



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
222 Paul Scannell Drive • San Mateo, CA 94402

Minutes of the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission

Jan. 30, 2018

5:15-7:15pm

455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 405, Redwood City

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Chair Michele Gustafson; Co-Vice Chair Sonoo Thadaney; Co-Vice Chair Rebecca Flores; Susan Swope; Toni Barrack; Mary Oleksy; Melissa Wilson; Al Serrato; Nick Jasso.

Commissioners Absent: Valerie Gibbs; Daniel Casillas.

Staff Present: None from Probation Department.

Additional Attendees:

Clara MacAvoy – San Mateo County Youth Commission

Ghada Ahmed – Parent, Foster City

Tara Ford – Stanford Youth and Education Law Program

Dennis McBride – Redwood City School Board

Bill Silverfarb – Supervisor David Canepa’s Office

Rick Halpern – Managing Attorney, Private Defender Program’s Juvenile Services

Hon. Elizabeth K. Lee – Superior Court Juvenile Supervising Judge

Judith Holiber – Deputy County Counsel

Christine Ford – San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney

Rosendo Padilla – Court Staff Attorney for San Mateo County Superior Court

Doug Winter – Prospective Commissioner

I. Administrative Business:

- a. Call to Order: Co-Chair Gustafson called meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.
- b. Roll Call and Establish Quorum: A quorum was established.
- c. Introductions
- d. Agenda Review: **Approved** as distributed.
- e. Approval of Minutes: Nov. 28, 2017: **Approved** as distributed.
- f. Swearing in of Commissioner Rebecca Flores: **Judge Lee officiated over Commissioner Flores’s Swearing In.**
- g. Review/Readopt JJDPC Operating Policies: Commission discussed possible changes to Article II, Sections E and G, concerning leave of absence and attendance requirements. **Item continued to Feb. 27, 2018 meeting.**

II. Oral Communications:

- a. Ghada Ahmed of Foster City commented the Commission should be made more visible and accessible to parents and youth. She said she has attended the last three meetings, but hasn’t seen any other parents or youth in attendance. Ahmed also suggested the creation of an orientation program or handbook for parents of children who come into contact with law enforcement. In addition, she shared information about Young Minds

Advocacy, a nonprofit group founded to address unmet mental health needs facing young people and their families.

III. Elections

The Commission voted unanimously to install Michele Gustafson as Chair and Sonoo Thadaney and Rebecca Flores as Co-Vice Chairs for 2018.

IV. Consideration of Doug Winter's Application to Join the Commission

M:/Swope, S:/Thadaney to recommend approval of Doug Winter's application to Juvenile Supervising Judge Elizabeth K. Lee. **Approved unanimously.**

V. Private Defender Program (Rick Halpern)

Rick Halpern, Managing Attorney of the Private Defender Program's Juvenile Division, introduced himself and said he'd like to report to the Commission on a regular basis to address juvenile justice issues from his perspective, and make himself available to answer questions.

Commissioner Wilson inquired about the status of creating bilingual feedback forms for the Private Defender Program. Halpern said it is a work in progress.

Commissioner Wilson asked if/how attorneys appointed to represent juvenile defendants work with parents to provide information about the process. Halpern said his attorneys are encouraged to share general information with parents, but are constrained by attorney-client privilege from discussing case details. He also said cases can take several weeks to reach his office, so contact with parents may not occur early in the process.

VI. Court Remarks and Discussion (Judge Lee)

In an effort to provide more resources for parents, Judge Lee said she spoke to a founding member of Parents Anonymous and learned the organization could provide training for starting a group here in San Mateo County. The group program could provide parents of incarcerated youth with resources and a place to talk. Judge Lee also said she intends to look into Santa Clara County's Parent Partner Project and report back to the Commission.

Judge Lee shared her interest in exploring partnerships with Silicon Valley technology companies to develop a speaker series for at-risk youth. The purpose would be to introduce kids to various career paths in tech which may not require high degrees of education.

Co-Chair Thadaney recommended incorporating financial planning in future career programs.

Rosendo Padilla introduced himself and said he is a former Probation Department employee who worked at Camp Kemp. While working at the camp he said the staff took the girls on tours of colleges in order to introduce them to higher education possibilities, including San Jose State, Cal State East Bay and UC Berkeley. However, he said those trips were reduced due to security concerns and lack of resources.

