Service Agency
Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, Social Service Agency
Alicia Lemire, Division Manager, HCA Children & Youth Behavioral Health
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services
Annalee Kredel, Chief of Special Education Services Division, Orange County Department of Education
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education (Foster Youth Services)
Katy Ramezani, Ed. D. Director, Orange County Department of Education
Ann Valenzuela, Licensing Program Manager, California Community Care Licensing
Jeff Jacques, Deputy, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Horacio Garcia, Firm Manager, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate Supervisor, CASA
Laura Corona Marcum, Executive Director, Project Youth OCBF
Steven Kim, Executive Director, Project Kinship
Madeline Rodriguez, Director of Programs, Project Kinship
Jessica Ramirez, Program Manager, Project Kinship

COMMENTS BY PRESIDING JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURT

Craig E. Arthur, Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, reported recent judicial rotations and courtrooms assignments due to retirements and newly appointed judicial officers. He briefly described the new structure of how the Court appoints counsel for dependency cases which was effective July 1, 2024. He mentioned the beautiful naming of a street ceremony in honor of Bill Steiner, who was a welfare activist, mentor to foster youth, politician, and the driving force behind Orangewood.

COMMENTS BY JUVENILE COURT

Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, reported the retirement of Courtroom Operation Supervisor, Robert Torres. The Court has welcomed new staff members and has asked for patience as they acclimate to their roles to ensure a smooth transition.

COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Katie David, District Attorney, reported merging of program Community Outreach and OC GRIP, now called Community Justice and Outreach Unit.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Public Defender, gave a brief introduction and reported that their goal is to proactively prevent future entry of youth into the adult justice system.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)

Richard Cheung, Public Defender, gave a brief introduction and reported the hiring of new attorneys to support the recent restructuring of dependency cases.

COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported the office is fully staffed. He expressed his gratitude to the Juvenile Justice Commission for their service.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Hernandez commended the success of the Summer at the Center program. The office will brainstorm ideas to extend the program year-round. Construction for the Youth Transition Center will begin in a few months. The new center will be modern and designed to accommodate youth for extended stays, incorporating input from the youth on what they want in the facility. Isabella Gutierrez, Director of Juvenile Court Services, reported the Georgetown University Certificate Program with the goal to unite efforts to better support Orangewood youth who have additional needs and develop additional diversion programs.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Mo Sapiga, Deputy Director, reported on a Social Service Agency (SSA) improvement plan that will focus on enhancing placement stability. SSA and Probation are collaborating to generate ideas for identifying gaps and develop effective aftercare. He gave a brief description on Family Urgent Response System (FURS) which is a coordinated statewide system designed to provide collaborative and timely response during situations of instability to preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, reported that for calendar year 2023, Orangewood admitted 1,175 juveniles with an average stay of 16 days. The activities the youth have participated in include a Catalina day trip, Legoland, escape rooms, and a 4th of July fireworks celebration.

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Alicia Lemire, Division Manager, gave a brief overview of the OC Navigator Resource Guide, detailing the services it offers. She invited the Commission and stakeholder to a fair taking place on September 14, 2024, at Centennial Park in Santa Ana.

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, reported Health Care Agency partnered with Probation to place OC Navigator banner in Juvenile Hall to provide information to parents/visitors. While the numbers have remained stable, responses to crisis intervention incidences have increased. Fentanyl testing strips are being provided to juveniles upon their release from Orangewood and Juvenile Hall.

COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Annalee Kredel, Chief of Special Education Services Division, shared with the Commission and stakeholders that the Board of the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) appointed Dr. Stefan Bean as Superintendent. This year, art grants will be introduced to expand opportunities for offering programs to students. Raina Lee, Coordinator, reported that 15,000 foster youth were provided services for calendar year 2023. 115 students completed their FAFSA application with 67 of them accessing 1.1 million dollars for their college education.

COMMENTS BY CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING

Ann Valenzuela, Licensing Program Manager, reported that number of away from care and placements are heading in the right direction. Staffing issues continue to be a topic of concern.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Deputy Jeff Jacques, Orange County Sheriff's Department, gave a brief update. He reported 512 teachers and administrators have been trained in violence prevention. He also mentioned 60 School Resource Officers (SRO) attended an SRO conference dedicated to providing the highest quality of training to school-based law enforcement officers to promote safer schools.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)

Ray Garcia, Firm Manager, gave a brief update. He reported that the office is undergoing significant changes and noted that the new dependency structure is functioning well.

COMMENTS BY CASA

Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate Supervisor, reported that CASA has served over 900 youth for the calendar year 2023. She also shared a pilot program taking place in department L41, which collaborates with Social Service Agency (SSA). The program is intended to address detention cases to determine appropriate placements.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF

Laura Corona Marcum, Executive Director, gave a brief introduction and informed the Commission that she is the new executive director of Project Youth. She valued the warm welcome and looks forward to the future collaborative partnerships.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT KINSHIP

Steve Kim, Executive Director of Project Kinship, gave a brief update. He reported that a Juvenile Justice & Intervention Conference is scheduled for September 26, 2024, featuring speeches by Dr. Elizabeth Cauffman, UCI School of Social Ecology, and former Youth Detention Center (YDC) youth. Madeline Rodriguez, Director of Programs, informed the Commission and stakeholders that Project Kinship received the Non-Profit of the year award. Jessica Ramirez, Program Manager, reported that the office is working on being fully staffed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 17, 2024, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS

Tabled for next JJC meeting on August 21, 2024.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

i. Education Institution Inspection

Commissioners Johnson, Vachet, Winder, and Yost attended the Educational Institutions Inspections on July 23, 2024. Commissioner Vachet reported that Dave Connor is the new principal of Otto Fischer, where the school has served 115 students, 69 of whom have been identified with special needs. Additionally, instructional time was increased from 240 minutes to 270 minutes.

ii. Monthly Education Subcommittee Meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Administrators

Commissioner Johnson, Vachet, Winder, and Yost attended the Monthly Education Subcommittee meeting with OCDE administrators on July 24, 2024. Commissioner Johnson reported staffing issues at Orangewood.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

No updates to report.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

Commissioner McClean reported Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) inspections are nearing completion, with just two inspections still pending.

D. Legislation

No updates to report.

E. Essay and Art Contest

Commissioner Vachet reported that the essay and art contest has been rescheduled to November because of the ongoing construction project.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Perrring reported the annual report will be available for review in a week.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate Supervisor from CASA, reported the Book Club finished reading "The Girl on the Train." The Book Club began reading "5am Club" by Robin Sharma, a book on how to reduce stress, improve focus, unleash creativity, achieve productivity, and restore balance by waking up at 5am.

H. JJC Working Group re: substance use program/services

i. Twin Town Treatment Center Tour

Commissioners Johnson, Winder, and Yost visited the Twin Town Treatment Center for a tour on July 17, 2024. Commissioner Johnson reported that the outpatient program offers similar services to those provided by Wel-Mor. They currently focus solely on substance use counseling and are open to referral, with no one being turned away. They have strong working relationships with county agencies, particularly with the Health Care Agency (HCA).

I. Away from Care

No updates to report.

REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

A. New Alternative CRF

Commissioners Johnson, Vachet, and Yost visited New Alternatives CRF for an inspection on July 19, 2024. Commissioner Johnson reported the facility has 16 beds and currently there are 9 youth. They have boxes of Narcan all around the facility, accessible to the staff. Some activities the youth have participated in include hikes, park outings, and pool day at Hart Park. Providing personal boxes to youth is a topic of concern, which will be discussed with Social Service Agency (SSA). No CAN letter was required.

B. Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) Inspection – Westminster Police Department and Huntington Beach Police Department

Commissioners Vachet and Yost visited the Westminster and Huntington Beach Police Department for an inspection on July 26, 2024. Commissioner Vachet reported Westminster Police Department was very prepared and have a nice facility. They are following training requirements. Commissioner Vachet reported Huntington Beach Police Department is in compliance with their trainings. They have a working relationship with Waymakers and Be Well.

C. Oliver Crest Wheeler

Commissioners Garfias, Perring, and Winder visited Olive Crest Wheeler for an inspection on July 29, 2024. Commissioner Garfias reported the facility is an all-male institution for boys 16-17 years old. The youth are in school within two days of arriving to the facility. She also mentioned that substance use is an ongoing issue, with one youth admitted to Twin Town for care. Therapists are available onsite and on call to provide the necessary services to the youth. The juveniles are given personal boxes to safely store their belongings.

D. Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) inspection - Laguna Beach Police Department and Aliso Viejo Sheriff's Department.

Commissioners Johnson and Lopez visited Laguna Beach Police Department and Commissioners Lopez and McClean visited Aliso Viejo Police Department on August 6, 2024. Commissioner Lopez reported Aliso Viejo Sheriff's Department had no youth detained for calendar year 2023. They have 17 School Resource Officers (SROs) available for the schools in the city. The School Mobile Assessment and Resource Team (SMART) is available 24/7 for school situations and incidence related to violence, threats, possession and/or use of weapon, unstable behaviors, and suicidal actions or tendencies. Commissioner McClean reported Laguna Beach Police Department is in compliance with their requirements. They have 2 SROs available for their schools. They provide training to officers to identify Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) by tattoos, examining traffic stops, and hotel stays.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) staffing and observation

Commissioner Johnson attended the JRC staffing and observation session on July 25, 2024. She reported that she is impressed with the way Judge Perez engages with the juveniles.

Juvenile Justice Commission Executive Committee Meeting

Commissioners Johnson, Perring, and Winder attended the JJC Executive Committee Meeting on July 25, 2024. Commissioner Johnson reported that everything is going well, and that Presiding Judge Arthur appreciates the reports that are shared with him.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

Commissioners Vachet, Winder, and Yost attended the CSEC meeting on July 25, 2024. Commissioner Vachet reported that Presiding Judge Arthur updated the subcommittee on SB14 which will make it a felony for solicitation if the minor is 15 years old or younger. She also mentioned that the Orange County District Attorney's office developed a training video for law enforcement officers on CSEC.

Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

Commissioner Perring attended the CWSIP meeting on August 1, 2024. She reported topics of discussion included enhancing consulting efforts, engaging with each stakeholder, and assessing the level of influence each stakeholder holds.

Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) Graduation

Commissioner Perring attended the JRC graduation on August 1, 2024. She reported that the graduation was uplifting, and the youth received tremendous support.

Summer at the Center VIP Concert

Commissioners Johnson, Perring, and Winder attended the Summer at the Center VIP Concert on August 2, 2024. Commissioner Johnson shared the concert program with the Commission. Commissioner Perring expressed that the event was moving and highlighted the genuine connection between the youth.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, and Rodriguez are planning to attend the Medical Institutions MS Teams call w/Grace Lizardo on August 8, 2024

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) meeting on August 8, 2024.

Commissioner Garfias is planning to attend the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting on August 12, 2024.

Commissioners Perring and Vachet are planning to attend the Elimination Racial Disparity Disproportionality (ERDD) meeting August 14, 2024.

Commissioners Rodriguez and Vachet are planning to attend Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) inspection for Stanton Police Department on August 14, 2024.

Commissioners Johnson and Perring are planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee Dependency meeting on August 15, 2024.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Foster Family Agency (FFA/RFA) Forum on August 20, 2024.

Commissioners Garfias and Vachet are planning to attend the Ward Death Review meeting on August 21, 2024.

Commissioner Winder is planning to attend the Continuum of Care Reform Coordination (CCR SOC) Steering Committee meeting on August 22, 2024.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Placement Subcommittee meeting on August 22, 2024.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson clarified with the Commission that community agencies will need to get in touch with the probation department to discuss the new parking policy.

Commissioner Rising shared updates on the Omar Prado Foundation.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:39 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair