



# ALAMEDA COUNTY

## Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2023 | 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM**  
**2500 Fairmont Drive, San Leandro, CA 94578**  
**Room C-1002**  
**[ZOOM Teleconference](#)**

### **Commissioners Present:**

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

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

### **Collaborative Partners Present:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Badiey, Naseem, ACPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emmons, Craig, ACPD	<input type="checkbox"/> Pappas, Carissa, ACPD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barton, Crystal, ACPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ford, Brian, Assist. Chief ACPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ross, Javay, ACPH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Burke-Taylor, Yasmin, ACPD	<input type="checkbox"/> Gold, Matthew, DA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tate, Hattie, OUSD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buckner-Preston, Mia, SSA-CWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gershow, Christine, ACBH	<input type="checkbox"/> Vaughan, Monica, ACOE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cercone, Dante, ACPD	<input type="checkbox"/> Gratz-Lazarus, Zach, CAAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Walton, Robert, ACPD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conner, Shauna, ACPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackson, Scott, ACSC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wegley, Rebecca, ACPD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crawford Jr., Earl, ACOE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Konover, Kimberly, ACBH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williams, Shahidah, BOS
<input type="checkbox"/> Donovan, Allyson, DA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mance, Al, Public Defender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wilson, Jacq, DA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawal, Marcus, Chief ACPD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mitchell, Alicia, ACPD	<input type="checkbox"/> Zambrana, Andrea, CAAP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ebrahimi, John, ACPD		

**Recorder:** Shavers, Andrea, ACPD

## **I. Administrative Business**

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Palagummi called the meeting to order at **12:06** pm.
2. **Roll Call:**
3. **Action to approve Minutes**  
Vice Chair Metz invited a motion to adopt the March 2023 minutes as circulated with the agenda.

**MOTION by:** Xochtil Larios    **Second by:** Sally Noma

**AYES (Voice Vote): All Present**

**NOES: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**MOTION PASSED.**

4. **Update on Commission**  
The Commission welcomes new Commissioner Kareem Ervin. Mr. Ervin was sworn in by Judge Scott Jackson on June 6, 2023.

## **II. Education**

**General Announcement(s), Earl Crawford**

1. Today we closed out our first academic year.
2. Inter-session begins tomorrow, June 15, 2023. The morning sessions will have the following.
  - a. Inspired by our visit to San Diego, we will offer t-shirt printing training course in Unit 1 to start.

- b. Unit 2, drumming.
- c. Unit 4, caterpillar's roundtable.
- d. Unit 5, beat making and haircutting.
- e. Unit 6, an esthetician will teach aesthetics to the girls.
3. The afternoon sessions will have the following.
  - a. Unit 1, drumming
  - b. Unit 2, caterpillar's roundtable
  - c. Unit 4, the esthetician and haircutting instructors will work side by side teaching entrepreneurship, hairs, skin, and nails.
  - d. Unit 5, t-shirt printing training course
  - e. Unit 6, beat making.
4. Summer school begins July 3, 2023.

#### Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** What is the most difficult part about educating youth in custody?  
**ACOE's Response:** Belief systems, what the youths believe about themselves and the system.

### III. Courts

#### Court, Judge Scott Jackson

1. The commission needs representation from South County, Livermore area. There has been an increase of youth arrested in the Livermore area over the past several months. We need some interventions in the area.
2. There is something happening with the Serranos at Livermore High and students from Granada High School. Maybe we can direct some services to the youth in the area.
3. In the past week, several youth were dismissed from probation.
4. Judge Jackson runs the Collaborative Court, a Mental Health court; it is at capacity and has a waitlist. They could use additional funding for one or two clinicians.

#### Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** A few months ago, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OOJDP) put out and Request for Proposal (RFP) for both collaborative courts and mental health courts. Who would be the appropriate person to direct the opportunities?  
**Judge Jackson's Response:** Direct that information to Probation.
2. **Question:** There has been a lot of conversations in Oakland over the last several weeks surrounding the 9 young people, aged 12 – 17 years old, that were arrested for the string of robberies. Should the youth be charged versus not charging the youth. What are your thoughts?  
**Judge Jackson's Response:** First, as for the charging, I yield to Mr. Wilson. His office handles charges. Second, judges only get cases presented to them.

#### District Attorney, Jacq Wilson

1. The newly appointed supervisor of my unit, Tiffany Gipson, had a prior engagement and could not be present today. In the future, she or I, or both of us will be present during these meetings.
2. In response to the question put to Judge Jackson regarding the robberies, I do not want to get into the facts other than to say there was insufficient evidence, so we did not move forward.
3. In the last meeting, someone posed a question regarding transfer policies. There is not an official policy. However, the general rule is, we do not transfer cases unless there is an extenuating circumstance. We look at each case on a case-by-case basis. Most cases will stay in Juvenile Court.

### Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** What are we doing for victims? There were 10-15 Black girls kidnapped in Oakland. There has been a lot of trafficking in Oakland. What are we doing for those young girls that were victims of trafficking?  
**District Attorney's Response:** I am probably not the best person to respond to this question. We do have Safety Net in our office. Safety Net does a good job of meeting each Tuesday. Ms. Gipson does meet with Safety Net. We are providing services, but I do not know the specifics at this time.

### Public Defender, Alfonso Mance

1. In response to the question on victims, we are working with the District Attorney's Office, specifically Tiffany Gipson, to sure up the girls' court and get them back on track. Judge Garcia is very interested in this as well. One of the most important things is we will have providers return to court, so that it is more collaborative. We can have conversations with people who know the kids.
2. The District Attorney's Office has done a lot with Diversion. The kids that can be successfully diverted have been diverted. The kids we have now are kids with very high needs, complex trauma, multiple or ongoing traumatic events. It is a difficult population to deal with. These are the kids that grow up and commit serious crimes because of the trauma they have experienced.
3. Everyone these days complains about crime, the solution to that is to prevent the kids from getting trauma. The Juvenile Justice System in California begins serving kids at the age of 12. Preventative care is the best thing before the kids reach age 12.
4. 395 calls, the California laws says if you are under age 12 you can call an attorney before the Police can interrogate you. Two months out of each year, I take the calls. I see 11-year-olds, sometimes repeat offenders. Those are the ones that grow up and commit awful crimes.
5. The Juvenile Justice system is reactive. Something happens, we show up. We do not prevent anything. Similar to the Fire Department, they do not start fires, they put out fires. The same thing happens in the Criminal Justice System; we have to get the folks who create fires.
6. Often times when you have a 15-year-old mother, she has experienced a lot of traumas in her life. She needs help with her child, before she has the child. She needs help getting to medical appointments, making sure the child has all the nutrition it needs.
7. Everyone is up in arms these days about crime, but we just closed down schools for a year and a half. For the kids that we serve, having the schools shut down for a year and a half was catastrophic because it was hot food, counselors, mandatory reporters, relationships with adults that are long and ongoing. All of this is very important for kids that experience complex trauma. All that support went away. We have a lot of kids that did not and are not receiving the care they need. They received far less care during that year and a half.

### Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** Are you, the courts, and District Attorney's office prepared to have conversations with ACOE's 19 superintendents in the east county to see if there are ways we can work with the schools to mitigate the issues inside of the school?  
**Public Defender's Response:** Absolutely. Each of us knows our little piece. There are a lot of things we can tell the other about what we need.  
**Judge Jackson's Response:** I agree, but we must get Social Services involved.

## IV. Probation

### General Updates, Shauna Conner

1. The recreational programs will begin on July 1.
2. We executed a contract with RJOY for credible messenger services. Next week Dr. Clinton Lacy will facilitate the Credible Messenger training for RJOY staff, Probation staff and key stakeholders.

3. Additionally, RJOY will facilitate nine different programs, financial literacy, family interventions and restoration, civil and social engagement, and more.
4. Juvenile Facilities Division has a new Superintendent, John Ebrahimi. He joined the team on May 15.

### Demographics

1. Number of youths on Secure Track – 24
  - a. 11 youths are in Unit 1
  - b. 9 youths are in Unit 3
  - c. 3 youth stepped down at Camp
  - d. 1 youth on GPS
2. Number of youths at Camp – 4
  - a. 3 youths are employed.

### SB 823 Update, Yasmin Burke

1. Since the last report in April, one (1) youth was released to GPS. He will remain on GPS for 30 to 45 days.
2. 12 youths are enrolled in summer session.
3. On April 26, the DMV were onsite. 11 youth in Secure Track were able to obtain their identifications. Upon reentry they will also have their birth certificates.
4. Judge Jackson granted permission for one youth to attend his college graduation in-person at Laney College to receive his AA degree.
5. Blue Water Sailing – there was a celebration parting on June 3, 2023. June 16 there will be a night sail. There will be a Blue Water Sailing graduation on June 30.

### Programming

1. Programming for Secure Track youths includes the following.
  - a. Family Spring is an intensive substance misuse program.
  - b. Financial Literacy, an 18-week course with 2-hour sessions.
  - c. George Smith teaches life mapping and journaling.
  - d. True Academy focuses on anger management and gang intervention.
  - e. ROP provides culturally responsive Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).
  - f. Youth Beat concentrates on multimedia arts.
  - g. Write to Read
  - h. Restore Our Communities (ROC) hosts a basketball clinic for Units 1 and 3 every Friday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am.
  - i. The MC3 cooking program is held each Wednesday from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Staff assist the youth with preparing meals of their choice.

## **V. Medical & Behavioral Health**

### Medical Updates May 1 – 31, 2023, Dr. Javay Ross

1. Medical
  - a. 67 Admissions
  - b. 61 Discharges
  - c. 33 History and physicals
  - d. 6 Annual visits
  - e. 371 Total visits

2. There was a small COVID outbreak at Camp Sweeney. We have implemented a less restrictive approach to managing COVID. The youth is isolated for 7 days rather than 10 days. and a negative test.

#### Guidance Clinic Updates, Dr. Christine Gerchow

1. One of the Clinicians is facilitating a mindful eating group in the girl's unit. They made soup together.
2. We are introducing group supervision.
3. Behavioral Health numbers for May 1-31, 2023
  - a. 176 other referrals
  - b. 28 Crisis referrals
    1. 9 of the referrals occurred after hours.
  - c. 65 Intakes
  - d. 29 Medication related session
  - e. 50-hours of psychiatry

#### Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** What is the masking policy for upstairs in the facility? The youth are required to wear masks. They often do not, which causes a back and forth with staff. Must they wear masks all the time?

**Medical's Response:** Current policy is reflected in the most updated COVID policy and procedures from January 2023. We have submitted a revised policy for review. In the revision, we have decreased masking restrictions.

**JJC's Response:** At this time, everyone that enters the third floor must wear a mask.

## VI. Social Services

#### Assessment Center Update, Mia Buckner-Preston

Background Information: The Assessment Center is an unlocked facility and provides 72-hour transitional care.

1. The majority of kids seen at the Assessment Center (AC) are teens between the ages of 13 and 17, and female.
2. The majority of housing providers are closing their female facilities and beds. Since the last report out, the AC has lost an additional 10 female beds. If female youths cannot be placed, they remain at the AC.
3. There are kids recruiting out of the AC. More specifically, youth that have been exposed to sexual exploitation known as Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). For kids in the life, if they do not want to work, they must bring in someone to do the job for them. If they do not comply, the kid must pay money or get beat up.
4. I am open to collaborations and tours of the Assessment Center. If there is a table Social Services needs to join, please let us know. If the request is sent to the agency director, copy me or Michelle Love, we can explain why it is important for SSA to be present.
5. The Office of Education has provided an Educational Mentor, an Educational Advocate. One difficulty with placement is the youth has been out of school for a significant amount of time. We cannot find school records because the young have been absent without leave (AWOL) for a long time. The Educational Advocate is excellent at retracing the youth's educational steps and finding the Individual Education Plans (IEP), assessments, grades, and credits. This is now in place to help with housing.
6. We have Independent Living Program (ILP) services there are ways to earn stipends, make money, to work towards a trade, and to have driving classes paid for. We are trying to involve the youth and bring the services to them and sign them up. All of this is to make sex trafficking less attractive.
7. We have enhanced the staffing for MISSEY, increasing the number of Youth Engagement Specialist at the AC to three.

8. We have increased the staff on the weekends and have hired a case manager. This allows youth that work with the Youth Engagement Specialist at the AC to have ongoing services to help with placement stabilization once they go to placement or their family home.

### Questions / Statements & Responses

1. **Question:** There are not a lot of conversations about young men engaged in sex work. Some of them end up in institutions like this (Juvenile Hall) as sex work can be tied to other crimes such as robbery. Is there any data or information for that population?

**SSA's Response:** The focus has been mainly around females because it is how the organization we work with is set up. The program was setup by female survivors, so the focus has been on that population.

Recently, Side by Side, a community-based organization that works with the Assessment Center, has seen male CSEC victims increase. A part of their new ask for this fiscal year is to receive funding to hire a case manager to work with young men.

You mentioned reporting, there is not a lot of data. Young men are not sharing their experiences as much nor are they readily associated with an exploiter. They do not return to the Assessment Center and talk about a horrible night. They will keep that experience and pain inside. It will look different.

It will show up in behaviors like non-compliance and aggression until they trust an advocate or staff person enough to share their trauma, until we begin to track them, or just ask them, "are you being trafficked?"

### **VII. Commission Updates**

None.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

None.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023.**

**Location:** Hybrid meeting format.

In-person: Juvenile Justice Center, 2500 Fairmont Drive, San Leandro, CA, Conference Room C1022

Virtual: via Zoom.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.**