

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday March 5, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) KEY STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE 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 5, 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
Marcy Garfias
Judy Johnson, Chair
Silvestre Lopez (Teams)
Joel Matson
Wyatt McClean
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising (Teams)
Madelyn Rodriguez (Teams)
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Vice Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Connie Marshall
Nicholas Moreno
Dorothy Stafford

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

GUEST: Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children and Family Services (Social Services Agency)
Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services (Health Care Agency)
Dr. Katy Ramezani, Ed. D. Director (Orange County Department of Education)
Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer (Probation)
Armando Lopez, Assistant Division Director (Probation)

KEY STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES

A. Social Services Agency

Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children and Family Services, announced that Jyothi Atluri will be retiring on March 27, 2025, and they are actively working to fill her position. She mentioned that the budget is of concern, and they are evaluating services to ensure that the budget does not negatively impact families. They currently have 77 minors at Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) including 26 minors ages 7 to 10 years old. She also shared that OCFC will be celebrating their 40 Year Anniversary later this year.

B. Health Care Agency

Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services, reported that they are going to implement a fee for service model effective July 1, 2025. She also mentioned that the Health Care Agency (HCA) will now be monitoring contracts for the Orange and Irvine BeWell campuses to ensure that services are being provided. They are actively working on securing a master agreement for the Irvine campus and ensuring that services are ready for its projected opening in the summer of 2025. Phase 1 will feature a voluntary Crisis Establishment Unit. Phase 2 is expected to open in the winter, including an Adolescent Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Unit and a Prenatal Services Unit. She shared insights with the Commission on the distinction between BeWell and Mind OC, explaining that BeWell is the concept while Mind OC is the provider entity.

C. Department of Education

Dr. Katy Ramezani, Ed. D. Director, reported recent administration changes including the appointment of a permanent special education teacher at Juvenile Hall and a teacher for Rio Contiguo. They are in the process of hiring an accredited librarian and an assistant principal. She mentioned that enrollments at ACCESS Schools have decreased, with 2,000 students currently enrolled. Finally, she shared with the Commission that Dr. Bean, Superintendent of the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), has made time to visit each school to get to know the students and administrators better.

D. Probation

Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, reported that ongoing construction continues at Juvenile Hall. The perimeter fence is expected to be completed in three weeks, and construction for the reentry service unit at the Youth Guidance Center (YGC) will begin this fall. She also mentioned a pending \$8 million grant that will be used for diversion services which will provide additional support to local enforcement providers. The design phase of the Youth Reporting Center (YRC) central is near completion with scenery rooms and quiet spaces designed by OCDE. She shared with the Commission some upcoming leadership changes, including the appointment of Kevin Moore to Director of Juvenile Hall.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The February 19, 2025, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was reviewed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

The next meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) administrators will be on March 18, 2025.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

Commissioner Perring reported that changes to the Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) review form were made.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

Commissioner Yost also reported that changes have been made to the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) inspection form.

D. Legislation

No updates to report.

E. Essay and Art Contest

No updates to report.

F. Annual Report

Commissioner Johnson reported that the working group met to discuss the planning of the 2024 Annual Report. The next Annual Report meeting will be held on March 13, 2025.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Lopez reported that Juvenile Hall now has two book clubs. The newly formed book club is reading "The Master Plan" by Bret Witter and Chris Wilson. While the original book club is reading "Odd Thomas" by Dean Koontz.

H. Substance Use Treatment Program/Services

No updates to report.

I. Away from Care Issues

Commissioner Churchill reported that the number of away from care incidences at Orangewood have decreased due to the coaching and mentoring they offer. Their goal is to have multiple activities available for youth to be involved in which may deter the youth from leaving OCFC care.

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

The next meeting will be held virtually on March 11, 2025.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

A. Ward Death Review

Commissioner Garfias, Johnson, Matson, Rodriguez, and Vachet attended the Ward Death Review on February 19, 2025. Commissioner Johnson reported details of the three ward deaths with the Commission.

B. CAST Policy

Commissioners Johnson and Yost attended the CAST Policy meeting on February 19, 2025. Commissioner Yost reported that their focus was on the importance of having a clear and concise interview process for youth who have been brought into CAST.

C. Court Improvement Committee-Dependency

Commissioners Johnson and Perring attended the Court Improvement Committee Dependency meeting on February 20, 2025. Commissioner Perring reported that cross training programs will be launched with the goal of enhancing agency partnerships.

D. Juvenile Recovery Court (JRC) Graduation

Commissioner Perring attended the JRC Graduation on February 20, 2025. She reported that it was an outstanding graduation and inspirational for the youth.

E. Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Placement Subcommittee

Commissioners Matson, Vachet, and Winder attended the CSEC Placement Subcommittee meeting on February 27, 2025. Commissioner Matson reported that their goal is to assist STRTPs on CSEC.

F. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)

Commissioner Vachet attended the JJCC meeting on February 27, 2025. She reported the main topic of discussion primarily focused on the budget. She also mentioned that there are some changes to the Board.

G. Office of Youth and Community Restoration webinar - The Importance of Restorative Justice in an SYTF Collaborative Court

Commissioners Winder and Yost attended the OYCR webinar - The Importance of Restorative Justice in an SYTF Collaborative Court on March 3, 2025. Commissioner Yost reported that it was an informational webinar outlining the importance of participating in restorative justice to support all parties, while also facilitating a healing dialogue for victims, offenders, and families.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioner Yost is planning to attend the CAST Lunch and Learn on March 5, 2025.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Child Welfare Council (CWC) Youth Justice Committee meeting on March 5, 2025.

Commissioner Churchill is planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) meeting on March 6, 2025.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Ensure Justice 2025 Conference on March 7 - 8, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Commissioners Statewide meeting on March 10, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Rising, Vachet, and Winder are planning to attend the Education/Vocational Programs and Services for Post-Graduate System-Involved Youth meeting on March 11, 2025.

Commissioners Perring and Vachet are planning to attend the Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionality (ERDD) meeting on March 12, 2025.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on March 12, 2025.

Commissioners Garfias and Matson are planning to attend the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Children and Youth Services meeting on March 13, 2025.

Commissioner Winder is planning to attend the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) webinar on March 18, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Vachet, Winder, and Yost are planning to attend the Education standing committee meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) administrators on March 18, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson and Perring are planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee Juvenile Justice meeting on March 20, 2025.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:26 a.m. – 11:44 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair