

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday March 4, 2026
9:02 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) KEY STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES**
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4) OLD BUSINESS**
- 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 4, 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
Amy Crowley
Marcy Garfias
Connie Marshall
Lynda Perring (Teams)
Madelyn Rodriguez (Teams)
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet
Steve Winder, Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Judy Johnson
Silvestre Lopez
Ryan Rising

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

GUEST: Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children and Family Services (Social Service Agency)
Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services (Health Care Agency)
Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS (Orange County Department of Education)
Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer (Probation)

KEY STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES

A. Social Service Agency

Kristi Kiskum, Deputy Director of Children and Family Services, reported that Orangewood currently has 67 youth who they provide services to. She shared that they held a Black History event for the youth, which was very well received. Kristi also mentioned that they are preparing a draft report for January with the information requested by the JJC. A meeting with the state is scheduled for March 16, 2026, to address matters regarding the letter of violation they received. Finally, she reported that Orangewood has been approved to recruit 26 of their vacant positions.

B. Health Care Agency

Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services, reported that a day treatment intensive RFP contract was awarded to the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC). The intensive outpatient program is designed for high needs youth and aims to divert and reduce hospitalization while addressing their needs. She also discussed Enhanced Case Management, which provides additional support for high needs youth alongside the services they are already receiving. Finally, she shared responses to the Commission's questions, covering topics such as warm handoffs, transition planning, health navigators, caseloads, and job expectations. Dawn Smith will send a written response to the questions following the meeting.

C. Department of Education

Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS, reported that Dr. Carrasco is the new principal at Otto A. Fischer. She also shared that additional positions have been filled, including a special education teacher and a technology teacher. She noted that after many meetings and discussions with Rio Contiguo staff and administrators, it was decided that the school will keep its name. The decision was made because the name Rio Contiguo represents a sense of connection and renewal of life. She shared updates on the institutions. Central Youth Reporting Center (YRC) will introduce a culinary class led by a chef who will educate youth on safe food handling. In addition, the WellSpace room is being developed, and a digital lab is in the works. North YRC will provide an art class along with a WellSpace room. Finally, she shared that the WellSpace room at Lyon School has been completed.

D. Probation

Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, reported that the construction project at Juvenile Hall is progressing, with concrete currently being installed. She also shared that final design details for the second phase are being discussed, which will include long-term housing, a school building, and a library. She noted that over the past couple of months, Juvenile Hall has had an average population of 135 juveniles in custody. In addition, she highlighted the expansion of vocational programs with new classes in digital media, medical billing, and construction. The department will also be meeting with Rancho Santiago and other colleges to explore adding more educational programs. Finally, she mentioned that the Juvenile Hall Youth Council led a tour for the Office of Youth and Community Restoration during their recent visit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 18, 2026, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS**A. Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Meeting Guest Speakers**

The Executive Administrative Assistant (EEA) reviewed the list of potential guest speakers for 2026 with the Commission and asked for additional speaker recommendations.

B. Inspections/Reviews reminders

The Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) reminded the Commission to return inspection/review forms to the Legal Processing Specialist (LPS) in a timely manner. She also reminded commissioners to note inspiring quotes and take photographs during visits that may be used in the Annual Report. Finally, she emphasized the importance of the lead working with the group to determine the most appropriate date and time for the visit/inspection.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**A. Education**

No updates to report.

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.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Churchill reported that the 2025 Annual Report is nearing completion and will be submitted soon.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Crowley reported that the youth shared their vision boards with one another and provided a brief overview of their work. She highlighted that hearing each other's visions and goals was a profound moment for the group. Commissioner Crowley also noted that she was able to capture several quotes from the book club members for inclusion in the Annual Report.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. High Needs Youth

Commissioner Churchill reported that they are identifying the data they need and determining how to request it from SSA, Probation, and the Court.

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

Commissioner Marshall reported that a meeting has been scheduled for April 15, 2026, immediately following the JJC meeting to discuss the next steps for the working group.

K. Reentry of Probation Youth

Commissioner Crowley reported that their objective is to gather information to better understand the youth served by community-based organizations, such as Underground GRIT, which provide services to both youth and the community. She further noted that Underground GRIT could serve as a potential guest speaker at a JJC meeting. Underground GRIT is an organization dedicated to promoting reform in prisons, jails, and juvenile institutions through innovative in-reach programs and transformative reentry services.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**CAST Policy**

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on March 18, 2026.

2025 Essay and Art Contest Winners Dinner

Commissioners Crowley, Lopez, Rodriguez, Vachet, Winder, and Yost attended the 2025 Essay and Art Contest Winners Dinner on February 18, 2026. Commissioner Vachet commended the Probation Department for organizing such a successful event, noting that the atmosphere felt like sharing a meal with family. She also expressed their goal to continue securing donations for future Essay and Art Contest activities.

Court Improvement Committee

Commissioners Johnson and Winder attended the Court Improvement Committee meeting on February 19, 2026. Commissioner Winder reported that the topics of discussion included AB 1376, which places limits on probation, new judicial assignments, and the designation of lead agents for dual status cases. There are two competing bills to amend 707, one of which uses the beyond a reasonable doubt standard and the other a preponderance of the evidence. The current standard is clear and convincing.

Meeting with Probation

Commissioners Crowley, Johnson, Vachet, and Winder attended the virtual meeting with Probation on February 23, 2026. Commissioner Crowley reported that she gained knowledge of what the Youth Council is and what they do. Commissioner Winder outlined the requirements to participate in the Youth Council, which include obtaining permission from the unit, being on Level 3 or 4, and having no more than two to three youth from the same unit. The next step will be to meet with the Juvenile Hall Youth Council

Continuum of Care Reform Coordination (CCR SOC) Steering Committee

Commissioners Churchill, Crowley, and Winder attended the CCR SOC Steering Committee meeting on February 26, 2026. Commissioner Churchill reported that a representative from the Regional Center was in attendance and provided statistics, noting that the Regional Center has provided services to more than 450,000 participants in CA, including 28,000 youth from Orange County of which 50% are aged 0-18. Commissioner Winder reported that funding for wraparound services will increase. He also mentioned that the Therapeutic Foster Care program was discussed to determine whether it will move forward.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Placement Subcommittee

Commissioner Winder attended the CSEC Placement Subcommittee meeting on February 26, 2026. He reported that the group is continuing efforts to find appropriate placements for CSEC youth while strengthening existing placements and providing additional staff training. He also noted that the Cool Aunt program was discussed during the meeting. The program is designed to help students, teens, and caregivers recognize the warning signs of predators, and the goal is to introduce the program to STRTPs.

Orange County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

Commissioners Crowley, Vachet, and Winder attended the OC JJCC meeting on February 26, 2026. Commissioner Crowley reported that the Realignment Plan was approved, which includes \$10 million in funding for youth services. She also shared that three youth in custody will be graduating with their associate (AA) degrees, including one youth who made the Dean's List. Finally, she noted that Orange County Supervisor Vincent Sarmiento was in attendance and spoke about the need to be more innovative in providing services to families with youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Quarterly Forum

Commissioners Churchill, Crowley, Garfias, and Winder attended the STRTP Quarterly Forum meeting on March 3, 2026. Commissioner Churchill reported that each agency provided updates, which included board-approved hiring positions at Orangewood, placement updates, staff changes, and updates to licensing standards. She also shared that the Becoming Me facilitator training is scheduled for April 16–17, 2026. The training is designed to provide intervention tools for working with CSEC youth, prioritize safety and wellness, and address topics that are vital to the healing process.

SB823

Commissioners Crowley and Winder attended the SB823 meeting on March 3, 2026. Topics of discussion included integrated programs such as an auto shop, life skills workshops, vocational contracts, and reopening the college catalog to expand educational opportunities. The overall goal is to reduce reliance on incarceration and expand community-based options for young people.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) meeting on March 5, 2026.

Commissioners Marshall, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Ensure Justice Conference on March 6, 2026.

Commissioners Churchill, Crowley and Winder are planning to attend the California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC) meeting on March 9, 2026.

Commissioners Johnson and Vachet are planning to attend the Project Youth OC 2026 Society of Fellows Event on March 10, 2026.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionally (ERDD) meeting on March 11, 2026.

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson, Lopez, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the California Child Welfare Council (CWC) Youth Justice Committee meeting on March 11, 2026.

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson, Lopez, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Orange County State of Education Event with Dr. Stefan Bean on March 13, 2026.

Commissioners Crowley and Winder are planning to attend the SB823 meeting on March 17, 2026.

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

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Churchill suggested that the Commission consider receiving updates on all foster youth in Orange County at the next key stakeholder meeting, not just those placed in institutions.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:29 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Steve Winder

Steve Winder, Chair