

ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

2011



2011 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION MEMBERS



Judy Johnson, Vice Chair

Stephen N. Livingston, Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Patricia Boortz

Jane Foley

Max Madrid

Adrienne Jennings McMillan

John D. Nguyen

Michael Schumacher

William G. Steiner

Cynthia P. Coad

Lisa Hughes

Susan Mays

Eula Nelson

Marcia Rubin

Melanie Singer



Seated from left to right:

Commissioners William Steiner, Stephen Livingston, Judy Johnson, and Susan Mays

Middle row from left to right:

Commissioners Cynthia Coad, Melanie Singer, Lisa Hughes, John Nguyen, Jane Foley, Eula Nelson, Patricia Boortz, and Marcia Rubin

Back row from left to right:

Administrative Officer Beverly MacLaren, Commissioners Max Madrid, Michael Schumacher, Former Administrative Officer Arlene Burt, and Office Specialist Vanessa Martinez

Not Shown:

Commissioner Adrienne Jennings McMillan

Commissioner Marcia Rubin retired after serving on the Juvenile Justice Commission for eight years. Commissioner Melanie Singer retired after serving on the Juvenile Justice Commission for over six years. They both contributed greatly to improve the welfare of youths in Orange County and will be deeply missed.



Superior Court of California
County of Orange
Juvenile Justice Commission

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Eula Nelson
John D. Nguyen
Michael Schumacher, Ph.D.
William G. Steiner

December 31, 2011

Dear Reader:

The 2011 Annual Report of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission covers the past year's efforts and accomplishments. The Commission consists of thirteen dedicated volunteers who possess a broad spectrum of experience in law, politics, education, local government, social welfare, and probation. Commissioners serve on committees and as liaisons to various government and community-based organizations.

The education and group homes committees inspected a wide variety of group homes/temporary shelters and worked with the Department of Education to ensure all minors received appropriate classroom education. The law enforcement agency committee performed the annual inspections of police departments and Sheriff's facilities which detain minors. Committee members also inspected the Probation Department's custody institutions and the Orangewood Children and Family Center for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Although county budgets have reduced the number of agency workers, the Commission still found the care these institutions provide for minors to be outstanding.

Commissioners continued to monitor the implementation of mental health treatment and prevention programs in the Health Care Agency that have been funded by Proposition 63. Other areas of focus for the Commission included juvenile sex trafficking, gang prevention and awareness, truancy prevention, the expansion/operation of the Tustin Family Campus, the operation of juvenile collaborative courts, the continued use of the Probation Department's Risk Assessment Instrument, the relocation of the Child Abuse Services Team to Orangewood, monitoring legislation, and serving on the Child Death Review committee.

Central to the mission of the Commission is the cooperation and collaboration with the many public and private agencies working with the children in the juvenile justice system. These agencies send representatives to attend our monthly meetings. Throughout the year the Commission continued to monitor county budgetary adjustments, including program reductions, staff layoffs, and the effects of AB 12/212 and AB 109 legislation impacting children in the justice system.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners and the Administrative Officer for their dedication and thank Judge Hatchimonji for his on-going support. I also extend my appreciation to Commissioners Melanie Singer and Marcia Rubin, who retired from the Commission in 2011. It has been an honor to have served as chairperson this year.

Sincerely,

Stephen N. Livingston
Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I: INTRODUCTION	Page
Functions and Responsibilities.....	1
Appointment of Commissioners	1
Budget.....	1
Staff	2
PART II: MANDATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION	
Inspections of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies.....	3
Inspections of Orange County Sheriff's Department Facilities	4
Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions	5
Joplin Youth Center.....	5
Orange County Juvenile Hall.....	7
Orange County Men's Jail & Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex	11
Orangewood Children and Family Center.....	12
Youth Guidance Center.....	14
Youth Leadership Academy	16
PART III: COLLATERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION	
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS	18
Child Death Review Committee	18
Education Committee	18
Law Enforcement Agency Committee	18
Legislation Committee	19
Mental Health Committee	19
Probation Committee	20

PART III: COLLATERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Social Services/Group Homes Committee	20
Special Issues Committee	21
COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES.....	22
Child Abuse Services Team Policy Board	22
Child Welfare Redesign Planning Council	22
Dependency Drug Court Oversight Committee	22
Foster Family Agency Forum.....	22
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Workgroup	23
Juvenile Drug Court Supervisors Meeting.....	23
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee.....	23
Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee	23
Orange County Children's Partnership	23
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS.....	24
Special Guests and Presentations	25
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, SECTIONS 225-231	26
Special Thanks to Commissioners Rubin and Singer.....	29

I. INTRODUCTION

The Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is a mandated group of private citizens who perform a variety of advocacy and regulatory functions on behalf of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The JJC is empowered by the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), Sections 225 – 231 to “inquire into the administration of juvenile court law.” The JJC adopts a goal-oriented and proactive approach in meeting its responsibilities throughout the year.

Functions and Responsibilities

The JJC conducts inspections of law enforcement agency facilities temporarily housing minors and county operated juvenile facilities including Juvenile Hall, Youth Leadership Academy, Youth Guidance Center, Joplin Youth Center, Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex, Orangewood Children and Family Center, and group homes where wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court are placed. The Commission reviews and monitors the educational, medical, and mental health programs within these facilities. The JJC also monitors adoption, foster care programs, and proceedings of the Juvenile Court.

The Commissioners participate as liaisons to various county agencies and community-based organizations. The liaison activities provide opportunities to offer input as to the special needs of wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court, to keep informed on current county agency and community-based organization activities, and to be advised of collaborative efforts made by these groups for the benefit of the youth within the system.

The Commission investigates citizen complaints regarding allegations of unlawful or inappropriate treatment of children and inquires into the administration of juvenile court law to ensure the highest standards are maintained for the youth in the juvenile justice system. The results of these studies, reviews, and inquiries are filed with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. The JJC also conducts special investigations and studies at the request of the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court.

The Commission can hold public hearings and request the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to issue subpoenas to require attendance, testimony of witnesses under oath, and the submission of documents and other evidence.

Appointment of Commissioners

The Commissioners are appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to serve a four-year term. The recruitment for new Commissioners is an ongoing process and an active applicant list is maintained. The Commission is comprised of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens. Two of the positions are reserved for youth members between the ages of 14 and 21. This year the two youth member positions remained vacant. The JJC continues to actively encourage applications from the residents of Orange County.

Budget

The approved budget for FY 2010-2011 was \$159,568. Budget expenditure categories for FY 2010-2011 remained the same as in previous years. Staffing expenditures were 90.1 % of the total budget. Attendance at Commission meetings was 81.5 % in 2011. The legally mandated meeting reimbursement continues to be \$25.00 per meeting, not exceeding two meetings per month. However, the Commissioners travel hundreds of miles at their own expense and contribute hundreds of hours of their personal time to perform their duties throughout the year.

Staff

Ms. Beverly MacLaren was assigned as the Administrative Officer to the Juvenile Justice Commission upon the retirement of Ms. Arlene Burt. Ms. MacLaren has the role of Commission administrator, advisor, facilitator, and liaison. Her responsibilities include oversight and production of the Annual Report; coordination of annual institution, law enforcement agency, and group home inspections; staffing investigations; participating in child fatality reviews; overseeing the preparation and review of the meeting agendas and minutes; compiling special reports; budget cost center manager; answering inquiries from citizens and county departments; drafting written communications; assisting with the training of new Commissioners; and functioning as the liaison to the Juvenile Court, Health Care Agency, Social Services Agency, Probation Department, Orange County Department of Education, and other county departments and community based organizations.

The Juvenile Justice Commission Operations Unit, Vanessa Martinez, Office Specialist, assists the Administrative Officer with duties on a part-time basis.

II. MANDATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Inspections of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 209, the Juvenile Justice Commission annually inspects law enforcement agency facilities with respect to the handling of juveniles who come into their care. Those minors should not be detained in excess of six hours pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 207.1. The total number of minors held in excess of six hours and minors detained in 2010 and 2011 are noted in the following table. These statistics have been provided by the law enforcement agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	2011 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS		TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	
		2010	2011	2010	2011
Anaheim	03/24/11	0	0	628	538
Brea/Yorba Linda	06/02/11	1	1	40	52
Buena Park	05/05/11	0	2	310	217
Costa Mesa	06/02/11	0	0	357	285
Cypress	04/27/11	0	0	46	57
Fountain Valley	07/06/11	0	0	99	101
Fullerton	05/05/11	0	0	334	261
Garden Grove	05/24/11	0	0	971	815
Huntington Beach	07/06/11	0	0	234	206
Irvine	05/18/11	0	0	119	170
La Habra	05/05/11	1	0	311	266
La Palma	05/05/11	0	1	31	24
Laguna Beach	06/02/11	0	2	96	118
Los Alamitos	04/27/11	0	0	13	9
Newport Beach	06/02/11	0	0	298	221
Orange	04/27/11	0	0	104	71
Placentia	06/02/11	2	0	155	146
Santa Ana	03/24/11	1	0	501	399
Seal Beach	07/06/11	0	0	39	12
Tustin	04/27/11	2	0	291	184
Westminster	05/03/11	0	0	212	171
Totals		7	6	5189	4323

Inspections of Orange County Sheriff's Department Facilities

The statistics provided by the Sheriff's Department are dissimilar from other Orange County law enforcement agencies because they do not operate as a "station centric" agency. The policy of the Sheriff's Department is to detain the majority of minors in the field to be released to a responsible adult, with only a limited number of minors brought into a Sheriff's facility.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITY	2011 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS		TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	
		2010	2011	2010	2011
Dana Point	06/21/11	0	0	11	15
North Operations – Santa Ana	04/13/11	0	0	4	0
San Clemente	06/21/11	1	0	62	77
San Juan Capistrano	06/21/11	0	0	4	3
South Operations – Aliso Viejo	06/21/11	0	0	8	11
Stanton Police Services – Stanton	04/13/11	0	0	44	31
Totals		1	0	133	137

Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions

Joplin Youth Center

Unannounced Inspection: August 30, 2011



Description of Facility

Joplin Youth Center (JYC) is located on 336 acres in the Santa Ana Mountains at an elevation of 1,800 feet. The buildings, utilities, school, and play areas consist of approximately 20 acres. Housing is in a dormitory facility. There are 33 deputized Probation Officers and 17 support personnel at the JYC. JYC has a capacity for 64 boys. The average age of the boys is 15 to 17 years. The average length of stay is only 35 days. Boys with mobility challenges, allergies to bee stings, asthma, or brittle diabetes cannot be accepted at the facility.

The advantages of being at JYC are:

- Youth are not locked in cells; rather they are housed in a dormitory.
- Youth learn to intermingle constructively with youth from other cultures and gangs.
- Staff are in the dormitory so there is good interaction with the youth.
- Youth are outdoors every day doing exercise and chores.
- There are many special programs for the youth.

On-Site Observations

The facility is over 50 years old. The maintenance and repairs are ongoing. In the upcoming months, roof shingles will be replaced on many of the buildings. The grounds appear well cared for and the dormitory was neat and orderly. There was no maintenance deficiencies noted.

The youth wear county-issued clothing. Their shirt color indicates the length of stay and whether there has been any exhibition of problematic behavior. Visiting takes place on Sundays and includes parents, other family members, and girlfriends with prior permission. If parents are unable to travel to JYC, youngsters will be transported to Juvenile Hall for visits.

Two postage stamps are provided weekly for correspondence. Parents may provide additional postage stamps if the minor requests them. The kitchen was observed to be clean and well organized. Youth and staff alike are very proud of the creativity and skills involved in the food preparation. The cooks serve the youth, and meals take place in the dining hall.

A nurse is on-site on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. At other times, the staff may contact the Medical Unit at Juvenile Hall. In the event of an emergency, 9-1-1 may be called and the patient transported to a hospital in Mission Viejo.

Programs

There are over 25 programs offered to the youth such as substance abuse counseling, victim awareness, gang awareness, parenting skills, weight loss, and anger management. A culinary arts program is highly regarded; and, the final test consists of the development, preparation, and presentation of a meal for the camp and staff. A Wraparound counselor offers services to the minors, and a Volunteer in Probation (VIP) teaches public speaking.

Staff works with the youth on grounds maintenance and a Habitat Improvement Program. A clinical psychologist from the Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) is on staff full time and assesses all new admissions. A drug and alcohol counselor from Health Care Agency is a full-time staff member.

The high school principal for the Joplin Youth Center is responsible for nine schools. The vice principal splits his time with the Youth Guidance Center and the Orangewood Children and Family Center. A site liaison teacher was recently appointed to act as both a teacher and school administrator. This has helped ensure experienced juvenile detention teachers are involved with the school and are trained for the detention environment. JYC has a volunteer library program running once per week.

The majority of misbehaviors occur in the school setting. Discipline is either handled by requiring the student to write about his misbehavior or by suspension.

Action Requested by the Commission

The computer lab has not been used in over a year. It is hoped the new site liaison teacher will have the time and resources to restart the computer lab reading program.

The JJC commends the Joplin Youth Center staff for the excellent work being done to provide a safe and nurturing environment for the youth.

Orange County Juvenile Hall

Unannounced Inspection: June 15, 2011



Description of Facility

Juvenile Hall is located in the City of Orange. On the day of the inspection, the facility housed 369 youthful offenders, 331 boys and 38 girls.

Staff

There are 68 Probation Department staff members overseeing the youth, in addition to a large number of complementary staff. The complementary staff includes professionals, teachers, food service, and maintenance workers. Many of the staff is fluent in Spanish and Vietnamese. The Probation Department also has outside contacts on call for other languages when necessary.

Living Unit Descriptions

Unit A is classified as an Extreme Security Risk (XSR) unit housing adult inmates (18 years old) pending conviction, or have a previous conviction in adult court for a misdemeanor or felony. Adult females can be housed in this unit. This unit has a capacity of 36.

Unit B is a detention unit for boys considered a security risk. It also houses other youth needing medical attention because of its close proximity to the medical unit.

Unit C houses non-violent wards who have at least 270 days remaining on their commitment which is to be served at the local level. The PRIDE (Progressive Rehabilitation in a Dynamic Environment) program includes one full-time drug and alcohol counselor, a therapist, and a paraeducator. It allows counselors to accompany minors to take their driver's license test, and to obtain an identification card or a social security card. Counselors assist minors with job applications or college applications. Staff transports minors to schools in the community for the purpose of enrolling.

The Pups and Wards (PAWS) program has successfully trained and adopted 12 dogs out into the community. Two youths are assigned to work with a dog for ten weeks in preparation for adoption. The Pathways to Hope provides training to the youths selected as trainers. All dogs are rescue dogs from the Orange County Animal Shelter.

Units G and **H** are pre-camp units housing minors who will transition to the Youth Guidance Center, Youth Leadership Academy, or Joplin Youth Center when space is available.

Unit I is the Mental Health Unit with a maximum population of 16 youth. There is a 3:1 ratio of wards to probation officers at all times. If hospitalization is necessary, the minor is transported to the psychiatric ward at UC Irvine Medical Center. Minors do not attend school in the regular classrooms and are instructed within the unit.

Units J and **K** are reserved for minors charged with sex offenses. **Unit J** is a specialized unit housing pre-adjudicated (non-committed) juvenile sex offenders waiting for their pretrial hearing or the final outcome of their trial. **Unit K** houses adjudicated male offenders between the ages of 10 and 18 with

lengthy commitments. Group and individual sex offender therapy is provided.

Units M and O house the younger boys waiting for commitment and most have court proceedings pending. The program focuses on improving basic life skills such as hygiene and working on behavior issues. **Unit M** focuses on improving basic life skills. **Unit O** generally houses minors 14 years old and younger.

Units R and S are reserved for girls and younger boys. The Leash on Life Program is available for girls who wish to volunteer to become a "Puppy Momma." The program teaches how to properly care for the puppies assigned to them for five to six weeks.

Unit T is considered an Extreme Security Risk (XSR) unit and houses minors who have been charged with the most serious offenses. Many of the crimes involve extreme violence. Some of these minors, if convicted, may be transferred directly to State Prison, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), or Orange County Jail. Safety and security is a main priority for this coed unit. The ages of the minors range from 13 to 19.

Units Y and Z house youth entering the facility while going through the pretrial process. They are usually housed for five days or less. An orientation video is shown during this time to provide details of the policies, procedures, and information on what to expect during their stay. Minors in these two units are allowed an initial visit with their parents upon entering and another visit following their court proceedings. **Unit Y** is the intake unit for girls and younger boys. **Unit Z** is reserved for older, more sophisticated boys.

Programs

In addition to the specialized programs in the units, each unit has one hour after dinner of programming where a variety of topics such as "stop bullying" and "aggression control" are discussed. Other programs include volunteers from AA and NA. This time is also allotted for VIP (Volunteer in Probation) visits and Bible Study.

Recreational Activity

There are two baseball and soccer fields, a volleyball court, and a track facility for recreational activities. On weekends and holidays, the youth are allowed five hours of free time which they may use to write letters, play games, watch television, or make telephone calls. One hour of LME (large muscle exercise) per day is mandated for all youths.

Otto A. Fischer School

The WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation was renewed in 2010. The accreditation process is reviewed every four years. Core courses include math, science, social studies, physical education, and English. Electives are offered in woodshop, fine arts, computer skills, library assistant training, and speech. During the past year 60 high school diplomas and 35 GED certificates were awarded to minors.

This year changes were made to the education program provided for youths in Units A and T, the Extreme Security Risk units. Previously, the minors assigned to these units were instructed for one hour each day in small groups within their assigned units. At the recommendation of the Juvenile Justice Commission, the Probation Department designated two new classrooms on campus where the minors

receive the required four hours of academic instruction. A follow-up visit this year showed the change had been completed and new desks provided for the two classrooms. Posters and college flags were hung to motivate the students and encourage educational growth. Both the Probation Department and Orange County Department of Education are to be congratulated for the efforts they made to make these changes. Incidents of disciplinary problems were less for these classrooms than the regular classrooms.

The Probation Department staff and Orange County Department of Education staff are to be congratulated for their success in creating two classrooms for the youth housed in Units A and T allowing them to receive the required four hours of academic instruction outside their units.

Visitation Area

Parents and guardians are permitted to visit two hours each week. Children, brothers, and sisters are not allowed to visit without a special court order. The visitation area was clean and organized with vending machines, and a television. Wards are brought to this area in handcuffs which are removed prior to them entering the building. Because visitation does allow personal contact, the wards must be strip searched before returning to their units.

Mail

Wards are provided two postage stamps per week for mailing letters. Additional stamps can be purchased. Incoming and outgoing mail is recorded by Probation Officers. The mail is not read unless there is a court order to do so. Stamps are removed from envelopes to prevent drug smuggling.

Food

Three meals and a snack are prepared and provided each day for all youths. When the youth are off-site or in court during mealtime, a sack lunch is prepared. Special meals are available for youth on a restricted or medical diet. A monthly menu is posted in each unit. The meals are prepared in a central kitchen and delivered to each unit. Warm food and cold food are carted in appropriated containers. All food is delivered within 30 minutes of being placed on the cart. Servings are ample, nutritious, and the presentation is appealing. The kitchen area was neat and clean. All refrigerators were recording the proper temperature. The kitchen is inspected by the Health Department once a year. There is a four-day emergency supply of food and water as required by law.

Clothing

All clothing is furnished to the minors by Juvenile Hall with the exception of shoes. Youths are allowed to keep their own shoes if they are appropriate. When necessary, the Juvenile Hall staff provides shoes with Velcro closings. Personal shoes may have shoestrings, but all shoes are kept outside the room and used only when the minor is not confined to his/her room. Slippers are provided for use in the rooms.

Laundry

Minors are given clean clothes, a towel, and wash cloth each day. The towel and wash cloth are collected after the morning shower and the wards use paper towels for drying the rest of the day. Bed sheets and pillow cases are changed once a week. Laundry is done daily off-site at the Orange County Sheriff's laundry facility.

Physical Plant

The facility appeared to be in excellent condition. Doors were replaced in many of the units within the past year. Unit S was newly painted. The recreation area, walkways, and lawns were clean and well-maintained. There is hot water in all the units from a central boiler. There is heating and air conditioning in all units.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

Orange County Men's Jail – Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex

Unannounced Inspection: June 29, 2011



Description of Facility

The Orange County Probation Department operates the Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex for minors who are detained as the result of their cases being filed directly in the adult court system. The facility is located in the City of Orange. The population requires extra security. The facility has the capacity to house up to 50 males. The youth range in age from 14 to 18 and the average length of stay is nine months.

