



**Juvenile Justice &
Delinquency Prevention Commission
August 27, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.
Joint Meeting Minutes**

I. Preliminary Business

- a. Call to Order: Chair Johanna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.
- b. Sukhmani Purewal, Clerk, provided instructions for Spanish translation services.
- c. Judge Cho administered the oaths of office and confidentiality to Shakeel Ali.

d. Commissioners Present

Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership, Ruchi Mangtani, Jennifer Blanco, Paul Bocanegra, Whitney Genevro, Eugene Jackson, Ameya Nori (arrived 5:23 pm) Sathvik Nori (arrived 5:49 pm)), Susan Swope, Kenneth Williams and Shakeel Ali. A quorum was established.

Commissioners Absent

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Staff Present

DelSukhmani S. Purewal, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Juvenile Court

Hon. Sharon Cho, Juvenile Court Judge

Stakeholders Present

Ron Rayes, Private Defenders Program
Sanam Aram and Nora Cullen- Probation Department
Sarah Notch, San Mateo County Office of Education
Maria Delgado, FLY-Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Stakeholders Absent

John Keene, Chief of Probation
Ornit Shoham BHRS
John Fong: Director of HSA: Children & Family Services

II. Oral Communications: none



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III. Meeting Agenda and Minutes

- a. **M:** Swope, **S:** Huber-Levy to approve the Agenda for August 27th as distributed. Passed unanimously.
- b. **M:** Swope, **S:** Bocanegra to approve the Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2024, approved unanimously as distributed.
- c. **M:** Huber-Levy, **S:** Swope to approve the Minutes for the August 10, 2024, Retreat.

IV. Presentation by Leonard Rubio, Executive Director of the Insight Prison Project (IPP) on the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) at SF Juvenile Hall (deferred until after Item 5 when Mr. Rubio arrived)

Mr. Rubio introduced himself as someone who was sentenced to 15-years-to-life for second degree murder and spent 23.5 years in San Quentin, where he became aware of the Insight Prison Project in 1997. IPP's VOEG program is a 52-week program that uses a circle process. It turns lifers into crybabies. After he came home in 2010, he went to work for IPP, eventually becoming its Executive Director.

Of more than 1000 inmates who went through the VOEG program, at least 500 have gone home and only 10 were returned to custody, mostly for parole violations. CDCR's general population has about a 50% recidivism rate. VOEG has proven very effective.

Starting in 2022, IPP has been offering a VOEG program adapted for Secure Track & transitional youth at Camo Sweeny in Santa Clara County. VOEG began at San Francisco's Juvenile Hall in 2023. The San Francisco Juvenile Court requires all youth committed to Secure Track complete the VOEG program as a condition of release. The cost of the VOEG program is approximately 60K per cohort, per year.

V. Updates from System Partners

- a. **Private Defender**—Ron Reyes reported 26 new cases assigned, two with 707(b) allegations, 18 out-of-custody arraignments, one with 707(b) allegations. They received 7 sealing petitions and 80 SB 203 Miranda consultations on the hot line. They have had attorneys on call for the hotline 24/7 since 2018.
- b. **Probation**—Sanam Aram and Nora Cullen reported 27 youth in custody at the Juvenile Hall, 24 males and 3 females. There are 188 youth being supervised on probation. There are 17 youths in the Electronic Monitoring Program—none are Out of County youth. There are 188 youths currently in diversion.



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- c. **Behavioral Sciences and Recovery Services**—Did Not Attend
- d. **County Office of Education**—Sarah Notch noted that the Fall semester at Hillcrest began 7 days ago. The new administrative team is fitting in nicely. They have added an SEL opener and closer each day at both Hillcrest and Gateway. They are developing an ethnic studies course in house.
- e. **HSA: Children and Family Services**—Did Not Attend
- f. **FLY:** Maria Delgado reported that as of the first week of August there were 25 youth in their re-entry program and 15 on the wait list. The program includes case management. Youth are eligible for services even if they have been terminated from Probation for 10 months.

