

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday September 17, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) GUEST**
 - a. Sandy Avzaradel, Director, Start Well**
 - b. Kim Versluis, Senior Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Start Well**
- 3) APPROVAL 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 September 17, 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 (Teams)
Judy Johnson, Chair
Silvestre Lopez (Teams)
Joel Matson (Teams)
Connie Marshall
Wyatt McClean
Madelyn Rodriguez
Dorothy Stafford
Mary Lou Vachet (Teams)
Steve Winder, Vice Chair

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Lynda Perring
Ryan Rising
Dolores Yost

GUEST: Sandy Avzaradel, Director, Start Well
Kim Versluis, Senior Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Start Well

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

GUEST

Sandy Avzaradel, Director, and Kim Versluis, Senior Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, provided an overview of Start Well, a mental health consultation program, supporting families, infants, and young children. The program promotes healthy social and emotional development in young children by equipping caregivers and providers with the skills and knowledge they need. Using evidence informed prevention-based approach, Start Well pairs mental health consultants with the adults who live and work with infants and young children.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 3, 2025 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was reviewed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

A. Education

A meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) administrators is scheduled at the beginning of October.

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B. Non-Institutional Placements

No updates to report.

C. Law Enforcement Agency

No updates to report.

D. Legislation

No updates to reports.

E. Essay and Art Contest

Commissioner Vachet reported a meeting with Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Probation will be scheduled to discuss the next steps in planning for the Essay and Art Contest.

F. Annual Report

No updates to report.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

Commissioner Lopez reported that the snacks were brought back to the book club. The Commission was also informed that the book club needs donations to continue offering books and snacks to the youth.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

Commissioner Johnson suggested that the working group meet to discuss the next steps.

I. Away from Care

a. Higher Needs Youth Strategy Discussion with Social Services Agency (SSA) and Probation

Commissioner Churchill reported that the multidisciplinary meeting was established two years ago in response to a rise in crime incidents in the area. These meetings are held weekly with the intent of gathering information from various agencies to better support the youth involved in criminal activity. A strategy being utilized at Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) is to invite guest speakers to share their lived experiences and educate the youth on the consequences of becoming involved with the justice system. Another topic discussed was the number of away from care incidences, and how Orangewood is working to assign staff who can engage more closely with the youth to prevent further occurrences.

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

Commissioner Johnson suggested the working group meet online to discuss the next steps.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

A. Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on October 1, 2025.

B. California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC)

Commissioner Winder attended the CJJCC monthly meeting on September 8, 2025. One topic of discussion was creating a possible needs assessment form in collaboration with the Office of Youth Community and Restoration (OYCR) and sharing it with counties statewide. Another topic of discussion was the services provided through the Secure Track Youth Program.

C. Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionally (ERDD)

Commissioner Vachet attended the ERDD meeting on September 10, 2025. She reported that a video titled *Curb Cut* was shown, illustrating how actions taken to support one group can benefit others as well. Another topic of discussion was identifying ways to better engage with Native American youth. The group also requested that SSA provide more data on permanency with specific data points.

D. Young Adult Court Local Advisory Committee

Commissioner Lopez attended the Young Adult Court Local Advisory Committee meeting on September 12, 2025. He reported that the meeting focused on the funding received and how those funds will be used. He also shared that young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who complete all court ordered requirements may have their felony charges removed. Commissioner Lopez will forward an article on the Young Adult Court to the Commission.

E. CASA 40th Year Anniversary Event

Tabled to the next JJC meeting on October 1, 2025.

F. Strategies for Coping

Commissioner Stafford attended the Strategies for Coping webinar on September 16, 2025. She reported that topics of discussion included different levels of grief, how long the grieving process can take, and ways to cope with grief. One suggested method for dealing with grief is to maintain connections to the deceased through memories and shared experiences. She also emphasized the importance of self-care as a key part of the healing process. Additionally, she shared a statistic indicating that 27% of people in the United States are uncomfortable discussing death and 47% discuss death when they are faced with it. Finally, she highlighted the importance of seeking help and utilizing available resources when coping with grief.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioner Vachet is planning to attend the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) webinar on September 17, 2025.

Commissioner Johnson is planning to attend the Court Improvement Committee - Juvenile Justice meeting on September 18, 2025.

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Commissioners Johnson, Perring and Winder are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Executive Committee meeting on September 24, 2025.

Commissioners Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Committee meeting on September 25, 2025.

Commissioner Marshall is planning to attend the Juvenile Hall Car Show on September 28, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill and Perring are planning to attend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP) monthly meeting on October 2, 2025.

Commissioners Johnson, Stafford, Vachet and Winder are planning to attend the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Education Committee and Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) administrators meeting on October 2, 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No commissioner comments to report.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 11:10 a.m. – 11:18 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson, Chair