On-site Observations

As required by law, the minors are housed separately from the adult inmate population. The juvenile module has two sections, each with two tiers. The population is divided into four groups, one group in each tier in each section. The four groups are separated at all times. Each section has a common area with tables and attached stools. School and meals occur in this area. Only one group is in each common area at a time for school and meals. The other minors remain in their rooms.

Visiting

Visits may occur once a week, for two hours, Friday through Sunday. Visits are non-contact and not limited to parents only.

Educational Program

The Annex population participates in educational programs designed to meet their individual needs in seeking either a GED certificate or high school diploma. The Orange County Department of Education provides the Annex (which is a part of the Otto A. Fischer School at Juvenile Hall) with two credentialed teachers. The teachers rotate from section to section, instructing one tier at a time. The other tier works on homework in their rooms. Tutors are available. Many of the youth are successful in this structured setting and often enjoy learning absent the distractions they experienced prior to detention.

Programming in victim awareness, gang awareness, life skills behavior, and parenting, as well as counseling in substance abuse issues and anger management are available.

Due to a termination in the agreement between the Sheriff's Department and the Probation Department, the Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex is no longer available for housing juveniles. The minors were moved to Juvenile Hall on December 29, 2011.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

Orangewood Children and Family Center

Unannounced Inspection: October 19, 2011



Description of Facility

The Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) campus is located in the City of Orange. On its campus there is a large group home providing temporary emergency shelter care to dependent children. The campus is also the location of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST), the Placement Coordination Services team, the supervised Family Visitation Center, and the First Step Assessment Center. During its annual unannounced inspection, the Juvenile Justice Commission inspection team focused on the temporary emergency shelter facilities and the on-campus school.

On-Site Observations

The temporary emergency shelter facility portion of the campus is designed to accommodate up to 216 children. On the date of our inspection, there were 57 children, seven of whom were in the First Step Assessment Center. Every effort is made to house brothers and sisters together at OCFC. Many children require one-on-one supervision for medical, emotional, or behavioral reasons. Many of the older children are classified as "court returns," meaning their previous placement setting was terminated by the court. The children stay at OCFC until a new and hopefully more successful long-term placement setting can be found for them. In 2011, OCFC was considered by the Social Services Agency to be a "place of last resort" for these children. The OCFC staff does a remarkable job of providing enhanced supervision and specialized staffing for these children.

At the time of this inspection, 170 staff members were employed, six fewer than last year. The ratio of staff to children remains at one staff to two children (ages 0 to 18 months); one staff to three children (under the age of 5); one staff to six children (over the age of 5) during school hours, and one staff to four children (over the age of 5) during the evenings and weekends. These staffing ratios are met by staff members working overtime when the population count rises. Twenty of the staff members are bilingual (languages served are Spanish, Vietnamese, Farsi, and Hindi). All staff members receive monthly training in Professional Assault Crisis Training (Pro-ACT®) and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Staff members have been flexible in assisting other programs where possible, including transportation to schools, Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) appointments, transitional services, monitoring visits, providing child care and training services to Spanish-speaking foster parents.

The campus consists of hacienda style cottages, child friendly decorated interiors, and park-like grounds. The facility is in remarkably good condition given it is 25 years old and the population it serves is children. OCFC continues to provide a warm, cheerful, and safe haven for dependent children.

Programs

OCFC, with the help of staff, volunteers, and community groups, offers a wide array of programs to engage the children. Some of the programs continued this year are designed to stimulate wellness and exercise. One such program is called "Strength In." There is also a gardening area where vegetables are planted and maintained by the older children. A Health Care Agency Nutritionist teaches a program on nutrition to the children. There is also a golf program, visits from "Pets Are Wonderful Support" (PAWS) program volunteers and dogs, movie nights, pool parties, birthday and holiday celebrations. Other programs offered to the children are the "Drum Circle" music appreciation program, yoga classes, tobacco cessation classes, church services, and group counseling sessions such as ALATEEN. In addition to these programs, the children have daily access to the athletic facilities on the OCFC campus including the gymnasium, swimming pool, playground, and baseball field and can participate in team sports. On occasion, children are able to go on sponsored fieldtrips to sporting events and cultural arts performances.

OCFC uses a custom designed cognitive behavioral model to assist children in developing and strengthening targeted social skills. This program incorporates a "cooling off" period and group therapy sessions. The staff continues to work closely and has monthly meetings with the Sheriff's Department, Boys Court, and Girls Court personnel regarding the issue of runaways and a "runaway and recovery team" has been created.

During 2011, OCFC revised and updated its policies and procedure handouts given to the children so that the wording complies with the temporary emergency shelter home's current actual practices.

William Lyon School

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) continues to provide educational assessments and a full day of school for children at OCFC who are not continuing at their home school. On the day of the inspection, the inspection team spoke to three teachers and observed four classrooms of students. There is one paraeducator assigned to each classroom. The library and the classrooms on the OCFC campus are attractive, well-lit, and fully furnished with age appropriate school furniture and classroom equipment. The bulletin boards in the classrooms were filled with student work and other interesting visual aids. In 2011, a second computer lab was set up in the library for after school use. Because OCFC is a temporary emergency shelter home, the on campus school population is constantly changing. On the day of the inspection, there were fewer than seven children in each classroom.

The Orange County Department of Education Foster Youth Services Team and the computerized special education intake system have made the transitions into the school and back out into community schools easier and more appropriate.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

The Orangewood Children and Family Center staff does a remarkable job of providing enhanced supervision and specialized staffing for the children.

Youth Guidance Center

Unannounced Inspection: July 13, 2011



Description of Facility

The Youth Guidance Center (YGC) in Santa Ana provides substance abuse rehabilitation programs for minors ranging in age from 13 through 18 years old. The population tends to be younger than in prior years and the average commitment time is shorter. This juvenile facility houses 80 boys and girls in units of 20 minors each. There is one unit for girls, and three for boys. On the day of the inspection, there were 61 males and 14 females residing at the Center. YGC is not currently at full capacity and could open another unit if needed.

On-Site Observations

The grounds are nicely landscaped and the facility is in good condition. The living units were neat and orderly.

There are both single rooms, as well as rooms housing several minors. Minors are permitted to keep personal possessions in their rooms. Staff to youth ratio is 1:7 on school days and 1:10 after school and on weekends. The ratio is 3:20 during sleeping hours. The staff is diverse and many are bilingual.

Meals are served in a central dining room where staff is seated with the minors. A weekly menu is prepared and posted by staff.

The unit for the girls was undergoing a renovation including fresh paint, cork flooring, and plumbing upgrades. In addition, the minors have assisted the staff in building a beautiful new outdoor amphitheater. Portions of the perimeter fence were raised four inches, and the entry gate mechanism was enhanced to speed up the gate.

Programs

The staff at YGC has adopted a new behavioral intervention program for reducing recidivism among high-risk youth. Aggression Replacement Training (ART) has replaced the old Breakthrough and Addiction, Substance Abuse, Education, and Recognition Treatment (ASERT) programs. The old programs were based on a therapeutic community model which was hard to implement in the YGC setting. Seven staff members have received ART training, which is a cognitive behavioral intervention program aimed at helping participants improve social skills, engage in moral reasoning, manage anger, and reduce aggressive behavior. ART consists of three components: skill streaming, anger control training, and moral reasoning. In addition, minors participate in the Twelve-Step Alcoholics Anonymous program and drug and alcohol abuse group therapy. Every unit has at least one therapist and a number of interns who are supervised by CEGU and the Department of Education. Therapists offer a wide array of services including basic therapy, group therapy, crisis intervention, and staff training.

YGC continues to offer programs in family therapy, gang prevention, sexual harassment, dating violence, and the Baby Think It Over program where a girl is assigned a lifelike doll to care for full time. There is an extensive Regional Occupational Program (ROP) including carpentry, landscape, culinary arts,

business technology, laundry, and horticulture. Assistance is also offered to minors in preparing for and finding a job. This includes resume writing and interview preparation. The Laguna Culinary Arts Academy donates training in culinary preparation.

During the summer, minors may participate in a creative arts theater program offered in conjunction with the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Minors are also encouraged to take part in a variety of community service programs, including visits to the Ronald McDonald House, domestic violence shelters, tutoring, and Operation Santa Claus. These experiences are very beneficial and often provide minors with a fresh outlook.

The Orange County Department of Education operates the Rio Contiguo School on-site. The school has a principal, vice principal and a number of teachers, including one special education teacher who provides special education assessment and services, as well as language development services. There is also a sports program available for minors who have maintained a certain level of behavior and a 2.5 grade point average. These educators collaborate with a supportive staff from the Probation Department and therapists from CEGU, to provide individualized treatment and education plans for the minors.

YGC staff works closely with minors who have been released from the program to ensure their smooth transition into the community. This often includes probation supervision, counseling, and continued attendance at the Twelve-Step Recovery meetings. The JJC continues to be impressed with the dedication of the staff at YGC. Their programs have benefited many minors and they are to be commended for their enthusiasm and impact.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

The Juvenile Justice Commissioners continue to be impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by the YGC staff and their impact on so many minors.

Youth Leadership Academy

Unannounced Inspection: August 18, 2011



Description of Facility

The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is a 54-bed facility operated by the Orange County Probation Department located in Orange adjacent to Juvenile Hall. The facility was built to hold a population of 120. In March of 2010, capacity was reduced to 55 due to budget restrictions. Male youths 17 to 20 years of age with at least 120 days remaining on their commitments are selected for this program by the Juvenile Hall staff. These young men have noted issues with aggression, antisocial attitudes and belief systems, and behavior problems. Many are drug and alcohol dependent.

Staff

YLA has 23 Probation Department staff. The ratio of staff to youth is 1:15. Several members of the staff are bilingual.

Programs

Every youth while at YLA participates in the “Thinking for a Change” (T4C) program. It is a comprehensive residential program designed to prepare the youth to re-enter and transition back into the community through enhanced competencies including, but not limited to remedial education, rehabilitative treatment programs, substance abuse programs, and mental health services. Additional rehabilitative programming includes anger management, social skills, cultural diversity, job interviewing skills, life skills, and physical fitness. Vocational needs are addressed through participation in unit and on-ground work crews and, if eligible, involvement in the Regional Occupational Program (ROP).

“Thinking for a Change” (T4C) has four levels (1, 2, 3 & 4) to progress through. Movement through the levels is based on the youth's behavior and attitude. Each level is intended to equip the youth with the necessary tools for personal development, and to enable him to become a responsible leader. Completion of a level is rewarded with extra privileges. The privileges associated with each level are listed below:

Level 1 includes indoor work crews, sporting competitions, secured doors, kitchen patrol.

Level 2 includes on-site work crews, sporting competitions, secured doors, board games, opportunity to earn Super Saturday.

Level 3 includes all field trips, sporting competitions, unsecured doors, poster board for pictures, kitchen patrol, board games, ping pong, Foosball, play station, on-ground furloughs, and opportunity to earn Super Saturday.

Level 4 includes all level 3 privileges, late night, off-ground furloughs, and radios.

Staff and the collaborative partners are encouraged to develop positive relationships with the youth and act as mentors to them. Staff makes a significant effort to reward the youth for positive behavior and achieving goals. Incentive opportunities and positive reinforcement, in combination with “swift and certain” sanctions for misbehavior are the preferred methods of discipline.

An important objective of the YLA program is to achieve and maintain physical fitness for each individual. Two to three days a week are allocated for a structured high intensity workout. All workouts are preceded by a period of intensive stretching and warm-up drills.

Visiting

Parents are permitted to visit in the unit for two hours on Sundays. All visits are monitored by staff. Vending machines are available for snacks.

Clothing

Clothing is provided by the Probation Department. The shirts are solid in color. The color designates the level the youth has achieved.

Food Service

Meals are prepared by the staff at Juvenile Hall with 20 to 30 minutes allowed for each meal. Snacks are provided at bedtime.

School

The educational program is provided by Otto A. Fischer School. In June, nine students were awarded a high school diploma, and three students passed the General Educational Development (GED) test and received a California High School Equivalency Certificate.

Action Requested by the Commission

None

III. COLLATERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Death Review Committee

The committee was formed to examine reports by the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) and Probation Department of case background information of children who died while in the juvenile justice system. The committee's purpose is to review the causes of death, including potential system failures, to determine methods to avoid unnecessary deaths in the future.

During 2011, the Child Death Review Committee met four times. At the meetings, a total of six cases were reviewed. In all but one of the cases, SSA had no prior contact with the deceased children until they were brought to the hospital. The one case where SSA was involved, the 17-year old child lived well beyond her life expectancy. In all six cases, the committee members believed the SSA personnel handled the cases appropriately and within their procedural and policy guidelines.

Education Committee

Various Commission members attended graduation celebrations for youths confined at Juvenile Hall, Youth Guidance Center, Youth Leadership Academy, and Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex.

This year the Commission looked at the educational programs for all youths attending schools operated by the Orange County Probation Department. Concern was raised about the limited instructional hours and the setting for two of the units in Juvenile Hall and Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex. The Probation Department and the Orange County Department of Education are to be congratulated on the changes they implemented to correct these shortcomings. More detail is outlined in the inspection reports of Juvenile Hall and Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex. The Committee was also concerned with the allocation of OCDE teachers to one of the large group homes for older children. Details can be found in the report of the Social Services/Group Homes Committee.

