

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday July 15, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 3) CORRESPONDENCE**
- 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 July 15, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:01 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:

Denise Churchill, Vice Chair
Amy Crowley
Silvestre Lopez (Teams)
Judy Johnson
Connie Marshall
Lynda Perring
Madelyn Rodriguez (Teams)
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT:

Ryan Rising
Dorothy Stafford

STAFF: Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist
Owen Barry, Staff Aid II

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 01, 2026, revised minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Commissioner Johnson shared a news article regarding an increase in budget for education and the shift in management from the state superintendent to the department of education. She stated that this will give the governor's office more control over education.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

No updates to report.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

The final Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) inspections are Huntington Beach Police Department and Newport Beach Police Department.

D. Legislation

Commissioners Crowley, Winder, and Perring discussed the constant concern of modified e-bikes, especially in Newport Beach, with children as young as 6-8 years old using e-bikes. Commissioner Crowley mentioned that the district attorney's office is now looking to cite parents for their children's usage of modified e-bikes. Commissioner Johnson sent an article regarding laws going into effect July 15, 2026. These laws include limiting cellphone usage in school, an all-gender bathroom in public and private schools, and a crisis hotline for suicide prevention.

E. Essay and Art Contest

Commissioner Vachet reported that a meeting will be held on July 17, 2026, to discuss the 2026 Essay and Art Contest.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Johnson reported that the 2025 Annual Reports have been distributed and posted.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Crowley reported that the book club currently has 6 members. The youth completed reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and began taking up leadership roles within the book club including the selection of their new book *Once We Were Brothers* by Ronald H. Balson. The youth have also had the opportunity to read poetry by Mary Oliver and are interested in discovering the deeper meanings of words. She also reported that one youth had the opportunity to research various forms of poetry for the book club, including blackout poetry.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

Commissioner Johnson reported that the committee is waiting for the BeWell campus situation to be resolved before inquiring further about a tour. She shared an article with the Commission that outlines how treatment homes and insurance companies collaborate to address substance use disorders.

I. High Needs Youth

There are no updates to report. However, Commissioner Churchill will follow up with Judge Lewis at the Executive Committee meeting regarding the data that was previously requested for the committee.

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

Commissioner Johnson shared an article highlighting that Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at junior colleges will now receive Pell Grants. This will provide financial assistance to students who are interested in those programs.

K. Reentry of Probation Youth

Commissioner Crowley recommended holding off on requesting a tour of the Juvenile Hall construction site and the Project Kinship office until the fall of 2026.

REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

A. ROP Tustin C & D Review

Commissioner Churchill and Winder visited Rite of Passage (ROP) Tustin C and D for a review on July 7, 2026. Commissioner Churchill focused on information regarding the boys' cottage and Commissioner Winder focused on information regarding the girls' cottage. Both cottages provide services for 5 to 6 youth with stays ranging from 3 months-2 years. The commissioners reported that boys and girls are kept separate and engage in different activities. Commissioner Churchill stated that the boys' cottage includes one youth with dual status and one youth with a mental disability.

Although there were prior challenges, the other boys learned to get along with him. Commissioner Churchill reported the cottage as providing a very calm environment and reported no instances of hands-on intervention in 8 years. She stated that there is one boy that often leaves and returns home after visiting his girlfriend. Three of the five boys have CASA advocates. Finally, she noted that the county will not provide funding for improvements to the houses. Commissioner Winder reported being impressed with the ROP Tustin D facility, noting that it was well maintained and in good condition. Staff receive Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) training and Know More Do Better training for the girls, however there are currently no CSEC youth. He reported that within the girl's cottage there have been no incidents of hands-on intervention. He also stated that one girl has not been attending summer school. No corrective action notice needed.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

A) 2 Part Series on Domestic and Family Violence

Commissioner Yost attended the 2-part series and states how it began in the context of an intense child abuse case, which was very eye-opening. The speaker touched on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and sentinel injuries – injuries that would be impossible for children of a certain age to inflict upon themselves. Commissioner Yost reported that the meeting heavily focused on the cycle of violence and how this shines light on the importance of multidisciplinary interventions. This form of intervention works at effectively preventing those who are abused from becoming future abusers, as well as those who are in abusive relationships, primarily women, from falling into a pattern of staying with abusive partners. Commissioner Yost also spoke on the concept of a shared background which states that people who have similar experiences of violence will have similar physical issues which have been proven to be less fixable than neuro-issues that result from abuse. Commissioner Yost reported that those who suffer from the physical issues described above may have nurturing and healing environments but are at a high risk of quickly reverting to square one when under high stress. These episodes of regression were described in the meeting as becoming biologic.

B) Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) Graduation

Commissioner Winder reported that one youth graduated from JRC. Although the youth did not have any family members present, he was supported by court staff, counselors, and Waymakers employees. He highlighted that the youth was resistant at first but eventually became a superstar of the program.

C) HIRE Reentry Subcommittee

Commissioner Johnson discussed a speaker at an event where Kristine Peters shared her new initiative, United to End Homelessness, at Orange County United Way. The initiative aims to prevent homelessness by providing individuals with a one-time payment to address housing related needs. Funds are issued via debit or credit cards to help with expenses that could lead to homelessness. She reported that the committee's goal is to collaborate with certified providers to ensure at-risk youth have access to at least 90 days of stable housing. This resource was modeled after an existing program in Washington State and will provide youth with financial assistance, with a soft cap of up to \$2,500

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dollars. In this discussion, it was mentioned that youth homelessness may be partially attributed to the closing of cases for at-risk youth before they reach the age of 18 years old.

D) Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee

Commissioner Vachet reported on the committee's goal of creating educational material for middle school students. The material will be created by students and interns from Vanguard University. The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) has been actively working on this project and has requested Vanguard University to lead the project. She went on to report that the main way CSEC youth are affected in Orange County is through sextortion (sexual extortion over media & texts) and emphasized the importance of educating younger children about online dangers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson and Winder are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Executive Committee meeting on July 15, 2026.

Commissioner Yost is planning to attend the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Quarterly meeting on July 16, 2026.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting on July 23, 2026

Commissioners Crowley, Johnson, Lopez, Perring and Vachet are planning to attend the Summer at the Center on July 31, 2026.

Commissioner Winder is planning to attend the Cell Dog Graduation on August 4, 2026.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

A) Newport Beach 4th of July 16, 2026

Meetings are being held with the Newport Beach council to prevent incidents in the future. Of the 400 arrests, 25 were juveniles, however it is unknown if they were Orange County youth. The JJC has postponed the LEA inspection of the Newport Beach Police Department for later in the summer.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 10:44 am. – 11:17 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Steve Winder

Steve Winder, Chair