COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
DRAFT Meeting Minutes-January 7, 2020
Santa Clara County Crime Lab
250 W Hedding St
San Jose, CA  95110

Commissioners Present:  Stephen Betts, Secretary  Darius Parakh
                        Victoria BurtonBurke, Vice-Chair  Jean Pennypacker
                        Penny Blake
                        Mila Eliashberg
                        Ron Hansen, Chair
                        Nora Manchester
                        Carmen Montano

Commissioners Absent:  Vince Tarpey

Also Present:  Honorable Alloggiamento, Superior Court
               Honorable Frank Bondonno, Superior Court
               Honorable Frederick Chung, Superior Court
               Honorable Katherine Lucero, Superior Court
               Joanne Arranaga, Superior Court
               Nick Birchard, Probation Department
               Vone Kegarice, Probation Department
               David Mitnick, Probation Department
               Dolores Morales, Probation Department
               Sean Rooney, Probation Department
               Mike Simms, Probation Department
               Carl Tademaru, Probation Department
               Alex Villa, Probation Department
               Maureen Wheatly, Probation Department
               Vanessa Cornejo, Behavioral Health, Alcohol and Drug Services
               Veronica Robles, Behavioral Health, Alcohol and Drug Services
               Carolyn Powell, District Attorney’s Office
               Damon Silver, Public Defender’s Office
               Nisreen Younis, Public Defender’s Office
               David Epps, Alternate Defender’s Office
               Michelle Todus, Alternate Defender’s Office
               Karen Steiber, Independent Defender’s Office
               Wendy Kinnear-Rausch, Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS)
               David Putney, Santa Clara County Office of Education (COE)
               Andrew Cain, Law Foundation
               Francisco Hernandez, OMOS
               Debbie Pell, Bill Wilson Center
               Ray Blockie, Citizen
Call to Order & Introductions: Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. All who were in attendance stated their names and organizations.

Agenda Approval: Chair Hansen suggested combining Behavioral Health-Mental Services and Behavioral Health-Alcohol and Drug Services to a single item on the agenda. Moved by Commissioner Manchester and seconded by BurtonBurke the agenda was approved, as amended, unanimously.

Public Comments/Oral Petitions: None.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Betts had two (2) corrections; 1) adding the two (2) new Commissioners Mila Eliashberg and Vaishali “Shali” Sirkay to the Commissioners Present section; 2) To combine Behavioral Health Mental Services and Alcohol and Drug Services under one agenda item. Moved by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Betts to approve the December 3, 2019 Minutes as amended was approved unanimously.

Presentation: Commendation for out-going Commissioner Ray Blockie.

Commissioner Blake recognized and acknowledged out-going Commissioner Ray Blockie for his second term of service to JJC and for contributions from his first term for the development of JJC to the active and well-respected commission it is today. Mr. Blockie has been deeply committed to the education of youth in the Juvenile Justice system which led to his contributions to the Education for Youth Report published in 2019. Mr. Blockie was always available to mentor others in leadership roles and to assist when any task needed to be completed. His energy and commitment will be greatly missed.

Mr. Blockie reflected on the last 11 years of his life, explaining to those unaware of his and his wife’s medical challenges in the last six months. He thanked Ron and Penny and the Commission for the commendation. He said after retiring 16 years ago from his business career, he had no idea how he was going to spend his retirement. He knew he wanted to be involved in our community, and through his involvement in various community activities, discovered the Juvenile Justice Commission and thought it the perfect opportunity to make a contribution. Mr. Blockie said he has been fortunate to work with dedicated commission members and the organizations represented in the room on a large variety of juvenile justice programs. He thanked all for the support and insight provided him and commend the commission for its efforts to improve juvenile justice outcomes.

REPORTS

Chair’s Report: Chair Hansen reported on the following:

- Due to on-going construction at James Ranch this year’s inspection report was conducted in two (2) phases. The first phase was completed and posted in July 2019. The second phase of the report was recently approved by JJC at the December 3, 2019 meeting and is now posted on the JJC website. There will be a review of the recommendations at the February 4, 2020 meeting.
- The annual Juvenile Hall Inspection has begun and is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2020.
- Nearly five (5) years ago upon his appointment to the JJC, Ray Blockie volunteered to be his mentor which was a personal stroke of good fortune. He soon discovered that despite sometimes seeing things through differing political lenses, they shared a strong mutual vision and
commitment to improving circumstances for kids in the juvenile justice system. They also
discovered they share a common birthday, although Ron followed a year or two after Ray. For
those in their mid-seventies, birthdays can be a big deal but for Ron, Ray has modeled what an
effective and committed commission membership and leadership looks like. Ron hopes to do
right by Ray and thanked Ray for his guidance.

**Juvenile Justice Court:** Judge Lucero reported on the following:

- Most judges were able to attend the Beyond the Bench Conference in December of 2019. Judge
  Lucero said the conference was good and it is always rejuvenating to learn about cutting-edge
  programs.
- January 8, 2020 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm there will be a training in the conference room at the Crime
  Lab on new legislation with the DA’s Office and Public Defender’s Office presenting.
- The Justice Ed project, headed by the Juvenile Probation Department and National Center for
  Youth Law (NCYL), are doing an outstanding job and they have given the judges a packet on
  their educational rights, written in three (3) languages, to give to youth who come into court and
  are going to be released. Judge Lucero is looking forward to the data collected so they can
  continue to have the Justice Ed project, which is to ensure every probation youth is in the right
  school setting as quickly as possible and on-track for high school graduation or completion.
- The VERA Institute Technical Assistance grant is entering year two (2) and strategic planning is
  its focus, to reach zero (0) incarceration of girls.
- Juvenile Justice Court Executive team, comprised of the Probation Department, the Deputy
  Chief’s, COE, Medical and Behavioral Health meets monthly, set goals for the year, and this year
  (2020) will continue to improve communication among agencies serving our youth. The team
  aims to eliminate barriers to information, allowing the JJC Executive team to best serve youth.

Judge Bondonno reported on the following:

- Judge Bondonno has been meeting with the group working on EMP issues and they’re are
  gradually convincing him to back off on the “tight” EMP program, adding that he is much more
  satisfied on how the EMP is being operated now than he was a couple of years ago. Judge
  Bondonno said that all who have been working on the program need to be commended.

**Dependency Court:** Judge Chung reported on the following:

- Statistics for Dependency Court for 2019 have been received and there is a slight
  increase in the number of cases from 2018 with 95 more children in Dependency, which
  is eleven (11) more families.

Chair Hansen asked how it compares to the total number of youth. Judge Chung said the total
number for 2019 was 626 children compared to 531 children in 2018. In terms of families there
were 350 in 2018 and 361 in 2019.

Commissioner Blake asked if the report was available on-line. Judge Chung said Judge
Schwarz is still working on more details for the report.
Judge Alloggiamento reported on the following:

- DYI Team will be meeting January 7, 2020 in the afternoon, continuing strategic planning on how to best serve the youth with a retreat, and trainings in the next couple of months involving all of the connected partners.

**Alternative Schools Department, COE:** David Putney reported on the following:

- Work on the Literacy and Library Programs continue. They are in full implementation of the Destiny Library Program organizational system, allowing tracking of instructional and organizational materials and technology. The tool is used to identify the valuable quality materials needed and then purging old materials.
- Renaissance STAR Assessment Program has started. COE has been doing end-of-year assessment for the last four (4) to five (5) years, with more user interfacing which is perfect for the students. Professional involvement begins on Friday, January 10, 2020. Students will be assessed department-wide in the next couple of weeks regarding alternative education at Osbourne and Blue Ridge schools as well as all Community Schools. The intent is to make assessment more approachable for students, more accurate for student learning results and for COE to be able to message out to their partners more effectively. They are also redeveloping the assessment where students would be assessed in the first ten (10) days, a Title 15 requirement, and then looking at assessments at the end of each semester so they can use the assessments in a summative evaluation of students’ gains for the semester. It is usually used in an educational model as opposed to a static quarterly model. It will help them to inform their instruction and will help them inform teachers around learning and literacy, and especially reading skills, an area they are working hard to improve. With the program kicking off on Friday, January 10, 2020 it will take COE a couple of months to be fully implemented by spring 2020.
- Textbook adoption process is fully underway, looking at history and social science and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). They hope to be piloting the program in the spring of 2020 and obtain Board adoption in late June of 2020.

Chair Hansen asked, in terms of the Renn-STAR assessment, what type of time schedule will kids have. Dr. Putney said the model they are developing will provide assessment in the first ten (10) days of arrival. In the event kids have been recently re-admitted, the assessment may be suspended if it is still accurate, but they still need to look at what that is in relation to Title 15 requirements, as it does require assessment in the first 10 days. Thereafter, the intent would be just prior to the end of each semester. Students who arrive in the fall would be assessed at immediate entrance, then assessed again in the November/December window to inform some of semester grades to use the information to help inform the students learning outcomes for the semester. Then, if the students are still with COE at the next semester they would then be assessed at the end of the spring semester, usually in May/June. They are also looking at putting that into a passport which will show the entire lineage of their K-12 experience in relationship to Title 15 requirements. Students would be assessed academically for all statutory requirements and then will be added their annual credit totals, their educational plan, their secondary plan, their potential PSAT and if they have access to the PSAT or SAT. A living document will be created so every student will have this information such as Renn-STAR learning results, math and reading levels etc. It is the hope this will be a part of transitional support services they are trying to better focus, an improvement of the 2019 Title 15 changes to make sure there are informing every student leaving that they have their educational plan. They want to make the plan comprehensive and thought a passport format would outline all the things they could potentially experience. Even if a child leaves after a brief time they will still have an outline of all the things and resources that should be available to them in their free and appropriate educational access. If the student goes back to a partner district the partner district can easily see what was provided and what is missing in their educational experience. The passport will
empower a student to know what they need, what they do not have, and would help their educational rights folder because the same messaging would be very parallel. Pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs will also be included in the passport, along with ICED certification. Students that come to community schools will also carry the terms of their expulsion, whether they completed community service hours, did their counseling, had a high enough attendance percentage, and completed enough credits, etc.

**Probation Department Juvenile Program:** Alex Villa reported on the following:

- Child Abuse Symposium will be held on April 17, 2020 and Probation will be a part of the cross-system presentation.
- Re-imaging the Juvenile Justice Seminars are completed and Mr. Villa will be presenting at the February 4, 2020 JJC meeting.
- Probation was invited to assist with the Annie E. Casey Foundation revamping to a 3.0 version.
- February 19, 20, 2020 there will be a DIY cross-systems training with fourteen (14) staff members attending.

Mike Simms reported on the following:

- Since January 2020, there are no more youth at the RAIC. Probation’s participation has scaled down as far as Probation’s presence at the facility. Probation will continue to work more collaboratively with DFCS, Behavioral Health and the community. The idea of no wrong door is something they are stressing as far as their approach.

Judge Lucero asked how many kids are at the Keiki Center. Von Kegarice said there are none, which Judge Lucero said deserves a round of applause.

Von Kegarice will be willing to do a presentation on the MST program. There is an update to the BOS in November 2019 and it went on consent.

Sean Rooney reported on the following:

- The population report for December 2019 was distributed. Population at Juvenile Hall is 99, with 86 males and 13 females. Ranch population is at 55, with 46 males and 9 females.
- Mr. Birchard thanked the Public Defender’s Office and friends for the pizza party held in December 2019. Also thanked those that were in attendance and for participating in judging the decorating of the pods. Santa and his son made an appearance.
- Construction continues, with cameras, control booth and the phase alarm, and hopefully will be complete by the end of January 2020.
- Still moving forward with DVIS in the secured units of B-1 and B-3.
- Working on programs with the trade unions, looking at potentially introducing JH population to vocational training and opportunities that exist.
- JJC started its inspection of Juvenile Hall January 6, 2020.

