

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday March 18, 2026
9:02 a.m.**

AGENDA

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

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday March 18, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Commissioner 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 (Teams)
Amy Crowley
Marcy Garfias
Judy Johnson
Connie Marshall
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising (Teams)
Madelyn Rodriguez (Teams)
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet
Steve Winder, Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Silvestre Lopez

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

GUEST: Crystal Anthony, LCSW, Co-Founder (Underground GRIT)
Suzanne Campbell, LCSW, Co-Founder (Underground GRIT)

GUEST

Crystal Anthony, Co-Founder of Underground GRIT, provided a brief introduction and overview of the organization's services. Founded in 2019, Underground GRIT aims to promote change within prisons, jails, and juvenile institutions through innovative in-reach and transformative reentry services. The organization currently serves more than 300 youth, with referrals coming from educators, attorneys, and word of mouth. Its services include mentorship and support, career development, therapeutic pre-release, holistic mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and medication-assisted treatment, among others. Underground GRIT receives funding from foundations, the state, and the Department of Labor. She concluded by sharing several positive success stories from youth who have participated in the program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 4, 2026, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Inspection form for Institutions

The Commission reviewed changes to the Institution inspection form, and it was approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Commissioner Johnson reported that a meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) administrators is scheduled for March 19, 2026.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

No updates to report.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

No updates to report.

D. Legislation

Commissioner Crowley stated that following the passage of AB1376 Probation Officers are now able to clarify within the petitions whether the bill applies to the youth.

E. Essay and Art Contest

Commissioner Vachet stated that the 2026 Essay and Art Contest activities schedule is in progress.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Johnson reported that the 2025 Annual Report is close to being completed.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Crowley reported that the book club is currently reading a book on chakras and meditation. In addition to reading, the youth are learning yoga poses that support their meditation practice. She also noted that Commissioner Winder will be attending the upcoming book club meeting.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. High Needs Youth

Commissioner Churchill reported that the High Needs Youth working group is requesting approval from Presiding Judge of Juvenile, Judge Arthur to obtain data from SSA, Probation and the court to use in the efforts to help with away from care, substance use and mental health.

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

Commissioner Marshall reported that a meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2026.

K. Reentry of Probation Youth

Commissioner Crowley suggested that the Commission visit the Los Angeles Stepdown Programs to better understand the range of services they provide.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

CAST Policy

Commissioner Johnson attended the CAST Policy meeting on February 18, 2026. She reported that they are experiencing staffing challenges. She noted that the number of youth interviews remained consistent with last year, with most interviews being conducted with younger children.

Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

Commissioners Churchill and Perring attended the CWSIP meeting on March 5, 2026. Commissioner Perring reported that a presentation on an in-home crisis services program was given by Alice Kim of Health Care Agency (HCA).

Ensure Justice Conference

Commissioners Marshall, Vachet, and Winder attended the Ensure Justice conference on March 6, 2026. Commissioner Winder reported that Dr. Bean briefly addressed online threats to youth. He also noted that a Vanguard University professor spoke on topics including child abuse, substance use disorder (SUD), exposure to violence, LGBT issues, and the recruitment and exploitation of youth by caregivers. He highlighted that 80% of youth exploitation involves a health care provider. Finally, he emphasized that the conference aimed to collaborate with school administrators to equip attendees with practical tools and evidence-based strategies to protect youth and advance justice.

California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC)

Commissioners Churchill, Crowley, and Winder attended the CJJCC meeting on March 9, 2026. Commissioner Winder reported that one topic of discussion was AB 1646, also known as the Humanizing and Uniting Generations Safely (HUGS) Act, which aims to ensure that youth in juvenile detention facilities have the right to, at a minimum, physical contact such as a hug or holding hands with visitors to support their mental health.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Protocol Webinar

Commissioner Vachet attended the CSEC Protocol webinar on March 9, 2026. She reported that the webinar included step-by-step protocols outlining how schools can respond to youth at risk for CSEC. The Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) emailed the CSEC Protocol and Orange County educator resources to the Commissioners.

Project Youth Orange County (OC) 2026 Society of Fellows

Commissioner Johnson attended the Project Youth OC 2026 Society of Fellows event on March 10, 2026. She reported that the event honors judges who have dedicated their time and service to improving the lives of young people and families across Orange County. This year's recipient of the Distinguished Judicial Fellows Award was Judge Thomas A. Delaney. She also noted that the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Judge Arthur, and Representative Lou Correa were in attendance. Finally, she shared that Representative Correa, Co-Chair of the Psychedelics Advancing Therapies (PATH) Caucus, is introducing an amendment to encourage the

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**March 18, 2026
Page 4 of 5**

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to integrate approved psychedelic care options for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance use disorders.

California Child Welfare Council (CWC) Youth Justice Committee

Commissioners Churchill, Crowley and Vachet attended the CWC Youth Justice Committee meeting on March 11, 2026. Commissioner Churchill reported that a presentation on diversion was given. She also noted that, although progress is guided by evaluations and data, the committee emphasizes working closely with individuals to better understand their needs.

Juvenile Hall College and Career Fair

Commissioners Crowley, Johnson, Vachet, and Winder attended the Juvenile Hall College and Career Fair on March 13, 2026. Commissioner Crowley reported that the fair featured vendors with lived experience and noted that the Juvenile Hall Youth Council oversaw the event. Commissioner Johnson emphasized that this year's fair included more vendors than in previous years, which was made possible by the Probation Department attending other fairs and using those experiences to recruit additional vendors.

Orange County (OC) State Education Event with Dr. Stefan Bean

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson, Lopez, Stafford, Vachet, and Winder attended the OC State Education Event with Dr. Stefan Bean on March 13, 2026. Commissioner Stafford reported that the event provided valuable and informative data. Noting that a major challenge in getting foster youth back to school after COVID-19 is a lack of transportation. Commissioner Vachet added that the event also highlighted teachers and coaches for their commitment to supporting students.

SB823

Commissioners Crowley and Winder attended the SB823 meeting on March 17, 2026. Commissioner Crowley reported that topics of discussion included the reentry plan, the college catalog, expansion of the Celldog program to juvenile detention facilities, and issues related to family engagement and counsel.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioner Marshall is planning to attend the Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) training on March 18, 2026.

Commissioner Crowley, Johnson, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Juvenile Hall Youth Council meeting on March 18, 2026.

Commissioners Johnson, Marshall, Rising, Stafford, Winder, Vachet and Yost are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Education Committee meeting with Orange Department Education (OCDE) administrators on March 19, 2026.

Commissioners Crowley, Johnson, Marshall and Winder are planning to attend the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) webinar: What Stories Do the Data Really Tell? Implications for Youth Justice Practice on March 23, 2026.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee on March 26, 2026.

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**March 18, 2026
Page 5 of 5**

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) meeting on April 2, 2026.

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Blue Ribbon Kick-Off on April 2, 2026.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:29 a.m. – 12:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

Steve Winder

Steve Winder, Chair