

A bronze statue of Lady Justice, blindfolded and holding scales of justice in her left hand and a sword in her right hand. The background is a blurred American flag.

**ORANGE COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
2016 Annual Report**

2016 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION MEMBERS



Cheryl Hart, Vice Chair

Benjamin de Mayo, Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Patricia Boortz

Amy Crowley

Susan Leibel

Rick Martinez

Eula Nelson

Kathleen Nordin

Lynda Perring

James Riley

Israel Sandez, Jr.

Jan Sturla

Judy Zorrilla



Front row from left to right:

Legal Processing Specialist Hilary Kim, Commissioners Susan Leibel, Kathleen Nordin, Judy Zorrilla, Benjamin de Mayo, and Administrative Officer Beverly MacLaren

Back row from left to right:

Commissioners Lynda Perring, Cheryl Hart, Jim Riley, Patricia Boortz, Amy Crowley, Jan Sturla, and Rick Martinez

Not Shown: Commissioner Eula Nelson and Youth Commissioner Israel Sandez, Jr.

Juvenile Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez would like to thank each of the Commissioners for their compassion, volunteering many hours of service, dedication, and commitment to improving the lives of children and their families in Orange County.



Superior Court of California

County of Orange

Juvenile Justice Commission

BEVERLY MACLAREN
Administrative Officer

341 The City Drive, Room C235A
Orange, CA 92868
Phone: (657) 622-5578 Fax: (657) 622-8384

BENJAMIN P. de MAYO
Chair
CHERYL C. HART
Vice Chair

Patricia Boortz
Amy Crowley
Susan Leibel
Richard T. Martinez
Eula Nelson
Kathleen Nordin
Lynda Perring
James Riley
Jan Sturla
Judy L. Zorrilla
YOUTH COMMISSIONER
Israel Sandez, Jr.

December 31, 2016

Dear Reader:

This 2016 Annual Report of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission covers the past year's efforts and accomplishments. The Commission is composed of a group of dedicated volunteers who possess a broad array of experiences in child protection, law, education, local government, social welfare, law enforcement, and probation. As part of their volunteer commitment, Commissioners participate on many committees dealing with juvenile issues and serve as liaisons to various County and community-based organizations.

Members of the Commission have inspected a wide variety of group homes and temporary shelters, issued corrective action notices to these locations when necessary and are pleased to know that the requested corrective actions have been accomplished. Commission members also visited several ACCESS school locations, attended several graduation ceremonies for system-involved youth and have worked with the County Department of Education to ensure that all minors who are in the juvenile justice system receive an appropriate education. Commissioners have inspected all police and sheriff facilities within the County at which minors may have been detained and have inspected all Probation custody institutions and the Orangewood Children and Family Center for compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Commission is gratified to report that we observed a high level of care being provided at these facilities.

Commissioners gave particular attention this year to the implementation of the newly-enacted Continuum of Care Reform. While the goals of this comprehensive legislation are laudable, there are concerns as to whether the new requirements for care providers will prove a burden that causes competent providers to cease their services. The number of resource families willing to take in foster youth appears to be declining in Orange County as is reported elsewhere in California and the United States. Without additional resources, it will be difficult to reverse this decline.

Commissioners also focused on the need for mental health diagnosis and treatment for youth in the dependency and delinquency system. A large number of such youth suffer from mental health issues and require prompt and accurate diagnosis and effective treatment.

The cooperation and collaboration of the many public and private agencies working with children in the system is particularly gratifying. Many of these agencies send representatives to attend our monthly meetings to share information with the Commission and each other. The teamwork exhibited by the representatives of these agencies greatly benefits our system-involved youth.

"The Mission of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission is to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in this County and to ensure that the highest standards of care and services are maintained for the youth within the juvenile justice system."

Working to improve the lives of dependent and delinquent youth can oftentimes be frustrating, yet the social workers, probation officers, law enforcement personnel, judicial officers, court personnel, health care workers, educators, attorneys, caregivers and volunteers with whom the Commission interacts demonstrate a dedication and perseverance that is inspiring.

I would like to particularly thank Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez for her leadership and support, Beverly MacLaren, our outstanding Administrative Officer for her hard work and patience in guiding a group of volunteer Commissioners, and Hilary Kim, our part-time support staff person. Many thanks also go to my fellow Commissioners for their passion for our youth and the many hours of volunteer time they devote to the mission of the Juvenile Justice Commission. It has been my distinct honor to serve as chair of the Commission this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Benjamin P. deMayo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Benjamin P. deMayo
Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I: INTRODUCTION	Page
Mission Statement.....	1
Vision Statement	1
Functions and Responsibilities	1
Appointment of Commissioners.....	1
Budget	2
Staff	2
PART II: MANDATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION	3
Inspections of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies.....	3
Inspections of Orange County Sheriff’s Department Facilities.....	4
Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions.....	5
Joplin Youth Center	5
Orange County Juvenile Hall	7
Orangewood Children and Family Center	10
Youth Guidance Center	12
Youth Leadership Academy.....	14
PART III: COLLATERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION	16
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS.....	16
Child Death Review Committee	16
Education Committee.....	16
Law Enforcement Agency Committee.....	17
Legislation Committee	18
Mental Health Committee	18
Probation Committee.....	18

Social Services/Group Homes Committee.....	19
Special Issues Committee.....	19
COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES	20
Blue Ribbon Commission.....	20
Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) Policy Board	20
Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership.....	20
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee	20
Eliminating Racial Disparity/Disproportionality Advisory Board.....	20
Foster Care Advisory Board (FCAB)/Quality Parenting Initiative Committee (QPI)	21
Foster Family Agency (FFA) Forum.....	22
Group Home Forum	22
Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee	22
Orange County Children’s Partnership (OCCP).....	22
Orange County Pediatric and Young Adult Mental Health System of Care Task Force	23
Recruitment, Development, and Support (RDS)	23
Statewide Juvenile Justice Commission Workshop.....	23
Trauma Informed Practices Steering Committee (TIPS-C)	23
WE CAN Coalition	24
SPECIAL REPORTS	25
Guest Speakers and Presentations.....	25
WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE, SECTIONS 225-236.....	28
FAREWELL.....	32
WELCOME	33
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	35

I. INTRODUCTION

The Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) is a statutorily mandated group of private citizens who perform a variety of advocacy and regulatory functions on behalf of the youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System. The JJC is empowered by the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 225 – 231 to “inquire into the administration of juvenile court law.” The JJC develops an Action Plan and is proactive in meeting its responsibilities throughout the year.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission is to inquire into the administration of juvenile court law in this county and to ensure that the highest standards of care and services are maintained for the youth within the juvenile justice system.

Vision Statement

The Juvenile Justice Commission advocates for a compassionate and collaborative community to meet the mental, physical, and educational needs of system-involved youth.

Functions and Responsibilities

The JJC conducts inspections of law enforcement agency facilities that temporarily house minors, county- operated juvenile facilities including Joplin Youth Center, Juvenile Hall, Youth Guidance Center, Youth Leadership Academy, Orangewood Children and Family Center, and group homes where wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court are placed. The Commission reviews and monitors the educational, medical, and mental health programs within these facilities. The JJC also monitors adoption and foster care programs, independent living programs, and proceedings of the Juvenile Court.

The Commissioners participate as liaisons at various meetings held by county agencies and community-based organizations. These liaison activities provide an opportunity to offer input as to the special needs of wards and dependent children of the Juvenile Court, to keep informed on current county agency and community-based organization activities, to network with existing and newly formed organizations, to monitor budgets and their impact on programs, and to be advised of collaborative efforts made by these groups for the benefit of the youth within the system.

The Commission investigates citizen complaints regarding allegations of unlawful or inappropriate treatment of children and inquires into the administration of juvenile court law to ensure the highest standards are maintained for the youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The results of these studies, reviews, and inquiries are filed with the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. The JJC also conducts special investigations at the request of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court.

The Commission may hold public hearings and request the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to issue subpoenas to require attendance, testimony of witnesses, and the submission of documents and other evidence.

Appointment of Commissioners

The Commissioners are appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court with the concurrence of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court to serve a four-year term. The recruitment for new Commissioners is an ongoing process and an active applicant list is maintained. The Commission is comprised of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens. Two of the positions are designated for

youth members between the ages of 14 and 21. This year, the Commission has actively recruited to fill both youth member positions. The Commission welcomed Youth Commissioner Israel Sandez, Jr. and continues recruiting for the second Youth Commissioner position. The JJC continues to encourage the residents of Orange County to apply.

Budget

The approved budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 was \$176,601. Budget expenditure categories for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 increased slightly from the previous year. Staffing continues to be approximately 93% of the total budget expenditures. Commissioner attendance at the JJC meetings was 87.8% in 2016. The legally mandated meeting reimbursement continues to be \$25 per meeting, not to exceed two meetings per month. Each Commissioner traveled hundreds of miles at their own expense and contributed an average of 201 hours of their personal time to perform their duties throughout the year. The Juvenile Justice Commission collectively volunteered 2,615 hours for the year with two Commissioners exceeding 300 volunteer hours for the year.

Staff

Ms. Beverly MacLaren has served in the role of Commission administrator, advisor, budget cost center manager, facilitator, and liaison. Her responsibilities include oversight and production of the Annual Report; and coordination of the following inspections: juvenile institutions, law enforcement agencies, and group homes. Additional participation includes Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) school visits; staffing investigations; child fatality reviews; attending meetings on behalf of the Commissioners; overseeing the preparation and review of the Commission meeting agendas and minutes; compiling special reports; answering inquiries from citizens, organizations, and county departments; drafting written communications; assisting with the training of new Commissioners and staff; and acting as the liaison to the Juvenile Court, Health Care Agency, Orange County Department of Education, Probation Department, Social Services Agency, and other county departments and community-based organizations.

The Juvenile Justice Commission Operations Unit no longer has full-time clerical support due to budget constraints. Hilary Kim, Legal Processing Specialist, continues to assist part-time as clerical support.

II. MANDATED FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

Inspections of Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 209, the Juvenile Justice Commission annually inspects law enforcement agency facilities with respect to the handling of juveniles. The minors should not be detained in excess of six hours pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 207.1. The total number of minors held in excess of six hours and minors detained in 2015 and 2016 are noted in the following table. These statistics have been provided by the law enforcement agencies.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	2016 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS		TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	
		2015	2016	2015	2016
Anaheim	6/22/16	0	0	257	284
Brea	5/12/16	0	0	27	25
Buena Park	9/12/16	1	0	135	78
Costa Mesa	6/15/16	0	0	98	99
Cypress	4/14/16	0	0	12	12
Fountain Valley	6/1/16	0	0	18	18
Fullerton	8/30/16	0	0	127	125
Garden Grove	4/14/16	0	0	459	342
Huntington Beach	6/1/16	0	0	68	50
Irvine	8/17/16	0	0	64	52
La Habra	8/30/16	0	0	101	89
La Palma	9/12/16	0	0	7	10
Laguna Beach	3/9/16	1	1	111	139
Los Alamitos	9/20/16	0	0	2	8
Newport Beach	3/9/16	0	0	76	74
Orange	4/6/16	0	0	41	41
Placentia	5/12/16	0	0	66	60
Santa Ana	7/26/16	0	2	203	235
Santa Ana Unified School District	7/26/16	0	0	38	46
Seal Beach	9/20/16	0	2	7	20
Tustin	4/6/16	0	0	91	106
Westminster	6/15/16	0	0	96	57
Cal State Fullerton University	6/22/16	0	0	3	6
Totals		2	5	2107	1976

Inspections of Orange County Sheriff's Department Facilities

The statistics provided by the Sheriff's Department are dissimilar from other Orange County law enforcement agencies because they do not operate as a "station centric" agency. The policy of the Sheriff's Department is to detain the majority of minors in the field to be released to a responsible adult, with only a limited number of minors brought into a Sheriff's facility.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITY	2016 INSPECTION DATE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS		TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED	
		2015	2016	2015	2016
Dana Point	-----	0	0	1	0
Lake Forest	9/27/16	N/A	0	N/A	0
Saddleback	-----	0	0	1	2
San Clemente	-----	0	0	6	15
San Juan Capistrano	-----	0	0	8	6
South Operations – Aliso Viejo	9/9/16	0	0	0	1
Stanton Police Services – Stanton	5/3/16	0	0	3	16
Yorba Linda	10/5/16	0	0	3	4
Totals		0	0	21	44

Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions

Joplin Youth Center

Unannounced Inspection: October 13, 2016

Description of Facility



The Joplin Youth Center is a residential facility operated by the Probation Department for boys 12 to 18 years old. This is considered to be a step-down placement from Juvenile Hall for boys to complete their commitment. The boys typically live at the Joplin Youth Center for 30 to 45 days. The program managers recommend that the boys remain for 90 days to embrace the behavior changes that are taught. The facility can accommodate a total of 64 boys. On the day of our inspection, the population was 27. Joplin Youth Center is located in a rustic area at the base of the Santa Ana Mountains on 336 acres. Although the property is over 50 years old, it is attractive. The dormitories and classrooms are clean and well-maintained.

Programs

The Joplin Youth Center focuses primarily on a modified cognitive behavioral model: “Thinking for a Change (T4C).” It also incorporates a formal drug treatment program: “Face Everything And Recover (FEAR).” There is a rehabilitation-focused program: “Effective Practices in a Correctional Setting (EPICS).” These programs are reaffirmed daily. Individual 1:1 therapy sessions to address substance abuse and anger management issues are available as needed. Additional programs teach pro-social skills, gang avoidance, and methods to transition successfully back into the community.

The Culinary program has been very popular at the Joplin Youth Center and is being modified to accommodate the shorter average lengths of stay. In the past, this program required the boys to complete 260 hours of training to receive 10 high school credits and a certificate. Inspired by the kitchen manager, the program is intended to teach the participants cooking skills, as well as a work ethic. It is considered to be an excellent way to teach the boys how to plan and accomplish a goal.

Another very popular program is the Woodshop. It is available only to those boys who qualify based on their behavior level. As an incentive to participate, the boys build and design the graphics for a skateboard that can be taken with them upon their release.

A new activity was introduced this year: a mountain bike course. Boys who achieved a certain behavior level qualified to help build a dirt course on the back of the property and participate in races. Bikes and safety equipment were obtained through donations. This has proven to be a great way for the boys to get exercise, release their energy, and participate in a positive and constructive project.

A volunteer Cross Fit instructor has also started a new program at the Joplin Youth Center with twice weekly fitness sessions.

On-Site Observation

Upon intake, each boy is provided with an orientation packet outlining the rules and procedures. There is a level system reflected in the color of the shirt the boys wear; privileges are accorded depending on behaviors. The boys are divided into groups with a maximum of 13 in each group. Each group has a team leader who works with the staff to coordinate the extra-curricular activities, including work crews, recreation, community service, and therapy sessions.

The Probation Department staffs the Joplin Youth Center with 25 day personnel and four night staff. Additionally, there is a full-time Director, Assistant Director, Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) therapist, drug counselor, records secretary, librarian, and four supervisors. Half of the staff is bilingual. There are four full-time teachers, a special education teacher, paraeducator and Title I tutor on site.

Attendance at school is mandatory. The school shares a principal with Rio Contiguo High School at the Youth Guidance Center. The enrollment technician determines the students' class schedule based on the amount of credits they have completed. Although there are some computers available for the students to use in the classrooms, the computer lab is still not functioning.

Weekly visits are on Sundays. Visitation by pre-approved family members are encouraged. If transportation is an issue, the visitation can be conducted at Juvenile Hall as an alternative.

Medical needs are met by a part-time nurse who is on site three times a week or via video conferencing with the doctor at Juvenile Hall. Severe cases are transported to a nearby hospital or to Juvenile Hall for treatment.

New this year is a full-time Probation Officer to assist with furloughs, family visits and reunification, as well as transition planning. His daily presence at the Joplin Youth Center gives the boys the opportunity to really connect with him.

Action Requested by the Commission

A Corrective Action Notification (CAN) letter was sent to the Probation Department on October 24, 2016. The Probation Department responded on November 15, 2016 and stated that the item needing cleaning had been addressed. The Joplin Youth Center still does not have a full-time nurse.

A Corrective Action Notification letter was sent to the Program Administrator at Orange County Department of Education on October 24, 2016. The Orange County Department of Education sent a response on November 21, 2016 addressing the issues raised in the CAN letter. The Administrator indicated there are a total of 27 student computers at the Joplin High School for the 30 students enrolled at that time.

The Commission appreciates the efforts of the Woodshop teacher for creating the mountain bike program and obtaining the donated equipment.

Orange County Juvenile Hall

Unannounced Inspection: July 6, 2016

Otto Fisher School/Unit C: September 14, 2016



Description of Facility

Juvenile Hall is a maximum security facility with a 434 bed capacity. On the day of the inspection, the population was 119 males and 25 females. The Orange County Juvenile Hall population has declined significantly in recent years due to the implementation of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) developed through the Annie E. Casey Foundation. On the date of inspection, the average length of stay at Juvenile Hall was 21 days.

Youth housed in Juvenile Hall are considered either “detained” or “committed.” Those being “detained” are in custody pending a court hearing or trial. Those who have been adjudicated and “committed” to a term of confinement are either in Juvenile Hall or another facility.

The Juvenile Hall physical plant has some buildings that were constructed in 1957, modular buildings, and storage facilities. On-going maintenance is problematic.

Staff

There are 155 sworn and non-sworn staff members. The ratio of staff to youth ratio is 1:8 during waking hours and 1:16 during sleep hours. Many of the staff are bilingual. The languages spoken by staff include Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and Sign.

Housing Units

The youth are housed in separate units at Juvenile Hall depending upon factors relating to gender, seriousness of the crime, age, mental health and whether they are detained or committed status, and whether charged as an adult.

Intake Units

There are separate Intake Units for girls and boys. When a youth is taken into custody at Juvenile Hall, he or she is processed through the Intake Unit. The intake process includes booking, medical examination, intake screening, an assessment of mental health, institution orientation, and school enrollment.

Detention Units

Boys have a unit that exclusively houses youth who are detained. The unit for girls houses both detained and committed youth.

Pre-camp Units

This unit houses males who are committed and awaiting transfer to a youth-camp facility.

Serious Offender Unit

This unit houses both detained and committed youth who have been charged with serious offenses. The youth are separated from the general population. They receive group and individual counseling.

Special Units

Unit C houses youth who are over 18, but are still subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. This unit includes individuals who are detained or committed. The unit has its own secure recreation area and classrooms. These youth do not have sight or sound contact with the general Juvenile Hall population.

Unit Q provides treatment for males who have mental health issues.

Unit T houses males who have been detained and remanded to adult court for trial due to the severity of their offenses. Their stay in Juvenile Hall is often lengthy due to the time necessary to adjudicate their cases. These individuals are separated from the general Juvenile Hall population. At age 18, these individuals are usually transferred to the Orange County Jail.

Meals

Food is prepared in a central kitchen. Menus are approved by a dietician and posted weekly in each unit. Meals are served in the housing units. Youth who have attained “cart crew” status deliver and serve food to each of the units.

Clothing

All clothing is issued by Juvenile Hall and is laundered daily. If appropriate and approved, youth may wear their own shoes while outside their room.

Programs

A variety of programs are available to juveniles who are detained or committed at Juvenile Hall. The programs provided are designed to reduce recidivism and teach behavior management skills. Since the average stay is short, the programs are implemented immediately upon intake and are designed to reform rather than punish the youth. These programs include:

Family Reunification is provided through the Padres Unidos program.

Just Beginning teaches youth parenting skills and ways to interact and enhance their child’s development.

Individual and Group Counseling, including substance abuse counseling is provided.

Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) conducts classes for parents of youth who are mentally ill, and provides individual, group, and substance abuse counseling for youth.

Thinking for a Change (T4C) is a program for youth who remain at Juvenile Hall for 12 weeks or longer and develops cognitive behavioral skills.

Decision Points is a condensed version of the T4C program which includes anger management and gang awareness training.

Regional Occupational Program (ROP) provides vocational skills for youth and job counseling. There is a woodshop on grounds where carpentry is taught.

My Life My Choice provides education in human trafficking issues.

Volunteers in Probation (VIP) and Juvenile Hall Staff conduct Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous classes and many other activities.

Protestant and Catholic Detention Ministries provide religious activities for those wishing to participate.

Education

Youth attend the Otto A. Fischer School while in Juvenile Hall. Attendance is mandatory. The school is located on grounds and is operated by the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE). The Otto A. Fischer School has 24 classrooms and 18 teachers. Most students rotate between classrooms. All youth receive four hours daily of academic instruction. Two separate classrooms are designed for Extreme Security Risk (XSR) youth. The work of the students is displayed in the classroom and in the hallway. Core courses include math, science, social studies, and English. Youth can earn a high school diploma or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certificate. Individuals who graduate while in custody can enroll in online college courses. The teachers use state issued textbooks. The school library is well-resourced with materials, books, magazines, and equipment. A portable book cart is available in the units. On the day of the inspection, students who earned a 3.0 or better grade point average (GPA) were being honored with a pizza party.

The Probation Department and OCDE provide a number of programs to this at-risk population. The Transition Program is designed to provide support and ensure a smooth and successful transition back to the community or the next school placement. The Transition Specialist works with the students and helps them develop a career plan. The specialist also assists with resume writing, cover letters, job applications, and completing college and financial aid applications.

Youth

During the visit to the Otto A. Fischer School, the Commissioners had the opportunity to speak with two youth. Both of the young men were being released. One young man was going to work at a local retail store, the other will continue working to earn his HiSET certificate.

Action Requested by the Commission

Due to the age of many of the structures at Juvenile Hall, maintenance can be problematic. Since the Commission inspected on two different occasions, Corrective Action Notification letters were sent to the Probation Department on July 20, 2016 and September 21, 2016 requesting that certain maintenance be performed. On August 26, 2016 and October 12, 2016 the Probation Department responded to the Corrective Action Notification letters by outlining the actions to be taken. The Commission took no further action concerning the items specified in the Corrective Action Notification letters.

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to participate in probation graduation ceremonies.

Orangewood Children and Family Center

Unannounced Inspection: September 21, 2016



Description of Facility

The Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) is located in the city of Orange in a campus-like setting. Operated by the County, OCFC is one of only ten emergency shelter homes still functioning in the State of California. The Center provides a safe and welcoming place for at-risk youth in a series of Hacienda-style cottages. In addition to the residential cottages, the campus has athletic fields, a swimming pool, gymnasium, cafeteria and a medical unit. Also located on the grounds is the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST), the Supervised Family Visitation Center and the First Step Assessment Center

where it is determined if a Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU) therapist should be assigned.

On Site Observation

Currently, the Center has a capacity of 137. The population of the OCFC has declined greatly throughout the years in response to legislative and policy changes. On the day of the inspection, there were 61 youth in residence, including 14 sibling sets. The staff of 180 covers three shifts. The day and night staff ratio depends on the age of the children: the pre-school staffing ratio is 1:3 during the day and 1:4 at night. For older children, the ratio is 1:4 during the day and 1:10 at night. At the time of the visit, there were six to eight children on 1:1 enhanced supervision with one-third of the residents receiving psychotropic medications. Currently, OCFC tries to manage those youth who are often mentally ill, emotionally fragile or sibling sets who have no alternative placements. Extensive efforts are made to contact family members to determine if placement is possible within the extended family.

Upon intake, each youth is assigned a counselor and a cottage. The counselors customize a plan to address behavior modification while in the cottage and eventual placement and/or reunification. The counselors also implement the Orangewood Active Therapeutic and Teaching Approach (OATTA) on an individual basis. Modeled after the Boys Town skills building program, this is designed to hold the youth accountable by placing them on levels based on their behavior. It also employs teachable moments throughout the day by reinforcing positive actions. In response to criticism by some of the youth during our last inspection, the program has been modified to provide a shorter time period to restore a level after experiencing a setback.

The assigned social worker determines who can visit the youth, what supplies can be brought in and facilitates sibling interactions. A revision of the policy regarding cell phones and MP3 players is being considered to allow youth in the 'teen' cottages some supervised usage. Visitation is held in the reception area from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or on Saturdays at rotating cottages.

Programs

Orangewood's staff, with the assistance of volunteer community organizations, offers several on-site activities and programs. The OCFC Independent Living Planning (ILP) Team schedules dances, poetry readings and workshops. Saddleback Church provides mentors through its Skillz4Life program to help prepare youth for their future, encouraging them to continue their education and obtain employment. The "Fit Club" offers exercise routines weekly and emphasizes the importance of nutrition and physical fitness. Youth of all faiths are offered the option to participate in Sunday services and religious study.

The adolescent girls participate in the psycho-educational programs entitled: "Word on the Street (WOTS)" and "My Life/My Choice". Both are designed to prevent sexual exploitation. CEGU therapists devise safety plans and support for any youth who is identified as a Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) victim. The Health Care Agency also provides a range of services through the Medical Unit on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services and Early Childhood System of Care.

William Lyon School

The William Lyon School is located on the campus of OCFC and was toured by the Commissioners. The school is part of ACCESS, the Alternative, Community and Correctional Education Schools and Services program administered through the Orange County Department of Education. A principal, credentialed teachers, librarian, materials, and resources are provided through the OCDE.

Students are given 240 minutes of instruction time daily in four classrooms. There are three full-time teachers and a shared para educator. There is a full-time special education teacher, a Title I instructor and a tutor assigned to the school. A school psychologist is shared and therapists from CEGU are on campus two times per week. The school library is fully equipped with age-appropriate books and materials. The library is supported by volunteers. The classroom bulletin boards exhibit student work and the classrooms appeared to engage students in their learning.

Due to the fact that OCFC is a temporary emergency shelter, the student population at the school changes frequently. On the day of the visit, there were 20 students enrolled in the K to 12 school with fewer than seven students per classroom. The majority of students were in grades 1 to 5. A number of youth choose to attend their school of origin. Transportation arrangements are determined on a case-by-case basis with a collaborative effort by OCFC staff, a family member or public transportation to transport students to the school of origin.

