

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday May 7, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & COMMENTS**
 - a. JUVENILE COURT**
 - b. DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
 - c. PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)**
 - d. PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)**
 - e. COUNTY COUNSEL**
 - f. PROBATION DEPARTMENT**
 - g. SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY**
 - h. HEALTHCARE AGENCY, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
 - i. HEALTHCARE AGENCY, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES**
 - j. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS**
 - k. ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
 - l. JUVENILE DEFENDERS**
 - m. LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME**
 - n. CASA**
 - o. ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION**
 - p. PROJECT YOUTH OCBF**
 - q. PROJECT KINSHIP**
- 3) ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE**
- 5) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 6) REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS**
- 7) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 8) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 9) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 10) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday May 7, 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
Joel Matson
Connie Marshall
Wyatt McClean (Teams)
Madelyn Rodriguez
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Vice Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Lynda Perring
Dorothy Stafford
Ryan Rising

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

GUESTS: Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, Juvenile Court
Jeff Kirk, District Attorney
Arlene Speiser, Supervising Public Defender (Juvenile Justice)
Richard Cheung, Public Defender (Juvenile Dependency)
Dana Stits, County Counsel
Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer (Probation)
Armando Lopez, Assistant Division Director (Probation)
Isabell Gutierrez, Director of Juvenile Court Services (Probation)
Mo Sapiga, Deputy Director, Social Service Agency
Maureen Mutch, Project Manager (Social Services Agency)
Nancy Garcia, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, HCA Children & Youth Behavioral Health (Health Care Agency)
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services
Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent (Orange County Department of Education)
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education (Foster Youth Services)
Jeff Jacques, Sergeant, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Martha Franco, Attorney, Juvenile Defenders
Brian Baron, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate, CASA
Tami DiPaolo, Director of Youth Support Services, Orangewood Foundation
Laura Corona Marcum, Executive Director, Project Youth OCBF
Steven Kim, Founder and Executive Director, Project Kinship
Jessica Vasquez, Youth Transformation Program Manager, Project Kinship
Heather Choi, Director of Youth Services, Project Kinship
Brian Oritz, Commissioner, Riverside County Juvenile Justice Commission

COMMENTS BY THE JUVENILE COURT

Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, reported Judicial reassignments with judges settling into their new case types. She also highlighted that the dependency mediation program is up and running, having assisted two cases so far.

COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jeff Kirk, District Attorney, reported attorney reassignments were made to provide work experience opportunities.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Supervising Public Defender, reported that they are fully staffed and are focusing on a holistic defense practice.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)

Richard Cheung, Public Defender, reported everything is going well and that attorneys are being reassigned due to unexpected staffing changes.

COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported that they have provided service to over 3,300 children and young adults in the county's jurisdiction. He also mentioned that staffing is a concern. Additionally, training will be provided on topics that include drug testing, mental health, and SCRAM (alcohol detection monitoring).

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, reported that the department is working closely with Social Services Agency (SSA) to address recent incidences of assault and vandalism at Orangewood. She also shared that Senator Laura Richardson met with the Probation Department and the Youth Council and extended an invitation to the Youth Council to visit the State Capitol to share their experience as a member of the Youth Council. Isabell Gutierrez, Director of Juvenile Court Services, reported that staff from Juvenile Hall have been providing educational sessions at Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) to youth on the consequences of negative behavior which they utilized at Juvenile Hall. She noted that the youth were actively engaged in these sessions. Armando Lopez, Assistant Division Director, reported that building construction at Juvenile Hall is ongoing.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Mo Sapiga, Deputy Director, reported that the department is currently in the process of hiring a new director. The current Interim Director is Veronica Ramirez. He also noted that the budget remains a topic of concern, and the department will be reviewing opportunities to reduce or eliminate contracts including the use of buildings and leases. Maureen Mutch, Project Manager, reported that the current population at OCFC is 104. Areas of concern include an increase in away from care, youth who are out of program, and incidences of assault on staff and vandalism. She also announced that a hiring event will be held to recruit youth counselors. In addition, she reported on recent events, including two Cinco de Mayo celebrations and an Easter celebration at Knott's Berry Farm Amusement Park. Lastly, she shared that an upcoming trip to Catalina Island is planned for June.

COMMENTS BY HCA, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Nancy Garcia, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, had no updates to report.

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, reported that Joanne Lim has been appointed as the new Director, following an internal promotion. She emphasized that services are being provided promptly in response to the increase in the number of incidences at OCFC.

COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Analee Kredel, Associate Superintendent, reported that a new librarian, assistant principal, and two administrators have been hired and final background checks are being administered. She also shared that the Hip Hop classes are ongoing and have been successful. There are discussions underway to potentially expand the program. Additionally, she announced that 20 students from Fisher and Rio Contiguo will be graduating on June 6, 2025. Past events included student trips to Medieval Times and the Aquarium of the Pacific. Raina Lee, Coordinator, reported that a Foster Education Summit was hosted in April with over 700 attendees. She also noted that more than 30 students have submitted college applications and have already received acceptance offers to various universities and colleges.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Jeff Jacques reported that they are collaborating with OCFC to address truancy issues. He noted that mental health services remain a key area of focus. The Sheriff's Department is partnering with Family Youth Outreach Program – city of Garden Grove utilizing the school violence grant. Additionally, he announced new staffing updates, including the recent hiring of Teresa Pereyra.

