

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday August 2, 2023
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. OC SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT**
 - h. SANTA ANA SCHOOL POLICE DEPARTMENT**
 - i. SOCIAL SERVICES**
 - j. HEALTHCARE AGENCY, CHILDREN AND YOUTH BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH**
 - k. CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING**
 - l. DEPARTEMNT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONALSCHOOLS**
 - m. WAYMAKERS**
 - n. ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION**
 - o. PROJECT YOUTH OCBF**
 - p. LAW OFFICES OF HAROLD LAFLAMME**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE**
- 5) NEW BUSINESS**
- 6) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 7) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 8) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 9) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 10) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
August 2, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Perring. 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
Amy Crowley
Marcy Garfias
Judy Johnson
Connie Marshall
Wyatt Mclean
Lynda Perring, Chair
Madelyn Rodriguez
Jan Sturla
MaryLou Vachet
Steve Winder
Dolores Yost, Vice Chair

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Silvestre Lopez

STAFF: Lii Toelupe, Executive Administrative Assistant
Taeona Beechum, Legal Processing Specialist

GUESTS: Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Judge Craig E. Arthur
Melissa Del Rio, Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court
Katie David, District Attorney Supervisor
Arlene Speiser, Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)
Richard Cheung, Public Defender (Juvenile Dependency)
Dana Stits, County Counsel
Chief Daniel Hernandez, Probation Department
Captain Joe Vollmer, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Chief Sergio Mancilla, Santa Ana School Police Department
Mahonri Sapiga, Deputy Director of Children & Family Services
Jyothi Atluri, Director of Children & Family Services
Alicia Lemire, Program Manager, HCA Children & Youth Behavioral Health
Ann Valenzuela, Licensing Program Manager, CA Community Care Licensing
Raina Lee, Department of Education Institutional Schools
Vern Burton, Assistant Superintendent, Access Schools, DOE Institutional Schools
Dr. Ramon Miramontes Ed.D. Deputy Superintendent
Hether Benjamin, Chief Program Officer, Waymakers
Tami Dipaolo, Orangewood Foundation
Nazly Restrepo, Associate Director, Project Youth Orange County
Mari Duque, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Brian Bronson, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)

COMMENTS BY JUVENILE COURT

Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Judge Craig E. Arthur provided an update regarding Juvenile counsel restructure. It will be transitioning to a three-firm model.

Melissa Del Rio, Court Operations Manager introduced Deputy Managers Stacy Ketell and Anna Beltran. Stacy Ketell provided some detail on a new filing system for Juvenile Stakeholders called JIRA.

COMMENTS BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Katie David, District Attorney Supervisor, gave a brief update. They are looking to hire two new attorneys mid-August.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Public Defender, reported mental health and substance abuse among youth still pose a challenge as well as providing resources.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)

Richard Cheung, Attorney Supervisor, gave a brief introduction and reported they represent the parents in dependency matters. No further updates.

COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported dependency filings are under 3,000 and they continue to face employment challenges.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Probation Chief Daniel Hernandez reported housing requirements have changed and youth can now be housed up to the age 25 years old. He also reported a new facility construction project is in progress.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Captain Joe Vollmer reported on a new program titled Parent Project. It is set to begin in September 2023, and it will be a 10-week course for parents to attend for free.

COMMENTS BY SANTA ANA SCHOOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Sergio Mancilla provided a brief update. He reported that they continue to have staffing challenges.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY (SSA)

Jyothi Atluri, Director of Children & Family Services, reported they recently had changes to leadership and hiring social workers has been a challenge.

Mahonri Sapiga, Deputy Director of Children & Family Services reported they currently house 55 youth at Orangewood with an average length of stay of 17 days. He also reported they are looking to hire 50 extra help staff.

COMMENTS BY HEALTH CARE AGENCY, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Alicia Lemire, Division Manager, provided a brief update and reported they have four clinician positions, four additional peer positions and two mental health specialists.

CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING

Ann Valenzuela, Licensing Program Manager, gave a brief update. She reported they are currently hiring two new staff.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Vern Burton, Assistant Superintendent, reported on new staffing updates. Dr. Miramontes gave a brief introduction and reported they plan to increase the number of substitute teachers. Raina Lee reported an increase in the number of high school graduates as well as an increase in FAFSA application completion.

WAYMAKERS

Hether Benjamin, Chief Program Officer, reported they recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. She also reported they continue to provide wraparound services and transitional services to youth between the ages of 12-26.

ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Tami Dipaolo provided a brief update regarding housing. Youth Connect Program (YCP) has been approved for 6 new resource homes.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH – ORANGE COUNTY (OC)

Nazly Restrepo, Associate Director gave a brief update. She reported that they are currently looking for mentors to assist with their Hire Ed program.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME – MINORS COUNSEL

Mari Duque, Executive Director provided a brief update. They have met their goal of having two attorneys appointed for every Dependency courtroom.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 19, 2023, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ORANGEWOOD UPDATE

Commissioner Crowley reported there have been incidences of youth showing signs of aggression towards staff and many of the youth continue to step away from care.

B. STATEWIDE ADVOCACY LETTER

Commissioner Perring agreed to draft a letter to the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Judge Craig E. Arthur, asking his stance on the advocacy letter and if it can be shared with Juvenile Stakeholders.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. EDUCATION

Commissioners Johnson and Vachet provided a brief update. Commissioner Johnson reported they will begin to meet monthly with the new administration.

Commissioner Vachet would like to meet to discuss the outline and the overall production of the essay contest.

B. JJC/PROBATION BOOK CLUB

Commissioner Crowley reported the youth decided on the topic for the essay and art contest and it will be "Through My Eyes."

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

Executive Committee Meeting

Commissioners Perring, Sturla, and Yost attended the Executive Committee Meeting on July 19, 2023. No updates were given.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Forum Quarterly Meeting

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson, and Perring gave a brief overview of the STRTP Quarterly meeting held on July 19, 2023. Commissioner Churchill reported a new version 5 interim standard is being introduced.

JJC Education Committee Meeting with Vern Burton

No additional information was reported.

Court Improvement Committee Meeting

Commissioners Perring, and Sturla gave a brief overview of the Court Improvement Committee Meeting held on July 20, 2023. They discussed away from care incidences, and discussed the non-minor dependent age being raised to 25 years old.

CASA Voices Meeting

Commissioners Perring, and Vachet attended the CASA Voices Meeting held on July 25, 2023. No major updates were reported.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee.

Commissioners Vachet, Winder, and Yost gave an overview of the CSEC Steering Committee meeting held on August 10, 2023. A former CSEC client shared her overall experience participating in the program.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Meeting

Commissioner Sturla, and Winder attended the JJCC meeting held on July 27, 2023. They reported it was a forum for public comments and may not be relevant to youth services.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Ad Hoc Meeting

Commissioners Sturla, and Winder attended the JJCC Ad Hoc meeting held on July 27, 2023. The commissioners reported it was a discussion on application process and budget.

Substance Use Disorder Subcommittee Meeting

Commissioners Johnson, and Vachet attended the SUD Subcommittee meeting held on August 1, 2023. Commissioner Johnson reported they discussed parental substance abuse and waivers for Narcan.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Crowley, and Perring plan to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement (CWISP) meeting on August 3, 2023.

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, Lopez, Rodriguez, and Winder are planning to attend the Institution Medical meeting with Grace Lizardo on August 3, 2023.

Commissioners Johnson, Vachet, and Yost plan to attend the Summer at the Center Special Performance on August 4, 2023.

Commissioner Perring, and Vachet are planning to attend the Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality (ERDD) meeting on August 9, 2023.

Commissioners Vachet, and Yost plan to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee meeting on August 10, 2023.

Commissioners Yost, and Winder plan to attend the JRC Graduation on August 10, 2023.

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson, McClean, and Vachet are planning to attend the Foster Family Agency (FFA)/RFA Forum on August 15, 2023.

Commissioners Garfias, and Yost are planning to attend the Ward Death Review webinar on August 16, 2023.

Commissioner Sturla is planning to attend the Child Abuse Services Team Policy Board (CAST) on August 17, 2023.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

The Commission discussed some topics of interest.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:45 - 11:55 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Lynda Perring

Lynda Perring, Chair