Action Requested by the Commission

A Corrective Action Notification letter was sent on October 5, 2016 requesting that certain items be repaired. On October 26, 2016 the Social Services Agency responded to the Corrective Action Notification letter by outlining the actions to be taken to correct the observed deficiencies. The Commission took no further action concerning the items specified in the Corrective Action Notification letter.

Commissioners attended the Holiday Tea in December. This annual event is planned by the children and staff in the cottages. It was a very special and exciting day for the children. The decorations in each cottage were thematic and age appropriate. The JJC commends the staff at OCFC for their dedication and efforts to create an environment of holiday fun for the youth.

Youth Guidance Center

Unannounced Inspection: August 3, 2016



Description of Facility

The Orange County Probation Department operates the Youth Guidance Center (YGC), a residential facility for juvenile offenders. The Center provides a substance abuse intervention program for male and female youth ages 14 to 19. The facility originally accommodated 120 youth. Due to the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) regulations, which provide more privacy for wards, the facility now has a capacity of 80 residents. On the day of our inspection, there were 34 boys and 14 girls for a total population of 48. There are four units on the campus. Three units are for males and one unit is for females. The 60 Probation Department staff include three Probation Officers who are assigned to the youth while they are

in residence and then follow up with them to provide transitional monitoring in their community. Several of the staff are bilingual.

Programs

The stated mission of YGC is to “reduce substance abuse, improve educational and vocational outcomes and increase prosocial behaviors.” The Center accomplishes this through intensive multi-disciplinary therapeutic programs that are introduced at intake and administered and modified daily by the staff. The youth are mandated by the court to participate in these evidence-based programs while they are in residence for a minimum of 90 days; some youth remain for up to six months. These proven comprehensive collaborative efforts assist in transition and ensure success in the community. Additional wraparound services are provided for the youth and/or their family upon release, resulting in a reduction in recidivism.

All male residents are required to participate in two intervention programs: ASERT (Addiction, Substance Abuse, Education, Recognition and Treatment) and ART (Aggression Replacement Training). The girls have two separate programs: STEP (Sobriety Through Education and Prevention) and Just Beginning, a five-week parenting skills class. One of the vacant classrooms was recently transformed into a dedicated nursery/playroom with donated toys, providing a sanctuary for supervised parent visitations. Special attention is given to victims or potential victims of human trafficking. Upon intake, unit counselors collaborate with therapists and teachers to provide trauma informed care.

There is a level system for all residents that is reflected in the shirts that the males and females wear. Residents are given more privileges and off-grounds visits as they advance program compliancy. As they get closer to release, they are allowed to participate in ROP classes, weekend furloughs and attendance at AA and NA meetings in the community where they will live. The youth are assisted with resume and job preparation and can work off campus wearing a GPS ankle monitor. Last year, five youth held down jobs while they were residents.

All residents are required to attend classes at the on-campus Rio Contiguo High School. Operated by the Orange County Department of Education ACCESS program, the school is accredited by WASC. Youth often are able to make up for missed credits and graduate with a high school diploma. Last year 11 students graduated and 15 were awarded HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) certificates.

Eleven qualified students were also allowed to participate in the two-week “Summer at the Center” program, giving them a chance to perform with students from other county schools.

Several extra-curricular programs are also available at YGC to supplement the intervention, prevention, and skills training that are taught. Culinary classes, building maintenance, landscape design and installation, and computer classes are optional. Over the years, youth have contributed to a lovely “memory” garden on the property.

Action Requested by the Commission

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

While observing the “Bill of Rights” history lesson, the Commissioners were very impressed with the teacher’s ability to engage the students.

Youth Leadership Academy

Unannounced Inspection: September 7, 2016



Description of Facility

The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) opened in 2006 adjacent to Juvenile Hall and is operated by the Orange County Probation Department. It can accommodate a total of 120 males in two units. One unit houses younger males, while the other unit houses males 17 to 21 years of age. YLA shares food services, school classrooms and medical services with Juvenile Hall. The facility has its own laundry, intake and release center, dayroom/dining area, control center and multipurpose area. With the current philosophy regarding reduced commitment

times, YLA has been operating well below its population capacity for some time. On the date of the unannounced inspection, 53 youth were in residence. The average length of stay is less than 60 days. The population consists of males who have experienced aggression, anti-social behavior, and gang involvement. Drug and alcohol dependency is often a factor.

Staff

At the time of the inspection, there were a total of 47 staff, 14 of whom are bilingual.

Programs

Youth receive basic orientation at Juvenile Hall and additional instruction upon intake at YLA. Most youth at YLA receive intensive therapy for anger management, cognitive restructuring, and substance abuse. As youth rise within the behavior level system, they wear a shirt indicative of the level they have achieved. The highest level, signified by white shirts, allows privileges including furloughs off-site to visit family or to search for a job. There are several programs available, including "Thinking 4 a Change (T4C)," and Alcoholics Anonymous, and Narcotics Anonymous. The Puppies and Wards (PAWS) program pairs a rescue dog with one or more youth and teaches the youth a sense of discipline and responsibility. There are also vocational classes offered by the Regional Occupation Program (ROP) including food service, building maintenance, and personal finance. Many programs were originally designed to take six or more weeks to complete. The shorter commitment times often result in abbreviated exposure to the programs with encouragement to continue practicing the principles of the programs after release.

Education

Attendance at the Otto A. Fischer School located at Juvenile Hall and operated by the Orange County Department of Education is mandatory. Students who are missing credits have the opportunity to complete them during their commitment and obtain a high school diploma or HiSET certificate. Separate classrooms and designated teachers are provided for the YLA youth. Individuals who have graduated may enroll in college level online courses.

Youth Experience

Members of the Commission had the opportunity to speak to three youth on the day of the inspection. The interviewed youth were well-mannered, respectful, and reported that they are being well-treated. They also stated that the programs at YLA have been beneficial to their development.

Food Service

Food is prepared in a centralized kitchen at Juvenile Hall. Young men who have earned the privilege of working in this area transport the food by cart to the YLA facility.

Action Requested by the Commission

The Commission sent a Corrective Action Notification to the director of YLA on September 21, 2016 outlining a few physical plant items that needed repair or replacement. The Probation Department on October 12, 2016 sent a response outlining the measures to be taken to address the issues. The Commission took no further action concerning the items contained in the Corrective Action Notification.

The Commission continues to be impressed by the dedication of the PAWs program director and the self-esteem that the participants attain from this opportunity.

III. COLLATERAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Death Review Committee

The Committee was formed to examine reports by the Orange County Social Services Agency (SSA) and/or the Probation Department containing case background information about children who died while involved in the juvenile justice system. The Committee's purpose is to review the cause of death, including potential system gaps and to determine methods to avoid deaths in the future. During 2016, the Child Fatality Review Committee met with the Probation Department on February 17th, May 18th and November 16th to conduct reviews. At these meetings, the Commissioners met with representatives from the Probation Department and County Counsel's office to review the information provided. It was determined that no changes to policies or procedures were necessary.

Education Committee

Committee members continued working with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) throughout the year to understand the Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) programs by visiting various school sites. The OCDE theme for the year, "*One Billion Acts of Kindness*" was echoed throughout the schools in the district. ACCESS serves more than 7,000 students on a daily basis. Students are referred to ACCESS by the Probation Department, school districts, Social Services Agency, and parents. The ACCESS program offers year-round education options and services to students at more than 75 sites located throughout the county. Alternative education serves teen parents, homeless children, working teens, youth in group homes, and other students who benefit from non-traditional learning environments. The skill level of ACCESS students ranges from low to high and below grade level in most subjects. The majority of students are behind in credits needed for high school graduation. Educating this unique student population is challenging. ACCESS teachers are trained to work with the whole spectrum of students who participate in OCDE Alternative Education Programs.

Juvenile Justice Commission members visited Pacific Coast High School, which is WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accredited, college preparatory, and voluntary public ACCESS high school.

Pacific Coast High School offers the 400 enrolled students traditional and non-traditional options: including UC Track-College Preparation, Traditional Programs (on-line and on-campus courses), direct instruction, and Credit Recovery (up to 45 credits) allowing students to earn a High School diploma. More than 100 seniors are on track to graduate in 2017. Students will find challenging online and on-campus academic courses matched with instructor support and life skills such as time management, accountability, responsibility, communication, and perseverance. The Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) puts on a yearly mock trial competition. In 2016 there was an all-time high of 37 entrants in the competition. All school entrants are given the same fact pattern/case and must prepare both sides of the trial. The case this year involved *Human Trafficking*. The PCH team earned second place at this event. Trabuco Hills High School was awarded the champion Team Title.

The members of the Education Committee visited Harbor Learning Center, another ACCESS school. It is the first Community Day School exclusively developed and built by OCDE. HLC is WASC accredited and offers students a state approved curriculum that leads to a high school diploma or HiSET. Students attend 360 minutes daily and receive direct classroom instruction. The school program offers a low

student/teacher ratio, individualized instruction, credit recovery, personalized assessment and other materials, services, and resources designed to meet the unique needs of the students.

Throughout the year, Commissioners attended graduation ceremonies at Juvenile Hall, Youth Leadership Academy and Youth Guidance Center and other ACCESS Schools. The JJC is proud to present certificates to students who earned their high school diplomas or HiSET certificates. The graduation celebrations are uplifting and exciting for the parents and family members who attend. Many youth discover during their time of incarceration that learning is rewarding and they express their gratitude to the teachers and mentors for the help they received.

Congratulations to the Pacific Coast High School students, staff, teachers, and mentors for earning second place in the Constitutional Rights Foundation Mock Trial competition.

Law Enforcement Agency Committee



Commissioners de Mayo and Riley at a police department inspection

The Juvenile Justice Commission is mandated to inspect all Orange County Police Department and Sheriff's facilities that hold minors in a secure detention or non-secure custody setting. A total of 31 were inspected with at least two JJC Commissioners and/or the Administrative Officer attending each law enforcement agency inspection. The Orange County Sheriff's Department is one agency with numerous substations that operate under the same policies and procedures. As such, the JJC did not inspect all of the substation facilities based on their policies of not holding minors in secure detention or non-secure custody settings at those locations.

The collective objective is to inspect for compliance, to better understand how each law enforcement agency serves juveniles, and to determine what resources and programs are available. Each law enforcement agency may differ in its youth programs, training, and community outreach. They often share their resources with other local law enforcement agencies.

This year, the Commission noted that many Orange County law enforcement agencies have developed, implemented and/or continue operating exceptional programs for youth crime prevention and

diversion. Some of the programs are operated independently by the law enforcement agency, while others are operated in partnership with a variety of neighborhood groups, non-profit organizations, educational institutions and private entities.

The Juvenile Justice Commission was pleased to see the level of dedication and commitment to youth that many of the agencies provided through unique, non-mandated programs and services.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee monitored the status of more than sixty bills during the year that relate to dependency and delinquency law. Several pieces of legislation were enacted this year, but none were on the scale of the Continuum of Care (CCR) Reform that was enacted in 2015. The committee continues to monitor the efforts to draft regulations to implement this far-reaching legislation.

Mental Health Committee

Commissioners who serve on the Mental Health Committee are occupied with their participation on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering and Subcommittees. As a voting MHSA member, it is very important for the assigned Commissioner to attend the monthly meetings and remain informed about the issues, legislation, funding and implementation of the programs that are considered and adopted by the Orange County division of this statewide initiative.

Committee members are also responsible for monitoring the many different county and community agencies that provide services to those system-involved juveniles who have severe and persistent mental health problems. To facilitate collaboration between these agencies, Commissioners tour facilities that provide specialized classes and therapies and share information with the relevant department heads. The Commissioners also attended seminars, continuing education classes, court instructional sessions, and community outreach meetings to learn more about emerging laws and programs that target those youth and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) who suffer from mental illness.

This year, an assigned Committee member also participated in the Orange County Pediatric and Young Adult Mental Health System of Care Task Force. The Commissioner observed the Task Force meetings and reported back to the Presiding Judge on their goals and accomplishments.

Orange County Supervisors Do and Bartlett formed the Mental Health Ad Hoc Emergency Services Committee this year, and an assigned Committee member attended their meetings and the public hearing that was held in March. The Supervisors invited public input to support their goal of reducing the sharp rise in homelessness and children hospitalized for mental health crises.

Probation Committee

The Probation Committee organizes and schedules the inspection of the Orange County Probation Department institutions. The Commissioners annually inspect the following institutions: Juvenile Hall, Joplin Youth Center, Youth Guidance Center, and Youth Leadership Academy. The focus is to assess the maintenance of the institutions and to be informed of the various educational opportunities and treatment programs available to youth while in custody.

With the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and the focus on alternatives to detention, the Commission also toured the Youth Reporting Centers in Santa Ana and Anaheim. These facilities provide out of custody services and education to wards who might otherwise have been detained in one of the county institutions.

Quarterly reports prepared by the Placement Unit of the Probation Department were reviewed. Group home placements used by the Probation Department were randomly inspected and Corrective Action Notification letters were sent as needed. If there were further concerns about a particular placement, the Commissioners conducted re-inspections of the facilities.

Probation Department representatives attend monthly Commission meetings and assist the Probation Committee by keeping them abreast of improvements, processes, and changes in the Probation Department system.

Social Services/Group Homes Committee

In 2016, the Social Services Committee inspected 17 group homes housing Orange County dependent children. The inspection teams reported to the Commission on each of these homes and found that nine homes were not in compliance with Commission standards. The Commission reviewed photos of each home and voted before sending Corrective Action Notification (CAN) letters to those group homes. Copies of the CAN letters were sent to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Community Care Licensing, and the Social Services Agency. All nine of the homes confirmed that all repairs were made and no further action by the Commission was necessary.

The Committee continues to refine its inspections to make them more efficient and to help establish rapport with the group home staff. Suggested questions and interview topics to discuss with the minors living in the home were added. The Commission found that the interviews with minors were quite helpful in assessing the program and environment in the home. The Committee also reviews reports by the Social Services Agency and Special Incident Reports (SIRs) submitted to the California Community Care Licensing (CCL) staff.

Implementation of AB 403 by the California State legislature which significantly limits the time a child remains in congregate care was a special focus of the Committee. It will require all group homes to transform into a new category of congregate care facility defined as Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs). A few group homes have decided to surrender their license and not become STRTPs. **Although the number of children in group home care continues to decline, the Commission is deeply concerned about the ability to recruit and train enough resource families to accommodate children, especially those with special needs.** The Commission will continue to monitor this transition and the implementation of AB 403 closely in the coming year.

Special Issues Committee

The Special Issues Committee created a Vision Statement to corroborate and support the Mission Statement and the mandated functions of the JJC Action Plan. The following Vision Statement was agreed upon by the Commissioners and approved by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court:

The Juvenile Justice Commission advocates for a compassionate and collaborative community to meet the mental, physical, and educational needs of system involved youth.

The Special Issues Committee also refined the Commissioner Handbook providing more information and guidelines for new Commissioners. A list of specific acronyms was added as well as descriptions of the duty and roles of the standing committees.

COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Blue Ribbon Commission

The Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court has formed a Blue Ribbon Commission that has representatives of County agencies, non-profit agencies, and representatives of other groups that work with system-involved youth. The Chair of the Juvenile Justice Commission is invited to attend and observe the Blue Ribbon Commission meetings.

Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) Policy Board

The Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) is a multidisciplinary team comprised of representatives from the Social Services Agency, District Attorney, Health Care Agency, and law enforcement. CAST uses a team approach to investigate allegations of physical or sexual child abuse in order to streamline the investigative process and minimize the stress placed on the child victims. Representatives from the Social Services Agency, District Attorney, Health Care Agency, law enforcement, the Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, and the Juvenile Justice Commission sit on The CAST Policy Board.

In 2016, the number of children interviewed by CAST remained consistent with the number of interviews conducted in 2015. CAST has recently implemented a plan to enhance the medical services provided to children of suspected abuse. This enhancement is expected to reduce the stress and trauma that children experience during the investigative process.

Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

The Child Welfare System Partnership Council (CWSIP) meets monthly to discuss efforts that support foster families and caregivers. Members of the Juvenile Justice Commission attend meetings to better understand the cooperative efforts of social services and other community partners who work with foster youth. In 2016, committee meetings included speakers who provided updates on current topics such as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR), Resource Family Approval (RFA), legislative updates and other areas of interest.

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Steering Committee

The Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Steering Committee meets once a month to explore and brainstorm solutions for a growing population of victimized youth. CSEC youth have unique problems and issues that have not been addressed by traditional programs. The CSEC Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from Social Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Juvenile Court, Law Enforcement, Probation, Community Providers, and the Board of Supervisors. There is a special allocation of funds from the State to help create housing, counseling, and public awareness of the CSEC situation. The Steering Committee is continually exploring the needs of these youth and seeking out effective methods to meet those needs.

The JJC sends a representative to the Steering Committee meetings to stay informed of the developments of the Committee and contribute ideas whenever possible.

Eliminating Racial Disparity/Disproportionality Advisory Board

Juvenile Justice Commission members attended ERDD monthly meetings that examine disparity and disproportionality in Orange County. The Advisory Board is a collaborative made up of various community partners and stakeholders that include the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Child Abuse Prevention Council, Orange County Probation Department, Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) Mexican Consulate, Family Resource Centers, and other community agencies. The Advisory Board examined the over or under representation of children and

youth within the juvenile justice system. The mission of ERDD is “To Ensure Fair Treatment and Equitable Service to All.”

Orange County Social Services Agency Planning, Research, and Communication team gave a presentation on *“Current Challenges and Barriers among Latino Children Reunifying with their Parents.”* Eight focus groups were conducted between April and May of 2016, with 6 to 25 participants per focus group. Participants in the focus groups consisted of social workers and staff from the Orange County Social Services Agency who worked in Permanency, Emergency Response, Court Services, Specialized Family Services and other Social Service Programs. Additionally, focus groups included community partners. Some of the barriers identified included: Cultural, Immigration Status, Assimilation, Mental Health Stigma, Financial Hardship, Language, and Cultural Insensitivity.

The research identified three major reunification barriers. They are language, improper cultural assumptions, and rigidity of the courts. Some of the focus participants suggested reaching out to extended family members, cultural brokers, and parent advocates. Many participants expressed the need for the Social Services Agency and court employees to be culturally trained, so they can better understand the cultural dynamic among Latino families.

Other presentations and topics included:

- Motel Family Group of Anaheim—Outreach to families living in Anaheim motels
- Cultural Broker
- Dr. E. Witherspoon of American School Administration “Generation Ready”
- Kristine Nelson of Orange Unified School District, Foster Youth Liaison
- The Fairness for Families Historical ERDD video

Foster Care Advisory Board (FCAB)/Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

QPI began in 2009 as a collaborative effort with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) as a unique opportunity to strengthen efforts on a statewide basis for the recruitment and retention of quality caregivers.

Representatives from the Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency, Foster Parents, Cal Optima, OCDE Foster Youth Services, Orangewood Foundation, CASA, Saddleback College Foster and Kinship Education, TOPS, Respite, Juvenile Justice Commission, Youth Law Center, and many other community partners and organizations meet to discuss general issues and policies pertaining to all foster parents, biological parents, and caregivers. The attendees utilize the opportunity to recruit experienced licensed foster parents and to collaborate with one another to achieve resolution of problems faced by biological and foster families. The QPI process continues the focus on quality parenting by working with resource families in a number of activities to support foster families and birth parents. The Advisory Board planned and supported a trip to the Santa Ana Zoo, a family picnic, a chili cookoff, art projects, and parent training (online) as well as other activities presented during the year.

The JJC commends the FCAB/QPI for working in partnership with community and state agencies, in efforts to recruit and train quality caregivers.

Foster Family Agency Forum (FFA)

Juvenile Justice Commission members attended the Foster Family Agency Forum quarterly meetings.

These meetings allow foster family agencies to interact with representatives of the County Social Services Agency and California Community Care Licensing. The implementation of Comprehensive Care Reform and new licensing requirements were the main area of emphasis this year. Other topics of discussion were Independent Living Program services, respite care, and changes in reimbursement for services.

Group Home/Continuum of Care Reform Forum

The Group Home Forum is sponsored by the Social Services Agency. It is an informational and networking meeting for group home service providers. The forum meets twice each year and updates participants on current legislation, regulations, treatment modalities, and trends among foster youth. The forum also offers group home staff an opportunity to share issues, ideas, and best practices.

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)/Proposition 63, was passed by California voters in 2004 and enacted the following year. A one-percent tax on income earned over \$1 million funds the Act annually. In 2016, more than \$13 billion was raised statewide to fund over 1,600 programs. Orange County has 93 different MHSA programs identified, with a 2016/17 fiscal year budget of \$168 million. Administered by the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA), the MHSA provides new services for those who are seriously mentally ill. The target population is those who are currently unserved, under-served, homeless, or at risk of homelessness. The goal is to reduce the long-term impact resulting from untreated serious mental illness.

Each year, a Juvenile Justice Commissioner serves as a voting member on the MHSA Steering Committee. An alternate Commissioner is also selected. All programs that are renewed or considered for new funding are reviewed extensively by the Steering Committee before voting and adoption. Evidence based practices and results are closely examined by the Committee before making any recommendations for the allocation of MHSA funds. Therefore, it is important that the JJC appointee attend the MHSA monthly meetings and remain current on mental health initiatives, trends and outcomes. As advocates for youth in Orange County, the JJC appointee focuses primarily on those services provided for youth (ages 0-17), transitional age youth (ages 18-25), and their families and/or caregivers. The majority of the MHSA annual funding goes to the Community Services and Supports component that specifically assists those in need.

The JJC representative on the MHSA Steering Committee interfaces with mental health care providers, agencies and stakeholders to determine which MHSA programs are providing the best services to the most clients and make informed decisions about how to increase access to under-served groups.

Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP)

The Orange County Children's Partnership (OCCP) is a 22-member advisory board established by the Board of Supervisors in 1983. The mission of the OCCP is to provide a unified voice that champions health, education, safety, and economic stability by advancing more responsive services that effectively meet the needs of children and families in Orange County. This year the OCCP chose seven focus areas: The Implementation of Assembly Bill 403 (Continuum of Care Reform), Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, Mental Health Advocacy for Adolescents, Childhood Obesity, Early Childhood Development, the WE CAN Coalition, and Food Security. In coordination with the Children and Families Commission, the OCCP continues to refine and publish an Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County and hold community forums to disseminate information on trends affecting the well-being of children today.

Orange County Pediatric and Young Adult Mental Health System of Care Task Force

Orange County representatives from CHOC, Kaiser Hospital, Hoag Hospital, Cal-Optima, Social Services, Health Care Agency, Orange County Department of Education, the Regional Center, as well as several other invested agencies and private organizations attend these bimonthly meetings. The group's stated vision is: "Every child and young adult in Orange County who needs mental health care has access to high quality services without stigma or barriers." Created in 2015, the Task Force is spearheaded by the CHOC Hospital Chief of Psychology, Dr. Huszti, and the Orange County Social Services Agency Medical Director, Dr. Anne Light. Together, with the input and dedication of several other agency managers, the goal is to develop "an integrated, coordinated system of mental health care for children, teens and young adults that allows for early identification and diagnosis, treatment at the right level of intensity, and support for children, families, and community-based organizations trying to navigate the system of care." The Task Force tracks legislation that affects residential treatment placements for youth, reforms in Medicare and Medicaid, and mental health improvement acts that help families experiencing crisis, as well as other current issues. Information is shared regarding how mental health illnesses in children are frequently untreated, where gaps in services exist, and what prevention methods are being considered. One of the strategies is the development of an inpatient mental health unit for children 3 to 18 years of age. Groundbreaking at CHOC Hospital for the 18-bed Inpatient Psychiatric Unit took place in September. The JJC Commissioner assigned to this task force observes the meetings and reports back to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court on the progress being made.

Recruitment, Development and Support (RDS)

Recruitment, Development, and Support is a group within the Social Services Agency that meets bimonthly to discuss efforts and resources available to recruit, train and support foster/adoptive parents, and relative caregivers. In 2016, Orange County served as one of the first counties in California to implement the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. There continues to be a focus on identifying foster homes for teenagers, sibling sets, and children with medical needs. With the arrival of Continuum of Care Reform, recruiting efforts will be a vital objective to providing foster homes for youth no longer placed in the group home setting.

Statewide Juvenile Justice Commission Workshop

On November 5, 2016, three Commissioners attended at their own expense, a statewide JJC workshop in Sonoma, California. The purpose of the daylong meeting was to discuss responses to AB403 and the Continuum of Care Reform. Collective activities and discussions took place throughout the day to answer the question: "How might we engage and imbed the voice of children in what we do?" The workshop also provided a venue for the first time at which the other Commissioners throughout the state shared information about their goals, office structure and priorities. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was a constructive way for Commissioners to consider how to be more effective advocates for the children in their county.

Trauma Informed Practices Steering Committee (TIPS-C)

The Trauma Informed Steering Committee meets monthly. Orange County has been assisted in the implementation of trauma informed practices by the Chadwick Trauma Informed Systems Dissemination and Implementation Project of San Diego. That contract, however, expired in September, 2016. Consequently, a particular focus for the Steering Committee this year has been to acknowledge accomplishments and to sustain trauma-focused practices within Orange County agencies dealing with children and families. One significant accomplishment resulting from the project has been the training of judicial officers, law enforcement, social services, and probation staff in the trauma informed care approach.

Other topics for discussion this year included: developing training programs for birth parents on trauma and its impact; developing support groups for biological parents facilitated by parent partners; enhancing the well-being and resilience of those working in the system through Secondary Trauma Support Groups, and “Heal the Healer” workshops; partnering with agencies and systems that interact with children and their families; and preparation of a survey to be distributed to staff addressing their impressions of the effectiveness of trauma informed practices.

