

**ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
2019 ANNUAL REPORT**





Pictured left to right: Susan Korean, Judy Johnson, Michael Schumacher, Wyatt McClean, Marcy Garfias, Robin Rounaghi, Cheryl Hart, Mary Lou Vachet, Benjamin deMayo, Amy Crowley, Dolores Yost, Judy Zorrilla, Lynda Perring, Jan Sturla, and Jessica Esquivel.

Dear Reader,

The year 2019 was full of exciting changes and accomplishments within the Juvenile Justice Commission. First, we hope you enjoy our newly revised Annual Report which now highlights our efforts in an easy to read format.

Throughout the pages, we report our state mandated functions including institution inspections and police visits. Special collaborations, like our annual essay contest for incarcerated youth, are also featured. This year, the Commission focused on the transition from group homes to Short Term Residential Treatment Programs and the need for agencies to provide trauma informed care and mental health services to youth placed at these facilities.

2019 also brought several new faces to the Commission including our new Administrative Officer, Susan Korean, and five newly appointed Commissioners who provide exceptional knowledge and expertise in the fields of law, education, mental health and probation.

Reflecting on this past year, we would like to thank Judge Motoike for her continued direction and guidance. Also, thank you to all our stakeholders who collaborate with the Commission to ensure that we can fulfill our mission to maintain the highest standards of care and services for the youth within the juvenile justice system.

Thank you to my fellow Commissioners for providing an important voice for the youth within our community. It has been such an honor to serve as Chairperson this past year.

Sincerely,

Amy Crowley

Commissioners and Staff

Chair Amy Crowley
Vice Chair Jan Sturla
Benjamin P. deMayo
Marcy Garfias
Cheryl C. Hart
Judy Johnson
Wyatt McClean
Lynda Perring
Robin Rounaghi
Michael Schumacher
Mary Lou Vachet
Dolores Yost
Judy L. Zorrilla

Susan Korean,
Exec. Admin. Assistant
Jessica Esquivel,
Legal Proc. Specialist

OC JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is a group of private citizens appointed by the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Juvenile Court and authorized by Welfare and Institution Code Sections 225-231. The mission of the JJC 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. The JJC advocates for a compassionate and collaborative community to meet the mental, physical, and educational needs of system-involved youth.

JJC time is dedicated to serving OC system-involved youth as follows:

22 Group Home /
STRTP Inspections

23 JJC Meetings*
w/ 4 Stakeholder Mtgs

4 Institution Inspections
plus 3 Schools

2334 VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2019

32 Guest Speaker
or Training Events

14 Law Enforcement
Inspections

JJC Collaborative
Projects

21 Liaison
Committees

* Over 90% commissioner attendance at JJC meetings.

JJC work is informed by a cumulation of years of commissioner experience in the following areas:

131 years Volunteering for
Youth / CASA work

70 years Public Administration /
Probation

53 years Education

75 years Law / Business

62 years Mental Health /
Substance Abuse Recovery

50 years Juvenile /
Criminal Law

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The Essay Contest

"Sometimes I feel like no matter how I change, my past will catch up with me."

- Otto A. Fischer student

"I would like to share about the pain for those people going through pain in silence so they know they are not alone."

- Otto A. Fischer student

"What thing did I think was so important to do, that I would risk my freedom for it?"

- Rio Contiguo student

In 2018, the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) introduced an essay contest to encourage students to express themselves while they were at the Otto A. Fischer School at Juvenile Hall and the Youth Leadership Academy; the Rio Contiguo High School at the Youth Guidance Center; and the William Lyon School at Orangewood. The contest was so well received that it was held again in September, 2019, but was limited to students grades 9-12 at Juvenile Hall and the Youth Guidance Center.

In collaboration with the Probation Department, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and the Orangewood Foundation, the contest presented awards to three winners and nine honorable mentions. Each recipient also received a gift card, a writing journal and a certificate.

The teachers provided the guidance for the students to complete their submissions. The essays were judged according to a rubric by a panel selected by the JJC. An awards ceremony was held at Juvenile Hall where the winners read their entries in front of an audience that included family members as well as representatives from Probation, OCDE and Juvenile Court.

Altogether, there were 43 participants who contributed to the contest that was entitled 'Just Saying'. The essays, which were extremely profound and reflective, provided the students an opportunity to put their ideas, thoughts, and feelings into words. The project proved to be self-empowering, giving participants a voice during a difficult time in their lives.

The JJC would like to thank the Orange County Superior Court Judges, the Probation Administrators, and the OCDE Teachers / Administrators (especially Kirk Anderson and Ruth Ramirez). The JJC would also like to thank the Orangewood Foundation for generously underwriting the project. Most of all, the JJC would like to thank the brave youth who shared their experiences and insight while in custody.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The *Power of One* Video



We can all agree that one of the most powerful motivators is hope. This year, the Juvenile Justice Commission, in partnership with Probation, developed a short video featuring Dr. James Maciel titled "The Power of One". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHQ2z3gBt9g>) This video shared the amazing story of a young man who despite spending time incarcerated in both Juvenile Hall and the Youth Guidance Center was able to turn his life around and put himself through college to become a UCLA trained physician.



The video was created by the talented Melissa Murphy and has been shared with various units in Juvenile Hall as well as the Youth Reporting Center. We were fortunate to have Dr. Maciel attend the presentation of the video in Juvenile Hall where he reflected on the part key role models, like Officer Elizabeth Vazquez, played in his life as well as shared words of encouragement with current probation youth.



See the video entitled "The Power of One" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHQ2z3gBt9g>.

INSPECTIONS OF COUNTY-ADMINISTERED JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS

Each year the Juvenile Justice Commission, as mandated by the Welfare and Institutions Code, inspects the four facilities that provide residential care and services for those children/youth who are part of the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose of the inspections is to ensure that high quality and appropriate care is being provided. Each of the facilities provides an accredited school program staffed by the Orange County Department of Education so that education is not interrupted by the time in residence. Each facility also has medical staff on site to address any medical needs. Children and youth also have access to behavioral health care.

Orange County Juvenile Hall

Announced Inspection: October 23, 2019

This Probation-run, maximum security facility houses male and female youth who have committed serious offenses in the community. Besides participation in the on-grounds school, programming includes Anger Management, Substance Abuse classes, and Conflict Resolution among others. Family Reunification and one-on-one counseling are important aspects of the program. During the inspection there were no items requiring corrective action.



One of the opportunities available to the youth in the facility was a program put on by the Young Americans which included both performances by them and a joint performance by the professionals and the youth. The Commission commends the staff and administration for providing such an opportunity for the youth in residence.

Youth Leadership Academy

Announced Inspection: September 18, 2019

This Probation program is a semi-secured camp facility for teenage males and was designed as a short-term stay program that focuses on a smooth transition back into the local community. The program provides individual therapy sessions which address substance abuse, gang prevention and aggressive behavior. There are also group therapy sessions and family and crisis counseling sessions available.

These youth attend school on-grounds.

There were no corrective action items identified in the inspection this year.





Youth Guidance Center Announced Inspection: May 1, 2019

The Youth Guidance Center (YGC) is a Probation facility and has four dormitories, a gymnasium, and outdoor fields. There are both male and female residents generally ages 14-18. The primary focus of this program is on substance abuse. Youth attend school on-grounds and also receive college and career readiness and occupational skill assistance.

The Commission requested repair to a drainage issue in the males' bathroom. The Commission commends the facility for encouraging youth to participate in Segerstrom Center's Summer at the Center, giving youth the opportunity to perform. Commissioners enjoy attending those performances and seeing what a positive experience they are for the youth.

Orangewood Children and Family Center Announced Inspection: April 10, 2019

This campus of cottages run by Social Services houses children/youth who are Dependents of the Court. As a result of recent legislation the length of stay is targeted to be 10 days or less. These children are awaiting placement, either back with their parents, or with other caretakers. They came before the Court as a result of abuse and/or neglect and the goal is to insure they return to a safe home. The Center is a cottage style campus with younger children housed separately from older youth. There is a school program provided as well as various on-grounds activities. In addition, mental health services are available on campus.

While the facility was in good order and repair overall, the Commission requested some repairs in a bathroom and cleaning of air vents.

The Commission was pleased to be able to work with the Administration of the facility to increase the residents access to and use of their cell phones while in care.



INSPECTIONS OF OC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The JJC is mandated by State law to inspect all law enforcement facilities where a minor is held in secure detention for any length of time and those where a minor is held in non-secure detention for 24 hours or more. No facility, other than the Probation-run institutions, holds minors for more than 24 hours. The JJC exceeds state law mandates by inspecting all facilities where a minor is held in non-secure detention for 6 hours or more. Listed below are all OC law enforcement facilities operated by police or sheriff departments with their recent statistics on detention of minors. 2019 inspection dates are listed for those that met inspection criteria. The JJC inquired about topics such as human trafficking of minors, the role of School Resource Officers, community youth programs, and interactions with Probation and Social Services.

Law Enforcement Agency	2019 Inspection Date	Number of Minors Detained		Minors in secure detention for any time		Minors in non-secure detention for 6+ hrs.	
		2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Anaheim PD	04/11/19	261	228	1	6	1	0
Brea PD	09/24/19	13	23	0	2	0	0
Buena Park PD	10/02/19	111	89	6	5	0	0
Costa Mesa PD	06/11/19	55	75	11	15	0	0
Cypress PD	N/A	13	10	0	0	0	2
Fountain Valley PD	N/A	21	60	0	0	0	0
Fullerton PD	09/24/19	90	86	0	6	0	0
Garden Grove PD	N/A	201	172	0	0	0	0
Huntington Beach PD	N/A	45	57	0	0	0	0
Irvine PD	N/A	51	38	0	0	0	0
Laguna Beach PD	06/11/19	34	72	1	6	0	0
La Habra PD	10/02/19	51	49	3	7	0	0
La Palma PD	10/02/19	16	6	0	0	0	0
Los Alamitos PD	N/A	2	0	0	0	0	0
Newport Beach PD	N/A	51	76	0	0	0	0
Orange PD	N/A	32	50	0	0	0	0
Placentia PD	04/11/19	44	46	5	0	0	1
Santa Ana PD	08/20/19	176	132	120	77	0	0
Santa Ana Unified School District	N/A	17	11	0	0	0	0
Seal Beach PD	N/A	7	15	0	0	0	0
Tustin PD	08/20/19	121	93	0	0	1	0
Westminster PD	08/20/19	81	54	1	0	0	0
CSU Fullerton PD	09/24/19	7	6	1	6	0	0
Dana Point - OCSD	N/A	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Forest OCSD	N/A	7	6	0	0	0	0
San Clemente - OCSD	N/A	13	0	0	0	0	0
SJ Capistrano - OCSD	N/A	7	0	0	0	0	0
Aliso Viejo - OCSD	06/11/19	5	0	2	0	0	0
Stanton - OCSD	N/A	9	3	0	0	0	0
Yorba Linda - OCSD	N/A	0	2	0	0	0	0
TOTALS		1542	1459	151	130	2	3

COMMISSION AREAS OF FOCUS / LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Juvenile Justice Commission subgroups focus on the following areas: Education; Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP); Law Enforcement; Legislative; and Mental Health. One or more JJC members attend regularly scheduled meetings of the following groups to ensure the commission is aware and apprised of current issues related to children and youth in the Juvenile Justice System.

- Be Well OC Coalition
- Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC)
- Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) Policy Board
- Social Services Agency Youth Fatality Reviews
- Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)
- Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Steering Committee
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee
- Eliminating Racial Disparity & Disproportionality (ERDD) Advisory Board
- Foster Care Advisory Board (FCAB)/Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)
- Foster Family Agency (FFA) Forum
- Resource Family Approval/Foster Family Agency Partnership Meeting
- Foster Youth Outcomes
- Foster and Kinship Care Education Program
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee
- Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)
- OCCP Subcommittee
- OC Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)
- Juvenile Court Services (JCS) Stakeholder Meeting
- Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Forum
- Probation Department Ward Death Reviews
- Working to End Child Abuse and Neglect (WE CAN) Coalition



One of the multiple liaison activities that Juvenile Justice Commissioners attend, the Eliminating Racial Disparity and Disproportionality (ERDD) Advisory Board meets monthly.

TRAINING AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Community Forum

Conditions of Children Report
OC Children's Partnership
February 15, 2019

Transition Age Youth

Conference
Dept. of Social Services and
Child/Family Policy Institute
February 26, 2019

OC Grip

Guest Speaker: Tamika Williams
OC Deputy District Attorney
March 20, 2019

Family Driven Treatment

Webinar - Dept. of Social Services
Continuum of Care Reform
March 25, 2019

Sexual Health and Reproductive Education

Guest Speaker: Jaime Munoz
Social Services Agency
April 3, 2019

Foster Youth Summit

Foster Youth & Homeless Educ.
April 10, 2019

Wraparound Process

Dept. of Social Services Webinar
Continuum of Care Reform
April 30, 2019

Pepper Spray Presentation

UC Irvine Law
May 9, 2019

AB 1811 Webinar

Dept. of Social Services
Continuum of Care Reform
February 12, 2019

"Speak Up!" Play

Children's Hospital of O.C.
Mental Health
February 21, 2019

Human Trafficking

Survivors Presentation
Santa Ana Public Library
March 2, 2019

"Young Americans"

Musical Performance
OC Probation
March 22, 2019

Blue Ribbon Month

Kick-off Ceremony - OC
Child Abuse Prevention Council
March 27, 2019

Project Choice Tour

at Orangewood Foundation, Center
for Sexually Exploited Children
April 8, 2019

Transforming OC

LGBTQ Youth Convening
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
Center OC
April 13, 2019

Groundbreaking Ceremony

Samueli Academy
May 2, 2019





CASA Goals & Volunteerism

CASA OC
Speakers: Jenny Leon
Matthew Wadlingerr
May 15, 2019

**Lighthouse Treatment
Center Tour**

June 4, 2019

Teen Court Observation

OC Superior Court
Lamoreaux Justice Center
June 7, 2019

**Foster Youth
Education Tool Kit**

Speaker: Alaina Moonves-Leb
Alliance for Children's Rights
June 19, 2019

STRTP and Drug Medi-Cal

Organized Delivery System Services
Speakers: Golnoush Hooshvar
Alicia Lemire
July 17, 2019

Human Trafficking Forum

University of California, Irvine
September 14, 2019

First Five Program

Speaker: Kim Goll
First Five Orange County
October 16, 2019

Winter Tea

Orangewood Children
and Family Services
December 5, 2019

"All Rise" film screening

Getting to Zero
May 30, 2019

Public Safety & Re-Entry

Conference
Project Kinship
June 6, 2019

"Therapeutic Foster Care

Webinar
Dept. of Health Services
June 13, 2019

"Summer at the Center"

Performance
OC Department of Education
June 27, 2019

Underground GRIT

Open House
August 23, 2019

WIOA Young Adult Programs

Speaker: Maggie Lopez
Community Investment Division
OC Community Services
September 18, 2019

Continuum of Care

Webinair - Dept. of Social Services
November 4, 2019

Holiday Breakfast

Prevent Child Abuse Network
December 13, 2019





To contact us or learn more, go to:

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

jjc@occourts.org



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