

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday February 5, 2025
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. ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
 - k. JUVENILE DEFENDERS**
 - l. LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME**
 - m. CASA**
 - n. PROJECT YOUTH OCBF**
 - o. WAYMAKERS**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE**
- 5) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 6) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 7) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 8) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 9) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday February 5, 2025**

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: Denise Churchill (Teams)
Judy Johnson, Chair
Joel Matson
Connie Marshall
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising (Teams)
Madelyn Rodriguez
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Vice Chair

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Marcy Garfias
Silvestre Lopez
Wyatt McClean
Nicholas Moreno
Dolores Yost

STAFF: Lii Toelupe, Executive Administrative Assistant
Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist

GUESTS: Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court
Jeff Kirk, District Attorney
Arlene Speiser, Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)
Richard Cheung, Public Defender (Juvenile Dependency)
Dana Stits, County Counsel
Priscilla Suzuki, Division Director of Juvenile Hall (Probation Department)
Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children & Family Service (Social Services Agency)
Maureen Mutch, Project Manager (Social Services Agency)
Paola Bautista, Service Chief II, HCA Children & Youth Behavioral Health (Health Care Agency)
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services
Analee Kredel, Chief of Special Education Services (Orange County Department of Education)
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education (Foster Youth Services)
Jeff Jacques, Sergeant, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Martha Franco, Attorney, Juvenile Defenders
Brian Baron, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate, CASA
Hether Benjamin, Chief of Program Office Youth Development Programs, Waymakers

COMMENTS BY THE JUVENILE COURT

Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, reported Judicial reassignments with judges settling into their new case types. She also highlighted a mediation program that will be piloted aiming to address exit orders facilitating family reunifications.

COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jeff Kirk, District Attorney, reported the hiring of two new attorneys.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Public Defender, reported that they are fully staffed with experienced lawyers.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)

Richard Cheung, Public Defender, reported that they are fully staffed with experienced lawyers who are actively mentoring new lawyers. They have partnered with Care Court to achieve the goal of helping youth access mental health services.

COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported that they have provided service to over 300 youth in the county's jurisdiction. They are fully staffed, but with upcoming retirements staffing may become a concern.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Priscilla Suzuki, Division Director of Juvenile Hall, reported that construction has begun with the foundation as well as the perimeter fence which is expected to be completed by March. She also mentioned that Shawn Barry, the current director of the Youth Guidance Center (YGC) and Youth Leadership Academy (YLA), will be transferring to the Los Angeles County Probation AB109 Office. Kevin Moore will be the acting director at the end of February.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Directory of Children & Family Services, reported that the 5-year improvement plan is pending approval from the Board. She also mentioned that they have expanded their recruitment program to improve placement stability. Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, gave a brief introduction and reported that the Winter Open House was a success, with over 400 attendees. They currently serve 66 youth but are anticipating the number to increase. She also mentioned the following upcoming events which include a snow day at Big Bear on February 18, 2025, and a Black History Month Celebration on February 19, 2025.

COMMENTS BY HCA, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Paola Bautista, Service Chief II of HCA, reported that the agency's goal is to have a collaborative court liaison in each court hearing to help identify youth with substance use disorders (SUD).

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager of HCA, reported that population numbers have been stable. She also mentioned that the Correctional Health Director, Erin Winger, has announced her retirement.

COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Analee Kredel, Chief of Special Education Services, shared that the Segerstrom Center of the Arts and the Probation Department have been working together to offer Hip Hop classes to students. She also mentioned that they are close to being fully staffed and are in the process of hiring an assistant principal. Raina Lee, Coordinator, reported that they have provided 6,499 services to students. A cross-training program will be launched in the Spring with the goal of cross training all agencies to enhance their partnerships.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Jeff Jacques reported that they have trained over 500 administrators on threat assessments. In 2024, Sgt. Jacques reported that they completed 258 threat assessments.

COMMENTS BY JUVENILE DEFENDERS

Martha Franco, Attorney, reported that the office is fully staffed and trained.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)

Brian Baron, Attorney, reported that they are currently managing approximately 2,000 cases. The standard that they continue to maintain is to not have more than 150 cases per attorney.

COMMENTS BY CASA

Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate, reported that CASA will be celebrating their 40th year anniversary this year. In 2024, they served over 600 youth. The goal of CASA is to provide service (advocates) to 1,000 youth. She also mentioned that Family Findings is launching a pilot program called Search and Report which will improve the opportunities for locating family members for placement.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF

Commissioner Rodriguez gave updates on behalf of Project Youth. She reported that there will be a program that will service parents in early Summer.

COMMENTS BY WAYMAKERS

Hether Benjamin, Chief of Program Office Youth Development Programs, gave a brief introduction and reported parents concerns when visiting their children at Juvenile Hall.

COMMENTS BY OTHER GUESTS

Commander Monteleone and Sergeant Pereyra were in attendance but neither had additional comments to add to Sergeant Jacques' updates for the Sheriff's department.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 22, 2025, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was reviewed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Juvenile Presiding Judge, Judge Arthur, recommended that the monthly meetings with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) administrators be held every other month. The next meeting with OCDE administrators is scheduled for February 27, 2025.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

No updates to report.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

No updates to report.

D. Legislation

No updates to report.

E. Essay and Art Contest

No updates to report.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Johnson announced that the Committee will convene to start working on the 2024 Annual Report.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Rodriguez will be meeting with Amy Crowley to gain insight on the book club. She also plans to meet with a University of California, Irvine professor to discuss poetry that could be introduced to the book club.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. Away from Care

No updates to report.

J. Educational/Vocational Programs and Services for Post-Graduate System-Involved Youth

Commissioner Johnson reported that a representative from the Probation Department will be the guest speaker at the next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting on February 19, 2025, to inform the Commission of the new programs at Juvenile Hall.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee

Commissioners Vachet, Winder, and Yost attended the CSEC Steering Committee on January 23, 2025. Commissioner Winder reported that referrals have increased, and 135 cases were reported in the calendar year 2024. The victim services department will have additional training

for healthcare providers to help identify human trafficking. He also reported that Orangewood has four clinicians onsite to assist the youth.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Quarterly Forum

Commissioner Winder attended the STRTP Quarterly Forum on January 28, 2025. He shared that agencies were invited to provide updates with intercounty placement being the main topic of discussion. Additionally, he mentioned that the goal of Mary's Path (STRTP) is to focus on family preservation, education, mental health, and community involvement.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) 3.0 Know More, Do Better Conference

Commissioners Vachet, Winder, and Yost attended the CSEC 3.0 Know More, Do Better conference on January 30, 2025. Commissioner Vachet reported that more than 500 middle school students attended the conference. Presentations, slides, and videos were shown to the students to educate them on CSEC.

Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Youth Justice Action

Commissioner Vachet attend the OYCR Youth Justice Action webinar on February 3, 2025. She reported that their goal is to educate the youth in the juvenile system about the various resources available to them.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) meeting on February 6, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission Statewide meeting on February 10, 2025.

Commissioners Vachet and Yost are planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness meeting on February 13, 2025.

Commissioner Matson is planning to attend the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS) webinar – Advancing Equity in Behavioral Health on February 13, 2025.

Commissioners Garfias and Matson are planning to attend the Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting on February 13, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill, Marshall, Vachet, and Winder are planning to attend the Foster Family Agency Quarterly Forum on February 18, 2025.

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, Matson, Rodriguez, and Vachet are planning to attend the Ward Death Review meeting on February 19, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the CAST Policy meeting on February 19, 2025.

Commissioner Matson is planning to attend the Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Informational/Planning meeting on February 20, 2025.

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Commissioners Johnson and Perring are planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee Dependency meeting on February 20, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:18 a.m. – 11:23 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair