

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday May 6, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) GUEST UPDATES**
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 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 May 6, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 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: Amy Crowley
Marcy Garfias
Silvestre Lopez (Team)
Connie Marshall
Madelyn Rodriguez
Dorothy Stafford (Team)
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Denise Churchill, Vice Chair
Judy Johnson
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising

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

GUESTS: Judge Craig E. Arthur, Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court
Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court
Jeff Kirk, District Attorney
Arlene Speiser, Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)
Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, County Counsel
Chief Daniel Hernandez, Probation
Isabell Gutierrez, Division Director of Juvenile Court Services (Probation)
Kevin Moore, Division Director of Juvenile Hall (Probation)
Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children & Family Service (Social Services Agency)
Maureen Mutch, Project Manager (Social Services Agency)
Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services (Health Care Agency)
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services
Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Chief Alternative Education ACCESS (Orange County Department of Education)
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education (Foster Youth Services)
Sergeant Amie Giusiana, OC Sheriff's Department
Sergeant Theresa Pereyra, OC Sheriff's Department
Martha Franco, Juvenile Defenders
Brian Baron, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minor's Counsel)
Jenny Leon, Chief Program Officer, CASA
Manuel Gutierrez, Director of Program Strategy, Project Youth OC
Basti Lopez, Associate Dean of Educational Partnership, Santiago Canyon College
Allison Jacques, Supervisor, Waymakers
Jack Stanton, Regional Center of Orange County

COMMENTS BY THE JUVENILE COURT

Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Judge Arthur, reported on new judicial assignments. Judge Azar will oversee dependency cases and Judge Chan will oversee traffic, delinquency, and truancy cases. Judge Arthur also shared that he will be transferring to Civil at the Central Justice Center, and Judge Katherine Lewis will become the new Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court. In addition, he reported that he recently attended a state conference where the Orange County Juvenile Collaborative Court was recognized and praised for its dedication and work with youth. Finally, Judge Arthur thanked all stakeholders for their collaboration during his time at Juvenile Court. He also expressed appreciation to the Juvenile Justice Commission for their dedication and time spent working behind the scenes, conducting facility inspections, and supporting efforts to improve education within the institutions. Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, reported on recent leadership promotions and rotations. Anna Beltran has been promoted from Deputy Court Operations Manager at Juvenile Court to Court Operations Manager at the West Justice Center. In addition, Shauna Ortiz, Deputy Court Operations Manager, will transfer from the Central Justice Center to Juvenile Court effective July 10, 2026.

COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jeff Kirk, from the District Attorney Office, reported that Katie David has been promoted and will join the executive team. He announced that Shannon Back, from OC Gang Reduction Intervention Program (GRIP), will fill the position vacated by Katie David. Shannon Back brings 20 years of experience working with organizations, agencies and volunteers.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Public Defender, reported that their goal is to continue protecting constitutional rights with a holistic approach.

COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, thanked the Commissioners for serving as the eyes and ears of the Court to help ensure that proper care is provided to minors in the juvenile justice system. He stated that staffing continues to be an area of concern for the County Counsel Office but noted that efforts are being made to fill vacant positions. Finally, he thanked Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court, Judge Arthur, for his unwavering commitment and passion for teens, parents, and the community throughout his time serving in Juvenile Court.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Chief Daniel Hernandez reported that Proposition 47 was granted and awarded to the Boys and Girls Club of Garden Grove in the amount of \$8 million. The partnership between the Boys and Girls Club and the Garden Grove Police Department is intended to enhance and expand community-based diversion programs for minors who receive low-level, first-time citations. Their goal is to collaborate with as many cities as possible. Isabell Gutierrez, Division Director of Juvenile Court Services, reported that concerted efforts are being made in the record-sealing project to ensure completion is timely. She also noted that refresher training on California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 709 will be scheduled for court employees, psychiatrists, and attorneys. Kevin Moore, Division Director of Juvenile Hall, reported that a graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 5, 2026, with 16 youth expected to graduate. Also, two youth will be receiving their Associate of Arts (AA) degrees and have been accepted to California State University, Fullerton.

Finally, he shared that two youth from Juvenile Hall (JH) were elected to serve on the Statewide Youth Advisory Board, where they will share their OC JH experiences with other counties and receive feedback from other counties to share with their peers.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children and Family Services, reported that they are currently awaiting the Governor's Budget to determine which services and programs will be available to minors. Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, reported that the current population at Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) is 65 minors, including five youth who will age out of care this summer. She shared that there has been a reduction in away-from-care incidences due to continued efforts to secure placements in a timely manner. She also highlighted several recent activities and events for the youth, including a Cinco de Mayo celebration, job fair facilitated by Mariners Church, and a day trip to Sky Zone.

COMMENTS BY HCA, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Dawn Smith reported that they are currently evaluating proposals and have issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a full-service partnership. She also noted that they are collaborating with Waymakers to explore alternative ways to support youth while the RFP process is underway.

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager of HCA Juvenile Health Services, reported that they are in the process of recruiting a doctor and dentist to fill vacancies. She also mentioned that Geoffrey Glowalla has been promoted to Chief Executive Officer of Behavioral Health Services.

COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Dr. Maria Martinez-Poulin, Chief Alternative Education ACCESS, shared educational updates from each institution. Central Youth Report Center (YRC) currently has 15 students enrolled. Programs available to students include Art for Healing, Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, a media room, and culinary arts. Two students are currently working diligently to obtain their food handler's certificate. North YRC currently serves 12 students. Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is collaborating with North YRC to expand programming by adding classes such as Latin dance, hip hop, and additional CTE courses. Two students are also working toward earning their food handler's certificate. Additionally, a literacy coach has been assigned to support students from both facilities with preparatory college reading skills. Lyon school has expanded its CTE program to include Esports. The RioContiguo school currently has 13 students enrolled and recently introduced an improv class that has received positive feedback from both students and teachers. Dr. Martinez-Poulin also shared that Mr. Southerland has returned to teach the Dance Residence Program. Raina Lee, Foster Youth Services Coordinator, reported that the recent Passport Future College event provided 30 students with the opportunity to visit and learn about colleges and universities, including Santa Ana College and California State University, Fullerton. Staff continue to assist students with college and FAFSA applications. She also shared that several students have been accepted to University of California, Riverside, California State University, San Bernardino, University of California, Berkeley, and University of California, Los Angeles. Finally, she noted that training efforts across agencies continue to strengthen collaboration.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Amie Giusiana reported that the South Team's goal is to continue collaborating with stakeholders, with a focus on outreach, intervention, and prevention. Sergeant Theresa Pereyra reported that all School Resource Officers (SROs) will be able to attend a weeklong training conference in Reno, Nevada, thanks to a grant awarded to the OC Sheriff's Department. She also noted that the OC Sheriff's Department will host a summit for SROs. Outside agencies have expressed interest in attending the summit to better understand the work SROs do to support school districts.

COMMENTS BY JUVENILE DEFENDERS

Martha Franco, Attorney, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)

Brian Baron reported that their office is fully staffed.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF LINH REDHEAD

Brian Baron, on behalf of the Law Office of Linh Redhead, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY CASA

Jenny Leon, Chief Program Officer, reported that CASA is expected to serve more than 1,200 youth by the end of the year. She also shared that staff from OCFC will attend a recognition event at the state capitol, where CASA will be honored for its unwavering commitment and dedication to supporting youth, families, and the community. Finally, she announced that the CASA Celebration Gala fundraiser is scheduled for May 16, 2026. The event supports programs that help minors in foster care improve their health, education, life skills, and permanency outcomes.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF

Manuel Gutierrez, Director of Program Strategy, reported that Project Youth OC has served 220 youth so far, with a goal of serving more than 600 by the end of the year. He also shared that they will be hosting a lottery game night for youth and families in June. Finally, he emphasized that their goal is to build long-term connections with young people to create lasting changes and to strengthen relationships.

COMMENTS BY SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE

Basti Lopez, Associate Dean of Educational Partnership, reported that they are continuing to assist students with financial aid applications and the university transfer process. She also noted that Spanish language courses, history classes, and tutoring services will be incorporated in the Fall semester catalog. Finally, she announced that the End-of-Year Celebration for graduating students will be held on May 27, 2026.

COMMENTS BY WAYMAKERS

Allison Jacques, Supervisor, reported on parents' concerns regarding visits with their children at Juvenile Hall. She concluded by sharing that Waymakers' youth wraparound services will be closing on June 30, 2026.

COMMENTS BY REGIONAL CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY

Jack Stanton reported no updates.

Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Craig E. Arthur

Judge Arthur expressed his gratitude to the Juvenile Justice Commission and the work they did during his time at Juvenile Court. He shared that incoming Judge Katherine Lewis is eager to work with the Juvenile Justice Commission. Finally, he suggested that the Commission extend an invitation to Judge Lewis to attend a JJC meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 15, 2026, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

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

Commissioner Vachet reported that a meeting will be scheduled for July. She also suggested sending an invitation for the 2026 Essay and Art Contest to the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court Judge Arthur, following his transition to his new judicial assignment.

F. Annual Report

Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) reported that final changes to the digital version were submitted to county printing in hopes of getting a printed copy next week.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Crowley reported that the book club finished reading the book on chakra and mediation and is now reading *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. She highlighted that the youth discussed their accomplishments with one another and offered suggestions on how to achieve them.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. High Needs Youth (HNY)

Commissioner Winder reported that they are awaiting approval for the data request from Judge Arthur.

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

Commissioner Marshall reported that they hope to schedule a meeting with Juvenile Hall to discuss the programs and services that are provided.

K. Reentry of Probation Youth

No updates to report.

REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

A. Youth Guidance Center (YGC)

Commissioners Churchill, Johnson, Vachet, and Winder visited YGC for an inspection on April 21, 2026. Commissioner Winder reported that the current population is 18 youth, with an average length of stay of 47 days. YGC employs 32 staff members, including 15 bilingual employees, to support the youth in their care. Staff receive extensive training in areas such as pepper spray certification, CPR, and Narcan administration, among many other topics. He also shared that YGC offers substance abuse treatment and transitional services, including Sobriety Through Education and Prevention (STEP) and Alcohol and Substance Abuse Screening, Education, and Referral to Treatment (ASERT). Finally, he explained that YGC utilizes a point-based discipline system that focuses on rewarding positive behavior rather than taking items away.

B. Olive Crest Malena and Saylor

Commissioners Churchill, Garfias, Perring, and Stafford visited Olive Crest Malena and Olive Crest Saylor for a review on April 30, 2026. Commissioner Garfias reported that Olive Crest Malena currently houses five youth, all of whom have a CASA advocate. Staff receive all essential training, which is conducted every four months. The facility also has a clinician and a care coordinator available to provide support when needed. At Olive Crest Saylor, the current population is five youth ranging in age from 14 to 18 years old. Staff training is provided twice a month to ensure employees remain up to date on best practices for serving the youth. The facility also has a clinician available when necessary. She noted that both facilities are moving toward a more individualized activities system for minors. No corrective action notice for either Olive Crest Malena or Olive Crest Saylor.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

CAST Policy Board

Commissioner Winder reported on behalf of Commissioner Johnson that Waymakers wraparound services will be closing at the end of June.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Becoming Me Conference

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 20, 2026.

Court Improvement Committee

Commissioner Winder attended the Court Improvement Committee meeting on April 16, 2026. He reported that a topic of discussion was the ability of parents contacting their kids while in detention facilities. He also added that the Public Defender's Office would like to attend the Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings.

Office of Youth Community and Restoration (OYCR) Webinar: Less Restrictive Program Virtual Showcase

Commissioners Crowley and Stafford attended the OYCR Webinar: Less Restrictive Program Virtual Showcase on April 22, 2026. Commissioner Stafford reported that the webinar focused on three main programs that include Keys2Life, LA Room and Board, and Court to College. These programs help the youth with services when transitioning to community like housing, funding for school and employment.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Placement Subcommittee

Commissioners Vachet and Winder attended the CSEC Steering Placement Subcommittee meeting on April 23, 2026. Commissioner Winder reported that their goal is to provide training to staff and partners on how to effectively care for STRTP youth.

Office of Youth Community and Restoration (OYCR) Youth Justice Action Webinar

Commissioner Vachet attended the OYCR Youth Justice Action Webinar on April 30, 2026. She reported that the webinar presented The Juvenile Probation Transformation Training Series. The series includes seven courses covering Racial Equity, Youth, Family and Community Partnership, Adolescent Brain and Development and Transformation and Organization Culture for better and more equitable outcomes for youth, families and communities.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioner Churchill is planning to attend Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) on May 7, 2026.

Commissioner Vachet, Winder and Yost are planning to visit Juvenile Hall for an inspection on May 7, 2026.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Office of Youth Community Restoration (OYCR) Webinar: Expanding Access to Care for Justice-involved youth through the Justice-Involved reentry initiative and children and youth behavioral health initiative on May 7, 2026.

Commissioners Crowley, Marshall, Vachet, Winder and Yost are planning to visit the North Youth Reporting Center (YRC) for a review on May 8, 2026.

Commissioners Crowley and Winder are planning to attend the California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative meeting (CJJCC) on May 11, 2026.

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Commissioners Lopez, Marshall, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to visit Buena Park Police Department and Stanton Police Department for an inspection on May 13, 2026.

Commissioners Marshall, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to visit the Lyon school for a review on May 14, 2026.

Commissioners Garfias and Vachet are planning to attend the Ward Death review on May 20, 2026.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11: 30a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Steve Winder

Steve Winder, Chair