Ghada Ahmed said she would like to see more programs implemented in the Juvenile Hall to develop transferable skills, such as robotics or music recording programs.

Commissioner Wilson said the Probation Department has discussed holding a career day event at the YSC. She also recommended looking into partnering with Build, a nonprofit group that teaches business skills to at-risk youth.

VII. San Mateo County Office of Education

The San Mateo County Office of Education was unable to attend the January meeting, however, Chair Gustafson reported that Santa Clara County's Juvenile Justice Commission is researching the quality of education in their juvenile hall and camps and is conducting interviews of school personnel, students and parents in neighboring counties for purposes of comparison. They have reached out to Gustafson and she has connected them with Nancy Magee for the Court Schools Program.

VIII. Community Updates

Commissioner Swope reported out about attending the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center's (PCRC) Action Summit on Jan. 12 and 13. The event focused on issues causing divisions in communities. Keynote speakers included former NFL player Wade Davis who has served as the first Diversity and Inclusion Consultant for the NFL working to better LGBTQ relations and filmmaker Patrice O'Neill.

IX. Probation Update (Gustafson)

- 1) As of Feb. 25, Sheree Calhoun will become director of camps, and Rich Hori will become director of the juvenile hall.
- 2) According the Probation Department, the current Juvenile Hall population is 75, including 66 boys and 9 girls. There are 7 girls in residence at Camp Kemp. There are 9 boys at Camp Glenwood.

X. Discussion of Writing a Letter to Board of Supervisors re: Court Fines and Fees

Under a new law (SB 190) that took effect Jan. 1, California counties will no longer be allowed to assess certain juvenile detention fees. However, the law does not instruct counties what to do about past unpaid fees.

The Commission discussed writing a letter to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors encouraging the Board to forgive unpaid juvenile detention fees accrued before Jan. 1, 2018.

In 2017, San Mateo County had \$312,743 in unpaid juvenile detention and private defender fees on its books, according to data provided to the Commission by the San Mateo County Revenue Services Department.

Commissioner Swope reported that the Probation Department has instructed Revenue Services not to collect past due fees. The Board of Supervisors could waive them permanently.

Commissioner Serrato commented he would like to hear from the Probation Department before taking a position. He said he would like to know the fiscal impact of fee forgiveness. Swope read a statement from Chief Probation Officer John Keene in which he stated, "Generally speaking, we do not have plans to proactively request that the County refund or forgive past fees. That said, we would not necessarily disagree or fight if the County chooses to head in that direction."

Commissioner Swope added she surveyed officials from six counties – Butte, Contra Costa, Madera, Marin, Santa Clara and Sonoma – and learned all of the counties have forgiven some or all of their outstanding fees. Contra Costa County has gone further, offering to refund fees if parents apply for a refund.

Commissioner Swope recommended writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors seeking to waive uncollected fees in San Mateo County.

Commissioner Serrato reiterated he would like to hear from the Probation Department on whether fee forgiveness would adversely impact its budget.

Swope said the County's unpaid juvenile detention fees include fees that are more than 10 years old. She asserted the likelihood of collecting them is low.

The Commission agreed by consensus that Chair Gustafson would draft a proposed letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending forgiveness of the County's past, unpaid juvenile detention fees. The Commission will specifically invite the Probation Department to participate in its Feb. 27 meeting to provide further information on any adverse budget impacts related to the issue.

XI. Projects for 2018: Ideas and Brainstorming

Deferred to next meeting.

XII. Liaison/Study Group Reports

- Inspection Committee: The Commission selected Toni Barrack and Mary Oleksy as co-chairs of the Inspections Committee.
- Court and Probation Liaison Update: Wilson discussed her recent meeting with Institutions Division Deputy Chief Roy Brasil. She said Brasil is open to increasing phone call privileges for incarcerated youth to three times a week, 10 minutes per call. She said Brasil is seeking Chief Keene's approval on the change. In addition, Wilson said they discussed the importance of consistent application of rules in the juvenile hall and possibilities for more anger management programs.

XIII. Project Updates

No Report

XIV. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Jasso reported on the Creating Pathways from Youth Incarceration to Higher Education in Sacramento on January 26, 2018. The conference was organized by Project Change and the Youth Law Center and discussed creating, implementing and maintaining programs in Juvenile Halls and other locked facilities that promoted higher education and vocational training. Jasso participated on multiple panels including a panel on youth perspectives.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned 7:20 p.m.