



ALAMEDA COUNTY Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 14, 2022 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM
ZOOM Teleconference

Commissioners Present:

Palagummi, Vamsey (Chair) Anderson, Louise Noma, Sally Peralta, Gina
 Metz, Elana (Vice Chair) Galvis, George Nunley, Patricia

Youth Commissioner: Larios, Xochtil **Member Emeritus:** Nair, Kamal

Collaborative Partners Present:

Badiey, Naseem, ACPD Ford, Brian, Assist. Chief ACPD Pappas, Carissa, ACPD
 Barton, Crystal, ACPD Gershow, Christine, ACBH Rivers, James, ACPD
 Burke, Yasmin, ACPD Gold, Matthew, DA Ross, Javay, ACPH
 Buckner-Preston, Mia, SSA-CWS Gratz-Lazarus, Zach, CAAP Tate, Hattie, OUSD
 Chambers, Adrienne, ACPD Konover, Kimberly, ACBH Vaughan, Monica, ACOE
 Crawford, Earl, ACOE Long, Ian, ACPD Walton, Robert, ACPD
 Donovan, Allyson, DA Mance, Al, Public Defender Wegley, Rebecca, ACPD
 Dawal, Marcus, Chief ACPD McGuire, Tammy, ACPD Williams, Shahidah, BOS
 Emmons, Craig, ACPD Mitchell, Alicia, ACPD Zambrana, Andrea, CAAP

Recorder: Shavers, Andrea, ACPD

I. Administrative Business

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Palagummi called the meeting to order at **12:02** pm.
2. **Roll Call:**
3. **Action to approve Minutes**

Vice Chair Metz invited a motion to adopt the November 2022 minutes as circulated with the agenda.

MOTION: Louise Anderson **Second:** Vamsey Palagummi

AYES (Voice Vote): All Present

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION PASSED.

II. Education

General Announcement(s), Monica Vaughn

1. Staffing. ACOE has identified a successful candidate for a Para Educator. They anticipate onboarding the new hire in January 2023. ACOE is looking to fill vacant positions, a Counselor in the Transition Center, a Clinical Counselor to serve special education students and two (2) teaching positions in Units 5 and 7.
2. Winter break begins Friday, December 16, 2022. Classes will resume Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Winter Inter-session

1. Mr. Crawford will bring in some programming during the inter-session such as Hip-Hop dance classes.

III. Courts

Judge Ursula Jones-Dickson

1. This is her last meeting as her term ends January 2, 2023.
2. Judge Jackson will replace Judge Jones-Dickson as the presiding judge of juvenile.

CAAP Update, Andrea Zambrana

1. The Managing Social Worker – CAAP position was filled by Zach Gratz-Lazarus. He will oversee and manage the Social Worker department and Juvenile program.
2. They are undergoing a reapplication process as well as having their panel reapply.

IV. Probation

Demographics

1. Number of youths at JJC – 66 (59 males, 7 females)
2. Number of youth age 14 and/or under – 9
 - a. Age 14 – 5
 - b. Age 13 – 3
 - c. Age 12 – 1
3. Number of youths on GPS – 19 (15 males, 4 females)
4. Number of youths on Home Supervision - 33
5. Number of youths on Secure Track – 19 (13 by order of the Court, 6 returned from DJJ)
 - a. 11 youths are in Unit 1
 - b. 8 youths are in Unit 3
 - c. 1 youth is at Camp
6. Number of youths at Camp – 9
 - a. 5 youths enrolled in High School
 - b. 2 youths enrolled in community college
 - c. 2 youths are employed
7. Education
 - a. 7 enrolled in ACOE
 - b. 11 enrolled with Laney ROC
 - c. 1 enrolled in Virtual Electrician Program

Programming, Yasmin Burke

1. Programming for Secure Track youths includes the following.
 - a. 21 participants in Family Spring an intensive substance misuse program.
 - b. 10 participants in Growth Restores Our Worth (GROW) facilitated by George Smith. He teaches life mapping and journaling.
 - c. 8 participants in True Academy, they focus on anger management and gang intervention.
 - d. 19 participants in ROP which provides culturally responsive Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

SB 823 Update, Yasmin Burke

1. Programming at Camp includes
 - a. Family Spring
 - b. GROW
 - c. Podcasting
 - d. Construction
 - e. A golf program at Crow Canyon Golf Course,
 - f. Blue Water Sailing program
 - g. Culinary program.

Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** What is the situation with Unit 12? What is the plan to return them to Unit 3, the location that was prepared for them? Is there a timeline?
JJC's Response: The youth were removed from Unit 3 to Unit 12 to address a serious contraband issue which put the safety of the youth and staff at risk. This decision was made to allow a deep search of Unit 3 to retrieve all the contraband, specifically narcotics. Currently, the youth remain in Unit 12 as the youth are still experimenting with contraband. On a case-by-case basis of behavior we are identifying youth to transfer to Unit 1. Over time the youth will be transitioned into Unit 3.
2. **Question:** If programming has been removed as a result of the contraband, can we assume the youth have longer periods of room confinement time?
JJC's Response: Programming has not stopped for the youth. They continue to receive programming and education. They participate in programming such as Family Spring, GROW, True Academy and ROP. ROP is working more intensely with the youth as they are struggling with their coping skills.
Visitation has not been suspended. In-person visiting for some youth has suspended. However, access to virtual visitation and non-contact visits remain active.
3. **Question:** Has any of the youth been moved for behavioral issues or is it all contraband?
JJC's Response: It is a combination of both behaviors and contraband. Along with contraband comes some behavioral issues.
4. **Question:** Visitors go through a thorough search process typically to gain entry. Can we assume the narcotic contraband is being brought in via staff?
JJS's Response: No.
5. **Question:** How is the contraband being brought into the facility?
JJS's Response: ACPD policy precludes staff from searches. We are considering conducting thorough searches on family members, mothers, fathers, siblings, etc. Currently, we do not conduct searches like what is seen on television. We do a cursory search meaning emptying pockets and removal of shoes.
6. **Question:** What is expected to be achieved in moving the youth from one unit to another as far as preventing contraband from entering the facility? As to your investigation, how is the contraband entering the facility? What have you been able to uncover?
JJS's Response: Speaking to the investigations, they are ongoing and cannot be disclosed in a public forum. The youth were moved to a smaller space for safety reasons. Unit 3 physically is a much larger space. The idea of moving the youth is not a punishment model rather for safety of the youth in our care.
7. **Question:** How does a smaller space increase safety?
JJS's Response: There are fewer places to hide contraband.

8. **Question:** Director Burke, if you are going to move youth down to Unit 3, would some youth remain in Unit 12? Will two separate units be maintained?
JJS's Response: The plan is to move the youth case-by-case based on how they respond to the new move to Unit 12.
We have two Secure Track Units, 1 and 3 (now in Unit 12). Except for the gym, Unit 3 is a replication of Unit 1. The youth in Unit 1 are thriving; overall they are doing a good job. There have been only minor issues. It is very important to note, not all the youths in Secure Track are dealing with contraband issues.
We have seen in the Unit 3 youth that returned from DJJ some of the behaviors they brought back with them we did not expect. These behaviors are exhibited in former DJJ youth in many agencies across the state. Issues with contraband is prevalent with this particular demographic. We are trying to be creative in addressing the issue. We are trying to prepare them for reentry, so they do not take these behaviors back into the community.
9. **Question:** Given that a few years ago a JIO was responsible for distributing contraband, are the investigations pursuing that angle?
JJC's Response: Anyone who has access to the JJC and the youth is being looked at.
10. **Statement** (George Galvis): To the Attorneys and Court on the call, this is a behavior that happens at DJJ. We have sent young people to DJJ, they learn worst behaviors. That will be compounded if we charge youth as adults then send them to the adult prison system. It is important to keep young people in the youth system. The current infrastructure is not designed for long-term det
11. **Statement** (Andrea Zambrana): The youth in Secure Track Unit 12 have expressed they feel like this is more of a punishment.
12. **Statement** (Dr. Javay Ross): The necessity for rehabilitation is essential. Probation is trying to rehabilitate as they mitigate this challenging situation.

V. Medical & Behavioral Health

Medical Updates, Dr. Javay Ross

1. We have partnered with the Bridge Clinic at Highland Hospital which provides youth that have shown signs that are consistent with substance misuse disorder, particularly opioids. They are able to bridge them to a medication to cope with withdrawal symptoms; essentially it bridges the youth off of opioids.
2. Medical numbers for November 2022
 - a. 52 admissions
 - b. 40 discharges
 - c. 33 dental visits
 - d. 26 history and physical
 - e. 21 COVID vaccines

Health Services Response to the Contraband Challenge, Christine Gerchow

1. We have been working in constant collaboration with Care Coordination and Health Team to create a full court press that is not about shame or stigma rather it is about the dignity of the youth regardless of the unit where they reside.
2. Contraband is raging in the community, so it is present in the JJC. We are addressing this as an emergency response, an oxygen tank on the unit. There is training for the staff, JIOs, in-house Behavioral Health staff and the ACOE. We have received a proposal from Family Spring, a Substance Use provider. The youth are highly engaged with our clinician that was present last evening.

Guidance Clinic Updates November 1-30, 2022, Christine Gerchow

1. 219 total encounters.
2. 12 Crises.

VI. Social Services

Assessment Center Update, Mia Buckner-Preston

Background Information: The Assessment Center provides 72-hour transitional care.

1. The State has provided directives for ongoing operations for the Assessment Center.
 - a. To reduce the reliance on the Assessment Center to provide long-term care. The state's goal is to reduce the number of youths experiencing transitional shelter.
2. November Numbers
 - a. 65 intakes.
 - i. 52% of intakes were teens. 52% of intakes are male teens. 48% of intakes are female teens
 - ii. 32% of intakes take place afterhours. There has been an increase of takes between 10 pm and 8 am.
 - iii. 72% of intakes at the AC are African American males and females.
 - b. 12 overstays
 - i. 1 overstay is over 400-hours.
3. This is an increase in overstays; there is nowhere for the youth to go. This past year we have not increased housing capacity. As we gain beds in one area, we lose beds in another.
4. This time of year, caregivers are tired and not willing to accept a lot of placements. The AC is being told to call the caregivers after the holidays.
5. There is an increase of youth found with contraband, homemade weapons, cell phones hidden on their bodies, marijuana, and pills.
6. The AC was able to increase the funding for recruitment contractors to recruit homes for older youth and teens.

VII. Commission Updates

1. The commission will explore if a new time slot fits more stakeholders' schedules. The commission is aware that there has been a conflict with court stakeholders.

VIII. Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

Location: Zoom Teleconference

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.