Law Enforcement Agency Committee

In 2011, the Law Enforcement Agency Committee inspected all mandated Orange County police department and Sheriff's facilities that held minors in a secure detention or non-secure custody setting. The police departments and Sheriff's Department facilities inspected are reported on pages 3 and 4.

Legislation Committee

The Legislation Committee monitored and reviewed legislation in the California Assembly and Senate pertaining to juvenile justice issues.

Bills Reviewed by the Legislation Committee Effective 1/01/2012

- AB 212 (Beall) - California Fostering Connections to Success Act
- AB 458 (Atkins) - Guardianship
- AB 791 (Ammiano) - Dependent Children: Birth Certificates
- SB 368 (Liu) - Development services: decision-making
- AB 177 (Mendoza) - Juveniles: parenting classes
- AB 220 (Solario) - Interstate Compact for Juveniles
- SB 913 (Pavley) - Juvenile Offenders: medical care
- SB 926 (Runner) - Dependent children: relative placements: disclosure
- AB 109 (Committee on Budget) - Criminal Justice Realignment
- AB 717, which makes changes to the process for names being added to or removed from the Child Abuse Central Index, was also reviewed.

Much of the Legislation Committee's attention was drawn to AB 12 – California Fostering Connections to Success Act (2010) and AB 212 (2011) in anticipation of their substantial impact on the juvenile justice system. The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of these laws.

Mental Health Committee

The primary focus of the Mental Health Committee has been regular participation as a voting member of the 34 member Orange County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee. The passage of the Mental Health Services Act, Proposition 63, by the electorate established the parameters for the implementation of this MHSA Steering Committee. The MHSA Steering Committee meets to evaluate plans as presented by County staff regarding the implementation of programs beneficial to the four age groups, and the four phases of programs. The four age groups are: Children (0-17 years), Transitional Age Youth (TAY) (18-25 years), Adults (26-59 years), and Older Adults (60+ years). The fourth phase, Innovation, was a focus of the Orange County MHSA staff in the development of this past year's programs, but did not include medical research in the field as to the causes of mental illness.

Following discussion of tailor-made programs appropriate to the four phases and four age groups of the MHSA, a consensus vote is made to proceed with the programs as described, forward the approved programs to the Board of Supervisors for its approval, and send the information to the State MHSA staff for additional approval. Financing and implementation follow. The Joint Powers Agreement between the Orange County MHSA and several other California counties has been implemented in its limited scope to aid in obtaining California state tax monies earmarked for MHSA.

Starting in January 2012, the Orange County MHSA staff will implement a new format for the monthly MHSA Steering Committee meetings. The Orange County MHSA Steering Committee will meet during the odd numbered months of the year. Subcommittee meetings will be held during the even numbered months. There are four subcommittees: Adults and Older Adults and Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI); Children and Transitional Age Youth (TAY); Workforce Education and Training (WET); and Innovation. This format is planned to allow for more discussion by members prior to their vote on a proposal.

Probation Committee

The Probation Committee participated in the inspection of all juvenile facilities operated by the Orange County Probation Department: Joplin Youth Center, Juvenile Hall, Youth Guidance Center, Youth Leadership Academy, Theo Lacy Juvenile Annex, and Group Homes. Inspections include the condition of the physical facility, medical, dental, rehabilitation, counseling, and mental health programs.

This year the committee focused on the educational programs serving the juveniles housed at these facilities. The goal was to ensure mandatory educational programs were in place at all juvenile facilities. As previously reported, the direct file youths were not receiving the mandated hours of classroom instruction and were kept in their unit segregated from other youth. At the request of the committee, direct file youth are now receiving full classroom sessions as mandated by the education code. Instructors are arranging to make up for the lost instruction time.

The Probation Committee and the Educational Committee were both concerned about the shortage of teaching staff for the residents of a substance abuse treatment facility. During 2011, only one teacher was assigned to the facility and on a half-time basis which required the students to work independently on packet learning. The JJC felt this was inadequate instruction time for the number of students, and encouraged the Orange County Department of Education to increase the teacher's status to full time.

Social Services/Group Homes Committee

In 2011, the members of this committee inspected several group homes and facilities serving wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court. Areas of inquiry, review, and evaluation included the physical facility, staffing, education, records and paperwork, discipline, medical issues, treatment services, programs, auxiliaries or community involvement, placement permanency, and clients. The committee also carefully reviewed reports prepared by the Social Services Agency and reviewed Special Incident Reports (SIRS) for group homes and foster family placements.

As was discussed in last year's report, some group homes still have not hired any cooks or cleaning staff to replace those staff positions which had been eliminated in 2009 due to budget cuts. Although those funds were reinstated and increased in 2010, it was observed during inspections in 2011 the staff counselors and the older children are still handling the cooking and cleaning duties at these facilities. There are still no plans to hire new staff for those positions. The Commission continues to be concerned and respectfully requests these facilities use the increased funding they now receive to hire cooks and cleaning staff. This would allow their staff counselors to spend more quality time helping these children.

During an inspection of a small group home housing older boys, the inspection team found some deficiencies including broken storage drawers under several of the beds and unsafe placement of electrical cords on top of a bed and in other areas used by the boys. During an inspection of a large group home for young children, the team found deficiencies including mold growing in one of the bathrooms, unstable placement of a Foosball table on top of other furniture in the activity room, carpet in need of cleaning, and a washing machine pipe flowing into a flower bed. When information about these deficiencies was presented to the entire Commission, it was decided Corrective Action Notifications (CAN) be sent. Response letters from these group homes confirmed every repair requested by the Commission has been made.

Working closely with members of the Education Committee, the committee continued during 2011 to closely monitor the serious educational issues discussed in last year's annual report involving the on-campus school located at a large group home for older children. Members of the committee attended several meetings and made numerous inquiries about this school. The committee also requested a separate meeting with representatives from the Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program to obtain further information and updates about the contract learning program at this school and made a special report on this issue to the Juvenile Court. The Commission is pleased to report a decision has been made to return to a classroom teaching model staffed with a full-time teacher at this school effective in the spring of 2012.

Members of the committee toured the Tustin Family Campus and were impressed by the on-site programs and the new facilities.

At the request of committee members, representatives from the Social Services Agency Planning and Permanency Services Department, as well as from Olive Crest Foster Family Agency gave presentations to the Juvenile Justice Commission.

According to information provided to the Juvenile Justice Commission by Social Services Agency Department of Children and Family Services, the total number of children in the system dropped by approximately 8% in 2011. The total number of children placed in group homes in Orange County has continued to drop over the past few years. This is a reflection of the national trend towards placing children in the least restrictive and most homelike setting. Children who may have been placed in group homes in the past are now being placed in the care of relatives, non-related extended family members, and foster families. Counseling and other support services are provided to both children and caregivers. The committee continues to be concerned about the number of children who experience several changes in their placements (court returns) and will continue to review the relevant statistical information and monitor this issue in 2012.

Special Issues Committee

The Special Issues Committee is comprised of three Commissioners and the Administrative Officer. In 2011, the committee revised the Juvenile Justice Commission Bylaws. The completed Bylaws were approved by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

The committee is working to revise the Policies and Procedures supporting the aforementioned Bylaws. The revisions, once completed, will be submitted to each member of the Commission for review and approval. Once the Commission has approved the Policies and Procedures, they will be submitted to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court for review and final approval.

COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2011, members of the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) participated as liaisons to a number of organizations that provide services to the children of Orange County either as observers or by serving as active Board members. Some of these organizations are:

Child Abuse Services Team Policy Board

The Policy Board of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) is made up of representatives from the Social Services Agency, District Attorney's Office, Health Care Agency, law enforcement, Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, and the Juvenile Justice Commission. CAST utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to investigate sexual and severe physical abuse of children in the County by bringing members of the above organizations together to ensure children are not further victimized by the system intended to protect them.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to commend the CAST staff and volunteers for another year of excellent work with Orange County children and their families and specifically for expanding the CAST mental health screening/therapy services and referrals to all who are serviced by CAST.

Child Welfare Redesign Planning Council

The Council is comprised of the many stakeholders in the child welfare systems who meet to discuss goals and identify available resources. Through attendance, the JJC is kept updated about the goals, activities, and events sponsored by Children and Family Services and the many stakeholders who participate.

Dependency Drug Court Oversight Committee

A significant reorganization of the Dependency Drug Court is taking place and the Commission will be informed of the changes as they occur.

Foster Family Agency Forum

JJC members attended Foster Family Forum meetings and gained information about the availability of Title I academic tutors for foster children, respite care, home investigations, pertussis vaccines, transportation of foster children to their schools of origin, and the possibility of using a new database to facilitate placing foster children with foster families closer to their schools of origin. Two major topics of discussion related to changes that will occur in 2012 concerned placements for babies and toddlers who will no longer be placed at Orangewood Children and Family Center as of April 2012, and for teenagers between the ages of 18 and 21 who elect to stay in foster care due to the passage of AB 12.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Workgroup

The workgroup seeks to improve the efficient use of secure detention beds, identify and maximize the use of detention alternatives, and produce and analyze the collected data. This analysis is of continuing interest to the Commission. The Juvenile Hall Assessment Team is inspecting and evaluating programs, policies, and procedures in Juvenile Hall. The team is divided into several subgroups who are evaluating in great detail the intake, classification, education, programming, environment, staff training, and recreation systems at Juvenile Hall. A report will be produced in 2012.

Juvenile Drug Court Supervisors' Meeting

The Juvenile Drug Court meetings consist of the participants involved in the operation of Juvenile Drug Court sharing the problems and accomplishments of the Drug Court. Meetings are held every other month. The Juvenile Justice Commission has been supportive of the collaborative efforts of the Drug Courts and seeks regular updates.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meets once or twice a year to discuss the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) budget for each of the eight programs it funds. The Probation Department receives the money, prepares a budget, and holds a meeting to report on how the funds will be disbursed.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee

The JJC's primary focus with the Mental Health Committee has been regular participation as a voting member of the 34 member Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) County of Orange Steering Committee. The MHSA Steering Committee meets to evaluate plans presented by County staff regarding the implementation of programs beneficial to four age groups, and the four phases of the programs. The four age groups are: Children (0-17 years), Transitional Age Youth (TAY) (18-25 years), Adults (26-59 years), and Older Adults (60+ years). The fourth phase, Innovation, was a focus of the Orange County MHSA staff in the development of this past year's programs, but did not include medical research in the field of mental illness. Following discussion of tailor-made programs appropriate to the four phases and four age groups of the MHSA, a consensus vote was made to proceed with the programs as described, forward the approved programs to the Board of Supervisors for its approval, and send the information to the MHSA staff for additional approval—financing and implementation followed.

Orange County Children's Partnership

The Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP) is a 22 member advisory board established by the Board of Supervisors in 1982 to provide a unified voice that champions health, education, safety, and economic stability by advancing more responsive services that effectively meet the needs of children and families in Orange County communities. The Juvenile Justice Commission has always had a representative on the OCCP which since 1993 has sponsored the Annual Report on the Condition of Children in Orange County.

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION ACHIEVEMENTS

Highlighting some of the achievements of the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) demonstrates the dedication of its members towards the betterment of youth services in Orange County. Following are a few of the achievements:

For many years the adoption process was part of the Probate Court and took an inordinate amount of time to complete. The Juvenile Justice Commission's efforts led to moving the adoption process to the Juvenile Court and the adoption time was reduced significantly.

Due to the special interest of JJC Commissioners, all fire departments in the County of Orange developed procedures to designate their fire stations as "Safe Surrender Sites" for unwanted babies. The parents/guardians could legally and safely surrender unwanted babies, thus removing their act from the previous designation of a criminal act.

By law, all law enforcement facilities in the county must be inspected yearly. It was found some of the facilities were not on the inspection list. JJC initiated inspections and it was learned there were no logs being kept for juveniles. This was remedied. Today, both the Sheriff's Department and Orange County Chiefs & Sheriff Association have representatives attend and give reports at the JJC meeting each month.

The education of the juveniles is an important focus of the JJC. During a routine inspection it was noted "packet learning" was being utilized instead of teacher-led and directed teaching. The Juvenile Justice Commissioners determined this method was a serious impediment to learning. As a result of the JJC report and recommendations, students received teacher-led instruction.

Upon the Juvenile Justice Commission's insistence and recommendations, Child Death Review Policies and Procedures have been improved. The process now is more expedient and informative.

The past procedures of the Social Services Agency to inform the JJC of suicides and/or major incidents had taken an inordinate amount of time. Improved timeline procedures were implemented as a result of the Juvenile Justice Commission's findings.

The JJC has closely monitored the delivery of services at the Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) and has advocated for the development of a broader range of related services at the facility. This has included the relocation of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) to OCFC as well as an expanded family visitation component.

The JJC has encouraged collaboration with agencies, as well as organizations directly involved with common areas as identified in the law governing the JJC. Any interested party is welcome to attend the JJC meeting held on the first Wednesday of every month. Those generally attending and reporting to JJC include: Orange County Juvenile Court, Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orangewood Children's Foundation, Orange County Bar Foundation, Health Care Agency, Probation Department, Social Services Agency, County Counsel, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Orange County Department of Education, California Community Care Licensing, Regional Center of Orange County, CSP's Victim/Witness Assistance Program, CASA, Phoenix House and Orange County Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association.

Special Guests and Presentations

The Juvenile Justice Commission invited several special guests to give presentations on various topics throughout the year. The following is a list of presenters:

Anaruth Gonzalez, Unit Manager, and Felisa Ihly, Juvenile Court Staff Counsel, updated the Commission quarterly regarding the local Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care (BRC) and outlined the 2011 priorities and accomplishments. Five new committees were formed: Speakers Bureau, Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12) Implementation, National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), Professional Development, and Human Trafficking. The Speakers Bureau developed an informational brochure, which is available on the Superior Court website.

Daniel Hernandez, Division Director, Juvenile Supervision, and Brian Johnson, Division Director, Juvenile Court Services provided a brief history and updates of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI). Mr. Hernandez also discussed the efforts being made by the Probation Department in the area of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC).

Anne Bloxom, Deputy Director, Planning and Permanency Services, gave an overview of the Family to Family Program. Raquel Amezcua, Program Manager II, reported on the System Improvement Plan, which included goals of no recurrence of maltreatment, decrease time to reunification, and placement stability for the families served by the Social Services Agency.

Janelle Olson, Regional Director, Olive Crest, informed the Commission of the partnership with the NOVA Academy, Santa Ana Unified School District, and Santa Ana College to assist the students in obtaining both high school and college credits. Ms. Olson explained the components of the Foster Family Agency Program.

Danny Sells, Outreach Manager, Olive Crest, discussed the Safe Families Program. The objective is to provide early intervention, prevent child abuse, and bring families out of isolation and into a network of support.

Sergeant Nancy Wilkey, Orange County Sheriff's Department, informed the Commission of the work being done by the Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership (GRIP) Program. The GRIP program components include direct intervention, bringing gang prevention funding to Orange County, increase school attendance by truancy sweeps and enforcing curfew laws, and promoting education and community building. The attendance at each of the schools targeted by the GRIP Program has improved by ten to thirty percent.

Lt. Julian Harvey, Anaheim Police Department, highlighted the work being done as a result of a federal grant to combat domestic human trafficking. The Anaheim Police Department and the Community Service Programs (CSP) have partnered to form a multi-disciplinary approach. They are targeting pimps and recognize many of the individuals arrested are victims of human trafficking. The Anaheim Police Department is also working with two Federal programs (Innocence Lost and Internet Crimes Against Children) and the Los Angeles Police Department to address human trafficking and child pornography.

The JJC would like to thank all of the individuals for the time and effort spent preparing and presenting the information. The knowledge gained from the presentations assisted the JJC members in performing their mandated responsibilities and duties.

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, SECTIONS 225-231

225. In each county there shall be a juvenile justice commission consisting of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens. Two or more of the members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority. Each person serving as a member of a probation committee immediately prior to September 15, 1961, shall be a member of the juvenile justice commission and shall continue to serve as such until such time as his or her term of appointment as a member of the probation committee would have expired under any prior provision of law. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission and upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court for a term of four years. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

Appointments may be made by the presiding judge of the superior court, in the same manner designated in this section for the filling of vacancies, to increase the membership of a commission to the maximum of 15 in any county which has a commission with a membership of less than 15 members.

In any county in which the membership of the commission, on the effective date of amendments to this section enacted at the 1971 Regular Session of the Legislature, exceeds the maximum number permitted by this section, no additional appointments shall be made until the number of commissioners is less than the maximum number permitted by this section. In any case, such county's commission membership shall, on or after January 1, 1974, be no greater than the maximum permitted by this section.

226. In lieu of county juvenile justice commissions, the boards of supervisors of two or more adjacent counties may agree to establish a regional juvenile justice commission consisting of not less than eight citizens, and having a sufficient number of members so that their appointment may be equally apportioned between the participating counties. Two or more of the members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority. The presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court of each of the participating counties shall appoint an equal number of members to the regional justice commission and they shall hold office for a term of four years. Of those first appointed, however, if the number appointed be an even number, half shall serve for a term of two years and half shall serve for a term of four years and if the number of members first appointed be an odd number, the greater number nearest half shall serve for a term of two years and the remainder shall serve for a term of four years. The respective terms of the members first appointed shall be determined by lot as soon as possible after their appointment. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission and upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court of the county which originally appointed such vacating or retiring member. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

227. The clerk of the court of the appointing judge shall immediately notify each person appointed a member of a county or regional juvenile justice commission and thereupon such person shall appear before the appointing judge and qualify by taking an oath faithfully to perform the duties of a member of the juvenile justice commission. The qualification of each member shall be entered in the juvenile court record.

228. A juvenile justice commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman annually.

229. It shall be the duty of a juvenile justice commission to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county or region in which the commission serves. For this purpose the commission shall have access to all publicly administered institutions authorized or whose use is authorized by this chapter situated in the county or region, shall inspect such institutions no less frequently than once a year, and may hold hearings. A judge of the juvenile court shall have the power to issue subpoenas requiring attendance and testimony of witnesses and production of papers at hearings of the commission.

A 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. It shall report the results of such inspection together with its recommendations based thereon, in writing, to the juvenile court and to the Board of Corrections.

229.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children of the juvenile court and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

(b) In conducting its review, the commission shall respect the confidentiality of minors' records and other information protected under other provisions of law. It may review court or case records of a child provided it keeps the identities of minors named in those records confidential, and may review the financial records of a group home. However, the commission may not review the personnel records of employees or the records of donors to the group home.

(c) The commission shall give the group home manager at least 24 hours' advance notice of a visit to a group home. If the commission believes that there is a serious violation of applicable licensing laws or regulations or that residents of a group home are in danger of physical or mental abuse, abandonment or other substantial threat to their health and safety, the commission shall notify the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services for appropriate action, shall consult with the presiding judge of the juvenile court and chief probation officer as to whether or not a visit is appropriate, and shall notify other juvenile justice commissions of its actions, as appropriate.

(d) Upon the completion of a visit, if the commission finds any condition in the group home that poses a danger to its residents or otherwise violates any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation, the commission shall verbally advise the group home manager of its findings, unless it determines that the advisement could be detrimental to the children placed there, and shall send written confirmation of its findings to the group home manager within 14 days. The commission may also report its findings to the presiding judge of the juvenile court, chief probation officer, State Department of Social Services, or other juvenile justice commissions as appropriate. A group home manager may meet with the juvenile

justice commission, chief probation officer, county welfare director, juvenile court, or the State Department of Social Services to resolve any problem or to submit a plan of correction.

230. A juvenile justice commission may recommend to any person charged with the administration of any of the provisions of this chapter such changes as it has concluded, after investigation, will be beneficial. A commission may publicize its recommendations.

231. Members of a juvenile justice commission shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such reimbursement shall be made by the county of appointment or, in lieu of such actual and necessary expenses the board of supervisors may provide that the members of the commission shall be paid not to exceed the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per meeting not exceeding two meetings per month. In the case of a regional justice commission, the duty of reimbursement shall be divided among the participating counties in the manner prescribed by agreement of the boards of supervisors.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO MARCIA RUBIN AND MELANIE SINGER
FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**



Marcia Rubin served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from August 6, 2003 until August 6, 2011

Melanie Singer served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from January 19, 2005 until November 5, 2011



<http://www.occourts.org/directory/juvenile/jjc/index.html>