

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday July 2, 2025
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 2, 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 (Teams)
Marcy Garfias
Judy Johnson, Chair
Silvestre Lopez (Teams)
Lynda Perring
Madelyn Rodriguez
Mary Lou Vachet
Steve Winder, Vice Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Connie Marshall
Joel Matson
Wyatt McClean
Ryan Rising
Dorothy Stafford

STAFF: Josue Rogel, Legal Processing Specialist
Emily Sanchez, Legal Processing Specialist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 18th minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Commissioner Mary Lou Vachet informed the Commission that the new Chief of Alternative Education, Maria Martinez-Poulin, has been selected and officially began her role on July 1, 2025.

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

No updates to report.

A. Annual Report

Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) Lii Toelupe provided a printed copy for the Commissioners to review, which was passed around during the meeting. Final edits are still in progress.

B. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Lopez shared that the book club is operating as usual and is beginning to read a new book authored by Tupac Shakur.

C. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

D. Away from Care

Commissioners will follow up with Social Services or the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court to confirm their ability to attend the multidisciplinary meeting. They intend to continue monitoring this matter, and a follow-up email will be drafted. Commissioner Churchill provided an STRTP update on the report from Probation. Kristi Fiskum from Social Services will follow up with the report, including the number of youth placed in STRTP homes, and will update the Commission accordingly.

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

Commissioner Johnson provided follow-up information on the UCI LIFTED program. A connection has been made with the Professor, who is willing to speak with the group. A subgroup will coordinate to meet, either online or in person, to discuss the post-graduate classes offered at Juvenile Hall. An invitation will also be extended for the Professor to attend the stakeholder meeting as an observer.

REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

A. LEA Inspection of Anaheim and Stanton Police Departments

Commissioners Vachet, Winder and Yost conducted an inspection of both Anaheim and Stanton Police Departments on June 25, 2025. Commissioner Winder commended the Anaheim Police Department, noting they are consistently impressive—particularly in their youth and gang intervention services. He highlighted that officers receive 100 hours of training, including instruction in Narcan administration and CPR, and noted that the department has a Police Explorer Unit. Commissioner Yost stated that the Anaheim Police Department is top-notch and operates as a victim-centered team. She noted they work closely with Waymakers and Social Services. Commissioner Yost noted that the Stanton Police Department had very few releases to Juvenile Hall, as they typically encourage youth to participate in programs. Commissioner Winder expressed satisfaction, noting that Stanton PD hosts numerous community events centered around sports including baseball and soccer. He also mentioned that Stanton has only two known gangs. Commissioner Vachet noted that Stanton frequently collaborates with Anaheim and offers many community programs.

B. LEA Inspection of Santa Ana and Costa Mesa Police Departments

Commissioners Lopez, Rodriguez and Vachet conducted an inspection of Santa Ana and Costa Mesa Police Departments on June 26, 2025. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the Santa Ana Police Department has two School Resource Officers, an Explorer Program, and a dedicated Human Trafficking Team. She noted that every officer is trained in the use of Narcan. Additionally, there were 105 youth held in secure detention not exceeding six hours, and 25 youth in non-secure detention, also not exceeding six hours. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the Costa Mesa Police Department has three School Resource Officers and 37 active Police Explorers. She noted that there have been no juvenile sex trafficking cases. Beginning July 1, 2025, all officers will be trained in the use of Narcan. Officer Martinez was recognized with the City Leadership Award. The department frequently works with Rite of Passage due to a higher number of away from care incidences. Additionally, there were 4 youth held in secure detention not exceeding six hours, and 221 youth in non-secure detention, also not exceeding six hours. Commissioner Lopez noted that gang activity in Costa Mesa has remained steady, with no significant increase or decrease.

C. Rite of Passage – Tustin C & D

Commissioner Churchill, Vachet and Winder conducted a review of the Rite of Passage homes in Tustin on June 30, 2025. Commissioner Churchill reported that she met with the house parent, Chase, describing him as calm and effective in working with the youth. She noted that there are six youth currently residing in the "C" unit, all between the ages of 14 and 17. All are dual status youth and have been assigned a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). The boys' home features a "boycave", which includes a game table and various recreational activities. Commissioner Churchill mentioned that this home does not have issues with away from care incidents, though there was some difficulty in obtaining a cellphone for one of the boys. At the "D" home, Commissioners met with Senior Coach, Serenity Romero, and were given a tour of the facility, where the house parent was preparing a meal. There are currently six youth residing in the home, ranging in age from 14 to 18. Four of the girls have been assigned a CASA. While the home was reported to be in good condition, staff shared that they are experiencing challenges with away from care incidents. Due to being short-staffed, and in compliance with the required 3:1 youth-to-staff ratio, other youth in the home have been unable to participate in outside activities. It was also noted that one youth is having trouble obtaining a cellphone. The JJC will contact Social Services Agency to follow up with iFoster to assist with this issue.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

CAST (Child Abuse Services Team) Policy

Commissioner Johnson attended the CAST policy meeting on June 18, 2025. She reported an increase in referrals to the CAST program. She noted that Nicole Strattman, a Program Manager of CAST, has transferred to the FACT (Families and Communities Together) program. As a result, there will be a reorganization within SSA in the coming months.

Sunburst Youth Academy Graduation

Commissioners Vachet and Winder attended the 36th Annual Graduation event. They reported that the youth delivered powerful speeches, and a video presentation was shown that deeply moved the audience.

CCR SOC (Continuum of Care Reform – System of Care) Coordination Meeting

Commissioner Winder attended the CCR SOC Coordination meeting on June 26, 2025. Commissioner Winder reported that as of July 1, 2025, fee for service contracts are in place, focusing on working with STRTPs for youth transitioning. He mentioned efforts to gather information from other counties about therapeutic foster care services designed for children removed from their homes due to healthcare issues. Currently, 18 homes have signed up for intensive foster care. Commissioner Winder also noted that Gerardo Guzman is the new Probation Wraparound Supervisor.

CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) Steering Placement

Commissioner Winder met with Jill Dominguez and reported that Mary's Path can currently house 16 mothers and 12 babies, with four clinicians on staff. They discussed the challenges associated with serving pregnant youth. Commissioners expressed interest in receiving clarification on how many of the youth are identified as CSEC.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Perring and Vachet are planning to attend the ERDD Meeting on July 9, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the CWSIP Monthly Meeting on July 10, 2025.

Commissioners Winder and Vachet are planning to attend the LEA Inspection of Placentia PD on July 10, 2025.

Commissioner Garfias is planning to attend the BHAB's Children and Youth Services Meeting on July 10, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the CJJCC Monthly Meeting on July 14, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Rodriguez, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Institutional Education Review on July 15, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Perring and Winder are planning to attend the JJC Executive Committee Meeting on July 16, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Garfias and Rodriguez are planning to attend the Institutional Medical Review with Grace Lizardo on July 16, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee – Juvenile Justice Meeting on July 17, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson asked the Commissioners to share any observations or information on how youth are being affected by recent immigration-related events and actions impacting local families. Commissioner Lopez reported observing that many youth have been expressing concern and anxiety; however, he also noted that a number of them are stepping up, taking on responsibilities, and finding ways to help their parents during this time.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 10:28 am. – 10:33 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair