

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday November 19, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) GUEST SPEAKER**
 - a. Justine Makoff, President, Free Reign Foundation**
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4) CORRESPONDENCE**
- 5) NEW BUSINESS**
- 6) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 7) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 8) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 9) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 10) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday November 19, 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)
Connie Marshall
Joel Matson
Lynda Perring
Madelyn Rodriguez (Teams)
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet
Steve Winder, Vice Chair
Dolores Yost

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Wyatt McClean
Ryan Rising

GUEST: Justine Makoff, President, Free Rein Foundation

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

GUEST

Justine Makoff, President of the Free Rein Foundation, gave a brief introduction and provided an overview of its horse sanctuary program, highlighting the animals' unique intuitive abilities to help youth overcome mental health challenges. The Free Rein Foundation, located on 26 acres in Huntington Beach, California, aims to help youth and their families develop interpersonal skills, improve academic outcomes, and strengthen social connections. Participants spend time in the garden and engage with the horses.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 5, 2025, minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

The Nomination Committee was formed, and Commissioner Vachet was selected as the chair of the committee. The nominating slate for Chair and Vice Chair will be submitted at the next meeting.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

The next meeting with Dr. Poulin will be held in December.

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 informed the Commission that the Essay and Art Contest will begin at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday November 20, 2025. The unit celebrations for the finalists are scheduled for Friday November 21, 2025. She noted that the contest winners will receive a dinner provided by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), Probation, and the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC). She also reported that 84 youth participated in this year's essay contest and there were 8 visual arts entries.

F. Annual Report

No updates to report.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Lopez is scheduled to meet with a JJC member from Ventura and Butte Counties to share how we conduct our OC Juvenile Hall book club.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. Away from Care

No updates to report.

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

No updates to report.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC)

Commissioner Johnson attended the CJJCC meeting on October 13, 2025. She reported that notes from the meeting were shared with the commission via email.

CAST Policy Board

Commissioner Johnson attended the CAST Policy Board meeting on October 15, 2025. She reported that the number of referrals is higher this year compared to last year, with statistics showing approximately 400 referrals for calendar year 2025. She also noted that they are in the process of hiring an additional doctor for the medical component.

Continuum of Care Reform – System of Care (CCR SOC) Steering Committee

Commissioner Winder attended the CCR SOC Steering Committee meeting on October 23, 2025. He reported that the topics discussed included finalizing the fee-for-service model, the upcoming closure of Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) South Coast Children's Society Caladium in December, and therapeutic foster care.

Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

Commissioners Churchill and Perring attended the CWSIP meeting on November 6, 2025. They reported that the meeting focused on community updates, the enhanced care management program, community schools, and the draft phase of the caregiver survey.

California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC)

Commissioner Johnson attended the CJJCC monthly meeting on November 10, 2015. She reported that they are preparing to send two surveys in January of next year to each county's Juvenile Justice Commission Chair and Commissioners. The purpose of these surveys is to exchange ideas among the JJs and gain insight into how they operate in their specific county.

Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionally (ERDD)

Commissioner Vachet attended the ERDD meeting on November 12, 2025. She reported discussion of the Probation data which included higher Hispanic youth involved in juvenile justice.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee

Commissioner Vachet attended the CSEC Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee meeting on November 13, 2025. She reported that they are continuing to develop a presentation and form for school districts to utilize that will help identify youth who may be suspected of being involved in human trafficking.

ACCESS Juvenile Hall recognized in the Race to Summit Statewide Campaign

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, and Stafford attended the Race to the Summit Statewide Campaign recognition event virtually on November 13, 2025. Commissioner Johnson reported that the event had a strong statewide turnout and noted that Dr. Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education at ACCESS, accepted an award on behalf of ACCESS OC Juvenile Hall.

OC Foster Family Agency (FFA) Forum

Commissioners Churchill and Winder attended the OC FFA Forum meeting on November 18, 2025. Commissioner Churchill reported that the topics discussed included insurance for foster homes, foster care college courses, and ensuring that foster children's needs are met regardless of gender.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Johnson, Matson and Rodriguez are planning to attend the Ward Death Review meeting on November 19, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Perring, Rodriguez, Stafford, Vachet, Winder and Yost are planning to attend Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Essay & Art Contest Celebration Ceremony on November 20, 2025.

Commissioner Perring is planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee – Juvenile Justice meeting on November 20, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Rodriguez, Stafford, Vachet, Winder and Yost are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Essay & Art Contest Unit Celebration on November 21, 2025.

Commissioners Garfias, Johnson, Marshall, Matson and Rodriguez are planning to attend the Quarterly Child Fatality on December 3, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Marshall, Perring, Stafford, Vachet and Yost are planning to attend the Orange Children and Family Center (OCFC) Annual Holiday Event on December 3, 2025.

Commissioner Churchill is planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) Monthly meeting on December 4, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 10:46 am. – 10:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair