

Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



2018 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION MEMBERS



Amy Crowley
Vice Chair

Cheryl C. Hart
Chair



Front row from left to right: Executive Administrative Assistant, Jazz Hoxsie, Commissioners Cheryl Hart, Judy Zorrilla

Middle row from left to right: Commissioners Kathy Nordin, Eula Nelson, Susan Leibel, Lynda Perring

Back row from left to right: Commissioners Judy Johnson, Ben deMayo, Jan Sturla, Amy Crowley, Rick Martinez

Not Shown: Commissioners Patricia Boortz, James, Riley, Youth Commissioner David Celedon, and Legal Processing Specialist Hilary Kim



Superior Court of California

County of Orange

Juvenile Justice Commission

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Jan Sturla
Judy L. Zorrilla
YOUTH COMMISSIONER
David Celedon

December 31, 2018

Dear Reader:

In 1961 the California Legislation passed a law that every county or adjacent counties establish a Juvenile Justice Commission of private citizens to "inquire into the administration of juvenile court law". The Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is comprised of 13 members who are appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. There are also two positions available for Youth Commissioners who can serve until the age of 22. Commissioners possess expansive backgrounds in the areas of social services, probation, mental health, education, law enforcement, community activism and business. The members of the Commission are invested in the protection of the system-involved youth and are very conscientious about their role as impartial advocates. Dedicated volunteers, the Commissioners represent the Court on numerous committees and act as liaisons for county agencies that provide services to delinquent and dependent juveniles. Last year, we contributed a total of 2,256 volunteer hours.

In accordance with guidelines from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), the Commission annually inspects the five county-administered institutions in which minors are detained: Juvenile Hall; Youth Guidance Center; Youth Leadership Academy; Joplin Youth Center; and Orangewood Children and Family Center. In addition, the JJC inspects all jails or lockups in city police departments and sheriff facilities within the County that detain juveniles. Group homes where youth have been placed by Social Services or Probation are also inspected by Commissioners. Tours of schools or other county-contracted agencies that provide services to wards are also conducted by Commissioners. The JJC collaborates with the Probation Department, the Social Services Agency, the Health Care Agency, the Department of Education, the District Attorney, the Public Defender and Community Care Licensing to ensure that the safety and welfare of the children in the Juvenile Justice system are monitored and properly managed.

In 2018 the focus of group homes and resource families was the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), AB 403. Passed in 2016, the bill is designed to reduce the placement and/or length of stay in group homes. Intended to facilitate quicker placement of youth into permanent home-like settings, the bill places limits on how long a child can remain in congregate care. It also limits to 10 calendar days the length of time a child can remain in an emergency shelter such as Orangewood Children and Family Center. It also introduced a change in structuring and licensing homes to become Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) which provide more mental health services. Complying with all of these new regulations was a challenge for licensing

and the Social Service and Mental Health agencies but they performed professionally and met their deadlines. State-wide JJC's became more pro-active in communicating the need to ensure that these transitions were accomplished without compromising the level of care for the youth.

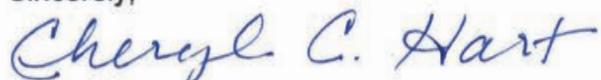
An area of focus for the JJC in 2018 was the enforcement of policies and procedures that protect the personal rights of the youth in foster care. Our inspections and interviews confirm that the youth are given access to things that they are entitled to, including cell phones, electronic devices and other personal belongings. We made sure that the youth are given information about reproductive health, independent living skills and transitional housing. We met with social workers to seek ways to improve transitional plans for the youth and make sure they're given assistance with completing scholarship and job applications. Overall, we collaborated with service providers, policymakers and county agencies and examined programs and facilities to ensure that support for children and families are delivered effectively.

A highlight of the year was the essay contest. For the first time, the JJC, in conjunction with the Probation Department and the Department of Education, organized an essay contest for students at Orangewood Family and Children Center, Juvenile Hall and the correction camps. The contest was limited to students in grades 9-12 and gave them an opportunity to write about something reflective and personal. Entitled "Speaking My Truth", the contest had 55 participants. An awards ceremony was held at Juvenile Hall at which the 8 honorable mentions and the 3 winners read their essays in front of their teachers, Probation Officers, units and families. It was considered to be so successful that the JJC is planning to conduct another essay contest in 2019.

None of these achievements in the last year would be possible without the support of our Juvenile Court Presiding Judge, Joanne Motoike. She has empowered us to pursue our objectives and scrutinize the delivery of care for the juvenile offenders, detainees, dependents and wards in the system. We were also fortunate this year to have Jazz Hoxsie, Executive Administrative Assistant, who kept us organized and on-task with her friendly reminders. Her diligence, patience, and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated. Our part-time Legal Processing Specialist, Hilary Kim, took precise minutes and was another asset to the Commission.

Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their tireless dedication and willingness to donate so many hours to secure a better future for the system-involved youth in Orange County. Their commitment and inspiration is so noteworthy. We are a cohesive group of lay individuals who take our advisory role very seriously. I was so honored to be named the Chair in 2017; to be entrusted in that capacity for a second year has been an unbelievable privilege.

Sincerely,



Cheryl C. Hart
Chair

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is a mandated group of private citizens who perform a variety of regulatory and advocacy functions for the youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system. The Commission adopts a goal-oriented and proactive approach in meeting its responsibilities throughout the year.

The Commission is comprised of no more than fifteen Commissioners. The statute states of the 15, two must be under the age of 22. Each Commissioner is appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court at the recommendation of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court and serves a four-year term.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission is to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in this county and to ensure that the highest standards of care and services are maintained for the youth within the juvenile justice system.

Vision Statement

The Juvenile Justice Commission advocates for a compassionate and collaborative community to meet the mental, physical and educational needs of system-involved youth.

Functions and Responsibilities

In accordance with Sections 225 - 231 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court has delegated authority to the JJC to act on the Court's behalf to conduct the annual inspection of law enforcement facilities and publicly administered institutions in Orange County such as:

- Youth Guidance Center
- Orangewood Children and Family Center
- Joplin Youth Center
- Youth Leadership Academy
- Orange County Juvenile Hall

The JJC also conducts inspections of group homes under contract with the Probation Department and the Social Services Agency, as well as monitors adoption and foster care programs, independent living programs and proceedings of the Juvenile Court. The Commission may investigate special complaints regarding allegations of unlawful or inappropriate treatment of youth in the juvenile justice system in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 229 and/or conducts special investigations at the direction of the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court. The results of these studies, reviews and inquiries are filed with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. The Commission may hold public hearings and request the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to issue subpoenas to require attendance, testimony of witnesses and the submission of documents and other evidence.

The Commissioners attend many agency and community meetings monthly, serving as liaisons to gain a strong working knowledge of legislation changes, budget concerns, programs and activities being offered, as well as an opportunity to work collaboratively to ensure needs of the youth are being met.

Budget

The approved budget for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 was \$180,151 while expenditures were only \$115,972. Staffing is the primary expenditure which covers the Executive Administrative Assistant and a 30% part-time clerical assistant. Commissioner attendance at Commission meetings was 83% in 2018. The reimbursement for expenses associated with attendance continues to be \$25 per Commission meeting with a maximum of \$50 per month. No expense reimbursement is provided to Commissioners for their attendance at other meetings and inspection of various facilities throughout the County. Each Commissioner traveled hundreds of miles at their own expense to perform their duties throughout the year. Commissioners volunteered a total of 2,256 hours representing the JJC in 2018.

Staff

Jazz Hoxsie served as the Commission Executive Administrative Assistant throughout the year. Ms. Hoxsie oversaw production of the annual report and coordinated the inspections of juvenile institutions, law enforcement agencies, and group homes. She also coordinated Commissioner attendance at all liaison activity meetings listed later in this report and scheduled all guest speakers. She handled all correspondence for the Commission, assisted in training of new Commissioners and acted as the Commission's office liaison with all public agencies and private community-based organizations.

Hilary Kim, Legal Processing Specialist, served part-time as clerical support to the Commission in addition to spending the majority of her time working in Family Court Services.

Commissioners volunteered 2,256 hours of their personal time representing the JJC in 2018.

II. MANDATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Inspections of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies

In accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code sections 209 and 229 the Juvenile Justice Commission shall annually inspect any jail or lockup within the County which in the preceding calendar year was used for confinement for more than 24 hours of any minor. Pursuant to Welfare and Institution codes 207.1(d)(1)(B) the minor should not be detained more than six hours. In the event detention exceeds six hours, documentation must be made as to the reasons and circumstances. The following statistics were provided by the law enforcement agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	2018 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED IN SECURE DETENTION FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME	NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED IN NON-SECURE DETENTION FOR SIX HOURS OR MORE	ANY MINORS DETAINED FOR 24 HOURS OR MORE IN SECURE OR NON-SECURE DETENTION
Anaheim	4/10/18	261	1	1	NO
Brea	6/7/18	13	0	0	NO
Buena Park	10/10/18	111	6	0	NO
Costa Mesa	5/1/18	55	11	0	NO
Cypress	6/21/18	13	0	0	NO
Fountain Valley	4/30/18	21	0	0	NO
Fullerton	6/7/18	90	0	0	NO
Garden Grove	6/6/18	201	0	0	NO
Huntington Beach	10/18/18	45	0	0	NO
Irvine	5/29/18	51	0	0	NO
Laguna Beach	6/5/18	34	1	0	NO
La Habra	10/10/18	51	3	0	NO
La Palma	10/9/18	16	0	0	NO
Los Alamitos	6/21/18	2	0	0	NO
Newport Beach	6/5/18	51	0	0	NO
Orange	9/12/18	32	0	0	NO
Placentia	5/8/18	44	5	0	NO
Santa Ana	6/18/18	176	120	0	NO
Santa Ana Unified School District	6/18/18	17	0	0	NO
Seal Beach	10/18/18	7	0	0	NO
Tustin	9/12/18	121	0	1	NO
Westminster	6/6/18	81	1	0	NO
Cal State Fullerton University	10/9/18	7	1	0	NO
Totals	--	1,500	149	2	--

Inspections of Orange County Sheriff's Department Facilities

The Sheriff's Department does not operate as a "station centric" agency. The Sheriff's Department policy is to detain the minors in the field and release the minors to a responsible adult. Only a limited number of minors are brought into a Sheriff's facility.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITY	2018 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED IN SECURE DETENTION FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME	NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED IN NON-SECURE DETENTION FOR SIX HOURS OR MORE	ANY MINORS DETAINED FOR 24 HOURS OR MORE IN SECURE OR NON-SECURE DETENTION
Dana Point	5/30/18	1	0	0	NO
Lake Forest/ Saddleback	5/30/18	7	0	0	NO
San Clemente	5/30/18	13	0	0	NO
San Juan Capistrano	5/30/18	7	0	0	NO
South Operations – Aliso Viejo	5/30/18	5	2	0	NO
Stanton Police Services	4/10/18	9	0	0	NO
Yorba Linda SD	4/17/18	0	0	0	NO
Dana Point	5/30/18	1	0	0	NO
Lake Forest/ Saddleback	5/30/18	7	0	0	NO
Totals	--	50	2	0	--

Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions

As part of our mandated purpose, the Commission inspects all County-administered Juvenile Institutions. We follow Board of State and Community Correction (BSCC) training and guidelines. For the first time, we announced our inspections in advance and were grateful for the full cooperation of the directors, and their readiness to share information with us. Having the support staff available to answer all of our questions and direct us through the inspections was very productive. We continue to be impressed by the dedication of everyone who works with this population and respect their commitment to helping system-involved juveniles.

Pursuant to a recommendation of the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) the Commission's inspections of all juvenile institutions were announced in advance.

Orange County Juvenile Hall Announced Inspection October 17, 2018

Onsite Observation:

Juvenile Hall is a maximum-security facility located at the Justice Center. At the time of the inspection, there were 114 incarcerated youth; 99 males and 15 females. Currently, the average length of stay is 27 days. Both commitment and capacity (434 beds) have changed due to the JDAI implementation (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative). Orange County's population decline is one of the most significant in the state. Since the last BSCC inspection one unit has been closed.



Staff:

There are 200 staff with a ratio of 8:1 during waking hours and 3:16 during sleeping hours. Approximately 50% of the staff is bilingual. The annual training of staff encompasses 40 hours for certification. Court Evaluation Guidance Unit (CEGU) staff provide assessment and on going counseling for youth.

Housing units:

The youth are housed in separate units at Juvenile Hall based on age, gender, seriousness of crime, high-risk offenses, and mental health needs. Unit Q houses youth who have serious mental health issues. They are placed in this unit within 72 hours of intake.

Intake and Orientation:

Upon intake, each youth receives a brief assessment, medical screening, orientation on policies and procedures, and is instructed on how to request mental health services. Personal rights and responsibilities are also reviewed.

Programs:

The Hall utilizes evidence-based programs:

- Decision Points
- Anger management
- Conflict resolution
- Substance abuse
- Mindfulness & Yoga
- Culinary arts
- Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS)
- Fitness and wellness
- Sewing
- Parenting skills
- Tea Time in the Mean Time

Stress Management and Arts and Crafts are embedded in the program. Family Reunification and CEGU are important aspects of the program. There are formal incentives as well as rewards, which include participation in programs, engaging in pro-social activities and learning a new skill. The staff plays a significant role in the programs, which allows them to be engaged with the youth.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved a new incentive program that funds the purchase of snacks, hygiene products, books, magazines or video games for those youth who demonstrate improved behavior. This has resulted in a reduction of anti-social behaviors and more participation in the programs.

Meals:

A central kitchen prepares the meals. The menus are approved by a dietician and posted weekly in each unit. The meals are served in the housing units.

Clothing:

Clothing is issued by Juvenile Hall and is laundered daily.

Education:

The youth are required to attend the Otto A. Fischer School while in Juvenile Hall. The school, located on the grounds of Juvenile Hall, is operated by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). Both the ODCE and the Probation Department provide numerous opportunities for learning and help ensure a smooth transition back to the community and the next school placement. This year, the assistant principal and the teaching staff worked collaboratively with the JJC to provide the students an opportunity to participate in an essay contest that required reflection, an examination of past behaviors, and anticipation of future hopes and dreams. The Commission appreciated the support of the teachers and administration and the safety measures taken by the Probation Department to allow for a sharing of the essays among the 13 essay contest winners.

Action Requested by Commission:

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

Otto A. Fischer School

Announced inspection November 29, 2018

Otto A. Fischer School is located onsite at Juvenile Hall and educates those from Juvenile Hall and the Youth Leadership Academy. Students are taught by teachers and staff from the Orange County Department of Education Alternative, Community & Correctional Schools and Services (ACCESS) program. Youth can earn high school credits and a HI-SET certificate or diploma while in custody. They may also enroll in on-line college courses. There are four special education teachers and six para-educators as well as three part-time tutors. Due to the recent change in state law allowing those in a confined setting to graduate with fewer credit hours, the number of students who graduate while in custody has increased dramatically. The reduction in population at Juvenile Hall combined with the restrictions on certain youth being in contact with each other due to safety concerns has led to classes that now have students with a wide range of ages and education levels. The administration would like to offer classes in career education such as food handling but the low number of students has made this difficult.

The Commission commends the level of staff engagement of both the Probation Department and the school administration and staff who encouraged and supported the students in the essay contest "Speaking My Truth." The English teachers and Vice Principal are to be commended for their instruction, guidance and support throughout the essay project.

Youth Guidance Center Announced Inspection May 15, 2018

The Youth Guidance Center (YGC) is a residential correction facility operated by the Probation Department. It's located near Juvenile Hall in Santa Ana. The campus includes 4 dormitories, an onsite school, a gymnasium, administrative offices and outdoor fields. On the day of our inspection there were 48 residents at the Center. It houses male and female youth offenders ages 14-18 who have a minimum of 100 days to complete their commitments. The youth who are sent to the Center must participate in a variety of substance abuse programs.



The goal of YGC is to give the youth an opportunity to work towards becoming drug and crime free through participation in proven and evidence-based programming. The males have to complete the ASERT program (Addiction, Substance Abuse, Education and Recognition Treatment) which emphasizes how to make healthy decisions by introducing a drug education curriculum. They also have to participate in the A.R.T (Aggression Reduction Training) program which addresses aggression. The girls have to complete the STEP program (Sobriety Through Education and Prevention) which is a similar sobriety program that emphasizes education and prevention. Some of the girls also participate in Just Beginning, a structured visitation program that teaches parenting skills. These programs are administered by the Probation staff in collaboration with the Orange County Department of Education, the Health Care Agency Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit, and its Alcohol and Drug Abuse program. Dedicated therapists including a psychologist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and a Master of Social Worker (MSW) provide support to the participants of the program. Upon completion of these programs, each of the youth is assessed and Individual Intervention Plans are developed for their successful re-entry into their community.

Depending on their level, the youth can also participate in special programs including the Angels of Love which promotes inspirational visits at St. Joseph's and UCI. Last year, 10 youth were also included in the Summer at the Center with an opportunity to perform at the Segerstrom Center. There is also a Student Council composed of 4-6 youth who have developed leadership skills.

All youth are required to attend daily classes at the onsite Rio Contiguo High School. Part of Orange County's Department of Education, the ACCESS school is accredited. Youth are able to make up credits and graduate with a high school diploma or HiSet. Community college classes are also available. The Regional Occupational Program provides job-readiness and occupational skills, as well as job experience/job placement for eligible youth.

Onsite Observation:

The staff at YGC appears to be genuinely engaged with the residents, helping to motivate them daily. The Garden of Love and various programs implemented at the Center reinforce the message that the youth have the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and adopt positive behaviors.

One of the boys interviewed had been at Juvenile Hall for over a year before coming to YGC and indicated that he appreciated the staff's acceptance of him and their understanding of his challenges. He told the Commissioners that he had learned so much at YGC that he wanted to become a lawyer.

Action Requested by the Commission:

A Corrective Action Notice (CAN) was sent after the inspection requesting the drainage issue in the boys' bathroom be repaired.

Sr. Juvenile Correctional Officer Larry Baril was recently presented with Probation's "Above and Beyond Award". He and his collaborative team have helped the youth complete various programs to successfully re-enter their community. The Commission congratulates him on his many achievements at YGC.

Youth Leadership Academy Announced Inspection March 22, 2018

Onsite Observation:

The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is operated by the Orange County Probation Department. The current staffing levels allow supervision of a maximum of 64 males. At the time of the inspection the population was 42 males. YLA has a total of 41 staff and approximately half are bilingual in Spanish. The males at YLA are required to attend Otto A. Fischer school at Juvenile Hall.



This year, the Commission announced its inspection which allowed for additional support staff to be present. Several members of the administrative staff met with the Commission, as well as a Court Evaluation Guidance Unit therapist (CEGU), Safe School clinician and teachers from the Otto A. Fischer School.

Most of the programming used by YLA was originally designed for youth in custody for 8 - 10 weeks. Currently, the average length of stay is 33 days which required programs to be modified for shorter commitments. YLA utilizes individual therapy sessions which address substance abuse, gang prevention and aggressive behavior. Voluntary weekly group sessions and family and crisis counseling are also available. The goal is to link youth with community resources and wrap-around services upon release.

Youth Experience:

Some Commissioners elected to have lunch with the youth. This provided an opportunity to discuss at greater length youth feedback. Youth shared that they felt safe at YLA and appreciated the effort made by staff to prepare them for release. Youth liked having online college courses available, an onsite therapy dogs, and off-site activities such as a visit to Homeboy Industries Cafe.

Action Requested by Commission:

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

The Commissioners noted how invested the Probation Officers at YLA become in the youth's success. They make it a point to get to know the youth and their families on a personal level. This sense of commitment is impressive and makes transitions more successful.

Orangewood Children and Family Center and William Lyon School

Announced Inspection
April 19, 2018



Originally opened in 1985 as a long-term children's shelter, the Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) now operates as a short-term emergency shelter for Orange County's abused and neglected children. OCFC is operated by the Orange County Department of Social Services in the city of Orange. The

campus-like setting includes residential cottages, athletic fields, a gymnasium, swimming pool, school, medical unit and a cafeteria. Mental health services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at OCFC.

The most significant continuing challenge facing OCFC is meeting the requirements of California's Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). CCR has as one of its fundamental principles, the stipulation that children "deserve to live with a committed, nurturing, and permanent family." Under CCR, an emergency shelter, such as OCFC, must place a child into a suitable placement within 10 days. This mandate is often difficult to meet considering the number of children who need specialized services.

Onsite Observation:

Upon entry to OCFC a child is assessed by staff through a Level of Care (LOC) protocol to identify the individual needs of the child and match those needs to home-based care. Foster children with special needs can be referred to Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) or Foster Family Agencies (FFA) to provide necessary and appropriate services. Placement barriers which have been identified by OCFC include:

- Court orders requiring that 2 or more siblings be placed together
- Children who are required to attend their "school of origin"
- Severe mental and emotional issues
- Substance abuse issues

While in residence at OCFC, children are assigned to a residential cottage and counselor. Children receive medical, educational, and mental health services as needed. A pilot program is now in formulation which would assist in the transition of children from OCFC to a foster care placement.

During April 2018, 56% of the children at OCFC were discharged within the statutory 10 day period. OCFC expected state approval of its Emergency Shelter Transition Plan by December 31, 2018.

Action Requested by the Commission:

A Corrective Action Notice (CAN) was sent after the inspection requesting air vents be cleaned and the sinks and shower be repaired. Overall, the facility was found to be in good repair and order; staffing is appropriate.

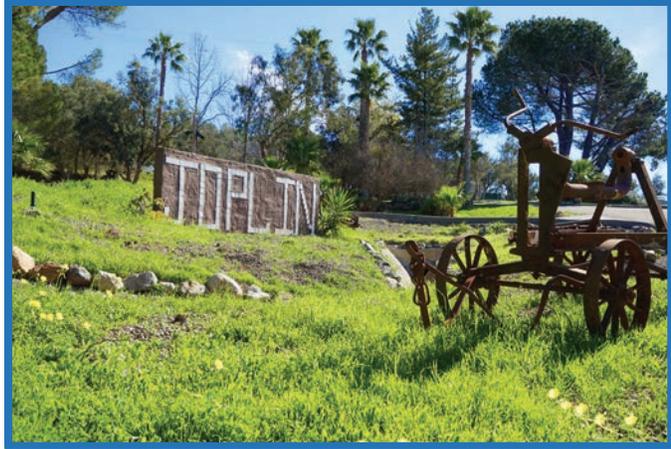
**William Lyon School
Announced inspection November 29, 2018**

The William Lyon School is located on the Orangewood Children and Family Center campus. It is operated by the Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program and shares administrative staff with the Otto A. Fischer School. Due to the reduced population at Orangewood, there was only one elementary school class and two 7-12 grade classes at the time of our inspection. The reduced population and shorter stays have made it difficult to provide robust education programs.

With the implementation of CCR, OCFC has had to manage a more challenging population. The Commission was pleased to hear CEGU now has daily on-campus hours as well as being available 24/7. Also, we appreciated the opportunity to meet with the staff to discuss the Center's cell phone policy.

Joplin Youth Center
Announced Inspection
June 13, 2018

The Joplin Youth Center, located on 336 rustic acres at the base of the Santa Ana Mountains, is a residential facility operated by the Probation Department. The attractive and well maintained facility can accommodate up to 64 boys between the ages of 12 and 18. Joplin has experienced a significant drop in population, housing only 21 youth on the day of our visit.



Joplin serves as a step down placement from Juvenile Hall for boys to complete their commitment. With an average stay of only 45 days, youth cannot always take full advantage of the many therapeutic programs offered. The staff felt that a minimum commitment of 60 days would better serve the youth. Although the very popular Culinary Arts Apprenticeship is no longer offered due to low enrollment, the Woodshop Apprenticeship is still an active part of the program.

The youth attend an onsite school, where special education services are available.

Onsite Observations:

The Youth assisted in creating a beautiful new mural in the courtyard

There are 4 Volunteers in Probation assigned to assist boys with tutoring and guidance.

There has been a reduction in staffing due to low enrollment. Currently there is no onsite probation officer dedicated to help boys transition back into the community. In addition there is no full time principal at the onsite school.



Commissioners enjoyed lunch with the youth and in private conversations found that youth feel safe and hopeful for their future.

Action Requested by Commission:

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

The Commission was very impressed with the boys' participation in the Operation Gratitude Letter Writing Program. The youth are encouraged to write meaningful letters to show support for our American Armed Forces. According to Jeff Corp, Division Director at Joplin, "the youth really seem to enjoy the program and I have only received positive feedback."

The Commission appreciated that all of the Institutions complied with our corrective actions notices by the end of the year.

III. COLLABORATIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Death Review Committee

This Committee was formed to review information related to the deaths of children while in the custody or care of the Orange County Juvenile Justice System. The Committee meets with probation officers or social workers on a quarterly basis to determine whether system gaps or processes may have contributed to the death of a child. As appropriate, the Committee makes recommendations for changes to policies and procedures to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

Education Committee

According to some experts, education is a critical but often neglected component of care provided to children and youth in foster care. They are the most academically at-risk population in the general preK-12 population. The mission of the Education Committee is to *“Ensure that all students within the Juvenile Justice System are given the opportunity to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education”* (FAPE).

Commissioners visited Alternative, Community & Correctional Schools and Services (ACCESS), attended graduations and special Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) programs and activities focused on foster children. During graduation celebrations Commissioners presented Certificates to students who earned a HISET certificate or diploma. The Commissioners will continue to collaborate with OCDE to ensure that all students who attend ACCESS, youth correctional and group home schools have access to materials, services and resources that are available to students in mainstream schools. Details of correctional school visits are included in the Institution section of this report.

The Juvenile Justice Commission commend the schools for the commitment, support and effort given to enhance the education outcome for this unique population as they transition to adulthood.

Group Home / Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)

In 2018 the JJC focused our group home inspections by reviewing each facility’s approach to independent living skills, AWOL situations, and trauma informed care. With the implementation of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) group homes are transitioning to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) and this requires that additional services and support are provided to the youth who are placed in residential care.

Commissioners inspected 25 group homes in Orange County. Inspections included a visual inspection of the facilities, interviewing program staff, and meeting with youth residing in the home. Fourteen homes had Correction Action Notification letters sent to address necessary repairs and improvements. Twelve homes had completed necessary repairs by the end of the year.

The implementation of CCR will have significant impact on congregate care within the County and create the need not only for STRTPs but also Intensive Service Foster Care (ISFC) homes. Recruiting efforts to identify these important and specialized foster homes is an area of

importance and the Commission will continue to pay special attention to how the county addresses the needs of these youth.

In 2019, the Commission will allocate time during the inspection to review programming as it pertains to the requirements of STRTPs that address mental health services and other provisions required in the new residential treatment model.

Law Enforcement

As required by law, members of the Juvenile Justice Commissioners inspected all Orange County Police Department and Sheriff facilities that held minors in secure detention or non-secure custody during 2018.

The purpose of the inspection is to assure that every agency is in compliance with current laws. We are pleased to report that all agencies that were inspected were in compliance.

These inspections also served to allow commissioners to better understand how each law enforcement agency serves juveniles. Commissioners were updated on what resources and programs are available for each law enforcement agency to serve youth in their respective communities.

Every law enforcement agency received mandated and special training designed for their individual community. Some agencies have instituted unique programs while others have similar programs to other agencies throughout the County. We learned about their community outreach, respective to their unique community and resources. We found that some agencies share their resources with other law enforcement agencies in the County.

The Commission noted that many Orange County law enforcement agencies have developed and implemented many exceptional programs for youth crime prevention and diversion. Some of the programs are operated independently by the law enforcement agency, while others are operated in partnerships with a variety of non-profit organizations, neighborhood groups, educational institutions, civic organizations and private entities.

Many law enforcement agencies utilize School Resource Officers, who partner with public (and sometimes private) schools in order to maintain a safe educational environment, create positive relationships with students, and provide safety education.

Legislation became effective January 1, 2018 that requires that all youth 15 years of age and younger be provided a consultation with legal counsel prior to any custodial interrogation. During the Commission's inspections of law enforcement agencies this year and in Commission discussions with the Public Defender office, Commissioners confirmed that the agencies are properly implementing this new legal requirement.

We are pleased to see the level of dedication and commitment that many county law enforcement agencies provide to the youth of the Orange County community.

Legislative Committee

The Legislation Committee monitored proposed and enacted legislation in 2018 related to both the dependency and delinquency systems. Placement issues related to the Continuum of Care Reform originally enacted in 2015 continued to be an area of focus. Legislation related to the age at which minors may be charged with offenses and the transfer of juvenile cases to adult court for

certain serious cases were enacted this year. Services to non-minor dependents also received legislative attention in 2018.

Mental Health

The primary function of the Mental Health Committee is to serve on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee as a voting member. In order to make an informed decision about which existing and new programs should be considered for funding, it is necessary for the appointee to remain abreast of current changes in policy and/or legislation regarding the provision of mental health services and treatments to system-involved youth.

Members of the committee also promote services and programs that specifically assist youth, including transitional age youth (TAY) and their families. They collaborate with agencies and organizations to ensure that mental health services are available to youth in group homes, STRTPs and resource family placements. They attend court instructional sessions, continuing education presentations and community outreach programs to remain involved and informed about emerging issues, trends and treatments.

COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES

One or more members of the JJC attend the following regularly scheduled meetings to keep abreast of current issues related to system involved youth.

Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC)

A designated Judge of the Juvenile Court conducts a bi-monthly meeting attended by representatives of Orange County's Department of Education, Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Probation and other invested agencies and organizations. The Chair of the JJC is included as an observer and reports back on the business that was conducted.

Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) Policy Board

The Child Abuse Services Team is a multi-disciplinary team comprised of members from the Orange County Social Services Agency, District Attorney, Health Care Agency, Orange County law enforcement, and medical staff from the University of California, Irvine. CAST uses a team approach to investigate allegations of physical or sexual abuse in order to streamline the process and minimize the stress placed on the child victims. Representatives of Social Services Agency, District Attorney, Health Care Agency, law enforcement, Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, and Juvenile Justice Commission sit on the CAST Policy Board.

The CAST facility, located at the Orangewood Children and Family Center, provides a child-friendly site for victim interviews, forensic medical examinations, investigational conferences, victim therapy, and professional training. In 2018, CAST averaged 49 victim interviews per month and 12 forensic medical exams per month. The CAST approach to investigations not only reduces the stress and trauma on the child victims of crime, but increases the efficiency of the entire investigative process.

CAST is presently awaiting the results of the periodic re-accreditation review by the National Children's Alliance. The review began in the Fall of 2018 and will conclude in early 2019.

Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

This planning council is comprised of representation from county agencies and community stakeholders who are invested in children in dependency. The purpose of the group is to evaluate the county's current system, note strengths and concerns and establish goals to meet current needs. Monthly meetings focus on topics such as substance abuse, parental support, and providing input on the County System Improvement Plan.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee

The Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee meets periodically to update the members and discuss the issues of this population of youth. These youth (usually females) are a challenge to help because of the uniqueness of their situation. They are not breaking the law but the adults who are victimizing them are. However, the CSEC victims are often bonded with their abusers and frequently run away. The challenges faced by the committee are the issues of housing the youth, keeping them in care, and counseling them to prevent a return to "the life." The Steering Committee's members are from all parts of the system and at the

meetings, information is shared about what each agency or service provider has been doing to help the CSEC victims.

Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionality Advisory Board (ERDD)

Juvenile Justice Commission members attended ERDD monthly meetings. The Advisory Board is a collaborative made up of various community partners and stakeholders that include National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Child Abuse Prevention Council, Orange County (OC) Probation Department, Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), Mexican Consulate, Family Resource Centers and other community agencies. The Advisory Board examined the over or under representation of children and youth within the Juvenile Justice System. The mission of ERDD is “To Ensure Fair Treatment and Equitable Service to All.” The goal of ERDD is to collaborate with Orange County agencies and community organizations to create awareness training outreach and data to address the concerns and issues that youth in foster care face.

Foster Care Advisory Board (FCAB) / Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

Representatives from the Social Service Agency, Health Care Agency, Resource Parents, Cal Optima, Foster Youth Services, Orangewood Children’s Foundation, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), Saddleback College Foster and Kinship Education, Time Out For Parents (TOPS), Juvenile Justice Commission, Youth Law Center and many other community partners and organizations meet to discuss general issues and policies pertaining to all foster parents, biological parents and caregivers. The attendees also use the opportunity to recruit experienced licensed foster parents and to collaborate with one another to achieve resolution of problems faced by biological and foster families. The QPI process continues the focus on quality parenting by working with resource families in a number of activities to support foster families, including birth parents. The Advisory Board plans and supports activities presented during the year.

Quality Parent Initiative (QPI) began as a collaborative effort with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) as a unique opportunity to strengthen efforts on a statewide basis for the recruitment and retention of quality caregivers. One of the unique products of QPI is *Just in Time Training* (training you need when and where you need it). Just in Time Training is a web-based service program that is used to connect resource parents, kinship or other caregivers with training, peer experts and other resources all from their home or office. Questions are answered and practical solutions to care for children are discussed. Some of the Just in Time services include:

- Caregiver Documents and Resources
- Caring for Teens and Independent Living Program (ILP)
- Education and College and Career Planning
- Financial Empowerment Tool Kit for Youth

The Commission commends the FCAB/QPI for working in partnership with the community, County and State Agencies; and the support services and resources given to the families and caregivers who care for children and youth who are placed in their care.

