

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday December 10, 2025
9:01 a.m.**

AGENDA

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

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday December 10, 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 remotely via video conference.

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Denise Churchill
Marcy Garfias
Judy Johnson, Chair
Silvestre Lopez
Connie Marshall
Joel Matson
Wyatt McClean
Madelyn Rodriguez
Mary Lou Vachet
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT:

Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising
Dorothy Stafford
Steve Winder

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 3, 2025 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. JJC Meeting Request with Orangewood Children & Family Center (OCFC)

Commissioner Johnson previously raised a concern about the recent number of physical altercations that resulted in law enforcement involvement. An email was sent to Orangewood requesting a discussion on the issue. An online meeting has been scheduled for January 5, 2026, with Commissioner Churchill, Johnson and Winder. This will be an informational meeting for now, and the group will determine next steps afterward.

B. First Step Closure – Placement Diversion Statistics

Commissioner Johnson stated that an email was also sent requesting information regarding the closure of First Step, and they have since received responses. Commissioner Churchill provided an update from Arlene Erickson, the manager of the placement team at Social Services, explaining that their team continues operating as usual to ensure children are placed within 24 hours. Although they did not pull statistics specifically for the recent five-month period, they continue tracking their general placement

data, with 50% or more of children being placed within 24 hours. She also emphasized that youth continue to receive all necessary services during that timeframe.

C. OCFC September Report

The commission received a response from Orangewood regarding the additional questions that were submitted. Commissioner Churchill explained that Orangewood categorizes their reports into incidents and SIRs (Special Incident Reports), noting that an incident is counted per youth and that an SIR may involve multiple youth. She also clarified the details regarding the area connected to the gymnasium, and no action was needed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Commissioners Vachet, Yost and Johnson met with Dr. Maria Martinez Poulin on December 5, 2025. Commissioner Johnson reported that Dr. Jacqueline Cardenas, Executive Director at Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) was also present at the meeting. The administration is being rebuilt after previously lacking this structure, and the team is now fully staffed, including the addition of a new literacy coach. They also discussed longstanding plans for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Another meeting with the group is expected in early 2026.

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

Commissioner Johnson shared that Dr. Poulin and Dr. Cardenas were very happy with the Essay and Art Contest Ceremony that they attended.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Johnson encouraged all commissioners to continue taking photos for next year's annual report.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

No updates to report.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

Commissioner Johnson shared that they requested an update from Dawn Smith on the Be Well Campus in Irvine. A response was received confirming that Health Care Agency (HCA) is still finalizing the procurement process and will be seeking approval from the Board of Supervisors. The commission will follow up with HCA in early March 2026.

I. Away from Care

No updates to report.

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

No updates to report.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

A. OCFC Annual Holiday Event

Commissioner Yost shared that the event was very well attended. She described the event as excellent and enjoyed touring the visiting center, which was clean, inviting, and well run. She also had the opportunity to speak with the individual who oversees the center who gave her detailed information on the visiting center.

B. CWSIP Monthly Meeting

Commissioner Churchill shared that Social Services has added a new social work unit consisting of six social workers led by a highly experienced and engaging supervisor specializing in family finding and engagement. They are collaborating with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), which has been helpful in supporting caseworkers who have limited time, effectively bridging gaps in the process. Commissioner Churchill also mentioned Texas Christian University (TCU) has been training social workers on building trust with youth and encouraging a care-and-connection model rather than a correction-based approach. She suggested exploring whether Orangewood might be implementing similar practices and how these efforts could be better reflected in the monthly reports. Finally, she noted that Social Services has filled their fourth deputy director position, which has been filled by Rita Rangel.

C. First 5 OC Board Meeting

This matter was tabled to the next JJC meeting on January 7, 2026.

D. CJJCC Monthly Meeting

This matter was tabled to the next JJC meeting on January 7, 2026.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Rodriguez and Vachet are planning to attend the Project Youth OC Annual Meeting on December 10, 2025.

Commissioners Vachet and Yost are planning to attend the CSEC Prevention & Awareness Subcommittee on December 11, 2025.

Commissioner Lopez is planning to attend the Juvenile Hall book club meeting on December 12, 2025.

Commissioners Marshall, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Sunburst Academy Graduation on December 12, 2025.

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Commissioners Johnson, Marshall and Stafford are planning to attend the Cell Dogs Graduation on December 16, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson and Yost are planning to attend the Office of Youth Community and Restoration (OYCR) Youth Justice Action Webinar on December 16, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Churchill expressed her appreciation to Commissioner Johnson for her years of dedicated leadership as Chair of the JJC. She commended Johnson for her steady guidance, her ability to keep the commission organized, and her commitment to ensuring that youth remain at the heart of every decision.

Commissioner Wyatt shared how much he has enjoyed serving on the commission and expressed his appreciation for the collective expertise of his fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Johnson commended Lii Toelupe, Executive Administrative Assistant, for consistently guiding the commission in the right direction, always with kindness and support. She also acknowledged the extensive work Lii carries out behind the scenes, noting that Lii's dedication makes serving as Chair or Vice Chair a true pleasure. Commissioner Johnson also thanked the legal processing specialists, Josue Rogel and Emily Sanchez for their attention to details in the minutes they produce.

CLOSED SESSION

No closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair