

Juvenile Justice Commission



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

*Superior Court of California
County of Orange*

2015 JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION MEMBERS



Benjamin de Mayo, Vice Chair

Patricia Boortz, Chair

COMMISSIONERS

Amy Crowley

Susan Leibel

Eula Nelson

James Riley

Michael Schumacher

Connor Traut

Judy Zorrilla

Cheryl Hart

Rick Martinez

Kathleen Nordin

Alexander Rounaghi

Jan Sturla

Carlos Zelaya



Front row from left to right:

Commissioners Jane Foley, Benjamin de Mayo, Judy Zorrilla, Eula Nelson, Susan Leibel, Amy Crowley, Kathleen Nordin, and Rick Martinez

Middle row from left to right:

Legal Processing Specialist Hilary Kim, Commissioners Michael Schumacher, Susan Mays, Patricia Boortz, Jan Sturla, and Youth Commissioner Alexander Rounaghi

Back row from left to right:

Commissioner James Riley, Administrative Officer Beverly MacLaren, Youth Commissioner Connor Traut, Commissioners Cheryl Hart, Judy Johnson, and Carlos Zelaya

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank each of the Commissioners for their dedication, many hours of service, compassion, and commitment to improving the lives of children and their families in Orange County.



Superior Court of California

County of Orange

Juvenile Justice Commission

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Jan Sturla
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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS
Alex Rounaghi
Connor Traut

December 31, 2015

Dear Reader:

It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chair of the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) and to present our Annual Report. As a 15-member Commission (including two Youth Commissioners), appointed by the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, we have worked together with the institutions and agencies in Orange County to ensure that the physical, mental, and educational needs of our young people in the juvenile justice system are met in an appropriate and meaningful way.

In 2015, the JJC Commissioners provided over 2,700 hours of volunteer commission work. Annual inspections of group homes, temporary shelters, juvenile institutions, and law enforcement agencies were conducted to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Commissioners conducted visitations to ACCESS schools to observe the appropriateness of the educational programs being provided to attending students.

Across the county, the Commissioners attended Independent Living Program workshops, participated in ACCESS school graduation ceremonies, and attended meetings for prevention and intervention programs for youth in foster care and in the juvenile system. Attendance at Rehabilitation Court and L-21 training sessions were also part of the JJC. We closely monitored numerous pieces of state legislation, specifically AB 403. The Commissioners also attended the Orange County Juvenile Justice Summit "Inspiring Hope."

Additionally, the JJC actively participated in the following committees and forums:

- Steering Committee for implementation of MHSA (Prop 63 funding for mental health treatment and prevention programs);
- Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Committee (CSEC);
- Trauma Informed Practices Committee (TIPS-C);
- Orange County Children's Partnership;
- CAST Policy Board;
- Group Home Forums;
- Foster Care Advisory Board/Quality Parenting Initiative; and
- Foster Family Agency Forum.

Continuing education and keeping the Commissioners informed was another important aspect of the JJC this year. Presentations were made to the Commissioners on various topics including trauma informed care, human trafficking, brain based research, mental health, internet bullying, implementation of AB 403, and judicial budget concerns. Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez addressed the Commission frequently and we thank her for her accessibility as well as the many speakers who made timely and important presentations to the Commission.

Throughout the year, it was evident that the Commission was among a very special community of people, all of whom are dedicated to serving youth. The outstanding leadership of Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez inspired us all to serve with a sense of collaboration and compassion, making Orange County a model for juvenile justice. We are grateful for her affirmation of our work and her willingness to engage with us in every issue, no matter how large or small. The youth in the system, "her kids," have become "our kids" as she has taught and inspired us to view their issues through the clear lens of understanding.

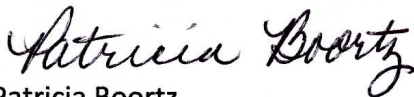
On behalf of the Commission, I wish to thank all of the extraordinary public servants who regularly attended the monthly JJC meetings and who engaged with us to improve the health and welfare of the youth in our juvenile justice system. Thank you for your good hearts and open minds; and, of course, your deep concern for the welfare of the children we all serve. We are grateful for the work you do and for your acceptance of the Commission as a part of the team that works together for early identification, intervention and prevention programming for our youth.

Much of the JJC success this year has been due in large part to the efforts of our Administrative Officer, Beverly MacLaren. Through her never-ending energy and dedication, the JJC was able to cover much ground and to successfully address in depth a number of complex issues. We owe Beverly a large debt of gratitude for her diligence, attention to detail, and patience with us all.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow Commissioners for their enthusiasm and willingness to delve into difficult situations with sensitivity, diplomacy, and thoughtful insights. You have been a truly extraordinary group of individuals working tirelessly for the greater good of our youth.

As we go forth in the new year, we will continue our involvement with the challenging issues of juvenile justice, knowing that the established positive interagency relationships and the dedication of those with whom we serve will guide us in bettering the lives of our county's most vulnerable children.

Most sincerely,



Patricia Boortz
Chair

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children. "
—Nelson Mandela

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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.

Functions and Responsibilities

The JJC conducts inspections of law enforcement agency facilities temporarily housing 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 budget cuts 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 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 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 and filled both youth member positions. The JJC continues to encourage applications from the residents of Orange County.

Budget

The approved budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 was \$171,457. Budget expenditure categories for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 remained at relatively the same levels as in previous years. Staffing continues to be approximately 93% of the total budget expenditures. Commissioner attendance at the JJC meetings was 88.7% in 2015. The legally mandated meeting reimbursement continues to be \$25 per meeting, not to exceed two meetings per month. The Commissioners travel hundreds of miles at their own expense and contributed an average of 226 hours of their personal time to perform their duties throughout the year. The Juvenile Justice Commission collectively volunteered 2,712 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: 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, Social Services Agency, Probation Department, 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. This year, the Commission welcomed Hilary Kim, Legal Processing Specialist, 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 2014 and 2015 are noted in the following table. These statistics have been provided by the law enforcement agencies.

| LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY | 2015 INSPECTION DATE | TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS | | TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--|----------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Anaheim | 9/2/2015 | 0 | 0 | 313 | 257 |
| Brea | 7/8/2015 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 27 |
| Buena Park | 7/15/2015 | 0 | 1 | 202 | 135 |
| Costa Mesa | 4/8/2015 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 98 |
| Cypress | 5/22/2015 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 12 |
| Fountain Valley | 5/4/2015 | 0 | 0 | 44 | 18 |
| Fullerton | 6/15/2015 | 0 | 0 | 137 | 127 |
| Garden Grove | 5/22/2015 | 0 | 0 | 510 | 459 |
| Huntington Beach | 5/4/2015 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 68 |
| Irvine | 4/21/2015 | 1 | 0 | 65 | 64 |
| La Habra | 6/15/2015 | 0 | 0 | 104 | 101 |
| La Palma | 7/15/2015 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 7 |
| Laguna Beach | 4/8/2015 | 0 | 1 | 137 | 111 |
| Los Alamitos | 5/22/2015 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Newport Beach | 4/8/2015 | 0 | 0 | 99 | 76 |
| Orange | 4/22/2015 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 41 |
| Placentia | 7/8/2015 | 0 | 0 | 118 | 66 |
| Santa Ana | 8/12/2015 | 0 | 0 | 215 | 203 |
| Santa Ana Unified School District | 8/12/2015 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 38 |
| Seal Beach | 5/4/2015 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 7 |
| Tustin | 4/22/2015 | 0 | 0 | 120 | 91 |
| Westminster | 6/15/2015 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 96 |
| Cal State Fullerton University | 6/23/15 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Totals | | 2 | 2 | 2490 | 2107 |

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 | 2015 INSPECTION DATE | TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS HELD IN EXCESS OF SIX HOURS | | TOTAL NUMBER OF MINORS DETAINED | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|------|
| | | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Dana Point | 11/16/2015 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| North Operations – Santa Ana | 12/1/2015 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| San Clemente | 11/16/2015 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 6 |
| San Juan Capistrano | 11/16/2015 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 |
| South Operations – Aliso Viejo | 11/16/2015 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stanton Police Services – Stanton | 10/7/2015 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 |
| Yorba Linda | 12/1/2015 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Totals | | 0 | 0 | 42 | 21 |

Inspections of County-Administered Juvenile Institutions

Joplin Youth Center

Unannounced Inspection: June 17, 2015



Description of Facility

The Joplin Youth Center is a dormitory-style facility for boys ages 12-17. Occasionally, a young man can remain at the facility after he turns 18 in order to complete the program. Operated by the Probation Department, the facility is located in a rustic setting on 336 acres in the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains. Although the property is over 50 years old, it was well maintained, and the dormitories were clean. With a total capacity of 64, on the day of the inspection there were 58 residents. The boys typically stay 30 to 45 days, but it is recommended that they remain for 110 days to complete the program. At the time of the inspection, there were 26 boys participating in the 110-day program.

Programs

The Joplin Youth Center incorporates the following programs: Face Everything And Recover (FEAR), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Decision Points, and Effective Practices in a Correctional Setting (EPICS). These programs provide drug treatment and development of pro-social skills, as well as rehabilitation. There are sessions to teach gang violence intervention, anger management, and parenting skills.

Participation in the culinary arts program is very popular. The boys must apply and achieve a certain behavioral level to be eligible to participate. The head of the program has been with the Joplin Youth Center for 25 years and continues to teach the participants cooking skills, work ethic, planning, commitment, and how to accomplish goals. A total of 260 hours are required to complete the program. Upon completion, the participants plan and prepare a meal for camp residents and staff. They receive 10 high school credits and a certificate. If a boy is released prior to completion, he may receive a pro-rated amount of credits. On the day of the inspection, there were four boys in the program, with three on the wait list.

The Woodshop is also very popular and 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.

On-Site Observation

Staffed by the Probation Department, there are 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. There are seven bilingual staff, four full-time teachers, a special education teacher, paraeducator, and Title I tutor on site.

Each boy is provided with an orientation packet with the rules and procedures. 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 determine the after-school activities which include: work crews, individual or group therapy, recreation, community service and/or drug counseling.

All minors are required to attend school daily. Last year, a request was made for a full-time Probation Officer to facilitate a more successful transition to return the minor to his community. Hiring an intern was being considered to advise the students on transitioning to regular high schools.

Supervised visitation is allowed on Sundays in the picnic area for immediate and preapproved family only. If transportation is an issue, the visitation can be conducted at Juvenile Hall as an alternative.

Action Requested by the Commission

A Corrective Action Notification (CAN) letter was sent to the Probation Department on July 1, 2015. The Probation Department sent a response on July 15, 2015 stating the items needing repair had been addressed. The Probation Department shared the Commission's recommendation for a full-time nurse with the Orange County Health Care Agency. 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 July 1, 2015. The Orange County Department of Education sent a response on July 20, 2015 addressing the issues raised in the CAN letter. The Commission acknowledges the repeated requests for the resolution of the bandwidth issues and the computer lab be made operational to encourage more computer-based learning.

The Commission continues to be impressed by the dedication of the woodshop teacher, culinary arts coordinator, and the librarian.

Orange County Juvenile Hall

Unannounced Inspection: July 1, 2015

Otto Fisher School: August 5, 2015



Description of Facility

Juvenile Hall is a maximum security facility with a 434 bed capacity operated by the Probation Department. On the day of the inspection, the population was 157 which included 124 males and 33 females. Units I, R, S, and Z are currently closed.

Staff

There are 200 sworn and non-sworn staff members working at Juvenile Hall. It is reported there are 135 bilingual staff. The staff has access to interpreters when needed.

Description of the Units

Unit A is a high security unit that houses youth who have been classified as Extreme Security Risks (XSR) and have been charged with serious and/or violent felonies. These youth have been remanded to the adult court for processing of their cases. Some minors housed in Unit A have been identified as needing protective custody from the general population.

Unit B houses boys who have pending court proceedings. It is the boys “detention” unit.

Unit C houses youth who are over 18, but are still under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. These youth are housed at Juvenile Hall because the Juvenile Court has ordered them detained or to serve their commitment at a juvenile facility. The unit has its own secure recreation area and classroom. These youth do not have sight or sound contact with minors at Juvenile Hall.

Units G and H are the “pre-camp” units. The minors have received their commitments and are waiting to be transferred to one of the camp facilities. Additionally, there may be minors who have been returned from a camp and are waiting to be transferred back to a camp.

Units J and K house pre-adjudicated (non-committed) and adjudicated male juveniles. They are segregated from the general population and have designated school classrooms. They are placed into groups by the nature of their offenses and participate in weekly group counseling. The unit staff also provides individual counseling to address each minor’s social and behavioral needs.

Unit M is the intake unit for girls. The unit can also house Extreme Security Risk (XSR) girls. The girls complete the intake process and receive medical care if necessary.

Unit O is for girls waiting for court adjudication or have received a commitment and are waiting to be transported to the Youth Guidance Center. The average length of stay is 30 days.

Unit Q provides treatment programming for males who have mental health issues. This unit provides longer term housing so that the boys can complete treatment programs.

Unit T houses males who have been classified as Extreme Security Risks (XSR). These individuals have been remanded to adult court because of the severity of the offenses. Their stay in Juvenile Hall can be lengthy because adjudication of these cases takes a significant amount of time. At age 18, they are usually transferred to the Orange County Jail. They attend school outside of the unit but are separated from the general population. College packet learning is offered for those who have graduated from high school.

Unit Y is the intake unit for males.

Typically, the following activities occur while the youth is housed in an intake unit:

- Completion of a physical examination by the Medical Unit
- Mental health evaluation and, if needed, possible referral to the Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU)
- Orientation and viewing of a 12-minute instructional video
- Completion of a religious preference form
- School enrollment
- Initial visit with parent/guardian
- Attend the Detention Hearing

Education

The Otto A. Fischer School is an on-site year round ACCESS program operated by the Orange County Department of Education. At the time of the inspection, faculty included: a Program Administrator, Vice Principal, transition specialist, 16 teachers, 4 resource specialists, and 12 part-time teacher aides. There are four special education teachers and two Title I tutors available as needed. There are 14 classrooms in use with one classroom dedicated to computer learning and assessment. Most students rotate between classes during the school day and a scaffolding approach is used to meet the wide range of needs of the students. The special education classes, academic guidance counseling, and ROP programs work to develop independent living skills and assist with job interview training. The school is Common Core compliant. There is a woodshop class available and a library enrichment program. The students are given one period of LME (large muscle exercise) daily with an opportunity to play on intramural sports after school. Construction of a new gym has been approved with groundbreaking to take place this year.

Students are given the opportunity to complete requirements for a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency Test (HSET) certificate. Several graduation ceremonies are conducted each year for those who have completed graduation or HSET requirements.

The school has routine Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditations and received a six year term of accreditation in 2010.

Meals

The food is prepared in a central kitchen with menus posted weekly in each unit. The menus are approved by a dietician with special attention to portion size, calories, and nutritional content. Youth are allowed 25 to 30 minutes for each mealtime.

Clothing

All clothing is issued by Juvenile Hall and laundered daily. If appropriate, youth are allowed to wear their own shoes. Slippers are provided for use in the rooms.

Programs

The following are among the programs offered at Juvenile Hall:

Thinking for a Change (T4C) is a 25-session cognitive behavioral pro-social skills development program which is used if the youth's commitment is for 12 weeks or longer.

Decision Points provides four sessions in two weeks and is a condensed version of the T4C program. Students act out hypothetical life situations and social interactions. It is conducted in groups of eight to ten students with two facilitators and is implemented in all units.

Just Beginning has replaced the **Baby Elmo** program. It teaches both boys and girls who are parents how to interact with their children and assist in their child's development. A playroom has been set up to allow structured visits with their children. Couples counseling is available to model positive interaction. Robotic babies are sometimes used to teach the youth parenting skills.

Effective Practices in a Correctional Setting (EPICS) is a new rehabilitation program that is being used throughout the institutions. It teaches youth techniques to make better, pro-social choices.

Parent Engagement is an orientation program for the parents of the offenders. A Probation Officer works with the parents or family members to inform them of the custody procedures, especially those who have youth with mental health issues that are housed in Unit Q.

Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) provide vocational skills for the youth and a job placement counselor is available. Some college and correspondence classes are offered.

Orange Blossoms/Girls Inc. volunteers and collaborative led programs assist the female youth who struggle with self-esteem, bullying, and other issues such as pregnancy prevention and drugs.

Religious Ministries provide church services, Bible study, retreats, and one-on-one visits.

Volunteers in Probation (VIP) and the Juvenile Hall staff conduct Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and ALANON classes, movie night, arts and crafts, study hall, and many other activities.

All of these programs are evidence based. They are designed to reduce recidivism and teach the youth behavior management skills. The programs are implemented immediately upon intake. With the period of commitment being shorter, the goal is to help reform rather than punish the youth. While the population at the Juvenile Hall is lower, the types of crimes committed by the youth have become more serious, usually involving felonies.

Action Requested by the Commission

A Corrective Action Notification was sent on September 22, 2015 requesting that maintenance be conducted. On October 19, 2015, the Probation Department sent a response outlining the action being taken to address the issue. The Commission took no further action concerning the item contained in the Corrective Action Notification.

During 2015, the Juvenile Hall population fell below 100. Less than ten years ago, the population was frequently at 455 and oftentimes over 500. The reduction in population is a result of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) and implementation of the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI).

Orangewood Children and Family Center

Unannounced Inspections: October 26 and December 16, 2015



Description of Facility

The Orangewood Children and Family Center (OCFC) is Orange County's emergency shelter for children. It is located on a spacious ten-acre campus in the city of Orange. The campus includes several Hacienda-style residential cottages, the William Lyon School, park-like grounds, athletic fields, swimming pool, gymnasium, and a medical unit. In addition, the campus also houses the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST), Supervised Family Visitation Center, Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU), and the First Step Assessment Center.

On-Site Observations

The facility currently has a capacity of 137. On October 26, there were 42 males and 29 females in residence, for a total of 71 children. OCFC has a staff of 149, of which 20 are bilingual. Efforts are made to house siblings together when possible. Extensive supervision is provided for children with special emotional, medical, or physical needs. Every effort is made to move children to a stable long-term placement as quickly as possible.

The facility appeared to be well kept and attractive. The children and staff tend vegetable gardens and decorate the cottages for holidays.

OCFC houses children with many difficult emotional and behavioral issues. On the day of the inspection, the staff was working with specific youth to de-escalate disruptive behavior in one cottage. Therefore, the inspection team was unable to interview residents and complete the inspection. The team made another unannounced visit, and at that time, several youth in both the boys and girls cottages were interviewed. The youth appeared to feel comfortable in their placement, well cared for, and were embracing the skills taught by the staff.

William Lyon School

On October 26, 2015, the JJC visited the William Lyon School located on the OCFC campus. There were 45 children enrolled at the school in four classrooms. The Otto A. Fischer School and William Lyon School share the same principal. The teaching staff includes four teachers, one special education teacher, two special education aides, two Title I tutors, and a school psychologist. There is a full-time School Resource Technician (SRT) to process new enrollees and maintain records. Most children begin school the day after they arrive at OCFC. Diagnostic testing is completed as soon as possible. The teaching staff has completed Common Core training. The school is computer/internet-ready and is Common Core compliant. The school has access to an on-grounds library operated by the Orange County Public Library.

Programs

The staff and volunteer community organizations offer a wide variety of activities and programs to engage the children. The Catholic and Protestant Ministries provide on-site Bible study and Sunday services. Arrangements can be made for youth of other faiths. The Orangewood Active Therapeutic and Teaching Approach (OATTA) assists the youth in developing and strengthening targeted social skills.

The OCFC Independent Living Planning (ILP) Team schedules a variety of activities including skills development, dances, poetry readings, and workshops. New Song Mentors and the Saddleback Church Skillz4Life programs discuss with the youth a variety of topics including healthy eating, how to prepare and plan for the future by continuing their education, and obtaining employment. The Orangewood Children's Foundation PALS Speaker Night has former foster youth discuss with the children how they became successful adults. The William Nash Foundation discussed the topic of Active Listening Skills and Communication Barriers.

The "Fit Club" meets multiple times weekly and involves OCFC youth of all ages. The club discusses the benefits of physical fitness and participates in fun fitness activities such as hikes through local parks and beaches, yoga, Zumba, aerobic workouts, outings to local fitness gyms, obstacle courses, and sports clinics.

OCFC Recreation Department hosted "Teen Building," which is an activity to engage the youth in the "Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum" developed by the National Runaway Safeline.

The adolescent girls participate in the psycho-educational programs entitled: "Word on the Street (WOTS)" and "My Life/My Choice," which are designed to prevent sexual exploitation among adolescent girls.

The Health Care Agency provides a myriad of services through the Medical Unit, Clinical Evaluation and Guidance Unit (CEGU), Centralized Assessment Team (CAT), Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and Early Childhood System of Care. The adolescent boys and girls participated in a Drug and Alcohol Life Skills group provided by the Orange County Health Care Agency, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services.

The Care Planning program through the University of California, Irvine conducts standardized assessments of OCFC youth and provides strategies and interventions to improve empathy, emotional regulation, and pro-social behavior.

Most meals are served in the cafeteria, following the new federal nutritional guidelines. Each cottage has its own kitchen. The children and staff can prepare snacks, treats, or special meals for their residents. A nutritionist works with the kitchen staff to provide meals, snacks, and cooking workshops for the youth.

Action Requested by the Commission

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

The Commission commends the staff for its dedication, compassion, and support of the children at the Orangewood Children and Family Center.

Youth Guidance Center

Unannounced Inspection: October 21, 2015



Description of Facility

The Youth Guidance Center (YGC) is a 125-bed facility that provides substance abuse rehabilitation for juvenile offenders. Operated by the Probation Department, YGC has three 25-bed units that house males ages 14-19 and one 20-bed unit for girls. On the day of the inspection, there were 36 males and 19 females. There is a total of 60 Probation Department staff, half of whom are bilingual, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Sign Language. There are three in-house probation officers who are assigned to the youth while they are in residence and then follow up with them to provide transition monitoring after they return home.

Programs

The primary goal of YGC is to reduce substance abuse, improve educational and vocational outcomes, and increase pro-social behaviors through proven comprehensive and collaborative programs. To assist in transition and ensure success in the community, YGC incorporates several cognitive behavioral intervention programs that are introduced to the youth at intake and require participation. Initial orientation enrolls the boys in the ASERT (Addiction, Substance Abuse, Education, Recognition and Treatment) program, as well as the ART (Aggression Replacement Training) program. The girls have two separate programs: STEP (Sobriety Through Education and Prevention) and New Beginning, a parenting skills model. 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. Intensive individual, group, and family therapy is an integral part of the YGC experience. The sessions are labor intensive, effective, and designed to reduce recidivism. Additional wraparound services are provided for the youth and/or their family upon release.

School attendance is mandatory for all residents. The Rio Contiguo High School on campus is operated by ACCESS and is accredited by WASC. The classes are segregated by gender. For the first time this past summer, qualified students participated in a one-week Science Camp on the grounds of the Sunburst Youth Academy in Los Alamitos. Funded by the Department of Defense, the program introduced a math curriculum that allowed the students to learn concepts and then follow through with actual experiments in a “play/learn” experience. The 35 YGC students who applied for the “STAR” program showed a significant improvement in learning and behavior within a five-day period. Rio Contiguo was the first ACCESS school to take advantage of the program. It was so successful that it has reserved three weeks for YGC students to participate next summer.

There is a “level system” for all residents that is reflected in the shirts that the males and females wear. Privileges are determined by behavioral compliance. As the residents get closer to their release, they are given more off-grounds visits, including ROP classes, weekend furloughs, and attendance at AA and NA meetings in the community where they will live. The youth are assisted with preparing resumes, mock interviews, and can work at jobs outside of YGC while on a GPS ankle monitor.

In addition to the intervention, prevention, and skills training that is provided at YGC, there are several extra-curricular programs available, including culinary classes, building maintenance, landscape design and installation, and computer classes. Qualified students can also participate in the two-week “Summer at the Center” performing arts program.

Action Requested by the Commission

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

The Youth Guidance Center is well-maintained, attractive, functional, and reflects student engagement. The “Memory Garden” was especially impressive.

Youth Leadership Academy

Unannounced Inspection: August 5, 2015



Description of Facility

The Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) first opened in 2006 and is operated by the Orange County Probation Department. Adjacent to Juvenile Hall, it was built to house 120 males. On the day of the inspection, both units were in use with 55 males in residence. The average length of stay is 45-60 days. One unit, "YLA Pride," houses younger males with commitments of 100 or more days. The second unit, "YLA Leadership," houses males from 17 to 20 years old regardless of their commitment time.

YLA shares food services, school classrooms, playing fields, and medical services with Juvenile Hall. The facility has its own laundry, intake and release center, dayroom/dining area, a control center, and multi-purpose areas.

The Probation Department staff assigns the young men to YLA and sometimes the parents request the confinement at YLA. Although many of the programs offered take six or more weeks to complete, the residents are introduced to the basics of these programs and encouraged to continue to practice the principles after their release. The population consists of males who have problems with aggression, anti-social behavior, and gang involvement. They are often drug and alcohol dependent.

Staff

At the time of the inspection, YLA had 27 line staff, five supervisors and four administrative staff. Some staff are bilingual in Spanish.

Programs

All YLA youth receive an orientation upon arrival. There are four levels to progress through, and at each higher level attained additional privileges are granted. The highest level allows participation in activities outside of the facility such as home visitations, job searches, and/or application for California identification documents.

Programs offered at YLA include individual, group, and family counseling. Providence Community Services, along with AA and NA, provide drug and alcohol education, assessments, individual and group treatment, and sober activities. Religious activities provided by the Protestant and Catholic Detention Ministries include Bible study, one-on-one visits with volunteers, and religious retreats.

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.

Education

All residents attend Otto A. Fischer School located at Juvenile Hall and operated by the Orange County Department of Education. Separate classrooms and individual teachers are designated for YLA residents. The educational program is designed to provide the credits needed to complete the requirements for a high school diploma or HSET certificate. Individuals who have graduated can enroll in college level online courses, receive instruction in career opportunities, and coaching on how to obtain employment.

Youth Experience

On the day of inspection, members of the Commission had the opportunity to speak with two minors about their experiences at YLA. Both young men stated that the programs have been beneficial to identify specific goals and help them avoid future problems.

Action Requested by the Commission

No corrective action was requested by the Commission.

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 with the juvenile justice system. The Committee's purpose is to review the cause of death, including potential system failures and to determine methods to avoid deaths in the future. During 2015, the Child Fatality Review Committee did not meet with representatives from the Social Services Agency, since fortunately there were no reported deaths to review.

The Committee met with Judge Maria Hernandez, representatives from the Probation Department, and County Counsel's Office to develop procedures to review deaths of wards. There was a review of the death of a ward on November 18, 2015. At the meeting, representatives from the Probation Department, County Counsel's Office, and the Juvenile Justice Commission reviewed the information provided and determined no changes to policies or procedures were necessary.

Education Committee

The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) and Probation Department provide youth with numerous education programs designed to meet the needs of the students and to assist them with re-entry into their school of origin and/or community. The programs provide students with knowledge, skills, resources, and plans necessary for success. Students can earn a high school diploma or HISET certificate. Graduation celebrations are conducted throughout the year. Commission members attend graduation exercises at Juvenile Hall, Youth Leadership Academy, Youth Guidance Center, and Sunburst Youth Academy. Education Committee members presented certificates to the students who earned a high school diploma or HISET certificate.

The Education Committee continued working with OCDE throughout the year to better understand the Alternative, Community, and Correctional Education Schools and Services (ACCESS) program. The Commissioners visited several ACCESS school sites. Among the most specialized school sites visited were the Anaheim Teen Parenting and Skyview Elementary and Middle Schools.

On the day of the visit to the Anaheim Teen Parenting School, 27 female students were enrolled. The school has one teacher and one paraeducator. Students work with the teacher to create an Individualized Graduation Plan to ensure the student is aware of her graduation status. Community partners donate clothing, toys, and baby essentials to the school. The school staff use the donated items to host "Shopping at the Plaza." At least two times a year, school staff set up a boutique style shopping experience for the students. Students are able to select items they need for their child at no cost.

The Commissioners visited Skyview Elementary and Middle School (formerly Project Hope). Skyview Elementary is an Orange County Department of Education ACCESS school. It is located in a strip mall in the city of Orange and serves at-risk, homeless, low income youth and their families by providing extra educational and fundamental services for their children. Students are given free transportation to and from school, breakfast and lunch each day, and counseling services are available. The Skyview students are given the opportunity to participate in the String Music Program. OCDE has established partnerships with community organizations such as Tustin Boys and Girls Club, Chapman University, Feeding Soles,

Second Harvest Food Bank, Rotary Clubs, churches, and many other community organizations who support the students and their families.

The Education Committee visited an ACCESS school located in a group home facility. The Commissioners were concerned about the students and the viability of the school setting. Juvenile Justice Commissioners met several times with OCDE administrators to share concerns. After several months of meetings, the Orange County Department of Education transferred the students to the Harbor Learning Center (HLC) where they were provided with a more comprehensive high school experience. The school program is WASC accredited and offers students in grades 7-12 state approved curriculum leading to a high school diploma or HISET certificate.

The Education Committee appreciates the information shared by the Orange County Department of Education throughout the year, and commends the efforts of the administration, teachers, and staff that provide an alternative educational environment to students supported by the ACCESS programs.

Law Enforcement Agency Committee

The Juvenile Justice Commission is mandated to inspect all Orange County police departments and Sheriff's facilities that hold minors in a secure detention or non-secure custody setting. A total of 30 facilities were inspected with at least two JJC Commissioners and/or the Administrative Officer attending each law enforcement agency inspection.

The collective objective is to inspect for compliance and to better understand how each law enforcement agency serves juveniles, and to determine what resources and programs are available. Each law enforcement agency has special training, programs, and community outreach, often sharing these resources with other law enforcement agencies.

The Commission noted that many Orange County law enforcement agencies have developed and implemented 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 partnerships with a variety of neighborhood groups, non-profit family serving organizations, educational institutions, and private entities.

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

The Law Enforcement Agency Committee wishes to commend the Santa Ana Unified School District Police Department for ensuring all their School Resource Officers (SROs) are trained Emergency Medical Technicians. This is the only police department in Orange County to have this level of training for their SROs.

Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee monitored the status of over forty bills during the year, several of which were enacted into law. Particular emphasis was given to AB 403 which was amended several times and ultimately enacted as Chapter 773 of the Statutes of 2015. AB 403 is a comprehensive enactment consisting of 129 legislative sections. The bill reclassifies certain treatment facilities and requires a

transition from group homes to short term residential treatment facilities. Concerns were expressed during the legislative process that the requirements of this bill could significantly limit effective placement options. The bill also revises foster parent training requirements. Many of the bill's provisions will be implemented with new regulations to be adopted by the State of California during 2016 for full implementation in 2017. The Legislative Committee and the Commission will monitor the implementation of this legislation, particularly the impact it could have on hard-to-place youth.

Mental Health Committee

Participation on the MHSA Steering Committee consumes the majority of the time for those Commissioners who also serve as members of the Mental Health Committee. The main responsibility of the Committee is to monitor the agencies that provide new and ongoing mental health services to the dependent and delinquent youth in the County. To achieve this, Commissioners not only attend the monthly MHSA meetings, but they also attend seminars, continuing education classes, court instructional sessions, and community outreach programs to remain involved and informed about emerging issues, trends, services, and treatments for juveniles who suffer from severe mental illness. The Committee also closely interacts with the many different community based organizations to facilitate collaboration and expedite services to the families or caregivers of those mentally ill youth. Tours and inspections of facilities that provide specialized classes and therapies through the Orange County Department of Education and Behavioral Health Services provide the Commissioners with a better understanding of the effectiveness of those programs. The goal is to monitor the programs that reduce mental health illnesses and produce better outcomes for the individual, their families, and the community.

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 sent. 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. The Committee interfaces with collaborative agencies that provide wraparound services to Orange County youth.

Social Services/Group Homes Committee

In 2015, the Social Services Committee inspected 12 group homes housing Orange County dependent children. The inspection teams reported to the Commission on each of these homes and found that eight homes were not in compliance due to deficiencies in their physical plant. 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. Seven of the homes confirmed that all repairs were made and no further action by the Commission was necessary. In one case, the repairs have not yet been completed and the team will again inspect the home in 2016.

In addition to these inspections, the Committee revised the inspection form to make it more efficient. An introduction section was created 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 by California Community Care Licensing (CCL) staff.

The Committee closely followed the introduction and passage of AB 403 by the California State legislature. The bill significantly limits the time a child remains in congregate care. It will require all group homes to transform into a new category of congregate care facility defined as Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers (STRTCs). Given that the licensing process is complex and expensive, a few group homes have decided to surrender their license. 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 is comprised of three Commissioners and the Administrative Officer. In 2015, the Special Issues Committee conducted an annual review of the Commission policies and procedures manual. The Committee explored and implemented minor changes to provide a better community understanding of the role of this Commission.

COMMISSION LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) Policy Board

The Policy Board of the Child Abuse Services Team (CAST) is comprised of representatives from the Social Services Agency, the District Attorney's office, Health Care Agency, law enforcement, Orange County Child Abuse Prevention Center, and the Juvenile Justice Commission. CAST utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to investigate sexual and severe abuse of children in Orange County by bringing together members of the above organizations to ensure children are not further victimized by the system intended to protect them.

The 2015 year-end statistics show that the number of children interviewed at CAST is increasing. The CAST Coordinator and SSA Medical Director positions have been filled. Specific new plans have been developed to enhance the medical services available at CAST. These plans include partnering with a hospital to serve as the medical home to CAST and provide physicians' care as well as providing a full-time nurse to staff the CAST facility. The CAST facility has been refreshed in order to make children and parents more comfortable and an outreach to increase law enforcement utilization is ongoing. The JJC continues to assist with these outreach efforts during its annual inspections of law enforcement agencies.

The JJC will continue to monitor the changes at CAST as they work to expand the therapeutic component and update equipment.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to commend the CAST staff and volunteers for their continuing efforts to update and improve the services provided to Orange County children and their families.

Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership (CWSIP)

The Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership meets monthly to find and maintain local resources that will support resource families and caregivers in their own neighborhood. The purpose of CWSIP is "to evaluate the current system, note strengths and concerns, establish goals for a redesign and look at resources to accomplish these goals." Members of the Juvenile Justice Commission attend monthly meetings to better understand the Social Services Agency and the child welfare system. Speaker presentations addressed current issues and concerns regarding foster care; Continuum of Care Reform, AB 403, Resource Family Approval (RFA) process, Child Welfare System Improvement Plan (SIP) update, and other topics of interest.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to commend the Child Welfare System Improvement Partnership for their commitment to evaluating the current system, resources, and achieving the goals for redesign.

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

Representatives from the Social Services Agency, Health Care Agency, foster parents, Cal Optima, OCDE Foster Youth Services, Orangewood Children's 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 foster parents, biological parents, and caregivers. The group focuses on the challenges encountered by teens in placement. The attendees also use 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.

This year, the QPI process included creating a new brand “Resource Family” to better identify the role of foster families. The underlying principle is to promote quality foster parents who ensure the success of the child welfare system.

The JJC commends the FCAB/QPI for working collaboratively with caregivers, community partners, and state agencies in their effort to provide food, shelter, medical care, education, and safety to children who do not live with their parents.

Foster Family Agency Forum (FFA)

Juvenile Justice Commission members attended the Foster Family Agency Forum quarterly meetings. The meetings provided information on legislative changes and new court forms. Other topics of discussion were the Independent Living Program (AB 12) services, respite care, clothing allowances for foster children, transportation of foster children to their schools of origin, and placements for nonminor dependents. Foster families who participate in the forum are given the opportunity to network with one another and agency representatives.

Group Home Forum

The Group Home Forum, sponsored by the Social Services Agency, 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

In 2004, California voters approved Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). Funded by a one percent (1%) tax on income earned over \$1 million, the Act provides new services for those who are seriously mentally ill and are currently unserved, under-served, homeless, or at risk of homelessness. The Act provides services to children, transitional age youth, adults, and older adults. It is administered by the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA). Approximately one-fourth of the Orange County Health Care Agency budget is derived from MHSA funds. There are 99 different MHSA programs that have been approved for implementation in Orange County with a budget of \$163 million for fiscal year 2015/20116.

Each year, one Juvenile Justice Commissioner is appointed to serve as a member and another as an alternate on the MHSA Steering Committee. The designated Commissioner attends monthly meetings that are conducted by HCA. The appointed Commissioner is responsible for voting on the funding for recommended new and existing MHSA programs. In order to make effective decisions, the Commissioners are expected to be current with HCA consumer needs and well informed about mental health priorities and challenges. A thorough review of all MHSA funding proposals, requirements, and program implementation is required. Those programs that assist youth and transitional age youth, as well as their caretakers, are especially scrutinized by the Commissioners.

This year, \$24 million in funding was made available for Group 3 Innovations programs. Consumers, stakeholders, and Steering Committee members participated in extensive consideration and prioritization of proposed programs. Ultimately, 11 new programs were recommended for MHSA funding, subject to final approval by the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Orange County Children’s Partnership (OCCP)

The Juvenile Justice Commission selects one Commissioner to serve on the Orange County Children’s Partnership Advisory Board. This 22-member advisory board, established by the Board of Supervisors in 1983, provides a unified voice to champion health education, education, safety, and economic stability by advancing services that effectively meet the needs of children and families in Orange County. In 2015, the OCCP concentrated on four focus areas: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities, Immunization Rates, and Early Childhood Development. In coordination with the Children and Families Commission, the OCCP published the 21st Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County and held five Community Forums throughout the county to disseminate information on the trends affecting the well-being of children in Orange County.

Recruitment, Development and Support (RDS)

Recruitment, Development and Support meets monthly to find and maintain local resources that can support families in their own neighborhood by recruiting, training, and supporting foster/adoptive parents, and relative caregivers. RDS continues to focus on recruiting homes for a target population (teens, siblings, and children/youth with special needs). The mentor work group continues to seek experienced licensed foster parents who are willing to support and mentor other foster or kinship parents. The committee sponsored a number of activities and events for foster families that included picnics and a trip to the zoo.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to commend Faith in Motion for its commitment to recruit foster and adoptive families and encourage faith-based congregations to develop support services for these families.

Trauma Informed Practices Steering Committee (TIPS-C)

The Trauma Informed Practices Steering Committee meets monthly. Orange County has been designated a “Super Community” for the implementation of trauma informed practices within all county agencies providing services to children and families. The County is being assisted in this project by the Chadwick Trauma-Informed Systems Dissemination and Implementation Project. A representative from the Chadwick Center in San Diego is generally in attendance. Attendees also include representatives from public and private agencies and two individuals who know the dependency system firsthand as former foster children. They provide the “youth voice.” The Steering Committee also recruited participation by a birth parent, a kinship parent, and a foster parent to participate on this Committee.

Topics for discussion included the following: organizing trauma informed resources and making them available on both the intranet and internet; doing a virtual walkthrough of Orangewood Children and Family Center to determine ways the intake process could be less traumatic for children; revising the jurisdiction disposition report to the Court to reduce the length and to include the impact of trauma on the child and family; investigating how a birth parent’s own childhood trauma impacts the family dynamic; information on new treatment modalities that are particularly effective in dealing with trauma; and creating services for staff who may experience trauma in the performance of their duties.

By attending these meetings, the Juvenile Justice Commission is able to keep informed of changes in various agencies and to benefit from guest speakers who provide their own personal experiences in the conversion to a trauma informed care approach.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Guest Speakers and Presentations

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

Sean Barry, Chief Deputy Probation Officer; Catherine Stiver, Division Director, Juvenile Court Services; and Daniel Hernandez, Division Director, Juvenile Supervision Division, provided a brief history and update on how Proposition 47 has affected the caseloads of the Probation Department.

Gary Taylor, Division Director, Social Services Agency, discussed the upcoming changes regarding Foster Family Agency (FFA) homes, group homes, and temporary shelters as a result of the Continuum of Care Report. All FFAs will be required to be accredited. Group homes will be referred to as Short-Term Residential Treatment Centers.

Brad Schoenleben, Deputy District Attorney, gave an overview of the work being done by the Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit. Orange County is one of the top destination counties in California for human trafficking. The HEAT Unit uses a victim-centered approach when working with human trafficking victims. The HEAT Unit trains police officers, provides outreach programs to community groups, and educates employees in the hospitality industry to help identify and report potential human trafficking victims to law enforcement.

Jannell Jones, MS, Program Specialist, and Jim Perez, Administrator, Safe Schools & Support Services, explained the program is a school-based violence prevention service. Early exposure to violence has a significant impact on brain development and emotional responses. Training is provided in many languages to youth and parents to prevent exposing children to violence.

Elsa Greenfield, Director, and Blaire Bibbins, Volunteer Coordinator, CSP Huntington Beach Children's Shelter, explained the services provided at the shelter. The shelter focuses on stability, family reunification, homelessness, school-dropout prevention, therapy, and employment skills.

Alyce Mastrianni, MPA, Director, Health Policy and Program, reviewed the Strategic Plan, Vision, Mission, Goals, Core Functions, Strategic Partnerships, and Guiding Principles of the Children and Families Commission of Orange County. The Children and Families Commission of Orange County was created when Proposition 10 was passed in 1998 and is known as the "California Children and Families First Act."

Catherine Stiver, Division Director, Juvenile Court Services, and Christine Kampczyk, Deputy Probation Officer, explained the Parent Engagement Program. Parents attend a brief orientation after they arrive for the initial court appearance. The program offers a 26-week parenting education class which focuses on developing parenting skills. The program also offers a six-week class for parents of youth who suffer from mental illness. There was a discussion about the need for in-patient drug treatment facilities for youth.

Joanne Munro, Deputy Director, and Veronica Zuniga, Placement Coordination Services Manager, Social Services Agency, provided an overview of the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process. Foster parents, relatives, non-relative extended family members, or adoptive families will only need to be assessed one time to be considered for potential placement of minors. They will complete an application, criminal background check, home environment and psychosocial assessment, and training.

Joanne Munro, Deputy Director, Social Services Agency, and Betsy DeGarmoe, Manager, Foster Youth Services, conducted a joint presentation on Trauma Informed Practices. Trauma Informed Care (TIC) is a way to engage, teach, and acknowledge the role trauma has played in the person's life and help them recognize the symptoms and triggers of trauma. This is a new and important approach when working with children and families involved in the foster care system.

Dr. Anne Light, Medical Director, SSA, gave a brief history of the Center of Excellence and the formation of the Working Together to End Child Abuse and Neglect (WE CAN) coalition. The focus of the coalition is on prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of abused children. The coalition is trying to prevent and identify child abuse earlier, and to decrease the number of individuals requiring mental health services later in life.

Martin Schwarz, Senior Assistant Public Defender, discussed the court-appointed counsel funding for dependency cases. The model for funding dependency cases was based upon historical funding. The proposed workload model would provide funding based on the number of cases assigned to each of the attorneys. The model was developed based on 2007 case costs and is to be implemented over a four-year period. It would represent a significant reduction of funding for dependency counsel.

The Juvenile Justice Commission would like to thank all of the guest speakers for their time, effort, and professional presentations. The knowledge gained assisted 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 JANE FOLEY, JUDY JOHNSON, STEPHEN N. LIVINGSTON,
MAX MADRID, SUSAN MAYS, AND JOHN NGUYEN
FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**



Judge Craig Arthur presents plaques to Commissioners Johnson, Foley, and Nguyen for their service on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2007 to 2015.



Commissioner Stephen N. Livingston accepting congratulations from Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Maria Hernandez. Commissioner Livingston served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2007 to 2015



Commissioner Max Madrid accepting a Commendation from Gary Taylor, Director, SSA. Commissioner Madrid served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2007 to 2015.



Commissioner Susan Mays accepting a Commendation from Gary Taylor, Director, SSA. Commissioner Mays served on the Juvenile Justice Commission from 2004 to 2015.

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME COMMISSIONERS BOORTZ, CROWLEY, NORDIN, RILEY, SCHUMACHER, STURLA, ZELAYA, AND YOUTH COMMISSIONER ROUNAGHI



Commissioners Michael Schumacher, James Riley, and Kathleen Nordin join the Orange County Juvenile Justice Commission after being sworn in by Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez.



Commissioner Carlos Zelaya is administered the Oath to serve on the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez.



Youth Commissioner Alexander Rounaghi, Commissioners Jan Sturla, Patricia Boortz, and Amy Crowley were sworn in as Juvenile Justice Commissioners.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Commissioners James Riley, Susan Leibel, and Rick Martinez attend a Sunburst Youth Academy graduation ceremony.

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