Throughout the year there were presentations by former foster children and the biological parents of children in the system regarding their experiences.

WE CAN Coalition

The WE CAN Coalition (Working to End Child Abuse and Neglect) is a coalition of public and private agencies involved in child abuse prevention and treatment. Members of the Juvenile Justice Commission attended the steering committee meetings and participated in task forces dealing with community treatment and community abuse prevention.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Guest Speakers and Presentations

Throughout the year, the Juvenile Justice Commission invited several guest speakers to enlighten them on various topics of interest. The following is a summary of each of the presentations:

Lori Maze, Juvenile Court Staff Counsel, presented an overview of the Peer Court process. Peer Court is a diversion program for first-time juvenile offenders who have committed non-violent misdemeanors. It is also an excellent opportunity for students in the audience to learn about the juvenile justice system and participate in the Peer Court process. The juvenile offenders have the opportunity to reflect on their crimes and reach a disposition of their charges without a formal petition being filed in Juvenile Court.

Jaime Munoz, Administrative Manager II, and Cathy Wong, Research Analyst, Social Services Agency discussed the importance of extended foster care. AB 12 went into effect on January 1, 2012. The bill provides for an extended foster care from age 18 to 21 years old. This allows youth more time to refine their self-sufficiency skills. Youth are offered various resources and services through local community colleges and universities, employment assistance programs, support to develop permanent connections between the youth and adults, and continued funding for housing. Housing resources begin when the youth is 16 years old.

Kristine Nelson, Coordinator, Foster Youth, McKinney-Vento & At Risk Youth, and Rachele Dale, Administrator, Special Education, Orange Unified School District (OUSD) and Betsy DeGarmoe, Manager, Foster Youth Services, Orange County Department of Education provided an overview of the Connection Program for foster youth and homeless youth. Foster youth are paired with a teacher/mentor who will help the child connect with resources at the school he/she attends. The mentor acts as a liaison between the student and the school to ensure the student can easily access school resources, such as tutoring and after-school activities.

Catherine Stiver, Division Director, discussed the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the recently completed Juvenile Hall Assessment. In 2007, the Probation Department partnered with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to create the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) currently used to determine whether a youth may benefit from a lower level of intervention or needs to be held in secure detention. The utilization of the RAI has decreased the population of Juvenile Hall.

The Probation Department recently concluded a self-assessment of the Juvenile Hall to ensure that youth are being housed in safe and humane conditions. Parents of the youth are provided a "Parent Resource Guide" and encouraged to attend the Parent Education and Resource Orientation held daily at the Juvenile Court.

Christy Ronald, Assistant Division Director, Juvenile Court Services, and Christina Kampczyk, Supervising Probation Officer, described the "Youth and the Law" class being offered at no cost by the Probation Department. The youth and their parents are encouraged to attend. The class provides a general overview of the juvenile justice system as well as the consequences for violating the law. The parents and youth gain a better perspective of the legal system and the Probation Department.

Lorena Sheremetta, Deputy Probation Officer, described the Juvenile Court Orientation, which is a parent engagement program. The parents of the youth are contacted and provided information on the

court dates, and are invited to attend the Juvenile Court Orientation, at which the Probation Officer answers questions they may have about the court proceedings.

Patricia Huerta, MSW, CEO/Founder, Monica Perales, Esq., Senior Volunteer/Ambassador, and Rosario Galeana, Community Worker, Padres Unidos gave an overview of services provided to parents by the Padres Unidos program. In collaboration with Chapman University, Padres Unidos is able to offer a community worker training program. Every two years, Chapman University offers forty scholarships for one free year of education to Padres Unidos parents who have completed the parenting classes and commit to volunteer. A graduation ceremony is held at the completion of the parenting course.

Gary Taylor, Division Director, provided an overview of the California Child Welfare Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). AB 403 implemented support for resource families, transforming group homes to Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTPs), Child and Family Teams (CFTs), and phasing out long-term group home care.

Mr. Taylor also described the work being done by Faith in Motion. This is a collaboration between the Social Services Agency and the faith-based community in Orange County. The goal is to recruit foster and adoptive families and encourage development of support services for those families.

Kim Schneider, Senior Social Worker, reviewed the procedures for locating a minor who is absent without official leave (AWOL) from a placement. The Social Services Agency keeps track of all the interventions being used to prevent minors from running away, along with what is effective to get the minors to come back once they have left a placement. Once a minor turns 18 he/she is no longer considered AWOL and the no bail warrant is recalled.

Sean Barry, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, described the Joplin Youth Center programs. The programs are designed to be 90 days in duration. The current average length of commitment for youth is 20-25 days. The Probation Department changed the "Thinking for a Change" program to the "Decision Points" program in order to accommodate the shorter length of stay. The "Face Everything and Recover" (FEAR) program has also been restructured into a short term substance abuse program. An Institutional Transitional Deputy Probation Officer (ITDPO) is now at the Joplin Youth Center to assist with transitioning youth back into the community, referrals to community resources, and transportation to job interviews.

Christina Ronald, Assistant Division Director, Juvenile Court Services, Andy Hamer, Supervising Probation Officer, Christina Kampczyk, Supervising Probation Officer and Hether Benjamin, Director of Youth Development, Community Service Program attended the Georgetown Diversion Certificate Program that was conducted in Washington, D.C. There were seven members from Orange County that participated in the program. The Probation Department created their Capstone Project to improve its current assessment, diversion intervention, and community resources for youth.

The proposal is based on the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) to provide low-risk youth offenders with community based diversion programs as a prevention tool. The University of Cincinnati will train the Probation Department staff on using the assessment system. Police departments and the Community Service Programs (CSP) will also be able to use the same assessment tool to evaluate the youth and allow for better collaboration and coordination of services by the various agencies and community resources.

Dr. Joanne Munro, PsyD, MFT, Deputy Director, Elizabeth DenBleyker, PIO, Administrative Manager I, Marlene Telegadas, MFT, Administrative Manager I, and Angela Santos, Senior Social Services Supervisor, Social Services Agency (SSA) explained the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process which assists those interested in becoming a foster parent or wanting to adopt. The ultimate goal of RFA is to provide permanency for foster youth. The Family Finding program tries to locate and connect relatives and extended members with youth placed in out-of-home care. The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) provides opportunities for partnerships with the foster parents and agencies to ensure the best possible care for youth.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank all of the guest speakers for their time and professional presentations. The knowledge gained assists the Juvenile Justice Commission members in performing their mandated duties.

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODES, SECTION 225-236

225. In each county there shall be a juvenile justice commission consisting of not less than 7 and no more than 15 citizens. Two or more of the members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority. Each person serving as a member of a probation committee immediately prior to September 15, 1961, shall be a member of the juvenile justice commission and shall continue to serve as such until such time as his or her term of appointment as a member of the probation committee would have expired under any prior provision of law. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission and upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court for a term of four years. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

Appointments may be made by the presiding judge of the superior court, in the same manner designated in this section for the filling of vacancies, to increase the membership of a commission to the maximum of 15 in any county which has a commission with a membership of less than 15 members.

In any county in which the membership of the commission, on the effective date of amendments to this section enacted at the 1971 Regular Session of the Legislature, exceeds the maximum number permitted by this section, no additional appointments shall be made until the number of commissioners is less than the maximum number permitted by this section. In any case, such county's commission membership shall, on or after January 1, 1974, be no greater than the maximum permitted by this section.

226. In lieu of county juvenile justice commissions, the boards of supervisors of two or more adjacent counties may agree to establish a regional juvenile justice commission consisting of not less than eight citizens, and having a sufficient number of members so that their appointment may be equally apportioned between the participating counties. Two or more of the members shall be persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority. The presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court of each of the participating counties shall appoint an equal number of members to the regional justice commission and they shall hold office for a term of four years. Of those first appointed, however, if the number appointed be an even number, half shall serve for a term of two years and half shall serve for a term of four years and if the number of members first appointed be an odd number, the greater number nearest half shall serve for a term of two years and the remainder shall serve for a term of four years. The respective terms of the members first appointed shall be determined by lot as soon as possible after their appointment. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership of the commission and upon the expiration of the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the presiding judge of the superior court with the concurrence of the judge of the juvenile court or, in a county having more than one judge of the juvenile court, with the concurrence of the presiding judge of the juvenile court of the county which originally appointed such vacating or retiring member. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

227. The clerk of the court of the appointing judge shall immediately notify each person appointed a member of a county or regional juvenile justice commission and thereupon such person shall appear before the appointing judge and qualify by taking an oath faithfully to perform the duties of a member of the juvenile justice commission. The qualification of each member shall be entered in the juvenile court record.

228. A juvenile justice commission shall elect a chairman and vice chairman annually.

229. It shall be the duty of a juvenile justice commission to inquire into the administration of the juvenile court law in the county or region in which the commission serves. For this purpose the commission shall have access to all publicly administered institutions authorized or whose use is authorized by this chapter situated in the county or region, shall inspect such institutions no less frequently than once a year, and may hold hearings. A judge of the juvenile court shall have the power to issue subpoenas requiring attendance and testimony of witnesses and production of papers at hearings of the commission.

A juvenile justice commission shall annually inspect any jail or lockup within the county which in the preceding calendar year was used for confinement for more than 24 hours of any minor. It shall report the results of such inspection together with its recommendations based thereon, in writing, to the juvenile court and to the Board of Corrections.

229.5 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a juvenile justice commission may inquire into the operation of any group home that serves wards or dependent children of the juvenile court and is located in the county or region the commission serves. The commission may review the safety and well-being of wards or dependent children placed in the group home and the program and services provided in relation to the home's published program statement.

(b) In conducting its review, the commission shall respect the confidentiality of minors' records and other information protected under other provisions of law. It may review court or case records of a child provided it keeps the identities of minors named in those records confidential, and may review the financial records of a group home. However, the commission may not review the personnel records of employees or the records of donors to the group home.

(c) The commission shall give the group home manager at least 24 hours' advance notice of a visit to a group home. If the commission believes that there is a serious violation of applicable licensing laws or regulations or that residents of a group home are in danger of physical or mental abuse, abandonment or other substantial threat to their health and safety, the commission shall notify the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services for appropriate action, shall consult with the presiding judge of the juvenile court and chief probation officer as to whether or not a visit is appropriate, and shall notify other juvenile justice commissions of its actions, as appropriate.

(d) Upon the completion of a visit, if the commission finds any condition in the group home that poses a danger to its residents or otherwise violates any applicable law, ordinance, or regulation, the commission shall verbally advise the group home manager of its findings, unless it determines that the advisement could be detrimental to the children placed there, and shall send written confirmation of its findings to the group home manager within 14 days. The commission may also report its findings to the presiding judge of the juvenile court, chief probation officer, State Department of Social Services, or other juvenile justice commissions as appropriate. A group home manager may meet with the juvenile justice commission, chief probation officer, county welfare director, juvenile court, or the State Department of Social Services to resolve any problem or to submit a plan of correction.

230. A juvenile justice commission may recommend to any person charged with the administration of any of the provisions of this chapter such changes as it has concluded, after investigation, will be beneficial. A commission may publicize its recommendations.

231. Members of a juvenile justice commission shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Such reimbursement shall be made by the county of appointment or, in lieu of such actual and necessary expenses the board of supervisors may provide that the members of the commission shall be paid not to exceed the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25) per meeting not exceeding two meetings per month. In the case of a regional justice commission, the duty of reimbursement shall be divided among the participating counties in the manner prescribed by agreement of the boards of supervisors.

232. The board of supervisors may by ordinance provide for the establishment, support, and maintenance of one or more agencies or departments to cooperate with and assist in coordinating on a countywide basis the work of those community agencies engaged in activities designed to prevent juvenile and adult delinquency; and such agencies or departments may cooperate with any such public or community committees, agencies, or councils at their invitation.

233. The board of supervisors may by ordinance provide for the establishment, support, and maintenance of a delinquency prevention commission, composed of not fewer than seven citizens, to coordinate on a countywide basis the work of those governmental and nongovernmental organizations engaged in activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. If the board so elects, it may designate the juvenile justice commission, or any other committee or council appointed pursuant to Section 232 or 235, to serve in such capacity.

The commission may receive funds from governmental and nongovernmental sources to hire an executive secretary and necessary staff and to defray needed administrative expenses. The board of supervisors may direct any county department to provide necessary staff service to the commission. The commission may expend its funds on specific projects designed to accomplish its objectives.

Members of the delinquency prevention commission shall be appointed by the board of supervisors to serve a term of four years, and they shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Upon a vacancy occurring in the membership in the commission and upon the expiration in the term of office of any member, a successor shall be appointed by the board of supervisors. When a vacancy occurs for any reason other than the expiration of a term of office, the appointee to fill such vacancy shall hold office for the unexpired term of his or her predecessor.

The board of supervisors may appoint initial members to any delinquency prevention commission created after the effective date of the amendment made to this section at the 1973–74 Regular Session of the Legislature to hold office for the following terms: one-half of the membership of an even-numbered commission for a term of two years and one-half plus one of the membership of an odd-numbered commission for a term of two years. The remaining initial members and the term of office of each successor appointed to fill a vacancy occurring on the expiration of a term thereafter shall be four years.

For a delinquency prevention commission existing on the effective date of the amendment made to this section at the 1973–74 Regular Session of the Legislature the board of supervisors may at any time upon the expiration of all the members' terms of office appoint members to hold office for the following terms: one-half of the membership of an even-numbered commission for a term of two years and one-half plus one of the membership of an odd-numbered commission for a term of two years. The remaining members and the term of office of each successor appointed to fill a vacancy occurring on the expiration of a term thereafter shall be four years.

Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section, the board of supervisors shall appoint two or more persons who are between 14 and 21 years of age to membership on a delinquency prevention commission, provided there are available persons between 14 and 21 years of age who are able to carry out the duties of a commission member in a manner satisfactory to the appointing authority.

233.5 In a county having a population of over 6,000,000, the board of supervisors may assign the responsibility for assisting and advising the board and other county officers concerning the publication and distribution of allegedly indecent or pornographic materials and such other related duties as the board may determine proper to the delinquency prevention commission established pursuant to Section 233.

234. The board of supervisors may by ordinance provide for the establishment, support, and maintenance of a delinquency prevention agency or department, or may assign delinquency prevention duties to any existing county agency, or department. Any such agency or department may engage in activities designed to prevent juvenile and adult delinquency, including rendering direct and indirect services to persons in the community, and may cooperate with any other agency of government in carrying out its purposes.

235. The juvenile court and the probation department of any county may establish, or assist in the establishment of, any public council or committee having as its object the prevention of juvenile delinquency and may cooperate with, or participate in, the work of any such councils or committees for the purpose of preventing or decreasing juvenile delinquency, including the improving of recreational, health, and other conditions in the community affecting juvenile welfare.

236. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, probation departments may engage in activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency. These activities include rendering direct and indirect services to persons in the community. Probation departments shall not be limited to providing services only to those persons on probation being supervised under Section 330 or 654, but may provide services to any juveniles in the community.

SPECIAL THANKS TO COMMISSIONERS MICHAEL SCHUMACHER AND CARLOS ZELAYA, YOUTH COMMISSIONERS ALEXANDER ROUNAGHI AND CONNOR TRAUT FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION



Chair Benjamin de Mayo thanks Commissioner Schumacher for his service on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2015 to 2016.



Youth Commissioner Traut served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2014 to 2016.

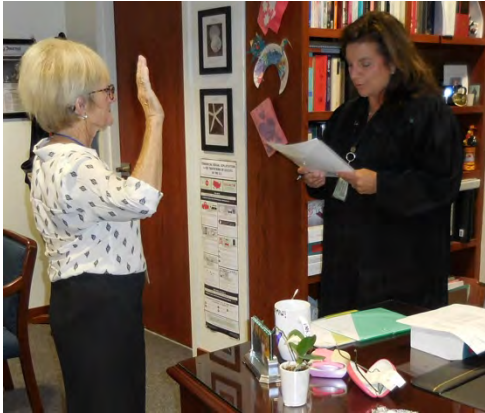


Youth Commissioner Alexander Rounaghi accepting a plaque from Judge Craig Arthur. Youth Commissioner Rounaghi served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2015 to 2016.



Commissioner Carlos Zelaya served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2015 to 2016.

**THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME COMMISSIONER
LYNDA PERRING AND YOUTH COMMISSIONER ISRAEL SANDEZ, JR.**



Commissioner Judy Zorrilla is administered the Oath to serve for a second term on the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez.



Commissioner Lynda Perring is administered the Oath to serve on the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Court Judge Douglas Hatchimonji.



Commissioner Susan Leibel is administered the Oath to serve for a second term on the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez.



Commissioner Rick Martinez is administered the Oath to serve for a second term on the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Court Judge Craig Arthur.



Youth Commissioner Israel Sandez, Jr. is administered the Oath to serve on the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Court Judge Craig Arthur.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Commissioners Eula Nelson, Benjamin de Mayo, James Riley, Jan Sturla, Carlos Zelaya, Rick Martinez and Judy Zorrilla attend a Sunburst Youth Academy graduation ceremony.



Commissioners Kathy Nordin and Benjamin de Mayo deliver donated items to the Just Beginning classroom at YGC.

<http://www.occourts.org/directory/juvenile/jjc/index.html>