

**ORANGE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
LAMOREAUX JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER
COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM – 2nd FLOOR
341 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868
Wednesday September 3, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER**
- 2) KEY STAKEHOLDERS 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 September 3, 2025**

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

COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: Denise Churchill
Marcy Garfias
Judy Johnson, Chair
Ryan Rising

STAFF: Lii Toelupe, Executive Administrative Assistant
Emily Sanchez, Legal Processing Specialist

GUEST: Loan English, Deputy Director (Social Service Agency)
Maureen Mutch, Senior Social Services Supervisor (Social Service Agency)
Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services (Health Care Agency)
Dr. Maria Poulin, Chief of Alternative Education ACCESS (Orange County Department of Education)
Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer (Probation)

KEY STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES

A. Social Service Agency

The Senior Social Services Supervisor for Social Services, Maureen Mutch, reported that Orangewood currently houses 75 youth, a slight increase since July with 18 sibling sets making up 65% of the population. The team continues to address high developmental needs, including 12 youth with autism, and noted that 25–40% of residents attend school on campus. To promote placement stability, pre-placement planning staffing is being held to support successful transitions. Upcoming events include Orangewood's 40th anniversary celebration on October 8, 2025, and a winter open house on December 3, 2025. Youth activities have recently expanded to include a new pizza oven, weekly soft serve, and outings such as Wild Rivers, escape rooms, and holiday barbecues.

B. Health Care Agency

Dawn Smith, Assistant Deputy Director of Children and Youth Services, shared that under the Behavioral Health Services Act, full-service partnerships must adopt a high-fidelity wrap model emphasizing evidence-based practices for youth under 18. Multi-Systemic Therapy will be central for justice-involved youth, while Functional Family Therapy may be used despite high training costs. High-fidelity wraparound was emphasized as distinct from traditional therapy or psychiatric care, and programs operating under the old model will conclude on June 30, 2026, as the new model takes effect on July 1, 2026. She also reported progress on a new Irvine adolescent campus with 34 flexible treatment beds and highlighted the ongoing transition to fee-for-service, which began July 1, 2025. Cultural considerations remain a priority, with six full-service partnerships currently operating and an RFP planned to expand opportunities.

C. Department of Education

Dr. Maria Poulin reported that students are preparing to read 'Night' by Ellie Wiesel as part of their curriculum, with plans to visit the Holocaust Museum in Newport. If travel to the museum is not possible, administrators hope to have the museum staff provide an on-site experience at Juvenile Hall. Recent field trips included visits to the USS Iowa and the Long Beach Aquarium. Youth also completed SAFE training and received certification. Ongoing efforts continue around suicide prevention awareness, mental health support, long-term care, and substance abuse services. Progress is being made in the search for a Director of Curriculum, with interviews scheduled for next week. The recruitment process for the Executive Director position remains underway, with the application period closing on September 12, 2025.

D. Probation

Jessica Johnson, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, announced that the Car Show is back on the calendar for September 28, 2025. She also mentioned that the first floor of the Manchester Office Building (MOB) officially opened, featuring job placement and housing services in partnership with OC Hire until the workforce center opens. A new class of 27 Deputy Probation Correctional Officers began training on August 8, 2025. Updates were provided on Proposition 47, including an RFP for diversion services and potential JJCPA funding for eligible programs. Probation staff will attend Young Adult Court on September 12, 2025. Work is ongoing to open a treatment and recovery-focused house in Fullerton. Jessica updated the committee with the announcement of a recent cell dog graduation, and the acceptance of a youth into UC Santa Barbara. Placement step-down initiatives, led by Dr. Tiffany Mitchell through a CalOptima grant, continue to support probation youth in transitioning into their home.

The August 20, 2025 minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Rite of Passage (ROP) STRTP

Executive Administrative Assistant (EAA) Lii Toelupe will schedule a meeting with the regional representative for ROP with Commissioners Johnson & Winder.

B. Incident YGC Classroom

An incident in YGC was discussed by the commissioners. No further action to be taken.

C. Young Adult Court Local Advisory Committee Meeting

No discussion was held.

D. Neurosequential Model in Education (NME)

A brief discussion took place, and Commissioner Winder noted that it is worth exploring further, though the matter was tabled for the time being.

E. Update on JJC Meeting Speakers

EAA Lii Toelupe provided the commission with an update on securing speakers for upcoming meetings. She announced that Kim Versluis and Sandy Avzaradel from Start Well will speak at the next meeting on September 17, 2025, and a representative from Free Reign is scheduled to speak on November 19, 2025. Lii Toelupe also reported that she is continuing efforts to confirm Dr. Schlatter, who presented at the CAST "Putting the Puzzle Together" event, as a speaker for the October meeting.

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 writing period will take place over ten days, from October 20, 2025 through October 31, 2025. Commissioners Vachet and Lopez will be meeting with a designated contact from OCDE and Probation to coordinate next steps.

F. Annual Report

EAA Lii Toelupe reported that 2024 Annual Reports have been distributed to stakeholders and agencies and are also available for public viewing on the Court's website.

G. JJC/ Probation Book Club

EAA Lii Toelupe reported that participants have completed two books and requested certificates to recognize their achievement. Commissioner Vachet offered to provide ideas for future book selections.

H. Substance Use Treatment Programs/Services

No updates to report.

I. Away from Care

Commissioner Winder reported that the next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025 and will be held via MS Teams.

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

No updates to report.

a. Meeting with Santiago Canyon College 8/27

Commissioner Winder reported that under the Thomas Grant, youth in the Juvenile Justice system have access to a government-provided fee waiver, supporting expanded educational and vocational opportunities. The program is adding new courses, including political science and psychology, and more teachers are showing interest in teaching directly in Juvenile Hall. A new initiative, *Radical Reversal*, will introduce creative programming, alongside several certificate programs aimed at making youth employable upon release. Additionally, a full dual-enrollment model is being implemented, allowing youth to earn both high school and college credits simultaneously.

REPORTS FROM LIAISON ACTIVITIES & WEBINARS

A. CAST Policy Board Meeting 8/20

EAA Lii Toelupe spoke on behalf of Commissioner Johnson in her absence. As part of the SSA reorganization, it was announced that Nicole Strattman is transferring. Kristy Fiskum reported that the department is experiencing a hard hiring freeze, which may extend for several years. The interior of CAST has recently been repainted, with dated murals removed and replaced by new artwork to create a more appropriate environment. Waymakers reported the closure of 1 Orange County shelter, while CAST statistics remain consistent with last year's numbers.

B. Vera's Sanctuary Walk Through 8/21

Commissioner Rodriguez provided an update on the girls' cottages, noting that a recent tour included both youth and youth with children. The cottages offer meals, online schooling, as well as group and individual therapy. Recreational opportunities include swimming and outings to restaurants. Youth expressed appreciation for the staff, and Dre, the House Manager was recognized for her passion in the role and her thorough responses to questions. However, it was also noted that substance use is common among youth after they leave the program, highlighting the need for continued support and transition planning.

C. Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) HT Protocol Meeting

Commissioner Vachet reported that work is underway to finalize the protocol that will be distributed to schools, and once it is ready, the commission will have access to the document.

D. Continuum of Care Reform Coordination (CCR SOC) Committee 8/28

Commissioner Winder provided an update on fee-for-service implementation, noting discussions around incentive programs designed to encourage STRTPs to provide additional services while ensuring adequate billing. Concerns were raised about the administrative burden associated with documenting services, though it was clarified that billing at 40% would result in the same funding as before. Additional conversation addressed medical benefits for high-level services, particularly for youth at risk of losing placement or experiencing behavioral challenges.

E. CSEC Steering Placement Subcommittee 8/28

Commissioner Winder provided an update on the Tustin Family Campus, where two cottages are currently not being utilized. In the early stages of planning, there is consideration that Olive Crest may be contracted to use the space to house CSEC youth. At-risk youth for this program would need to be identified by SSA or Probation. The initiative would focus on strengthening existing homes by providing training and additional resources to support them.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/WEBINARS/INSPECTIONS

Commissioner Perring is planning on attending the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (CWSIP) meeting on September 4, 2025.

Commissioner Winder is planning on attending the California Juvenile Justice Commissioner's Collaborative (CJJCC) monthly meeting on September 8, 2025.

Commissioner Vachet is planning on attending the Eliminating Racial Disparity Disproportionally (ERDD) meeting on September 10, 2025.

Commissioners Churchill, Marshall, Matson, Vachet & Winder are planning to attend the Away from Care Working Group meeting with Social Services & Probation on September 11, 2025.

Commissioners Lopez & Winder are planning to attend the Young Adult Court Local Advisory Committee on September 12, 2025.

Commissioners Perring, Vachet, & Winder are planning to attend the CASA 40th Year Anniversary event on September 14, 2025.

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

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No Commissioner comments.

CLOSED SESSION

The executive session was convened from 10:53 a.m. – 10:54 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Steve Winder

Steve Winder, Vice Chair