No public comment on Item V

- VI. **Formation of Budget Subcommittee**
M: Blanco, **S:** Jackson to form a Budget Subcommittee. Unanimously approved. Members are Commissioners Rasmussen, Blanco, and Jackson.
- VII. **Memberships Committee Update:** Commissioner Mangtani reported there are two openings on the Commission. Any nominations should be e-mailed to her.
- VIII. **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:** Chair Rasmussen shared the Juvenile Services & Institutions data that was presented at the August 22, 2024 meeting. The next JJC meeting will be held on November 20, 2024, at which time the council will receive comprehensive statistical information and data.
- IX. **2024 Inspection Team Updates**
 - a. Chair Rasmussen called the Commission's attention to BSCC's targeted inspection that occurred April 23, 2024, and report dated June 21, 2024.
 - b. Canyon Oaks: Commissioner Satvik Nori reported that he is finalizing the notes on the inspection and anticipates being able to present at the October meeting.
 - c. Elysian/County Receiving Home: Inspection for both HSA run facilities have been completed. The inspection team consists of Commissioners Rasmussen, Bocanegra and Genevro. All were impressed with the facility and the staff. Presentation and report and presentation are slated for the November monthly meeting.
 - d. Juvenile Hall: Commissioners Rasmussen, Swope, and Ameya Nori are attempting to wrap up this inspection. The team has been waiting over a month for routine



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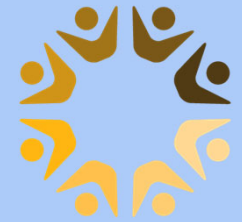
inspection data (this usually takes 7-10 days.) Superintendent Aram has also limited the teams access to the facility and made several last minute scheduling changes- which have made it difficult to adhere to our timeline.

- e. Camp Kemp: Inspection has been completed. As there are no residents beyond October 2023, the inspection will primarily focus on the facility itself. The teams has been waiting over a month to receive routine inspection data from Probation.
 - f. Education: Commissioner Ameya Nori noted that school started on August 19th. They had a covid outbreak that delayed the inspection. He, Commissioners Huber-Levy, and Blanco are working to schedule the inspection as soon as possible.
 - g. Police Holding Facilities: Inspections are completed. South San Francisco and San Bruno inspection reports will be presented at the October meeting.
 - h. The annual Inspection Timeline is available in the JJDPC Google Drive.
- X. **Matters of Commission Interest:** Commissioner Bocanegra expressed his concerns about Prop. 36, especially as it relates to our youth and retail theft.
- XI. **In Memoriam “Mama Dee” Appollonia Uhila:** Commissioner Bocanegra gave a tribute to Mama Dee reflecting upon her 50+ years of dedicated service advancing the needs our Polynesian community members, residents of East Palo Alto, on the Juvenile Justice Commission, Senior Affairs Commissioner for the County of San Mateo, and for her friendship and mentorship to him.
- XII. **Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.**



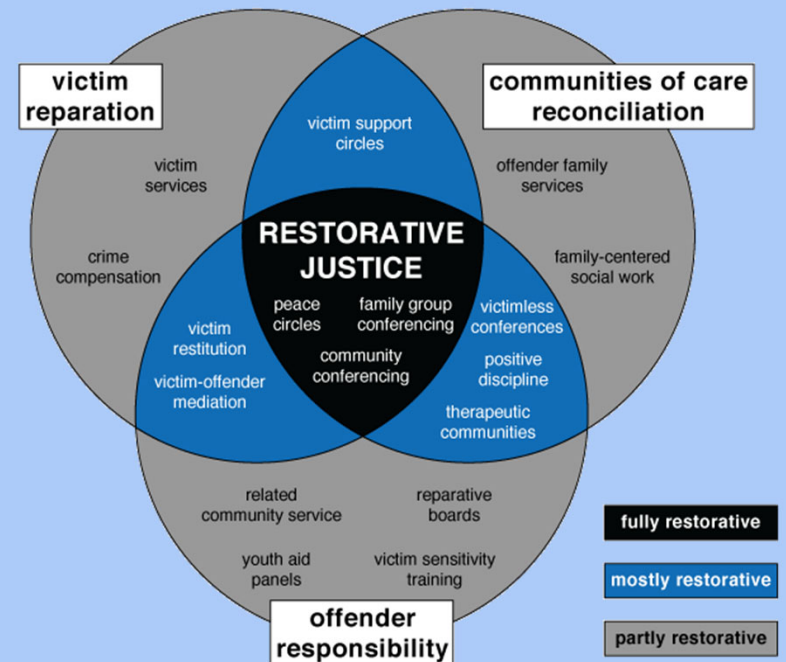
INSIGHT PRISON PROJECT

Restorative Justice

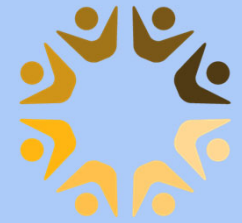


- Philosophy & Social Movement
- Current system
 - *Focus on Punishment*
 - *State as primary victim*
 - *Casting victims & prisoners in passive roles*
- RJ focuses on healing & rehabilitation
 - *Human rights, Race, Class*
 - *Restoring losses and taking responsibility*
 - *Shift Victim vulnerability*

Types and Degrees of Restorative Justice Practice

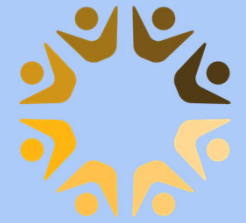


Comparison of Punitive Justice & Restorative Justice



Current Punitive System	Restorative Justice
What laws were broken?	Who has been hurt?
Who did it?	What are their needs?
What do they deserve?	Who has the obligation to address the needs, to make right the harms to restore relationships?

Mission

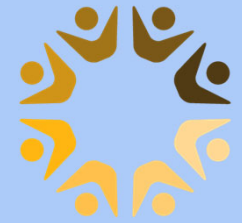


Transforming the lives of those *impacted by crime and incarceration* through evidenced-based programs rooted in *Restorative Justice* and designed to develop behavior inspired by:

- Insight
- Accountability
- Compassion

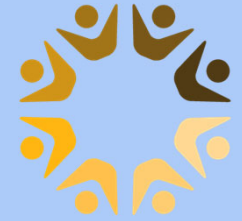


Past & Present



- 1997
- 14 male prisoners at San Quentin State Prison
- Offers unique & effective programs for thousands of men, women, and children
- Currently 7 prisons in California, one juvenile hall, and six prisons in Colorado
- Core program:
 - *VOEG (Victim/Offender Education Group)*

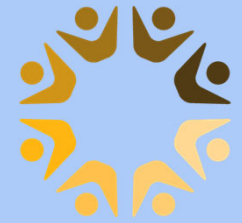
VOEG



- Victim/Offender Education Group
- Explores root causes of harm
- Bring understanding of the impact of harm to:
 - *Victims and Survivors*
 - *Community*
 - *Themselves*
- Three Units
 - *Offender Accountability & Impact of Crime*
 - *Self Trauma*
 - *Victim Impact*



Benefits of VOEG



- One of the most effective programs
- Prison administration and IPP staff & Facilitators have been tracking VOEG for 15 years:



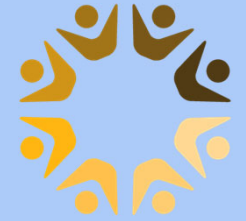
- Anger
- Impulsivity
- Incidences of Violence



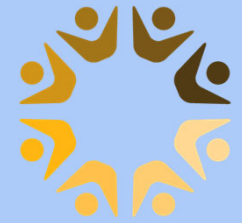
- Compassion
- Emotional Intelligence
- General Health
- Desire to help and give back
- Renewed connection to lost family



The Prison Within

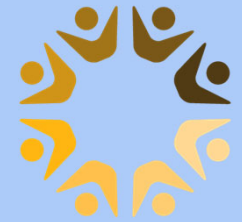


VOEG at Juvenile Justice Centers



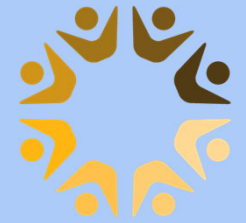
- Camp Sweeney in Alameda County in 2012-2013
- San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center (SFJJC) from December 2022 through April 2024 funded by Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families (DCYF)
- July 2024 – San Francisco DCYF authorized a Five Year Grant to continue VOEG at the SFJJC
- October 2024 - Starting a second cohort the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center

VOEG at Juvenile Justice Centers



- At SFJJC we have VOEG Facilitators with Lived Experience
- Working with Transitional Aged Youth in their Secure Track
- Judge required it as a part of their reentry plans
 - *This created pushback as the youth felt they were being mandated to do something they did not want to do.*
 - *In the Adult Prison system we have waiting lists of people that want to participate in VOEG, which is often recommended by the Board of Parole Hearings*
- We did receive positive feedback from Staff and other CBOs regarding the insight and accountability our participants were sharing in other situations.

Our Graduates & Returning Citizens



- Insight Prison Project
- Five Keys Schools & Programs
- Veterans Healing Veterans
- Bonafide
- Mend Collective
- Impact Justice
- The Last Mile
- Insight Garden Project
- Mt. Tamalpais College
(Formerly the Prison University Project)





Contact Us



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