

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday August 6, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES**
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 5) REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS**
- 6) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 7) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 8) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 9) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday August 6, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Johnson. The meeting was held at the Betty Lou Lamoreaux Juvenile Justice Center, 341 The City Drive, Orange, California, in the second floor Commission Conference Room.

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT: Denise Churchill
Judy Johnson, Chair
Silvestre Lopez
Joel Matson
Connie Marshall
Wyatt McClean
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising
Madelyn Rodriguez
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Vice Chair

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Marcy Garfias
Dolores Yost

STAFF: Lii Toelupe, Executive Administrative Assistant
Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist
Emily Sanchez, Legal Processing Specialist

GUESTS: Judge Craig E. Arthur, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court
Katie David, District Attorney
Arlene Speiser, Supervising Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)
Dana Stits, County Counsel
Daniel Hernandez, Chief Probation Officer (Probation)
Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer (Probation)
Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children & Family Services (Social Services Agency)
Annette Maligen, Service Chief II, (Health Care Agency)
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services
Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS (Orange County Department of Education)
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education (Foster Youth Services)
Jeff Jacques, Sergeant, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Teresa Pereyra, Sergeant, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Martha Franco, Attorney, Juvenile Defenders
Mari Duque, Executive Director, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate, CASA
Manuel Gutierrez, Director of Strategy, Project Youth OCBF
Vanessa Anderson, Captain, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Hannah Adkison, System Innovator, Orangewood Foundation

COMMENTS BY PRESIDING JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURT

Judge Arthur, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, reported on recent judicial reassignments and noted that the recruitment process for a new Court Commissioner is underway. He also shared that the dependency defense structure has been in place for a year and is functioning well. Additionally, he highlighted a recent Foster Education Summit for educators and foster youth, which emphasized the importance of having educational representatives. Judge Arthur expressed that the educational environment within institutions and detention facilities has seen significant improvement.

COMMENTS BY THE JUVENILE COURT

Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, reported that a document translation initiative for detention reports is currently in progress. The program will begin by translating reports into Spanish and Vietnamese. Juvenile Court is working on establishing a new collaborative system management system in the next couple of years.

COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Katie David, District Attorney, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Supervising Public Defender, reported that their goal is to prioritize swift justice beginning at the law enforcement level.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)

Arlene Speiser, on behalf of Richard Cheung, reported that staffing remains an area of concern, but positions continue to be filled.

COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported that they have provided service to over 3,300 children and young adults in the county's jurisdiction. He mentioned that they continue to face staffing challenges.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Daniel Hernandez, Chief Probation Officer, reported that Orange County Probation was recognized in the Senate as an example of excellence for the outstanding work they do. He also addressed the recent incidents occurring within Los Angeles County Probation, expressing concern that these issues could eventually impact other counties. Additional topics discussed included the budget, mobile resource vehicles, and ongoing construction projects. Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, provided an update on several topics including vocational programs, construction at the Youth Transition Center and Juvenile Hall, and community-based diversion programs.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children & Family Services, reported that the new director is Loan English. She shared that there are currently 67 youth at Orangewood and noted ongoing challenges due to a lack of resources for youth with developmental needs. Finally, she mentioned that the Orangewood Children and Family Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

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COMMENTS BY HCA, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Annette Maligen, Service Chief II, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS, gave a brief introduction and reported on the expansion of technical programs, which now include construction, a media lab, and cosmetology. Raina Lee, Coordinator, provided end-of-year updates, highlighting that over 13,000 services were delivered to 2,500 youth. She also reported 44 trainings conducted along with increases in both enrollment and graduations. Finally, she highlighted ongoing communication and collaboration with Orange Coast College and the Orangewood Foundation to support youth with enrollment efforts.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Jeff Jacques introduced Sergeant Teresa Pereyra as the new point of contact for the Sheriff's Department. She gave a brief introduction and reported on several topics including the SMART Division's oversight of juvenile resources, active shooter training provided to various agencies, and a grant that will be used to have a clinician on call.

COMMENTS BY JUVENILE DEFENDERS

Martha Franco, Attorney, reported that the office is fully staffed.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)

Mari Duque, Executive Director, reported that they will be fully staffed on September 1, 2025.

COMMENTS BY CASA

Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate, reported that CASA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and that invitations will be sent out. She also mentioned that a Ph.D. intern has been hired to assist with the outcome resource surveys. Additionally, she shared that CASA will soon be included in Juvenile Justice cases. Finally, she announced the upcoming annual Back 2 School Picnic.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF

Manuel Gutierrez, Director of Strategy, reported on several initiatives, including diversion programs, the Parents Enrichment Program, the Familias Fuertes Program, and the College Access Program. He also noted that to date they have served more than 300 youth. Manuel mentioned that the Short Stop program was reinstated at the North Justice Center in Fullerton in July.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 16, 2025, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Commissioner Johnson distributed a copy of the ACCESS document listing principals, schools and services. She shared a follow up on the suggestion to have a Department of Education Technician onsite. An IT is now onsite.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

No updates to report.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

No updates to report.

D. Legislation

No updates to report.

E. Essay and Art Contest

A meeting will be arranged to identify those interested in joining the planning of the essay and art contest activities.

F. Annual Report

Copies of the 2024 Annual Report were distributed to the Commission and stakeholders. The remaining 2024 Annual Reports will be sent out to the various agencies.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Matson reported that the book club is going well. He also shared that a member from the book club has started a bracelet business. Portions of the proceeds will be donated to the Orangewood Foundation. Finally, he shared a poem that was written by a book club member.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. Away from Care

Commissioner Churchill suggested scheduling a meeting with SSA and Probation to discuss the away from care issues.

J. Educational/Vocational Programs and Services for Post-Graduate System-Involved Youth

Commissioner Johnson reminded the Commission that an online meeting with the Director of the UCI UPLIFTED program will be held on August 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. It was also shared that contact has been established with Santiago College to review the classes and programs available in the open catalog.

REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

A. Institutional Medical Review w/Grace Lizardo

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, and Rodriguez attended the Institutional Medical Review with Grace Lizardo on July 16, 2025. Commissioner Johnson reported that there are currently no pregnant girls in custody. She also noted that the annual report on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) was discussed. Commissioner Rodriguez highlighted staffing as an area of concern due to several staff members being on leave. Finally, it was mentioned that Dr. Watson is serving as the Medical Director.

B. Institutional Education Review (Lyon school)

Commissioners Johnson, Rodriguez, Vachet, and Winder attended the Institutional Education Review of Lyon School on July 21, 2025. Commissioner Winder reported that Aja Cordova is the current school principal and noted that the school is fully staffed. However, student attendance was identified as an area of concern.

C. Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) – Mary's Path

Commissioners Lopez, Perring, and Rodriguez visited Mary's Path for a review on August 8, 2025. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that they met with Kathy McGinty, the facility director. The facility currently houses nine girls and seven toddlers, including two pregnant girls, with girls ranging in age from 15 to 18. She also noted that all staff are trained in trauma-informed care, Commercially Sexually Exploitation of Children (CSEC), and techniques for de-escalating physical altercations. Additionally, she outlined the monthly allowances provided to the residents: \$90 for personal shopping, \$30 for their children's clothing, and \$130 for hair care needs.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (CWSIP)

Commissioner Churchill attended the CWSIP meeting on July 7, 2025. She reported that they are continuing to strategize planning.

Webinar: Drug Testing Modalities

Commissioners Garfias and Rodriguez attended the Webinar: Drug Testing Modalities on July 24, 2025. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that topics of discussion were different methods of testing and SCRAM.

Adolescent Minds, Adult Time: The Science and Realities of Juvenile Transfer Webinar

Commissioner Johnson attended the Adolescent Mind, Adult Time: The Science and Realities of Juvenile Transfer Webinar on July 24, 2025. She mentioned that an Assistant District Attorney from Seattle was a guest speaker and shared that in the State of Washington, youth ages 16 to 17 can be transferred to an adult facility. It was also noted that the suicide rate is highest during the first 72 hours of custody and the last 72 hours before release.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee

Commissioners Vachet and Winder attended the CSEC Steering Committee on July 24, 2025. Commissioner Vachet reported that there were 15 referrals between April and June. She also mentioned that they have reached out to UCI for assistance in streamlining data for reporting purposes. Finally, she noted that the Know More, Do Better conference is scheduled for January 22–26, 2025.

Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) Graduation

Commissioner Perring attended the JRC Graduation on July 24, 2025. She reported that one youth graduated and noted that it was very encouraging to witness.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Committee

Commissioner Vachet attended the CSEC Prevention and Awareness Committee on July 24, 2025. She reported that the topic of discussion was protocol for educators on how to support CSEC youth.

Summer at the Center

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Perring and Rodriguez attended the Summer at the Center concert on August 1, 2025. Commissioner Johnson shared the program brochure with the Commission and expressed that she would have liked to see greater youth participation from the institutions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (CWSIP) on August 8, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC) on August 11, 2025.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionality (ERDD) meeting on August 13, 2025.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee on August 14, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson, Lopez, Marshall, Rising, Stafford, Vachet, and Winder are planning to attend the Education/Vocational Programs and Services for Post – Graduate System – Involved Youth meeting w/UPLIFTED Program Professor Reiter and Director Gomez on August 19, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Webinar on August 19, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill and Winder are planning to attend the Foster Family Agency (FFA) Forum meeting on August 19, 2025.

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Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the CAST Policy meeting on August 20, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson and Perring are planning to attend Court Improvement Committee Dependency on August 21, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson shared with the Commission several articles relating to Los Angeles County Probation, including an incident involving fentanyl being brought into a detention center, and information about a new bill that would make it a felony for adults to solicit for sex with youth age 16 or younger.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:31 a.m. – 11:38 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair