



SAN MATEO COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION
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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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Executive Summary

In 2021 the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJDP) continued to focus on:

- putting a greater emphasis on delinquency prevention;
- reaching out to underserved communities and those who serve them; and
- updating the 2020 strategic plan for 2021 to guide our work.

The JJDP approved an updated Strategic Plan and new projects aligned with our aspirations for San Mateo County in January 2021. Six projects were new and three projects were carried over from the prior year. During the year, we successfully completed all milestones for four of the projects: Advocating for Alternatives to Incarceration, Analyzing After School Programs for Elementary and Middle School Children, Creating a Dashboard to Monitor Juvenile Justice Data, and Analyzing Lessons Learned for COVID-19. We continue work on the other projects and were able to add two additional projects during the year.

In January 2021 the Commission's new structure went into effect. The new structure improved the Commission's effectiveness, better defined roles, and allowed for a more equitable distribution of work. The new structure includes a Vice-Chair, Membership and a Vice-Chair, Administration. New roles include a legislative coordinator, marketing coordinator, social media coordinator, police department liaison, project leads and community ambassadors.

The institutional inspections were conducted between July 21, 2021 and August 24, 2021. The JJDP inspected the Youth Services Center (YSC), Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks Youth Center, and the schools associated with all three of these facilities. This year the JJDP asked the facilities to provide a response to the JJDP recommendations within 45 days of receiving the final inspection. The facilities were very responsive to this request and many of them made recommended changes before receiving the final version of their inspection report.

JJDP Authority

San Mateo County's JJDP is a combination of a state-mandated, court-appointed Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) and a Board of Supervisors-appointed Delinquency Prevention Commission. Resolution No. 070307 of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors established the combined JJDP as of August 4, 2009.

California Welfare and Institutions Code (CWIC) Sections 225-232 mandate that each California County shall have a JJC. The duty of the JJC is to inquire into the administration of justice in the juvenile courts of the county or region in which the commission serves. The JJC inspects any publicly administered institutions in the county at which juveniles are held. It also inspects any County jail or lockup that has confined any minor for more than 24 hours in the previous calendar year, and may inspect any group home located in the county that serves county wards.

CWIC Sections 233-236 authorizes a county's board of supervisors to establish, support, and maintain a Delinquency Prevention Commission, of not fewer than seven citizens, to coordinate on a countywide basis the work of governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) engaged in activities designed to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Commission Membership

The JJDPC is required to consist of at least seven and no more than 15 members. Two seats are to be occupied by individuals between 14 and 21 years of age, if such individuals are available. As of December 31, 2021, the Commission was composed of the following 12 commissioners:

- **Antoinette (Toni) Barrack, Co-Chair** is a retired corporate executive with experience in finance, planning and administration. She has served on boards of several Bay Area nonprofit organizations and has actively volunteered to promote conflict resolution, community engagement, and the value of nature to educate and inspire youth. As a co-chair of the JJDPC, she is dedicated to engaging a wide variety of stakeholders and partners in a collective effort to understand why youth enter the juvenile justice system and the most effective means of prevention and rehabilitation.
- **Debora Telleria, Co-Chair** is a retired marketing and business development executive. Since retiring she has focused her energy on helping marginalized youth. She started her community service as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for youth in the juvenile justice system. In addition to her work as a co-chair on the JJDPC, she also volunteers as a law program facilitator for Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY); as a tutor for Reading Partners; and a candidate evaluator for the Peninsula College Fund.
- **Rebecca Flores, Vice-Chair, Administration** is a Human Resources professional at Stanford University. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Community and Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Public Admin. While in grad school she wrote a policy recommendation for San Mateo County's Sheriff's Office on how to implement evidence-based programs in jails to reduce recidivism rates. Since then, she has been very involved in finding resources to support her recommendation. She started her work by joining the San Mateo County Youth Commission, then joined the Commission on the Status of Women and is now a JJDPC Vice Chair. She is committed to serving and educating her community, advocating for underserved youth, and providing rehabilitative resources that will support the youth in our juvenile justice system.
- **Melissa Wilson, Vice-Chair Membership** is a former high school teacher, interior designer, and has been volunteering with at-risk youth for the last 17 years through programs at the Youth Service Center and in the community. Her

interest in juvenile justice started as a high school student. She served on the Santa Clara County Juvenile Justice Commission and saw the limitations in opportunity for court-dependent youth. Her interests are in ensuring that a “system” will support the well-being of youth individually. She is committed to providing youth and their families with resources and information to empower them in what can be a very discouraging experience.

- **Monroe Labouisse** is the incoming Chair for 2022. He is a former Silicon Valley executive who is now dedicated to civic and political projects. His tech company jobs included running Customer Service and Trust & Safety for Airbnb, and Consumer Protection for eBay and PayPal. He is now a Mentor to young men on probation through CASA of San Mateo, where he is also a Peer Supervisor, and he is a Mentor through Peninsula Bridge, which supports underserved teens aspiring to go to and complete college. On the JJDPC, Monroe works on mental health and substance abuse program access for at-risk youth.
- **Karin Huber-Levy** is the incoming Vice-Chair, Administration for 2022. She has a background in corporate law, with experience working in both in-house and private practice, including acting as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary to a major pharmaceutical corporation. She has lived and worked in Canada, the UK, US, and Germany, and has a deep respect and affinity for working with diverse groups and cultures. As a volunteer, she has focused on working with students and is committed to supporting access to education and development opportunities for all youth. As a Commissioner, Karin is committed to advocating for alternatives to youth incarceration and equitable access to diversion programs.
- **Rocsana Enriquez** is the incoming Vice-Chair, Membership for 2022. She is a mother of two, was born and raised in Redwood City/North Fair Oaks. She is a formerly incarcerated youth who went through the juvenile justice system in San Mateo County. Rocsana went on to receive her BA in Justice Studies from San Jose State University and become a compassionate leader in her community, focusing on the education and mental health of youth, especially those involved in the justice system. She teaches mindfulness, yoga, and writing to young girls with the Art of Yoga Project and works as a business development program manager with Able Works, an organization focusing on economic justice. Rocsana’s vision is to heal communities and bring people together for the best interest of children.
- **Paul Bocanegra**, is the cofounder of Reevolution Group, a human rights watch officer for the Children's Division of Human Rights Watch, and a certified drug and alcohol counselor. Paul was sentenced to life without parole when he was 16 years old and served more than 25 years in adult prison. He describes himself as a survivor of Juvenile LWOP and the California prison system. Today Paul works to reform the juvenile criminal justice system by sharing his experiences and struggles within the juvenile and adult systems and institutions.

- **Sathvik Nori** is a student at Stanford University. He joined the JJDPC after witnessing the injustice present in school discipline that results in the school to prison pipeline. He is interested in issues surrounding education, especially in Juvenile Hall.
- **Johanna Rasmussen** has been advocating for youth and families in San Mateo County for over thirty years. Her advocacy work in the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice System began when her own daughter entered the system at the age of 13. Johanna has worked both locally and on the state level to increase funding for community based mental health, substance abuse, and dual diagnosis programs and services for youth and adults. In addition to her criminal justice reform work, Johanna advocates for underserved community members and families on issues relating to housing, special education, disability, employment and seeks to increase equity and improve transparency at all government levels. Johanna is Chairwoman of the Farm Hill Neighborhood Association in Redwood City and coordinates the Confirmation Program at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.
- **Susan Swope** retired as Deputy Director, International Information Integrity Institute at SRI Consulting. She is an active volunteer committed to social justice. She is a Lay Chaplain for the San Francisco Archdiocese, leading communion services at the Youth Services Center, and a mediator for the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and the Superior Court's Juvenile Offender Mediation Program. She served on the board and co-chaired the Restorative Justice Committee for the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Susan has also facilitated Alternatives to Violence Workshops for the incarcerated as well as the general community. She is committed to helping youth meet and overcome their challenges to lead successful, productive lives.
- **Austin Willis** is a junior at Crystal Springs Uplands School. He currently serves as the Head of Outreach for the Santa Clara County Peer Court and as a youth advocate for the Marin County Peer Court. Additionally, Austin chairs the Education and Economic Development Subcommittee of the San Mateo County Youth Commission. As a commissioner and in his other positions, he hopes to continue to advocate for restorative processes that support his fellow Bay Area youth by maintaining youth attendance in educational systems and diverting them from the school-to-prison pipeline.

During the year, the JJDPC welcomed five new members including: Rocsana Enriquez, Karin Huber-Levy, Victor Lecha III, Johanna Rasmussen, and Austin Willis. The JJDPC approved two additional applicants in Q4 2021. We anticipate Court and Board of Supervisor approval and their swearing in during January 2022. There were three resignations from the JJDPC during 2021, including: Victor Lecha III, Sonoo Thadaney and Doug Winter.

Ameya Nori and Alex Parikh-Briggs are the current JJDPC liaisons from the Youth Commission.

Strategy

The JJDPC began a multi-year Strategic Plan in May 2020 and refreshed the strategy in January 2021. The Aspirations in the Strategic Plan help us to focus our efforts and to choose projects that will help move us closer to fulfilling them. The Aspirations for our Community are:

1. The voices of communities most likely to be affected by the juvenile justice system are heard regularly by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and other elected officials in the county.
2. Every youth who comes into contact with the San Mateo County juvenile justice system has convenient, affordable access to appropriate transitional, mental health, and substance abuse programs.
3. All elementary and middle school children in at-risk neighborhoods in San Mateo County have convenient, affordable access to programs that support and supervise them after school and provide services to address early childhood trauma as needed.

At the January 26, 2021 JJDPC meeting nine projects were approved for 2021, including six new projects and three projects carried over from 2020. The projects are categorized by aspiration below. In addition, two new projects were added during the year.

Strategic Projects

Making Communities' Voices Heard by Elected Officials

Communicate Regularly with Elected Officials (continuing from 2020)

The Commission seeks out opportunities to communicate directly with the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials in San Mateo County so that voices in underserved communities are heard by elected officials. Strategies include giving underserved community members opportunities to communicate directly with, and Commissioners communicating their concerns to, elected officials. Becoming familiar with legislative priorities at city and county levels, learning how things get done in city and county governments, and identifying key players are necessary activities in this project.

Year End Status: In the second year of this project, the team met with City Council members from South San Francisco, San Mateo, and Redwood City; trustees from the SMUHSC and the SMC School Board; the Mayor of San Carlos and Deputy Mayor of San Mateo.

Outreach to Underserved Youth and Their Families (NEW in 2021)

This project reaches out to youth and families in underserved communities to better understand their needs and concerns. Their feedback helps direct the work of the San Mateo County JJDPCC going forward. Outreach opportunities include attending and presenting at local community meetings in underserved communities, whether via videoconference or in-person when possible; researching the viability of a youth council for youth on probation; holding Commission meetings in underserved communities; and holding focus groups with underserved communities. Underserved communities are those described by the Community Collaboration for Children's Success initiative (CCCS) as high on its Youth Need Index; they include, amongst others, North Fair Oaks/Redwood City, South San Francisco, East Palo Alto, the northeastern part of San Mateo, and Daly City.

Year End Status: The team met with Probation to discuss the possibility of creating a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and showcased FLYs YAC program at a JJDPCC meeting. The possibility of monthly meetings in underserved communities will be reassessed after COVID-19 restrictions have been removed.

Recruit More Youth Commissioners (continuing from 2020)

We have completed the initial phase of this project. Rather than an ongoing project, it is now the permanent responsibility of the JJDPCC's Vice Chair, Membership. JJDPCC goals are to recruit youth commissioners, especially those who have interacted with the juvenile justice system and to better understand their experiences and needs. We will be partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) and others who regularly interact with this population to identify and recruit youth commissioners. The Commission should have at least one youth Commissioner with experience in the justice system at all times.

Providing Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Transitional Services

Advocate for County Task Force on Alternatives to Youth Incarceration (NEW in 2021)

In 2019, the JJDPCC sent a letter to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors requesting that they convene a task force to discuss alternatives to youth incarceration. The Board of Supervisors did not act on that request, but with the outreach in 2020 to the Board of Supervisors, the Commission learned there was an opportunity to revisit this request. The leads for this project worked to advocate for such a task force. The Commission representatives on the task force are drawing on all of the work of the Commission and its various projects to inform the discussion on the task force.

Year End Status: JJDPCC worked with the Board of Supervisors and staff to write a resolution for consideration by the Board. The resolution to consider YSC reforms was passed by the Board on October 5, 2020. JJDPCC approved the selection of Commissioners Labouisse and Bocanegra to serve on the task force.

How Can We Benefit from Lessons Learned During COVID-19? (NEW in 2021)

This project explored the changes in policing tactics, judicial sentencing and detention procedures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Project leads looked at arrest rates, types of crimes, sentencing, time in detention and recidivism among youth in the year before COVID-19 and during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also met with the Juvenile Judges, Probation, police departments and the Sheriff's Office to explore whether or not some of the changes to policies and procedures that resulted in fewer youth being arrested, fewer youth in custody and shorter sentences could become permanent. The project leads produced a report on their findings and analyzed which changes are feasible and which ones are not. It outlines why some changes are not feasible, and what it would take to make these changes permanent.

Year End Status: The JJDPC approved the completed COVID-19 report in July 2021. Recommendations were made regarding future booking policies, returning to prior food service systems, providing youth with a COVID-19 education campaign, expanding use of education technology, medical screening, and conducting JJDPC meetings via Zoom. The report is available [here](#).

Identify Diversion Programs in San Mateo County (NEW in 2021)

This project identifies and describes existing diversion programs in San Mateo County, including local police programs, the Sheriff's Office program and Probation's Intake program at the Youth Services Center. Project leads are meeting with diversion program directors to collect relevant statistics including the number of youth served, recidivism rates, and which diversion techniques are effective and which ones are not. They are identifying best practices and areas of overlap. This project is also looking at the possibility of creating one County-wide network of diversion programs, which could include disparate programs in each city working together to achieve the best outcome for youth. The final deliverable is a report which will include detailed descriptions of each diversion program, statistics, contact information and best practices. The report will be shared and discussed with local police departments, the Sheriff's Office and Probation, highlighting best practices and areas for collaboration. A follow-up project could look at expanding existing diversion programs and implementing best practices from other diversion programs.

Year End Status: Project is 95% complete. There are two remaining interviews, for which the police departments have been unresponsive. The JJDPC will continue to reach out and then complete final report.

Peer Court (NEW as of April 2021)

This project aims to establish a peer court program in San Mateo County to divert young people from the county juvenile justice system. By implementing the restorative practices of the Marin County Youth Transforming Justice model of peer court in San Mateo County, the project will work to construct a lasting program for youth in San Mateo County.

Year End Status: The team met with the Office of Education, Supervisors Canepa and Pine, SMC County Manger, and Probation. They are applying for foundation grants and evaluating options for the business relationship with Marin County Youth

Transforming Justice (YTJ). The project is a recipient a 2022 Community Fund grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative under the name of Hear Us: Youth for Restorative Justice.

Providing After-School Care in Underserved Communities

Analyze Current After School Programs for Elementary and Middle School Children (NEW in 2021)

This project researched, identified, and cataloged existing after-school programs for elementary and middle school-age children in underserved communities. The project leads determined the services each provides, such as support with schoolwork, life skills development, support for health and emotional needs, and pro-social activities. It identified any barriers to full utilization of the programs and service gaps where they exist. The project leads researched websites, reviewed CCCS research results, and interviewed key program providers and other stakeholders.

Year End Status: In addition to the catalogue, a detailed analysis of programs organized by school district was completed. The final After School Report ([available here](#)) and the follow-on Project Plan for Advocating for Filling Unmet Needs were approved by JJDPC in September 2021.

Advocate for Filling Unmet Needs in After School Programming (NEW as of September 2021)

This project's goals are to gain increased familiarity with the process for building and funding expanded learning programs and work with advocacy group to gain support for additional affordable and accessible programs to meet identified needs. The project leads are working with stakeholders to coordinate actions, build collaborative relationships, and leverage resources.

Year End Status: Presentations of the After School Report are currently being scheduled with advocacy groups in January 2022.

Increase School Attendance (continuing from 2020)

Truancy is a leading indicator of juvenile delinquency, and puts youth at a disadvantage for succeeding in school and life. The Commission believes that keeping students in school is key to preventing delinquency. The goal of this project is to develop recommendations on how to address truancy effectively, increase student attendance, and thereby increase the percentage of students graduating from high school. A task force consisting of representatives from the County Office of Education, school district boards of trustees, mental health, legal advocacy, and other NGOs involved in education has been meeting, throughout the year.

Year End Status: The Project goal was changed from reducing truancy to the broader and more positive goal of increasing attendance and graduation. The team is now evaluating whether this project is better managed by the County of Education.

Projects to Develop Foundational Capabilities

Create a Dashboard for JJDPC to Monitor Data on Juvenile Justice (NEW in 2021)

This project identifies key indicators and methods for tracking them. The indicators are intended to help the Commission identify trends affecting youth in San Mateo County and help identify areas of future JJDPC study. Through a review of public data and interviews with key stakeholders, the committee determined sources of information, common definitions, and a process for collecting, maintaining, and displaying the data.

Year End Status: A Dashboard of monthly and annual data has been completed, is updated monthly, and is available on the JJDPC web site. See the Dashboard [here](#).

Establish a JJDPC Presence on Social Media (New in 2021)

In 2020 the JJDPC completed a Marketing and Communication Strategy to broaden awareness of the JJDPC in San Mateo County. We completed the first steps of implementing the plan in that year using our current capabilities. In 2021, we took additional steps by filling a marketing coordinator position on the Commission to investigate the use of social media.

Year End Status: After working with the County on the development of social media work plans and adopting social media guidelines for Commission usage, we now have active JJDPC accounts on Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Inspections

During the year, JJDPC teams consisting of three to four commissioners conducted California state-mandated inspections of San Mateo County's Youth Services Center and Camp Kemp, as well as Canyon Oaks Youth Center. Separately, a team also inspected the schools at all three sites. We did not inspect any police stations because no minors were held in secure detention in 2020 according to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). All detailed inspection reports were submitted to the Court and Board of Supervisors in December 2021.

Overall, the three facilities received positive reviews for professional and dedicated staff and efforts to provide trauma-informed services designed to provide youth with support, guidance, and structure. The Commission commends the staff for keeping youth safeguarded against Covid-19 and managing vaccination and testing programs. As we have in prior years, we recommend improving vocational training programs and reentry planning. We found that meal service provided at YSC and Camp Kemp by the County Sheriff has resulted in numerous grievances and distress among the youth and we recommend returning to on-site food preparation when possible. Full reports with recommendations are available [here](#).

Speakers

During 2021, the Commission invited speakers to discuss San Mateo County programs and services aimed at supporting youth and their needs.

Board of Supervisors—February

- David Canepa, President of the Board spoke about the need for San Mateo County to invest in diversion programs to keep youth from being incarcerated and the need for alternative programming for YSC youth.

Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) – March

- Susie Rivera, Vice President of Youth Voice and Executive Director of Santa Clara County discussed FLY's Youth Advisory Council in Alameda County.

Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC) – June

- Malissa Netane-Jones, Managing Director of Initiatives and Services discussed the services provided to the Pacific Islander youth community by PCRC.

Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) – August

- Kate Heister, Director, FLY San Mateo County reported on the focus groups they held with youth at the DJJ.

Cross-Functional Representation

Commissions served as community ambassadors to relevant County boards and committees. In 2021, JJDPCC commissioners attended meetings and represented the JJDPCC at the following organizations:

- **Commission on Disabilities:** Co-Chair Barrack represented the Commission.
- **Diversity & Equity Council:** Co-Chair Telleria represented the Commission.
- **Domestic Violence Council:** Commissioner Labouisse represented the Commission.
- **First 5 San Mateo:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.
- **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC):** Co-Chair Telleria represented the Commission.
- **JJDPCC Santa Clara & Alameda:** Vice-Chair Wilson represented the Commission.
- **JJC San Francisco:** Commissioner Rasmussen represented the Commission.
- **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Commission:** Commissioner Rasmussen represented the Commission.
- **Mental Health, Substance Abuse Recovery Commission:** Commissioner Labouisse represented the Commission.

- **North Fair Oaks Community Council:** Commissioner Enriquez represented the Commission.
- **Respect 24/7:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.
- **San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.
- **San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council:** Commissioner Huber-Levy represented the Commission.
- **The Big Lift:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.