Nick Birchard reported on the following:

- On January 14, 2020 from 7 to 20 different trade organizations will be at Juvenile Hall. All are invited.
Construction on the Ranch is in final stage. A frame of the last building is visible and should not take as long to finish as it is not a Title 24 or Title 15 regulation with the rooms, meaning possible completion by June 2020. Once this final building is accepted, all buildings will be operational.

**Department of Children and Family Service/Children’s Receiving Center (DFCS):** Wendy Kinnear-Rausch reported on the following:

- Staffing updates: Francesca LaRue is no longer with DFCS. Dan Little has been appointed Acting Director. Wendy Kinnear-Rausch is moving to the Assistant Director position as of January 13, 2020. They should be receiving a list to fill the two (2) vacant positions.
- All kids have been successfully transitioned out of the RAIC and DFCS will be officially exiting the Enborg site by the end of January 2020, with most items already removed from the site.
- Children have been successfully maneuvered into placement within 23 hours and 59 minutes. Ms. Kinnear-Rausch thanked everyone for their support, encouragement, partnership and pressure to move in that direction, yet added there still is much system change required to maintain this position. As DFCS continues to increase partnerships and types of placements available, it needs to create more placement options for children.
- The County has leased a house and is paying rent as DFCS moves professional parents in from a community-based organization in the event they are unable to find placements. DFCS continues to be very fluid, looking at creative options that put kids and their safety first in a home-based environment, being creative in their partnership and best supporting staff by avoiding risks.
- DFCS will be setting many goals, looking at systems and outcomes and partnering.
- It is their hope to better support staff, children and their families and increase relationships with community-based partners and stakeholders in 2020.
- Sixteen new staff will be attend the academy starting January 13, 2020 for training, and additional job offers are continuing to be made. Child Welfare continues to be a challenging place to work so there is active recruitment and support for staff to stay in these positions.

Commissioner Betts asked if Ms. Kinnear-Rausche position is permanent. Ms. Kinnear-Rausch said her position is permanent.

**Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services:** Veronica Robles reported on the following:

- In December 2019 a plan was launched to start assessing youth with the Integrated Assessment, essentially substance abuse and mental health assessments, in determining recommendations for level of treatment. The information will be shared with the youth’s attorney, for every youth that is held post-detention hearing.
- BH is fully staffed with the hiring of two (2) new clinicians.

Judge Bondonno said part of what they hope the Integrated Behavioral Health Assessment will do is reduce the number of psychological reports. Fundamentally Behavioral Health picks up most of what the court needs to know, except for testimony.

Chair Hansen asked if that path goes from the courts to the Public Defender or the defense. Judge Bondonno said it is handled the same way as psychological reports, to the defense counsel and then counsel can make its own decision.
Law Enforcement: None.

District Attorney’s Office: Carolyn Powell reported on the following:

- This is Ms. Powell’s last meeting as Supervisor of the Juvenile Unit. Ann Huntley will be taking over effective Monday, January 13, 2020.
- January 27, 2020 the DA’s Office will be losing Dimitria Samsom, Drew Miller and Steve Fein. Dan Federeau will take over issuing in the Juvenile Unit. George Tran will be coming back on a temporary basis until they can get permanent replacements.

Public Defender’s Office: No report.

Alternate Defender’s Office: Michelle Todus reported on the following:

- Kevin Rudich will be retiring.

Independent Defender’s Office: No report.

Legal Advocates for Children & Youth (LACY): No report.

Medical Services: None.

Office of Mediation and Ombuds Services: No report.

Announcements/Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjourn to Executive Session: Chair Hansen adjourned to Executive Session at 12:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2020, DA Crime Lab Conference Room, 250 W. Hedding St., San Jose, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crump