

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER  
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR  
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868  
Wednesday July 1, 2026  
9:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday July 1, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Winder. 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:**

Amy Crowley  
Denise Churchill; Vice Chair  
Judy Johnson  
Lynda Perring  
Madelyn Rodriguez (Teams)  
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)  
Steve Winder, Chair

**COMMISSIONERS**

**ABSENT:**

Silvestre Lopez  
Connie Marshall  
Ryan Rising  
Dorothy Stafford  
Dolores Yost

**STAFF:**

Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist  
Emily Sanchez, Legal Processing Specialist  
Owen Barry, Staff Aid II

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The June 17, 2026, revised minutes were approved by unanimous consent.**

**REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

**A. Education**

Commissioner Johnson reported there has not been a meeting held recently. Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) is currently working on finalizing a meeting date with Dr. Poulin.

**B. Non-Institutional Placements**

No updates to report.

**C. Law Enforcement Agency**

Commissioners Vachet and Johnson stated there are two remaining agencies left to inspect, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach Police Departments.

**D. Legislation**

Commissioner Johnson discussed legislation expanding the ability of community college districts to provide instructional and transition services to incarcerated and transitioning youth.

**E. Essay and Art Contest**

Commissioner Vachet reported that there is much to be done for the essay and art contest after all the inspections are completed.

**F. Annual Report**

All of the 2025 Annual Reports have been distributed and posted on the court's public website.

**G. JJC/ Probation Book Club**

Commissioner Winder reported attending the most recent book club meeting, and he explained how it continues to be a great success. Five youth are currently attending the Monday night meetings, with some members now unable to attend due to the youth council meeting scheduled at the same time. All the youth that are still in attendance are actively reading and contributing with insightful questions and comments. Commissioner Winder reported it to be a very cohesive group demonstrating critical thinking.

**H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services**

No updates to report.

**I. High Needs Youth**

No updates to report.

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

No updates to report.

**K. Reentry of Probation Youth**

Commissioners discussed the challenges youth, particularly boys, face while transitioning through reentry. During this process, some youth receive clothing and essential supplies through organizations such as Project Kinship and Waymakers; however, many do not engage with these agencies and therefore may lack access to needed support. As a result, commissioners emphasized the importance of evaluating how Probation identifies and addresses youth needs during reentry. A key concern raised during the discussion was the requirement for parental consent to enroll in certain programs, which creates a significant barrier for many youth seeking services. Commissioners also noted that Project Kinship provides valuable support; however, the organization primarily serves gang-involved youth, some agencies may be hesitant to utilize or refer youth to its resources. It was recommended that the JJC meet with transitional service representatives from Probation to identify challenges and determine areas where the JJC may provide support. Additionally, commissioners emphasized the critical role of social services during reentry, noting that limited coordination can create substantial obstacles for youth attempting to access medications, medical appointments, and other necessary services. Finally, the discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring Probation departments have adequate resources and funding, reinforcing the principle that no youth should reenter the community without access to appropriate clothing, necessities, and supportive services.

## REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

### A. Olive Crest Wheeler

Commissioners Perring and Stafford visited Olive Crest Wheeler for a review on June 17, 2026. Commissioner Perring reported that within the past year, Olive Crest Wheeler brought on a new manager who, with only a few weeks of experience, produced an incredibly impressive review, made several changes regarding how things were done at the facility, and created an alarm for every time medication needed to be administered. During the most recent visit, commissioners reported messy rooms, which is typical, clean bathrooms and kitchen, and a nice backyard with lots of equipment. The facility was fully staffed and occupied by 5 in-county youth. No corrective action notice is needed.

### B. LEA Inspection – Los Alamitos Police Department

Commissioners Vachet and Crowley attended an inspection on June 22, 2026, led by a School Resource Officer (SRO), Lissette Sanchez, who provided a tour of the facility. The department was described as small and located within a safe community with no notable gang activity. Discussion included the impact of e-bikes on the community. The area consists of one high school, two middle schools, and five elementary schools, contributing to a close-knit community.

### C. LEA Inspection – Westminster Police Department

Commissioners Vachet and Yost conducted the inspection of the Westminster Police Department on June 22, 2026. Commissioner Vachet reported on the department's high school activity and engagement within the community; it was also noted that due to the school district only having one elementary school, the SROs are often contracted by Garden Grove to assist other school districts. Overall, it was described as a very informative visit.

### D. LEA Inspection – Santa Ana Police Department

Commissioners Vachet, Stafford, Marshall and Lopez conducted their inspection of the Santa Ana Police Department on June 29, 2026. Commissioner Vachet reported on a well-conducted interview as well as a tour of the four-story department, which contained rooms dedicated to CSEC youth, which serve as an appropriate environment for the interviewing of victims and witnesses. During the inspection Commissioner Vachet also discussed the department's community engagement as well as the interactions officers have with the local gangs. SAPD also acknowledged that with school out for the summer, they are expecting more youth engagement.

### E. LEA Inspection – Anaheim Police Department

Commissioners Winder, Crowley and Vachet visited the Anaheim Police Department on June 30, 2026, and were met by three sergeants, each from a different unit within the department, to lead the inspection. They reported that within their jurisdiction there are approximately 20 criminal gangs. Commissioner Winder reported that the department had 432 gang arrests in the previous year, 70% of which were juveniles, and 190 search warrants. Commissioner Winder also reported that the department recovered 10 youth from sex trafficking last year and 3 youth this year, one of which was a 16-year-old foster youth. The officers are also working to train hotel staff in high-trafficking areas to be able

to recognize possible CSEC youth. Commissioner Winder also reported that within the Anaheim school district there are 60 public schools which are overseen by nine SROs and

one investigator on the county SMART team. Commissioner Winder and Vachet reported that they were impressed with the utilization of diversion programs including 'Know More Do Better', Short Stop, and online sexual exploitation awareness services. With the help of these programs, as well as the collaboration with Probation and the Boys & Girls Club, the department reports their optimism with the diversion of youth from gangs. Finally, Commissioners Vachet and Crowley emphasized the importance of recognizing that many youth involved in gangs are coerced by older gang members into carrying firearms and engaging in criminal activity. Commissioner Crowley noted that, similar to the shift in recognizing sexually trafficked youth as victims rather than criminals, juveniles involved in gangs can also be viewed through a victim-centered lens.

**F. LEA Inspection – Costa Mesa Police Department**

Commissioners Vachet and Winder conducted the inspection of Costa Mesa Police Department on June 30, 2026. Commissioner Winder reported that the department is smaller, handling three gangs, each consisting of approximately 30 members. Commissioner Winder reported that there is typically no gang friction due to the members being separated throughout different high schools, however friction does occur during summer school. Commissioner Winder and Churchill discussed that the Baker and Joann STRTPs have experienced challenges following its transition from Child Health to Rite of Passage (ROP), including a shift in philosophy, reduced employee pay, increased staff turnover, and multiple away from care incidents per day. Commissioner Winder reported that the department has one Probation officer assigned to the gang unit and three SRO's, including one former teacher who has earned the trust of students involved in gangs.

**REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**

**A) California Juvenile Justice Commissioners Collaborative (CJJCC) Meeting**

Commissioner Winder attended the CJJCC meeting on June 8, 2026, and reported that there was discussion regarding pushbacks against less restrictive programs and a needs assessment survey focused on training. It was also announced that the OYCR representative will be leaving to pursue research opportunities in Norway. No other significant updates were reported.

**B) Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity (ERDD) Meeting**

Commissioner Vachet attended the ERDD meeting on June 10, 2026, and reported that there was significant discussion regarding challenges affecting Native American communities, noting that the committee provides a unique forum for those issues. The group also discussed inviting ERDD representatives from other regions to participate in future discussions.

**C) Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee**

Commissioner Vachet attended the CSEC meeting on June 11, 2026, and was pleased to report on how the committee continues to look at ways to reach out to school districts and the community. The committee was reported to have done great work with the 'Know More

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Do Better' program and is working with Higher Ground to bring better education to Juvenile Hall and those recovering from trafficking.

**D) CAST Policy Meeting**

Commissioner Johnson attended the CAST Policy meeting on June 17, 2026, and reported a good rapport with law enforcement agencies, and a declining number of referrals from last year. Commissioner Johnson reported that law enforcement agencies are needing to train new officers in CAST due to the continuous rotations between departments. It was also reported that CAST is beginning to assist with juvenile witnesses in cases of sexual and physical abuse, rather than just the victims. In September, Commissioner Johnson reported that the state will utilize an entirely new care system, however there is little information on that subject at this time.

**E) Court Improvement Committee**

Commissioner Perring attended the Court Improvement Committee meeting on June 18, 2026, and reported that there were no major updates. It was Juvenile Presiding Judge Lewis' first meeting, and she invited attendees to provide brief updates, including internal staff transfers and promotions, and the appointment of a new YGC director.

**F) 2 Part Series on Domestic and Family Violence**

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on July 15, 2026.

**G) CSEC Steering Placement Subcommittee Meeting**

Commissioner Winder reported that this meeting was more of an STRTP meeting, discussing a new rate structure set to take effect in July 2027. Youth will be assessed into four categories, with funding allocated accordingly and following the youth across placements. Concerns were raised about reduced per-child funding compared to current rates as well as potential impacts on provider sustainability and the ability of facilities such as Olive Crest to remain operational. The new model is intended to encourage family-based placements. Commissioner Crowley noted concerns that STRTPs may receive reduced funding as youth outcomes improve and highlighted that the county has approximately 70 youth in STRTP placements. Commissioner Johnson added that the goal of the model is to limit STRTP stays to approximately six months, compared to longer durations in the past.

**H) North YRC Graduation**

Commissioner Winder attended the North YRC Graduation on June 6, 2026, and reported that two youth from YRC North participated in a ceremony held at Loara High School. Approximately 40 youth and their families were present, and parents expressed enthusiasm. The event was positive for youth and family.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS**

Commissioner Winder is planning to attend the Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) Graduation on July 2, 2026.

Commissioner Perring is planning to attend the CWSIP Meeting on July 9, 2026.

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Commissioners Johnson, Churchill and Lopez are planning to attend the Newport Beach Police Department LEA inspection on July 9, 2026.

Commissioners Churchill, Crowley and Winder are planning to attend the CJJCC monthly meeting on July 13, 2026.

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson and Winder are planning to attend the JJC Executive Committee Meeting on July 15, 2026.

Commissioners Vachet and Yost are planning to attend the QPI Quarterly Meeting on July 16, 2026.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

The Commissioners agreed to contact the proposed guest speakers for presentations at upcoming JJC meetings. EAA will follow up with the speakers to coordinate and confirm a presentation date.

The Commissioners discussed a potential tour of the Juvenile Hall construction with Officer Bieger and agreed to postpone the tour until the Fall.

The Commissioners discussed taking a tour of Project Kinship and agreed to postpone the tour until the Fall.

Commissioner Crowley shared that Martha Trujillo, founder of the nonprofit Full Circle and a guest speaker who also partners with CASA, recently visited the girls' unit at Juvenile Hall. Drawing from her lived experience of being recruited into a gang at age 10 and trafficked in Irvine, Martha spoke with the youth about making positive choices and building a better future. She also noted that Martha connected well with the girls, and the discussion also highlighted the need for continued efforts to protect vulnerable youth.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The executive session was convened from 10:15 am. – 10:50 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

*Steve Winder*

Steve Winder, Chair