Foster Family Agency Forum (FFA)

This partnership brings together staff from the County Social Services Agency and Health Care Agency with representatives of several foster family agencies to discuss current issues in implementing Continuing Care Reform (CCR), and in identifying and retaining resource families for dependent children. The partnership meets monthly. A priority has been to communicate the actions of the State of California in adopting new regulations and procedures to implement CCR.

Group Home Forum / Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)

The Group Home Forum meets quarterly to provide an opportunity for all agencies who offer group home placement to meet and discuss current topics of interest. With the advent of Continuum of Care reform, there has been a need to have a collaborative approach with Social Services to keep agencies abreast of new information and expectations as well as answer questions and receive feedback on the transition. Group homes are currently transitioning to Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs and becoming Medi-Cal certified to provide mental health services.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was passed by California voters in 2004 to provide a tax-based fund for mental health programs for children, adults and older adults who suffer from severe mental illness. The target population of MHSA is seriously mentally ill individuals who are currently unserved, underserved, homeless, or at risk of homelessness. A Juvenile Justice Commissioner is designated as a voting member of the MHSA Steering Committee which works with the Health Care Agency (HCA) on the allocation of funds for Orange County programs. The JJC appointee or alternate attends the monthly MHSA meetings and participates in the evaluation of proposed and approved MHSA projects. It is incumbent for the JJC appointee to be well informed about emerging mental health issues and carefully consider all of the proposed programs and vote on their new or continued funding. As advocates for juveniles in Orange County, the JJC appointee focuses primarily on programs that specifically assist youth and their families or caregivers.

In 2017 there were 75 different MHSA programs identified for funding with an approximate budget of \$218M. In an effort to simplify access to the many different programs and understand their components, the JJC appointee collaborated with the HCA to produce a Quick Reference Guide for the MHSA programs in Orange County. The Guide was completed in 2017 and will be incorporated in the resource directory that will be available on line annually.

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

The mission of the Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP) is to provide a unified voice that champions the health, education, safety and economic stability of the children and families in our community. The OCCP was established by the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 1983 and is comprised of a 22 member advisory board, representing public and community agencies. By sharing data, trends, resources and challenges, the members work together to address the changing needs of Orange County children and create an environment in which all children can thrive.

In 2018, the OCCP continued to focus on the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform, putting structures in place to ensure increased connectivity, alignment and coordination between agencies. It also established two subcommittees to monitor these efforts and regularly report back to the OCCP.

This year the OCCP, along with the FIRST FIVE Commission, continued to collect data and published the 24th Annual Conditions of Children in Orange County Report. Topics ranging from pre-natal care through high school dropout rates are analyzed to assess its progress. In addition the OCCP presents a community forum to discuss and disseminate its findings.

Juvenile Court Services Stakeholder Meeting (JCS Liaison)

The Juvenile Court Services Stakeholder (JCS) meeting is sponsored by the Orange County Probation Department. The participants are liaisons from the Superior Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Defender, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, and Probation Department. A Commissioner from the Juvenile Justice Commission attends as an observer.

The JCS allows liaisons from various departments to share information on changes in law, policy, procedure, and process in order to facilitate the coordinated operation of the Juvenile Court System in Orange County. The JCS meets monthly.

Recruitment, Training and Support (RTS)

The Recruitment, Training and Support committee meets monthly for the purpose of finding and maintaining local resources that can support children and families in their own neighborhood. The committee's focus is on recruiting foster/adoptive parents and relative caregivers. RTS continues to focus on recruiting homes for a target population; teens, sibling sets, medically challenged and children with special needs. An extraordinary program within the committee, *Faith in Motion* (FIM), is a unique collaboration between the Social Service Agency, Children and Family Services, the Health Care Agency and the Orange County faith-based community. Its mission is to find loving foster and adoptive families for children who have been removed from their biological family due to abuse or neglect. The goal is to recruit foster and adoptive families within the faith community and encourage faith-based congregations to develop support services and mentoring to foster and adoptive families and relative caregivers.

The Commission commends RTS for collaborating with community organization/agencies and stakeholders to provide services, resources and activities that support foster/adoptive parents, caregivers and children in care.

Working to End Child Abuse and Neglect Coalition (WE CAN)

The Working to End Child Abuse and Neglect Coalition (WE CAN) consists of more than 50 organizations and 100 programs with the mission to prevent, diagnose and treat child abuse and neglect and to strengthen the health and well-being of children, families and communities. The Coalition has nine task forces coordinated by a steering committee. A member of the Juvenile Justice Commission attends the quarterly steering committee meetings.

Among the projects undertaken by the WE CAN Coalition in 2018 was the creation of A Road Map to Child Safety & Family Stability that provides resources to identify families who might be at risk of child abuse or neglect.

IV. TRAININGS / OBSERVATIONS

The Commissioners attended many trainings, workshops and conferences to stay current on resources available to youth, mental health services, legislation changes as well as challenges and obstacles facing both youth and agencies. The information obtained from these trainings are a great resource when conducting institution and group home inspections.

CHOC Children's Mental Health Inpatient Center Tour, January 25, 2018

Commissioners were included in the preview of CHOC's new Children's Mental Health Inpatient Center. A tour of the facility while still under construction was led by Dr. Huszti, CHOC's Psychology Chief. Dr. Huszti coordinated the campaign to build the 18 bed Center and reviewed the special design features that were incorporated.

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Steering Committee Webinar, February 27, 2018

Outlying counties provided examples of the effect of CCR.

Court Observations: Commissioners observed the courtroom proceedings, gaining insight to the personal challenges each youth has overcome.

Grace Court, March 21, 2018

Grace Court, March 28, 2018

Recovery Court, May 10, 2018

Recovery Court, August 16, 2018

Recovery Court, September 20, 2018

Brown Bag Lunch With Congressman Lou Correa, March 23, 2018

Mental Health Inpatient Open House, March 27, 2018

Designed for ages 3-17, the Center is the only inpatient program that can accommodate children under age 12 in Orange County. The 18-bed facility provides therapeutic treatment and activities for the duration of the stay, typically 7-10 days. A collaboration of private and public agencies and funds, the Center's official opening was presided over by representatives of the Board of Supervisors, CHOC administrators, donors and various officials.

California Youth Connection (CYC) Independent Living Program (ILP), April 12, 2018

CYC is a youth-led organization that develops leaders to transform the foster care system by participating in legislative and policy changes. Their current focus was on AB 2247 that allows foster youth to be part of the discussions regarding changes to their placement.

Continuum Care Reform (CCR) Action Forum, April 17, 2018

The forum discussed ways to recruit additional resource families. Discussions were held on the positive aspects of CCR as well as the challenges and barriers of CCR.

2nd Annual Foster Youth Summit, May 14, 2018

Keynote speaker, Alaina Moonves-Leb, of the Alliance for Children's Rights, Education Division highlighted the Foster Youth Education Tool-Kit.

Orange County Re-Entry Partnership (OCREP) and Project Youth – Orange County Bar Foundation Subcommittee Meeting, May 23, 2018

A discussion on resource sharing as well as updates on the County's young adult diversion program was presented by staff of the Orange County Workforce Development Board.

2nd Annual Trauma Informed Care Event, May 23, 2018

MCLE: SHORTSTOP and STOP SHORT of Addiction Programs, June 7, 2018

Training was hosted by the Orange County Bar Foundation on the SHORTSTOP Program that offers youth offenders opportunities to receive diversion services in lieu of formal prosecution for first-time, minor offenses. STOP SHORT of Addiction is similar to SHORTSTOP except it focuses on drug and alcohol related issues.

MCLE: LBGTQI, August 20, 2018

Information and training related to the LBGTQI community was presented by Marco Antonio Ramirez, Marriage and Family Therapist II LMFT, Behavioral Health Navigation / OC ACCEPT. The presentation recognized and defined common terms, how to understand mental health needs, the impact of a support system and identification of resources within Orange County.

Sexual Reproduction Health Workshop, August 23, 2018

The workshop focused on supporting a healthy sexual development to improve life outcomes for foster youth. Foster Care Personal Rights were shared and discussed as well as Know Your Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights.

Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) Implementation Workshop, November 6, 2018

MCLE: Trauma and Brain Development, Adolescent Development, and Drug Addiction, November 7, 2018

Dr. Anne Light M.D, shared how abuse and neglect affects a child's brain development making it more difficult for a child to reasonably assess the dangers of a situation and advocate for him/her self. New activities and situations can help build strength in weak brain areas such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, meditation and exercise.

Project Youth Orange County Bar Foundation & OCREP's Juvenile Re-Entry Subcommittee Meeting, November 28, 2018

Information was provided on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), a study on how stress causes toxicity to the brain cells causing negative health and wellbeing outcomes across different stages of life.

Raise Foundation Annual Training, December 3, 2018

Updates were provided by the Raise Foundation, Orange County's Child Abuse Prevention Council, Orange County Social Services Agency and training on self-care by a certified Health and Wellness coach.

V. GUEST SPEAKERS

The Juvenile Justice Commission continues to work collaboratively with all agencies and was privileged to have the following subject matter experts provide detailed information on available resources, policies and procedures, new laws and personal experiences during the Commission meetings:

Crystal Anthony, Clinical Social Worker II, CEGU/Probation, HCA
Alicia Lemire, Program Manager II, Children and Youth Behavioral Health, HCA

Ms. Anthony, a specialist with the Health Care Agency (HCA) presented the programs she has implemented in collaboration with the Probation Department. The HCA staff provide assessment and treatment services to youth during incarceration. This includes incarcerated youth in Juvenile Hall, the Youth Guidance Center, the Joplin Youth Center and the Youth Leadership Academy. Ms. Anthony oversees various therapy/group meetings: expressive arts therapy, empowering young men group, yoga and mindfulness group, peer adjustment team and leadership group building. Each activity provides youth with coping mechanisms for trauma and assists youth with expressing their emotions. Ms. Anthony implemented My Life, My Choice in both the boys' and girls' units. The program teaches at-risk youth how to recognize and prevent sexual exploitation and increases identification of youth who are being commercially sexually exploited.

Anne Bloxom, Division Director, SSA – Planning and Permanency Services
Jaime Munoz, Administrative Manager II, Transitional Planning Services Program

Ms. Bloxom provided an overview of Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). The reform focuses on how to transition from shelters to regular foster homes. Ms. Bloxom explained that the Social Services Agency (SSA) created Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings to ensure youth can be placed quickly and efficiently. CCR requires group homes to become Short Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). STRTPs are required to provide intensive mental health services to youth. SSA continues to explore solutions to improve their system of delivery and programs.

Mr. Munoz gave an overview of the Independent Living Program (ILP) which is provided for youth once they are 15 ½ years old. Each youth receives a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) compiled by their assigned social worker. The plan assists youth with financial responsibility, job readiness and mental and physical health. SSA plans to update their policies to begin ILP and TILP at an earlier age than 15.

Dr. Sonia Llamas, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services K-12, SAUSD
Heidi Cisneros, Executive Director, Pupil Support Services, SAUSD
Anabel Garsilazo, Foster Youth Liaison, Pupil Support Services, SAUSD

Ms. Garsilazo informed the Commission that Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) is one of the largest districts within the state with about 49,000 enrolled students. Within the SAUSD, there are about 231 identified foster youth who are provided assistance through the Pupil Support Services, as well as given opportunities to develop leadership skills through Youth Outreach Leadership Opportunities (YOLO).

Ms. Garsilazo meets with counselors and social workers to ensure each foster youth is on track to graduate. Pupil Support Services identifies foster youth within their program and works closely

with the Social Services Agency (SSA) and the Probation Department to ensure immediate enrollment into a school following a youth's exit from Juvenile Hall.

Danny Sells, National Director, Safe Families for Children (SFFC), Olive Crest

Mr. Sells informed the Commission about the resources available to the community through Safe Families for Children (SFFC). SFFC is designed to reduce child abuse and engage volunteers in a grassroots, neighbor-to-neighbor manner of caring for children. The program hosts children from newborn through 18 years of age, including pregnant and parenting youth. Through SFFC, volunteers help parents and children facing crisis, such as sudden unemployment, loss of housing, domestic abuse, substance treatment, etc. The goal of SFFC is to eliminate isolation and draw families into communities and serve as a positive alternative to the state welfare system.

TaHari Jackson, Youth Ambassador

A former foster youth, Mr. Jackson shared his perspective on the current issues in the foster care system. He discussed the hardships he encountered in the foster community and promoted the importance of teaching the foster youth independent living life skills so they may be self-sufficient and "live" rather than "survive" once they become adults. Mr. Jackson shared from his own personal experience how he would have appreciated being taught more independent living life skills such as grocery shopping, budgeting, time management and character building rather than focusing on family reunification.

Ernie Casarez, ZERO by 2020 Vision

Pat Casarez, ZERO by 2020 Vision

Mr. and Mrs. Casarez are advocates for the foster care system in Orange County and are part of the "ZERO by 2020 Vision," a campaign to find a family for every child in the Orange County foster care system by 2020. Vision 2020 is a volunteer coalition of churches to support foster families. Mr. and Mrs. Casarez continue to reach out to county agencies, business communities and church communities in hopes to gather volunteers. The support does not require any financial assistance. Currently, the Casarez family is collaborating with 55 churches. Vision 2020 incorporates ongoing training and events, such as trauma informed sessions and seminars. Family Care Coordinators provide knowledge and resources to foster families, answering questions and addressing any concerns. The campaign has currently served over 289 families.

Lauri Burns, Executive Director, The Teen Project, Inc.

Ms. Burns, a former foster youth, realized that many young adults who aged out of foster care ended up homeless. Ms. Burns started The Teen Project in Los Angeles, a nonprofit organization that serves at risk and homeless young adults from ages 18-26. The Teen Project has served over 800 transition-age youth. The Teen Project provides rehabilitation services, vocational schooling, college housing and wrap-around services. The Teen Project is funded by various private donations as well as grants from L.A. County and the State. She has also personally fostered over 30 youth.

Detective Nasario Solis, General Investigations Unit, Tustin Police Department

Detective Solis leads the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Team for Orange County. Detective Solis, a retired officer, volunteers his time to coordinate the program.

The SCAN Team collaborates with law enforcement, hospitals and social services to assist in investigating child abuse cases within Orange County. The SCAN Team consists of various medical personnel, mental health professionals, social workers, law enforcement officers, district attorneys, etc. They are trained in the prevention, identification and management of child abuse or neglect cases. Case referrals are often from the Social Services Agency or the District Attorney's office. The SCAN Team continues to work on improving child abuse investigations by identifying and educating agencies on diagnosing and referring child abuse cases.

Denise Churchill, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services, SSA
Kristina Traw, Administrative Manager I, Legislative Manager, SSA

Ms. Churchill provided an overview of the implementation process of the Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program. STRTPs, are required to provide mental health services, crisis interventions, targeted case management, group therapy, etc. The Social Services Agency is also working to recruit Intensive Services Foster Care (ISFC) homes for youth.

Ms. Traw provided a legislative update pertaining to youth. Assembly Bill (AB) 1868 requires school districts to ensure all youth in grades seven to twelve receive comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education, including information on sexual harassment, sexual assault, adolescent relationship abuse, intimate partner violence and human trafficking.

AB 1930 would make various changes to procedures relating to the placement of dependent children. When placing a youth out of their origin county, the 14-day notice requirement will be waived if the Child and Family Team (CFT) and the youth's attorney have no objections.

AB 2083 would require each county to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating roles and responsibilities of agencies and other community programs that serve youth with severe trauma in foster care.

AB 2119 would allow minors and nonminor dependents in foster care the right to be involved in the development of their case in terms of placement in foster care and gender affirming health care.

AB 2337 would allow youth to appeal the dismissal of their dependency petition after the age of 18 to ensure they may continue to receive services as transitional youth.

Senate Bill (SB) 1083 extends the deadline for foster care providers to have resource family approval to December 31, 2020 and extends their current certifications and licenses until that date.

Rita Rangel, Administrative Manager I, CFT Program/Family Engagement, SSA

Ms. Rangel gave a presentation on the Child and Family Team (CFT) Program for the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA). A CFT is a group of individuals who collaborate to support and serve the youth and his/her family to ensure the youth's needs are being met. The CFT meetings typically include family members, assigned social workers, a facilitator from the SSA, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and the youth. Ms. Rangel provided an overview of a youth's journey through the juvenile dependency system.

Lisa Workman, Family Support Network, Parent Mentor
Maria Enriquez, Family Support Network, Supervisor

Ms. Workman provided an overview of the Parent Mentor Services Program. The program was created by the Family Support Network in 2007 and is contracted by the Social Services Agency (SSA) / Children and Family Services (CFS). Since 2007 the Parent Mentor Services Program has served 2,080 families. The parent mentors are successfully reunified parents who then guide other parents who are involved in the juvenile dependency system. The mentorship program is voluntary and is provided for six months. Ms. Workman also leads the "VOICES for Moms" support group that allows moms to support and encourage each other through an eight-week curriculum. The program continues to provide great support and services to parents and hopes to expand their mentorship program.

GUEST SPEAKERS



TaHari Jackson
Youth Ambassador



Ernie and Pat Casarez
ZERO by 2020



Lauri Burns
Executive Director, Teen Project

VI. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Speaking My Truth” Essay Contest 2018

In collaboration with the Orangewood Foundation, the Orange County Department of Education, the Juvenile Justice Commission launched an essay contest in August 2018. Fifty five students submitted essays, choosing from one of four prompts relating to the theme “Speaking My Truth.” Students in Otto A. Fischer School, Rio Contiguo, YLA and William Lyon School were invited to participate in the contest. There were three winners and nine honorable mentions. Each recipient of an award received a gift card, a writing journal and a certificate.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank the teachers who supported the students in their writing submissions and encouraged them throughout the process. Thank you to the Orange County Department of Education, ACCESS program for helping to administer the contest and to Connie Marshall, Vice Principal of Otto A. Fischer School for coordinating the culminating event on October 16, 2018. Thank you to the Orangewood Foundation for its generosity in providing the gift cards for the student prizes. In addition, thank you to the Probation staff for their diligent coordination and assistance to ensure a safe and secure environment where the winning students were able to share their essays with one another as well as their parents.



COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES



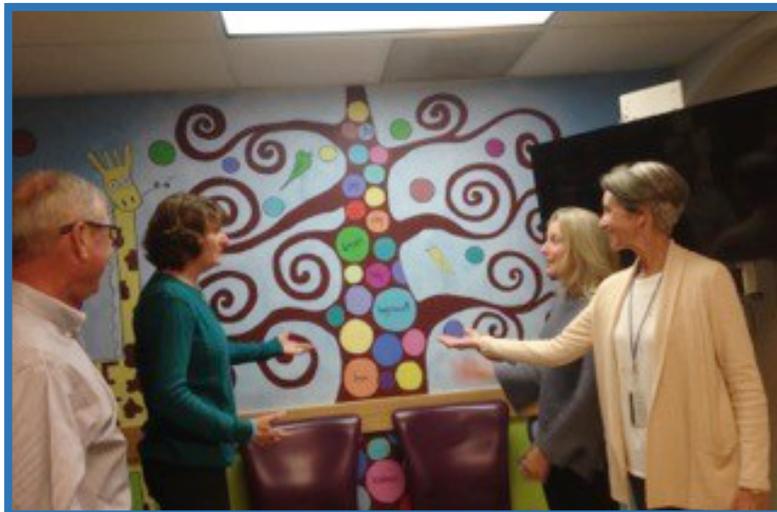
Commissioner Crowley presents Kim Ragen, Administrative Manager II, Orangewood Children and Family Center and Kimberly Schneider, SSA, Senior Social Worker, Runaway Prevention and Recovery Liaison, with gift cards donated by members of the Commission.



Commissioners Zorrilla, Crowley and Hart attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for Project Kinship.



Judge Joanne Motoike witnesses Commissioner Ben deMayo sign the oath of office for his second term.



Kim Ragen, Administrative Manager II, Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) show Commissioners Sturla, Crowley and Hart the mural located in the Medical Unit. Under the mural are written intentions from staff and youth for kids arriving at OCFC, including one that reads: “You are good. You are loved. You are wanted. You are missed. You can do and be anything.”

ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION



www.occourts.org/directory/juvenile/jjc/index.html

The mission of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission is to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in this county and to insure that the highest standards of care and services are maintained for the youth within the juvenile justice system.

