



Chambers of
MARIA D. HERNANDEZ
PRESIDING JUDGE OF JUVENILE COURT

Superior Court of California County of Orange

341 THE CITY DRIVE
ORANGE, CA 92868
PHONE: (657) 622-5502

Orange County Juvenile Court Miscellaneous Order M-2015-2

Re: Authorization to Release Juvenile Case Information to the Orange County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Facility Self-Assessment Panel and for Panel Members to Interview Juvenile Court Wards

The purpose of the JDAI Facility Self-Assessment is to review the conditions of confinement for the youth housed in Orange County Juvenile Hall and identify areas in need of improvement. This assessment is above and beyond the annual inspections that are mandated by State law, Health Care Agency, CEO Risk Management, the Juvenile Court and others. A previous JDAI self-assessment was completed in 2012. The results of that assessment were shared with the Juvenile Court Presiding Judge and served as the impetus for policy changes that benefitted youth in custody.

A panel of local volunteers has been chosen by the Probation Department's JDAI coordinator and Juvenile Court Division Director. The panel members represent diverse perspectives and include local law enforcement, clergy, Social Services, former incarcerated youth, health care, community service providers, and other related professionals. These volunteers must commit to a minimum 6-month process to assess and report on every facet of Juvenile Hall operations. Specifically, there are seven distinct areas that are inspected including: Classification and Intake, Health and Mental Health Care, Access (mail, telephone, visitation, family engagement, and attorneys), Programming (education, recreation, exercise, religion, positive behavior interventions and support, youth with special needs), Training and Supervision, Environmental Issues, and Restraints (room confinement, due process, and grievances).

The criteria for assessing juvenile detention institutions was intended to address both Constitutional and Statutory requirements including Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act, Individual with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504, American with Disabilities Act, Title IX, Religious Land use and Institutionalized Persons Act, Prison Rape Elimination Act, Title VI and Equal Educational Opportunities Act. Further, it incorporates professional standards and the values of JDAI.

The panel will divide the assessment areas based on their particular area of expertise and interest. Panelists will be given training on the instrument and provided access to departmental policies and procedures. Prior to their first assessment visit, panelist will be given a tour of Juvenile Hall. As part of the assessment process, they will visit Juvenile Hall at different

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times of the day and evening to observe activities including school, meals, religious services, visiting, recreation, and programming. Panelists will be interviewing youth, probation staff, collaborative professionals, and any others they deem appropriate to complete the assessment.

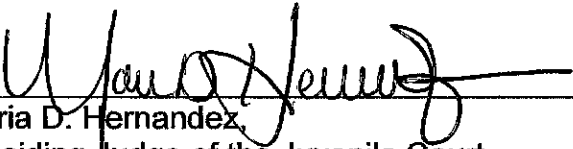
FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN THEREFOR, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Chief Probation Officer, or designee, be authorized to allow the Facility Self-Assessment panel members: Cheryl Alexander, Hether Benjamin, Christina Holland, Johnny Orozco, Sister Rose Marie Redding, Serafin Serrano, and Dr. David Welch to conduct the proposed assessment. In the course of the assessment period, it may become necessary to add or replace additional panel members based on individual circumstances. The resulting report will be approved by the Chief Probation Officer prior to further dissemination. Information received regarding juvenile court wards shall remain confidential.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to the authority vested in the Juvenile Court by virtue of the provisions of Sections 827 and 830 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, public and private agencies referenced herein, including, the Probation Department, Social Service Agency and public members of the panel are hereby authorized to share information only amongst each other regarding minors who are residents of Orange County and/or who are Juvenile Court wards and interview minors housed at Juvenile Hall for the sole purpose of completing this assessment from the date of this order until December 31, 2015. Outside of the work of the panel, no member of the Self-Assessment panel may share or otherwise disseminate any information regarding any minor housed at Juvenile Hall with any person or entity, without further order of the Court. All panel members have been advised and educated pursuant to juvenile confidentiality laws and have signed confidentiality agreements.

This order will expire January 1, 2016.

SO ORDERED:

Dated this 4th day of March, 2015



Maria D. Hernandez,
Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court