COMMENTS BY JUVENILE DEFENDERS

Martha Franco, Attorney, reported that the office is fully staffed and they hoping to hire an additional attorney.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)

Brian Baron, Attorney, reported that the office is running smoothly under the new structure and is fully staffed. He also noted that they are meeting federal guidelines. They continue to maintain a staffing level of 150 cases or less per staff attorney.

COMMENTS BY CASA

Amy Crowley, Lead Advocate, reported that CASA continues to serve youth, with a goal of reaching 1,000 youth. She also mentioned that they are in the process of hiring a case manager who will collaborate with SSA and support ongoing early advocacy efforts.

COMMENTS BY ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Tami DiPaolo, Director of Youth Support Services, reported on several topics including the upcoming graduation of three young adults in June, the pending approval of the Homeless Incentive Program, the Independent Living Program, a Tax Workshop, and housing support for youth.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF

Laura Corona Marcum, Executive Director, reported that the College Program will offer paid internships for youth at law firms. She also shared that Project Youth participated in the Orange County Marathon with 200 runners and 90 volunteers, successfully raising \$90,000 for the organization.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT KINSHIP

Steven Kim, Founder and Executive Director, reported that the organization has moved into a new building. He stated that their current focus is on training, mental health, healing, and addressing community trauma. Jessica Vasquez, Program Manager, reported that services are currently being provided to 250 out-of-custody youth and 122 in-custody youth. Heather Choi, Director of Youth Services, reported that their primary goal is prevention, supporting youth upon release, and reengaging in the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 16, 2025, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

B. Non-Institutional Placements

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

D. Legislation

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

E. Essay and Art Contest

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

F. Annual Report

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Amy Crowley reported that the book club is celebrating its third anniversary. She also shared that the youth enjoy when JJC commissioners visit the book club. One of the book club members was recently accepted to Cal State Fullerton and University of California, Berkeley. Additionally, she mentioned that a couple youth have taken the initiative to write their own questions and facilitate the book club discussions.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

I. Away from Care

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

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

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

REPORTS FROM INSPECTIONS/REVIEWS

A. Youth Guidance Center (YGC)

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Marshall, and Vachet visited YGC for an inspection on April 17, 2025. Commissioner Johnson reported an increase of gang activity which likely stems from their community. She also mentioned that the location of the grievance box is a concern for the youth because others have a line of sight to the box. Commissioner Marshall reported that the visit overall was positive. She also noted that the youth expressed satisfaction with the staff. No corrective action notice needed.

B. Olive Crest Malena & Saylor

Commissioners Garfias and Lopez visited Olive Crest Malena & Saylor for a review on April 23, 2025. Commissioner Lopez reported that Olive Crest Saylor currently has 4 girls, all of whom are from Orange County. Olive Crest Malena has a population 4 females and 2 transgender youth. Both facilities receive ongoing staff training on safety, suicide prevention, mental health, CPR, and the administration of Narcan. No corrective action notice needed for Olive Crest Malena or Olive Crest Saylor.

C. Juvenile Hall

Commissioners Johnson, Rising, Vachet, and Winder visited Juvenile Hall for an inspection on April 29, 2025. Commissioner Winder reported that Kevin Moore has been appointed as the new Division Director at Juvenile Hall. The facility currently houses 111 youth and employs 171 staff members. Staff are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of training. He also mentioned that the auto shop program is scheduled to launch on June 9, 2025. Additionally, Juvenile Hall is implementing Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) training to better serve and support CSEC identified youth.

D. North Youth Reporting Center (YRC)

Commissioners Johnson, Marshall, Vachet and Winder visited North YRC for an inspection on April 30, 2025. Commissioner Winder reported that the youth appreciate the opportunity to attend school on-site. In addition to educational services, they also offer mental health programs, creditable messenger mentorships, family outreach, and wraparound services.

E. Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)

Commissioners Johnson, Vachet, and Winder visited YLA for an inspection on May 1, 2025. Commissioner Johnson reported that the facility is an all-male institution with the average stay ranging from 28 to 51 days. She also mentioned that Probation is looking into a drone system that will eliminate drug paraphernalia from being brought into the institution. Commissioner Winder reported that YLA is offering classes from various colleges which will expand educational opportunities for the youth.

F. Law Enforcement Brea Police Department & La Habra Police Department

Commissioners Marshall and Winder visited the Brea Police Department & La Habra Police Department for inspections on May 5, 2025. Commissioner Marshall reported that the Brea Police Department currently has one School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to cover all schools in the area. She noted that there are no reports involving CSEC youth. Regarding the La Habra Police Department, Commissioner Marshall stated that the department has three SROs, no gang activity, a probation officer, and zero youth in secure detention.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

CA Foster Youth Education

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

CAST Policy

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Court Improvement Committee Dependency

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Children and Youth Services Committee

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Family Maintenance CFT ACL Webinar

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

West Coast Credible Messenger Conference

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Continuum of Care Reform Coordination (CCR SOC) Coordination Steering Committee

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJC)

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

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Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

Conditions of Children in OC Community Forum

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on May 21, 2025.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Garfias and Matson are planning to attend the Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Children and Youth Services Committee meeting on May 8, 2025.

Commissioner Yost is planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness on May 8, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill, Matson, and Winder are planning to attend the Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Quarterly meeting on May 13, 2025.

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionality (ERDD) meeting on May 14, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Vachet, and Winder are planning to review the Central Youth Reporting Center (YRC) on May 15, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee Juvenile Justice meeting on May 15, 2025.

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, Matson, and Vachet are planning to attend the Ward Death Review on May 21, 2025.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee meeting on May 22, 2025.

Commissioners Winder and Vachet are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) meeting on May 22, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:40 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair