



San Mateo County
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission
222 Paul Scannell Drive • San Mateo, CA 94402

2020 Annual Report

January 1, 2021

Contents

Executive Summary

In 2020 the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) focused on:

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

In the Spring, the JJJPC voted unanimously to approve a 2020 Strategic Plan, which included a new mission statement, corresponding aspirations for our community, and a list of eleven projects that align with the aspirations. Of these projects, the Commission chose to focus on five projects, three that were completed in 2020 and two that will continue into 2021. In addition, the Commission completed the Parent Guidebook, a project that began in 2019. The Strategic Plan is being reviewed and updated for 2021 and new projects will be voted on at the January 2021 JJJPC meeting.

In July 2020, the JJJPC voted unanimously to adopt revisions to the JJJPC Operating Policies that updated the Commission structure effective January 2021. The new structure is designed to improve the Commission's effectiveness, better define roles, and allow for a more equitable distribution of work. Two new Co-Vice Chair roles will focus on membership and administration. Other roles outlined in the revised Operating Policies include Court and Probation liaisons, an Inspection Coordinator, a Legislative Coordinator, a Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Project Leads, and Community Ambassadors.

The COVID pandemic delayed the start of inspections for 2020, which were conducted between August 11, 2020 and October 5, 2020. The JJJPC inspected the Youth Services Center (YSC), Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks Youth Center, and the schools associated with all three of these facilities. No police stations in San Mateo County held youth in secure detention in 2019, therefore we did not inspect any of them. Most of the inspection work was conducted remotely, via videoconference interviews and electronic review of materials.

The JJJPC suffered a tragic loss in August 2020, with the passing of Commissioner Gibbs. She was a compassionate teacher, educator, community activist and family counselor. She served as a dedicated Commissioner on the San Mateo JJJPC from January 2015 through July 2020. She will be fondly remembered by her fellow Commissioners, colleagues, and the many students whose lives she touched. We dedicate this annual report to her memory.

JJDPC Authority

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

California Welfare and Institutions Code (CWIC) Sections 225-232 mandate that each California County shall have a Juvenile Justice Commission (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 Structure

On July 28, 2020 the JJDPC voted to approve changes to the San Mateo County JJDPC Operating Policies. Changes to section IV – Officers included the addition of a new commission structure. The new structure effective January, 1, 2021 is described below.

Chair(s)

Provides overall leadership of JJDPC and leads discussions on annual commission priorities. Responsible for developing meeting agendas, running meetings, editing meeting minutes and producing an annual report. Chair(s) issues external communication on behalf of JJDPC or assigns a commissioner to issue external communications.

Vice Chair - Membership

Stands in for the Chair(s) as needed. Responsible for overseeing recruitment processes of new JJDPC members, the membership application and approval process, and orientation of new commissioners.

Vice Chair - Administration

Stands in for the Chair(s) as needed. Responsible for maintaining and updating commission materials and on-line resources. Takes meeting minutes.

Project Lead(s)

Responsible for developing a project plan including goals, milestones, and deliverables. Implements approved project plan on schedule and reports to Commission.

Inspection Coordinator

Responsible for keeping inspection forms current; sign-up process for inspections, editing reports, oversight of approval process, and preparation of letters and final reports as required.

Legislative Coordinator

Responsible for tracking and analyzing legislation that affects youth who come into contact with the SMC justice system. Keeps Commission informed.

Marketing/Communication Coordinator

Responsible for the implementation of the JJDPC marketing and communication strategy. Provides oversight of the JJDPC web site.

Liaisons (i.e., Probation, Court, etc.)

Responsible for maintaining relationships and ensuring each party is informed on areas of common interest; keeping current on relevant issues; and updating full commission on areas of interest.

Community Ambassadors (i.e., JJCC, Diversity & Equity Council, etc.)

Represents JJDPC at stakeholder meetings as appropriate. Informs Commission of issues relevant to the JJDPC mission.

Commission Membership

CWIC Section 225 requires that the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) consist of at least seven and no more than 15 citizens. Two seats are to be occupied by individuals between 14 and 21 years of age, if such individuals are available. Section 233 states that the Delinquency Prevention Commission (DPC) should have no fewer than seven members and that the Board may designate the JJC to serve in that capacity.

As of December 31, 2020, the Commission was composed of the following 10 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**, Co-Vice Chair 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 the JJDPC Co-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.
- **Sonoo Thadaney**, Co-Vice Chair serves as the executive director of the Stanford Presence Center at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Her focus is on Equity, Access, Inclusion. After 9/11, she trained and engaged in mediation and restorative justice work. She creates and delivers curriculum for leadership development; decision + conflict coaching; and preventing, resolving + leveraging conflict for constructive change on and off-campus. She has volunteered at the Youth Services Center, San Mateo County Superior Court, and at the Redwood City Women's Jail.

- **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.
- **Monroe Labouisse** 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.
- **Sathvik Nori** is a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School. He joined the JJDPC after witnessing the injustice present in school discipline that results in the school to prison pipeline. He is also the chair of the San Mateo County Youth Commission and Student Trustee for the Sequoia Union High School District. He is working on raising greater awareness of the problems facing youth offenders in the country.
- **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.
- **Melissa Wilson** 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.

- **Douglas Winter** is proud to be a Coast-side representative on the JJDP. During both his undergraduate and law school career Douglas focused on a juvenile justice centric academic path. Douglas completed multiple academic policy internships with the Children's Advocacy Institute as well as interning with the Juvenile Delinquency Division of the San Diego Office of the Public Defender. Douglas is an advocate for restorative justice practices and strives to continue the collective understanding, development, and improvement of the interplay of the juvenile justice system and our community.

During the year, the JJDP welcomed one new member, Sathvik Nori, a representative from the San Mateo County Youth Commission who had previously been serving as a non-voting liaison to the JJDP. Two additional youth, Austin Willis and Ameya Nori, began terms as liaisons from the Youth Commission. In the last quarter of 2020, the commission approved two applications (one adult and one youth) to join the commission. We anticipate Court and Board of Supervisor approval and their swearing in January 2021.

During 2020, Commissioner Sonoo Thadaney was granted a one-year leave of absence beginning in October 2020 while she serves on the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury. In addition, the Commission lost two members. Commissioners Valerie Gibbs passed away and Michele Gustafson resigned due to time constraints. Ms. Gustafson, a commercial attorney, has been an advocate for high quality care and services for at-risk youth for many years and served as JJDP chair in 2017 and 2018. Ms. Gibbs, in addition to being a JJDP Commissioner, had long served the county as a teacher, educator, community activist, and family counselor. Their invaluable insights and numerous contributions during their terms as commissioners will be greatly missed.

Strategy

The JJDP convened a strategic planning committee in January 2020, which gathered input from a wide variety of stakeholders, reviewed numerous reports and research studies, analyzed material, and summarized results. In May, the JJDP voted to approve the 2020 JJDP Strategic Plan, which included a new mission statement, aspirations for our community, and a set of projects.

The new JJDP Mission Statement reads as follows. It is the mission of the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission to be a public conscience in the best interest of juveniles. The Commission advocates for programs

and services that prevent youth entry into the juvenile justice system and promotes respect for the human dignity of all minors who do enter the system.

Our intentions from planning were to 1) to make the Commission operate more effectively, 2) to support youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system, and 3) to prevent youth from coming into contact with the juvenile justice system in the first place. The Aspirations for our Community are derived from these intentions and describe conditions the JJDPC would like all youth and their families in San Mateo county to experience:

- 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.
- 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.
- All elementary 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.

The final products of the Commission's strategic planning effort are projects intended to move San Mateo County towards the Aspirations. All of the projects approved for 2020 address one or more of the Aspirations for Our Community. Each project has set goals, which will be executed over the next year or two, with specific milestones, deliverables, and timelines.

The strategic planning committee reconvened in December 2020. They are reviewing the 2020 Strategic Plan and will recommend any needed changes to the plan and a new set of projects to be voted on by the Commission at the January 26, 2021 JJDPC meeting.

Projects

Talk to Elected Officials

In order for voices of our community to be heard by elected officials, we have been seeking opportunities to communicate to the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials and to further build relationships. Our first step has been a "listening and introduction" tour to introduce the Commission and its new strategic plan. To date, we have met all five members of the Board of Supervisors, two mayors, and several other appointed or elected officials. Our introductions will continue into 2021. Later

stages of this project may include using both private and public meetings to 1) advocate for specific changes the Commission may recommend based on its inspections and projects and 2) bring members of the community to meetings to speak directly to elected officials.

Recruit Youth Commissioners

The goal of this project is to recruit more youth commissioners, especially those who have interacted with the juvenile justice system, to better understand their experiences and needs. By reaching out to individuals and a significant number of organizations, we have identified 24 people (including five youth) interested in joining the JJDC. To date, one youth (not directly involved in the justice system) and one adult (a parent of a youth who was involved in the justice system) have applied and been approved to join the Commission. In 2021, the newly established position of Vice Chair-Membership will be responsible for recruiting and on-boarding new commissioners.

Develop a Marketing/Communication Strategy

Our goal is to broaden awareness of the JJDC in San Mateo County and create dialog with the community. We are using our current capabilities to communicate more clearly about our role with an Introductory Packet, an updated web site, and outreach to expand input and participation. We have established a Marketing and Communication Coordinator position on the commission to oversee and coordinate future projects to upgrade our capabilities, including use of other media and collaborative relationships.

Produce a Parent Guidebook

Working with system partners in 2019 and 2020, we produced a Parent Guidebook explaining terminology and procedures to help families understand and navigate the juvenile justice system. This year, we received approval from our partners for the final draft and funding from the Board of Supervisors for graphic design, translation and printing. We expect the document to be distributed and available to parents and youth in early 2021.

Describe Substance Abuse, Mental Health and Transition Services

This project catalogued existing substance abuse, mental health, and transition services accessible to youth who have had contact with the juvenile justice system. We interviewed ten providers with the goal of identifying gaps in services and barriers to use. Our conclusion is that, due to a declining number of the youth in the system and the good coverage of county services, programs are made available to virtually all youth who come into contact with the system. However, outside of juvenile hall, these services are optional and not fully utilized by youth. The biggest

gap appears to be getting needed mental health and substance abuse services and support to boys transitioning from juvenile hall. Our work in 2021 will be directed at identifying solutions to address this gap.

Identify and Recommend a Better Truancy Strategy for County Public Schools

We believe that keeping students in school is key to preventing delinquency. Our goal is to develop recommendations on how to effectively address truancy, 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 to assess best practices for reducing truancy. The team will continue this work in 2021.

Inspections

The Commission conducted its State-mandated inspections of the County's Youth Services Center and Camp Kemp for girls. We also inspected Canyon Oaks. According to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) no police stations held minors in secure detention during 2019.

Commissioners formed teams to inspect each facility. A separate team inspected the Court Schools (YSC and Camp Kemp) and the school at Canyon Oaks.

One of the most important factors in the Commission's inspections this year was the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic significantly impacted how all three facilities managed the safety and health of youth and staff in 2020, and the manner in which the Commission conducted its inspections. Most of the inspection work was conducted remotely, via videoconference interviews and electronic review of materials.

Due to the safety protocols implemented at all three facilities, there were almost no COVID-19 infections amongst youth and staff. At the YSC, there were a few youth who entered the facility infected with COVID-19, but because they were tested and quarantined upon their entry as part of standard procedure, a further spread of the virus was prevented.

All three facilities received overall positive reviews for their effort to provide trauma-informed services designed to provide youth with support, guidance and structure. There continues to be a need to address the vocational and educational needs of youth who have graduated from high school or otherwise achieved equivalency. The inspection teams also noted that the girls from Camp Kemp are sleeping at the YSC because of staffing constraints. This is not an ideal situation and

should be rectified as soon as possible. As in previous years, the inspection teams recommended improving reentry planning and opportunities for vocational training, especially at the YSC.

The Commission completed its inspections of all juvenile detention facilities and group homes and submitted its reports and cover letters to the Court and Board of Supervisors in December 2020.

Speakers

During 2020, the Commission invited speakers from five different organizations to discuss programs and services aimed at supporting youth and their emotional, educational, and mental health needs.

SMC Office of Education (February)

- Bettina Graf, Restorative Practices Lead, discussed the use of Restorative Justice practices in order to reduce school suspensions.
- Mary Yung, Coordinator, described the use of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to measure social competence and academic achievement in order to provide appropriate services to students.

StarVista (June)

- Peter Ehrhorn, Director for the Youth Empowerment Services Department, reported on the many services that StarVista offers youth in the county, including counseling, substance abuse services, crisis intervention, and emergency and transitional housing.

Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (July)

- Ruby Fong, Cherie Kabba, and Mike Jones discussed programs to provide low-income youth the opportunity to achieve school success, leading to fair paying jobs, decent housing, and the ability to raise a family.

San Mateo Police Department Youth Services Unit (August)

- Sergeant Kimber Joyce and Mimi Page discussed services provided by the unit, which consists of the Juvenile Diversion Program, Police Activities League (PAL), School Resources Officers, and the Police Explorers Program, partnering with community-based organizations.

Acknowledge Alliance (September)

- Judith Gable, Program Director of the Court and Community Schools Collaborative Counseling Program, described services provided to high-risk youth through schools, on-line platforms, Boys and Girls Clubs, and other CBO's in the county.

Cross-Functional Representation

Commissions served as community ambassadors to relevant County boards and committees. In 2020, JJDPC commissioners attended meetings and represented the JJDPC at the following organizations:

- **AOD Coalition:** Commissioner Barrack represented the Commission.
- **Commission on the Court and Community School Advisory Committee:** Commissioner Gibbs represented the Commission.
- **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:** Commissioner Telleria represented the Commission.
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Commission:** Commissioner Labouisse represented the Commission.
- **Respect 24/7:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.

- **San Mateo County Child Abuse Prevention Council:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.
- **The Big Lift:** Commissioner Swope represented the Commission.