

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

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES**
- 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- 4) REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**
- 5) REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS**
- 6) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 7) COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- 8) ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
Wednesday November 5, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Perring. 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
Silvestre Lopez
Joel Matson (Teams)
Connie Marshall
Wyatt McClean
Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising (Teams)
Madelyn Rodriguez
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Judy Johnson
Connie Marshall
Steve Winder
Dolores Yost

STAFF: Lii Toelupe, Executive Administrative Assistant
Emily Sanchez, 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, Supervising Public Defender (Juvenile Dependency)
Dana Stits, County Counsel
Isabell Gutierrez, Division Director of Juvenile Court Services (Probation)
Maureen Mutch, Senior Social Services Supervisor (Social Services Agency)
Annette Malijen, Service Chief II, (Health Care Agency)
Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, HCA Juvenile Health Services
Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS (Orange County Department of Education)
Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education (Foster Youth Services)
Kirsten Monteleone, Commander, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Teresa Pereyra, Sergeant, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Aime Guisiana, Sergeant, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Robert Rodriguez, Chief, Santa Ana Police Department
Mari Duque, Executive Director, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Brian Baron, Executive Director, Law Offices of Harold LaFlamme (Minors Counsel)
Amy Crowley, Collaborative Courts Program Manager, CASA
Enrique Montiel, Program Director of Foster Youth Services, Orange Wood Foundation
Laura Corona Marcum, Chief Executive Officer, Project Youth OCBF
Heather Choi, Co-director of Youth Services, Project Kinship

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**November 5, 2025
Page 2 of 8**

Alison Jacques, Supervisor, Waymakers
Basti Lopez, Dual Enrollment Coordinator, Santiago Canyon College School
District

COMMENTS BY THE JUVENILE COURT

Stacy Ketell, Deputy Court Operations Manager, reported the CAT Program is currently expanding its language capabilities, with Vietnamese in progress and Spanish now fully implemented. There has been an increased demand for on-demand reports beyond the program's original scope, reflecting broader utilization and interest. The team's efforts are currently centered on legislative activity during this peak period. The Juvenile Division is reviewing approximately 120 bills; while most are informational only, the division is assessing their potential impact.

COMMENTS BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Jeff Kirk, District Attorney, reported the paperless project has been progressing in the background over the past several months as part of an ongoing effort to streamline processes across the District Attorney's Office, Law Enforcement, and Probation. The team is collaborating with an outside vendor and is currently in the phase where Probation and the District Attorney's Office are working on coding. The project is approaching the testing phase, which is anticipated to begin at the end of November 2025.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE JUSTICE)

Arlene Speiser, Supervising Public Defender, reported that Katie David continues to hold ongoing meetings with Probation to address issues related to mental health. The team is discussing a possibility of a Mental Health Diversion Court to better serve individuals within their population who are affected by mental health challenges. This initiative requires significant coordination and resources to support the program's vision. Meetings are held regularly to discuss and resolve emerging issues, and Isabell Gutierrez from Probation has also participated in these discussions.

COMMENTS BY PUBLIC DEFENDER (JUVENILE DEPENDENCY)

Richard Cheung, Supervising Public Defender, reported that staffing challenges continue to be monitored, though current caseloads have remained manageable. Overall, caseloads are slightly lower this year compared to last year.

COMMENTS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

Dana Stits, Supervising Deputy, reported caseload numbers are down slightly, which is a positive development. However, staffing remains an ongoing challenge due to current hiring freezes. Leadership expressed appreciation for the continued dedication of all employees and volunteers who have helped to maintain operations during this time.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Isabell Gutierrez, Division Director of Juvenile Court Services, reported several contracts are being presented to the Board for approval, including those related to technical education programs such as digital media, billing, construction, and the arts. Assembly Bill 1376, which becomes effective in January 2026, will limit the term of probation to a maximum of 12 months. Agencies will be required to submit a report justifying any request to keep a youth on probation beyond that period. Regarding Proposition 47, the department has completed the request-for-proposal process and identified a list of potential candidates. Funding is anticipated to be distributed between one and three agencies beginning as early as January 2026. These funds will support diversion programs

serving youth in the community, with the goal of expanding the reach and availability of such programs. The overall budget remains stable. A graduation ceremony was recently held for 27 new Juvenile Correctional Officers. Several retirements are expected soon, though no specific numbers have been provided.

