



# JOINT MEETING JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION



Carole D'Elia  
Chair

## SUMMARY OF MINUTES

April 19, 2016

**PRESENT:** Carole D'Elia, Daniel Okada, Frederick Mills, Gwen Jackson-Tucker, Steve Streeter, Rachel Rios, Dennis Dulay, Hillary Gaines, Stephanie Nguyen, America Velasco, Judge Boulware Eurie, Chief Seale, Mike Shores, Dawn Isais, Robin Claren

**ABSENT:** Virginia Maulfair, Jane Claar

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- CALL TO ORDER:** A quorum was present, and the meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Carole D'Elia welcomed participants and introduced America Velasco as the newest Commissioner. Commissioner Velasco gave a brief overview of her educational background, employment history and volunteer activities.
  - APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH MEETING:** Commissioner Stephanie Nguyen motioned to approve the March minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Dan Okada and unanimously approved.
  - ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The following information regarding upcoming events was given:
    - April 29<sup>th</sup>:** Learning Summit – “Inside the Adolescent Brain”. (*An informational brochure and registration information was previously emailed to members, however Dawn Isais will send out a follow up email including the registration information later today*)
    - April 30<sup>th</sup>:** Dia Del Nino (*Day of the Child*) – Maple Neighborhood Community Center.
    - April 30<sup>th</sup>:** California Civic Learning Statewide Showcase (*An informational brochure and registration information will be emailed to Commissioners later today*)
    - May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Rachel Rios reminded members that May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Big Day of Giving Campaign. (*The Big Day of Giving is a 24-hour challenge to support local nonprofits*).
    - May 19<sup>th</sup>:** Commissioner Carole D'Elia reported that a coalition of grassroots organizations will be going before the Sacramento City Unified School Board to request sustainable funding for expanding on-site school social workers/counselors and professional development opportunities for teachers regarding social and emotional learning. A platform articulating these objectives will be provided as soon as it is available.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
5. **COMMENTS FROM THE COURT:** None.
6. **COMMENTS FROM PROBATION:** Chief Seale reported that over the past couple of years, there has been a lot of discussion around juvenile solitary confinement nationwide. Chief Seale reported that it has been an issue of concern for advocates, families, and corrections for several years. Chief Seale reported that President Obama recently signed a proclamation to limit solitary confinement for youth [*In January, President Obama decided to ban the use of solitary confinement to punish juveniles in US federal jails*]. Chief Seale stated that the issue of solitary confinement is taken very seriously in Sacramento County.

Chief Seale reported that Senator Mark Leno introduced a bill to limit solitary confinement for juveniles, which was initially met with opposition due to a lack of agreement on particular language. Chief Seale reported that Mike Shores has been leading an effort for several years to track the confinement of juveniles in their juvenile hall and reduce the number of occurrences. Chief Seale recently reached out to Senator Leno on behalf of the Probation Chiefs to offer compromise. The meeting with Senator Leno was fruitful and they were able to meet on common ground. As a result, the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) are co-sponsoring legislation to reduce the use of juvenile solitary confinement. Mike Shores gave the Senator a tour of juvenile hall and discussed issues, strategies, and the realities of what happens when youth become violent. Chief Seale reported that they have a commitment from the Officer's Union to consider ways to change practices. Chief Seale stated that he is glad that Sacramento County and others have taken seat with Senator Leno. Chief Seale reported that the prospects for the legislation passing look really good. Chief Seale complimented Mike Shores and his team for what they have done locally including the recognition of their commitment to change current practice.

Judge Boulware Eurie stated that Sacramento County is so fortunate to have Chief Seale and Mike Shores providing substantive leadership. Judge Boulware Eurie reported that California has the largest Judicial Council branch in the nation. There are 20 members and only 10 are voting members. Judge Boulware Eurie stated that 10 people are responsible for governing and setting policy for California. Judge Boulware Eurie stated that one of the ways they develop and pass rules for the court and policy related matters are through advisory bodies. Judge Boulware Eurie congratulated Chief Seale on his appointment to the Criminal Law Advisory Committee. Judge Boulware Eurie stated that having that breadth of leadership on such a large scale is beneficial. [*The Criminal Law Advisory Committee makes recommendations to the Judicial Council for improving the administration of justice in criminal proceedings and reports directly to the Judicial Council*].

7. **YOUTH DETENTION FACILITY POPULATION REPORT:** The report was distributed at the meeting. No discussed was held.
8. **COMMISSION BROCHURE/PLATFORM:** A brochure was created by Commissioners Fred Mills and Hillary Gaines and emailed out to members prior to the meeting for review. Commissioner

Gaines stated that they will be adding information on the scholarship program, however due to time constraints they were not able to incorporate everything into the draft brochure.

Feedback was requested and the following suggestions were given for consideration:

- Include the number of Commissioners, the selection process and the duties required.
- Include information encouraging youth to be involved (14- 21 years of age).
- Be mindful of the language we use and ensure that it is written at a level that the general public can understand.
- Include information on how to apply to become a Commissioner.
- Use images that portray a more positive image rather than a negative one (i.e. youth in handcuffs).
- Be mindful of photo choices and verbiage, as messages are sometimes sent whether or not they are intended.
- Be mindful of what we are relaying and what our mission and goals are.
- The concept of labeled delinquency is outdated. Labeling youth as “delinquent” is a heavy suggestion. Other terms suggested in lieu of delinquency to consider include youth justice or juvenile justice.
- There is part of a sentence hidden behind a photo on the draft brochure, so readers are unable to see the full sentence.
- Consider reconciling how the JJC and the DPC fit together and define the relationship between the two. Currently the DPC almost reads as if it is free-standing and unrelated to the JJC.
- Include the Joint JJC/DPC meeting times only, as the JJC meeting is not a public meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the potential to use individual cards within one marketing handout that describes each project/program that can be more tailored to a particular audience. This would also allow for all of the youth and prevention items to be included in one handout. The consensus was to keep the brochure simple initially and look at additional options, such as the multiple card option in the future. It was also noted that members needed to ensure that the goals that are outlined in the brochure are agreed upon and that the mission is reviewed and updated as necessary.

Discussion was held on whether or not to create an ad hoc sub-committee to review comments and finalize the brochure. Commissioner Carole D’Elia agreed to assist with

the brochure project. Please send all comments and suggestions to Commissioner Mills, Commissioner Gaines, or Commissioner D'Elia by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

9. **PROBATION ANNUAL STATISTIC REVIEW:** Mike Shores provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Commission on Probation's juvenile operations data and performance measures. Mike Shores stated that one of the things they do for each respective division is add quality and outcome measures that assists with defining their training and focus areas. Mike Shores reviewed the following data with the Commission:
- There has been a significant reduction in juvenile crime across Sacramento County.
  - Proactive approaches are being successfully implemented.
  - There is a disproportionate rate of juveniles coming in through the dependency system.
  - The breakdown of data by age stays pretty consistent with the overall reduction in juvenile crime. Additional information regarding age will be discussed at the Learning Summit next week. Analyzing the data assists with program design (*focus on diversion*) and ensures funds are allocated appropriately.
  - The average daily population in the Youth Detention Facility has dropped significantly, which correlates with the reduction in juvenile crime. Probation has put a lot of effort into creating alternatives to detention.
  - The average daily population in the Youth Detention Facility is around 156, with a goal of reducing this to at least 140. The department really pushes to stay focused on alternatives in lieu of youth detention. The reduction from previous years is pretty remarkable.
  - Seasonal factors are taken into consideration when reviewing the data.
    - An increase in juvenile crime occurs at the start of the school year, as there are initially more issues around behavior, expulsions, etc.
    - Populations decrease in winter months due to the cold weather and the shorter days (*it is darker earlier*).
  - The average daily population by year in terms of percentage is staying relatively consistent.
  - There is an increase in the average length of stay, as they are only holding youth in detention that are clearly a public safety risk or have mental health and other issues. They continue to look at ways to reduce the length of stay.
  - The juvenile population by residence zip code correlates directly with the areas that require more attention and most supports.
  - In reviewing the data on probationers by school district, there is a greater knowledge of where youth are attending school. They are doing a better job of ensuring this information is accurately entered into the system. They currently have a pending MOU with Twin Rivers Unified, San Juan Unified, Elk Grove, Sac County and Natomas. They are working in districts that have the greatest need for presence and are looking at expanding to other schools in future years.

- There is a continued reduction in the number of out of home placements. There are currently 93 youth in placements within the state and there is a slight increase in out-of-state placements (mid to high 40's). If the Youth Center project moves forward, they will be able to offer a local program for youth that will include treatment to reduce the need for out-of-state placements.
- Sacramento County is looking at becoming a waiver county which would allow them to access federal dollars and shift their use of out of home placements to more community interventions. Utilizing community interventions, including a Youth Center can reduce the period of time a youth is in out of home placement.
- Extended foster care has increased slightly. Extended foster care provides services to youth that are aging out of the foster care system and into AB12.
- The use of wraparound services has increased, as they are utilizing services on the front end as a preventative measure.
- Early indication shows that out of home placements are not effective in reducing the recidivism rate.

Chief Seale stated that he believes the work that Judge Boulware Eurie and Mike Shores are doing on the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) along with their plans for a Youth Center, really creates opportunities for youth.

**10. NAACP YOUTH COUNCIL REQUEST:** Commissioner Steve Streeter informed Chief Seale and Mike Shores that he was approached by Charles Silas on behalf of Assemblyman Kevin McCarty to request information regarding youth in juvenile hall. Chief Seale and Mike Shores directed Commissioner Streeter to have the individuals contact them to set up a meeting to take a tour and discuss services. It was noted that they needed to be sensitive to confidentiality and remain fair and consistent in their approach to all requests. They also stated that they have a desire to be an open and transparent agency and attempt to accommodate requests to the best of their ability.

**11. AGENDA BUILDING FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- Commission Brochure (*Commissioner Fred Mills, Commissioner Hillary Gaines, Commissioner Carole D'Elia*)

**MEETING ADJOURN:**

Commissioner Stephanie Nguyen moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Dan Okada seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Claren, Judicial Secretary III

**NEXT MEETING:** **Tuesday, May 17, 2016** – 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Juvenile Courthouse – Walter Barkdull Conference Room #391  
9605 Kiefer Blvd., Sacramento 98527