COMMENTS BY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

Kristi Fiskum, Deputy Director of Children & Family Services, reported a major update regarding the federal government shutdown and its impact on CalFresh and food stamp benefits. There are currently 325 residents who rely on this assistance. Staff are encouraging eligible individuals to continue applying for food aid, as benefits will only be delayed, not discontinued. Efforts are underway to identify additional community resources and food banks to help bridge the gap. A stakeholder meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2025 at 3:00 p.m., where she will be provided further updates on CalFresh. Staffing challenges persist due to the SSA hiring freeze, though efforts are being made to push for extra-help staff recruitment in January. The recent Trunk or Treat event, held on October 28, 2025 drew more than 600 attendees and was considered a great success. Orangewood's 40th anniversary celebration also had a strong turnout and was well received, with a commemorative video set to be released on the website and social media. The upcoming Winter Open House is scheduled for December 3, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. An announcement will be distributed by email, with a reminder that photographs of children are not permitted. The current population at Orangewood stands at 73, which has remained in the high 70s for some time. Five residents are consistently away from care but regularly return.

COMMENTS BY HCA, CHILDREN & YOUTH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Annette Malijen, Service Chief II, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY HCA, JUVENILE HEALTH SERVICES

Grace Lizardo, Project Manager, reported a strict hiring freeze remains in effect, with only critical positions being filled as needed. Operations remain status quo, and any vacancies will be reviewed and filled only when necessary.

COMMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INSTITUTIONAL SCHOOLS

Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS, reported that despite the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) freeze, three food pantries located in Family Resource Centers remain open and committed to supporting families. Families can shop and pick up items, including a delivery option for those hesitant to come into the community. In education, an online report card system is in progress, which ensures that students in transition receive credit for the work they have completed. There have been recent opportunities to hire special education teachers, including a new hire at Lyons School and Fischer School. ACCESS Juvenile Hall was recognized as one of the top-performing high schools for FAFSA completion, reflecting the dedication and commitment to helping students take critical next steps toward higher education. A virtual celebration will honor this achievement, highlighting how everyday support can open doors to brighter futures for students. Raina Lee, Coordinator, Orange County Department of Education, reported efforts continue to help students complete their FAFSA form and navigate postsecondary options, with support at Juvenile Hall, YLA, and YGC. A direct support specialist serves 220 active youth, including 46 seniors. At Olive Crest in Tustin, 14 of 16 students are seniors, and workshops are being conducted at their homes, including college nights covering financial aid and application support. Trainings for adult supporters on college readiness continue,

with SSA inviting OCDE to present on available resources. OCDE continues to work with Orangewood including support around school of origin and transportation.

COMMENTS BY ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sergeant Teresa Pereyra reported Aime Guisiana has assumed Sergeant Jeffrey Jacques position on the South Team. The team continues to work with community stakeholders on educational engagement, while working closely with the Department of Education. To address emerging online safety threats for juveniles, the Sheriff's Department presented at the California District Attorneys' Juvenile Justice Seminar, which was attended by 65 district attorneys. The presentation highlighted online threat groups influencing juveniles and the associated warning signs. In response to concerns about school security, School Resource Officers (SROs) conduct vulnerability assessments to identify potential access points and remain actively engaged with schools, promoting the "See Something, Say Something" initiative. On the North Team, both units have focused on educational outreach and training, collaborating with other agencies. The team recently acquired a gun-detection dog to enhance safety in schools, funded through a grant that also supports the addition of a clinician.

COMMENTS BY SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Robert Rodriguez reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY LAW OFFICE OF HAROLD LAFLAMME (MINORS COUNSEL)

Mari Duque, Executive Director, reported the office represents all children in the dependency system in Orange County, as well as some youth involved in the juvenile justice system through the Youth Crossover Court. While the office was previously fully staffed, it is currently down one attorney, and efforts to recruit a replacement are ongoing. The team continues to collaborate closely with CASA and the Department of Education, including Raina Lee, to ensure comprehensive support for the children they serve.

COMMENTS BY CASA

Amy Crowley, Collaborative Courts Program Manager, reported CASA has been able to increase the number of children served to over 1,000, though there remains a waitlist of more than 300 children. There is an ongoing need for additional CASA volunteers to support this growing population. A recent Northern California study compared children with CASA representation to those under Probation supervision. The study found significant improvements for children with CASA involvement: 46% of youth under Probation supervision had a new charge, compared to 23% of those supported by CASA had no new charges, demonstrating the positive impact of advocacy on outcomes.

COMMENTS BY ORANGEWOOD FOUNDATION

Enrique Montiel, Program Director of Foster Youth Services, reported there is ongoing collaboration with Probation to support youth, though there were no significant updates to report at this time.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT YOUTH OCBF

Laura Corona Marcum, Chief Executive Officer of Project Youth, highlighted the organization's focus on early intervention and prevention, noting that this work can often feel isolating, like "climbing big mountains alone," but that collaboration provides valuable opportunities. Project Youth receives approximately half of its referrals from Probation and the Police Department. This

year alone, nearly 500 youth from the justice system participated in the program. Participation requires that an advocate or caregiver accompany the youth. A recent achievement for the program was an invitation to present through the California Institute of Behavioral Health Solutions, which will help deepen the program's impact and expand its reach beyond the Central and North Juvenile Centers. While the organization specializes in brief interventions, Laura emphasized the importance of sustained engagement in youth's lives. Project Youth also provides \$300,000 in financial aid and scholarships, supporting 100 students currently enrolled in the College and Career Success Program.

COMMENTS BY PROJECT KINSHIP

Heather Choi, Co-Director of Youth Services, provided an update on the Youth Transformation Program, which recently moved into the Manchester office building next to Juvenile Hall in late August 2025. A grand opening was held in September, and the program has been busy hosting events, including a family night that successfully brought together youth and older generations. Kristal Vasquez from Project Kinship supports the school's program, which includes a restorative practitioner and functions as an after-school program similar to the Boys & Girls Club. The program receives 45–57 referrals per month and has served approximately 700 youth to date. Heather noted her appreciation for the coordinated efforts across Orange County in supporting youth services.

COMMENTS BY WAYMAKERS

Alison Jaques, Supervisor, reported no updates.

COMMENTS BY SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE (SCC) SCHOOL DISTRICT

Basti Lopez, Dual Enrollment Coordinator, SCCSD, reported on students enrolled in college courses through SCC, with Liberal Arts being the most popular major. Other areas of study include Biology, Psychology, and some undeclared programs. There are currently 18 students in custody registered with active student ID's. Of these, 10 maintain a GPA above 3.0, while five have a GPA of 2.75 or below. The team plans to meet with these students to assess additional services or resources needed to help them successfully complete their coursework. Political Science 101 has been approved to count either toward general education requirements or as a transferring unit for Liberal Arts students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 15, 2025 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 encouraged the other commissioners to review the essays and went over the guidelines and submission process for selecting their top choices.

F. Annual Report

No updates to report.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Lopez reported that the book club's budget is in good standing and that they are currently accepting book recommendations for future readings. He also noted that the youth have expressed interest in self-help genres as well as books about aliens and conspiracy themes.

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

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee

Commissioner Vachet attended the CSEC Steering Committee meeting on October 9, 2025 and shared that the form being created for school districts to help teachers and staff identify CSEC youth is still in progress.

Court Improvement Committee - Dependency

Commissioner Garfias attended the Court Improvement Committee meeting on October 16, 2025. She noted that the meeting was well-organized and efficient. The committee discussed several topics, including the upcoming "Beyond the Bench" conference scheduled for November 17–19, 2025 in Los Angeles. She shared that it is a statewide conference focused on supporting families involved in the California court system.

Project Kinship Conference

Commissioners Lopez, Vachet, and Rodriguez attended the Project Kinship conference on October 22, 2025. Commissioner Lopez shared that the conference was highly informative, featuring various breakout groups with activities for attendees. Commissioner Vachet estimated that approximately 500 people were in attendance and noted the presence of numerous booths, including familiar vendors such as CASA.

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

The matter was tabled to next JJC meeting on November 19, 2025.

CSEC Steering Placement Meeting

Commissioner Vachet attended the CSEC Steering Placement Meeting on October 23, 2025. Vachet reported they shared information on the number of individuals who were stable and unstable, discussed issues related to being away from care, and reviewed the efforts being made to address these challenges.

Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (JJCC) Meeting

Commissioner Vachet attended the JJCC Meeting on October 23, 2025. Vachet shared that Dr. Poulin was introduced and noted that Project Kinship who previously served as the CBO representative was replaced with H.I.R.E. The meeting also included the review of their budget.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (CWSIP) on November 6, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC) on November 10, 2025.

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

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Prevention and Awareness Subcommittee on November 13, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson, Lopez and Stafford are planning on attending the AJH Recognized in the Race to Summit Statewide Campaign on November 13, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill and Winder are planning to attend the Orange County Foster Family Agency (FFA) meeting on November 18, 2025.

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

Commissioners Johnson, Lopez, Perring, Rodriguez, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the JJC Essay & Art Contest Celebration Ceremony on November 20, 2025.

**MINUTES OF ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**November 5, 2025
Page 8 of 8**

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- A. Probation Inquiry “Alternative to Violence Program”
Commissioners had no further response to Probations reply concerning the Alternative to Violence Programs.
- B. Resignation
Commissioner Wyatt McClean announced his plans to retire effective December 15, 2025. He shared his appreciation for the commission.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 10:13 – 10:26 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Lynda Perring

Lynda Perring, Commissioner