



**Juvenile Justice Commission  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Joint Meeting  
October 29, 2024  
5:15 pm**

Location and public participation instructions can be found on page 3

**AGENDA**

Public comment will be accommodated under Item II for items not on the agenda. The Commission requests that members of the public, who wish to comment on items on the agenda, submit a request to the Chair prior to the start of the meeting or raise their hand to speak, so that they may be recognized at the appropriate time.

**I. Preliminary Business**

- a. Call to Order
- b. Translation Services for JJDPC meetings
- c. Roll Call and Establish Quorum

**II. Oral Communications - Public Comment**

This item provides an opportunity for public comment on items not on agenda (Time limit – three (3) minutes per person. There will be opportunity for public comment on agenda items as they are considered.

**III. Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

- a. Action to Set Agenda
- b. Approval of the August 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- c. Approval of the September 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**IV. Updates From System Partners**

- a. Private Defender Program – Ron Rayes
- b. Probation: Institutions– Sanam Aram
- c. Probation Services Nora Cullen
- d. BHRS – Ornit Shoham
- e. County Office of Education – Sarah Notch
- f. Children & Family Services – John Fong
- g. Michelle Polling: FLY-Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Hon. Susan Etezadi  
Presiding Judge  
Juvenile Court

David Canepa  
Board of Supervisors  
District 5

Judith Holiber  
Deputy County Counsel

**Commissioners**

Johanna Rasmussen  
Chair

Karin Huber-Levy  
Vice Chair  
Administration

Ruchi Mangtani  
Vice Chair  
Membership

Shakeel Ali

Jennifer Blanco

Paul Bocanegra

Whitney Genevro

Eugene Jackson

Ameya Nori

Sathvik Nori

Susan Swope

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Kenneth Williams



**Juvenile Justice Commission  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Joint Meeting  
October 29, 2024  
5:15 pm**

Hon. Susan Etezadi  
Presiding Judge  
Juvenile Court

David Canepa  
Board of Supervisors  
District 5

Judith Holiber  
Deputy County Counsel

**Commissioners**

Johanna Rasmussen  
Chair

Karin Huber-Levy  
Vice Chair  
Administration

Ruchi Mangtani  
Vice Chair  
Membership

Shakeel Ali

Jennifer Blanco

Paul Bocanegra

Whitney Genevro

Eugene Jackson

Ameya Nori

Sathvik Nori

Susan Swope

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Kenneth Williams

**V. 2024 Inspection Reports**

- a. Canyon Oaks Facility - Commissioner Sathvik Nori
- b. Canyon Oaks: Education - Commissioner Ameya Nori
- c. Police Departments - Commissioner Rasmussen
  - o San Bruno Police Department
  - o So. San Francisco Police Department

**VI. Project Updates**

- a. Countywide Educational Summit - Commissioner Blanco
- b. Foster Care: Commissioner Genevro

**VII. Committee Updates**

- a. Membership Committee - Commissioner Mangtani

**VIII. Liaison Updates**

- a. Voting Rights & 2024 Election- Commissioner Huber-Levy

**IX. Announcements**

- a. Resignation Commissioner Jackson
- b. November meeting date changed to November 19, 2024
- c. Youth Town Hall:  
“Making Redwood City More Fun & Safe for Youth”  
Hosted by: Redwood City Police Advisory Committee  
November 13, 5:30-8:00 pm at Sequoia High School

**X: Matters of Commission Interest**

**XI. Adjournment of Joint Meeting**



**Juvenile Justice Commission  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Joint Meeting  
October 29, 2024  
5:15 pm**

**Public Participation Instructions**

**Join In Person**

Meeting Location

The College of San Mateo

1700 W. Hillsdale Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94402

College Heights Conference Room

Building 10 4th Floor, Room 468

Free parking is available near the entrance to Building 10.

[Campus Map](#)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

**<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/88156309499>**

Webinar ID: **881 5630 9499**

**Spanish Translation services are available via Zoom videoconference**

If you wish to speak to the Commission during public comment, you may raise your hand using Zoom with the Reactions button at the bottom of your screen, or indicate that you would like to speak if you are attending in person. If you have any materials that you wish distributed to the Commission and included in the official record, please send them via email to [sanmateojjdpcc@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojjdpcc@gmail.com), prior to the meeting and attach the materials.

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.**

**Monthly meetings are held in the same location each month**

Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact Connie Juarez-Diroll [cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org](mailto:cjuarez-diroll@smcgov.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to enable the county to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it. Attendees to this meeting are reminded that other attendees.

Hon. Susan Etezadi  
Presiding Judge  
Juvenile Court

David Canepa  
Board of Supervisors  
District 5

Judith Holiber  
Deputy County Counsel

**Commissioners**

Johanna Rasmussen  
Chair

Karin Huber-Levy  
Vice Chair  
Administration

Ruchi Mangtani  
Vice Chair  
Membership

Shakeel Ali

Jennifer Blanco

Paul Bocanegra

Whitney Genevro

Eugene Jackson

Ameya Nori

Sathvik Nori

Susan Swope

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

Kenneth Williams



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
August 27, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.  
Joint Meeting Minutes**

**I. Preliminary Business**

- a. Call to Order: Chair Johanna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.
- b. Sukhmani Purewal, Clerk, provided instructions for Spanish translation services.
- c. Judge Cho administered the oaths of office and confidentiality to Shakeel Ali.

**d. Commissioners Present**

Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership, Ruchi Mangtani, Jennifer Blanco, Paul Bocanegra, Whitney Genevro, Eugene Jackson, Ameya Nori (arrived 5:23 pm) Sathvik Nori (arrived 5:49 pm)), Susan Swope, Kenneth Williams and Shakeel Ali. A quorum was established.

**Commissioners Absent**

Tiffany Uhila-Hautau

**Staff Present**

DelSukhmani S. Purewal, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**Juvenile Court**

Hon. Sharon Cho, Juvenile Court Judge

**Stakeholders Present**

Ron Rayes, Private Defenders Program  
Sanam Aram and Nora Cullen- Probation Department  
Sarah Notch, San Mateo County Office of Education  
Maria Delgado, FLY-Fresh Lifelines for Youth

**Stakeholders Absent**

John Keene, Chief of Probation  
Ornit Shoham BHRS  
John Fong: Director of HSA: Children & Family Services

**II. Oral Communications: none**



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
August 27, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.  
Joint Meeting Minutes**

**III. Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

- a. **M:** Swope, **S:** Huber-Levy to approve the Agenda for August 27<sup>th</sup> as distributed. Passed unanimously.
- b. **M:** Swope, **S:** Bocanegra to approve the Meeting Minutes for June 25, 2024, approved unanimously as distributed.
- c. **M:** Huber-Levy, **S:** Swope to approve the Minutes for the August 10, 2024, Retreat.

**IV. Presentation by Leonard Rubio, Executive Director of the Insight Prison Project (IPP) on the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) at SF Juvenile Hall (deferred until after Item 5 when Mr. Rubio arrived)**

Mr. Rubio introduced himself as someone who was sentenced to 15-years-to-life for second degree murder and spent 23.5 years in San Quentin, where he became aware of the Insight Prison Project in 1997. IPP's VOEG program is a 52-week program that uses a circle process. It turns lifers into crybabies. After he came home in 2010, he went to work for IPP, eventually becoming its Executive Director.

Of more than 1000 inmates who went through the VOEG program, at least 500 have gone home and only 10 were returned to custody, mostly for parole violations. CDCR's general population has about a 50% recidivism rate. VOEG has proven very effective.

Starting in 2022, IPP has been offering a VOEG program adapted for Secure Track & transitional youth at Camo Sweeny in Santa Clara County. VOEG began at San Francisco's Juvenile Hall in 2023. The San Francisco Juvenile Court requires all youth committed to Secure Track complete the VOEG program as a condition of release. The cost of the VOEG program is approximately 60K per cohort, per year.

**V. Updates from System Partners**

- a. **Private Defender**—Ron Reyes reported 26 new cases assigned, two with 707(b) allegations, 18 out-of-custody arraignments, one with 707(b) allegations. They received 7 sealing petitions and 80 SB 203 Miranda consultations on the hot line. They have had attorneys on call for the hotline 24/7 since 2018.
- b. **Probation**—Sanam Aram and Nora Cullen reported 27 youth in custody at the Juvenile Hall, 24 males and 3 females. There are 188 youth being supervised on probation. There are 17 youths in the Electronic Monitoring Program—none are Out of County youth. There are 188 youths currently in diversion.



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
August 27, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.  
Joint Meeting Minutes**

- c. **Behavioral Sciences and Recovery Services**—Did Not Attend
- d. **County Office of Education**—Sarah Notch noted that the Fall semester at Hillcrest began 7 days ago. The new administrative team is fitting in nicely. They have added an SEL opener and closer each day at both Hillcrest and Gateway. They are developing an ethnic studies course in house.
- e. **HSA: Children and Family Services**—Did Not Attend
- f. **FLY:** Maria Delgado reported that as of the first week of August there were 25 youth in their re-entry program and 15 on the wait list. The program includes case management. Youth are eligible for services even if they have been terminated from Probation for 10 months.

**No public comment on Item V**

- VI. **Formation of Budget Subcommittee**  
**M:** Blanco, **S:** Jackson to form a Budget Subcommittee. Unanimously approved. Members are Commissioners Rasmussen, Blanco, and Jackson.
- VII. **Memberships Committee Update:** Commissioner Mangtani reported there are two openings on the Commission. Any nominations should be e-mailed to her.
- VIII. **Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:** Chair Rasmussen shared the Juvenile Services & Institutions data that was presented at the August 22, 2024 meeting. The next JJC meeting will be held on November 20, 2024, at which time the council will receive comprehensive statistical information and data.
- IX. **2024 Inspection Team Updates**
  - a. Chair Rasmussen called the Commission's attention to BSCC's targeted inspection that occurred April 23, 2024, and report dated June 21, 2024.
  - b. Canyon Oaks: Commissioner Satvik Nori reported that he is finalizing the notes on the inspection and anticipates being able to present at the October meeting.
  - c. Elysian/County Receiving Home: Inspection for both HSA run facilities have been completed. The inspection team consists of Commissioners Rasmussen, Bocanegra and Genevro. All were impressed with the facility and the staff. Presentation and report and presentation are slated for the November monthly meeting.
  - d. Juvenile Hall: Commissioners Rasmussen, Swope, and Ameya Nori are attempting to wrap up this inspection. The team has been waiting over a month for routine



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
August 27, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting Minutes**

inspection data (this usually takes 7-10 days.) Superintendent Aram has also limited the teams access to the facility and made several last minute scheduling changes- which have made it difficult to adhere to our timeline.

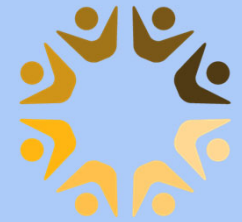
- e. Camp Kemp: Inspection has been completed. As there are no residents beyond October 2023, the inspection will primarily focus on the facility itself. The teams has been waiting over a month to receive routine inspection data from Probation.
  - f. Education: Commissioner Ameya Nori noted that school started on August 19<sup>th</sup>. They had a covid outbreak that delayed the inspection. He, Commissioners Huber-Levy, and Blanco are working to schedule the inspection as soon as possible.
  - g. Police Holding Facilities: Inspections are completed. South San Francisco and San Bruno inspection reports will be presented at the October meeting.
  - h. The annual Inspection Timeline is available in the JJDPC Google Drive.
- X. **Matters of Commission Interest:** Commissioner Bocanegra expressed his concerns about Prop. 36, especially as it relates to our youth and retail theft.
- XI. **In Memoriam “Mama Dee” Appollonia Uhila:** Commissioner Bocanegra gave a tribute to Mama Dee reflecting upon her 50+ years of dedicated service advancing the needs our Polynesian community members, residents of East Palo Alto, on the Juvenile Justice Commission, Senior Affairs Commissioner for the County of San Mateo, and for her friendship and mentorship to him.
- XII. **Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.**



# INSIGHT PRISON PROJECT

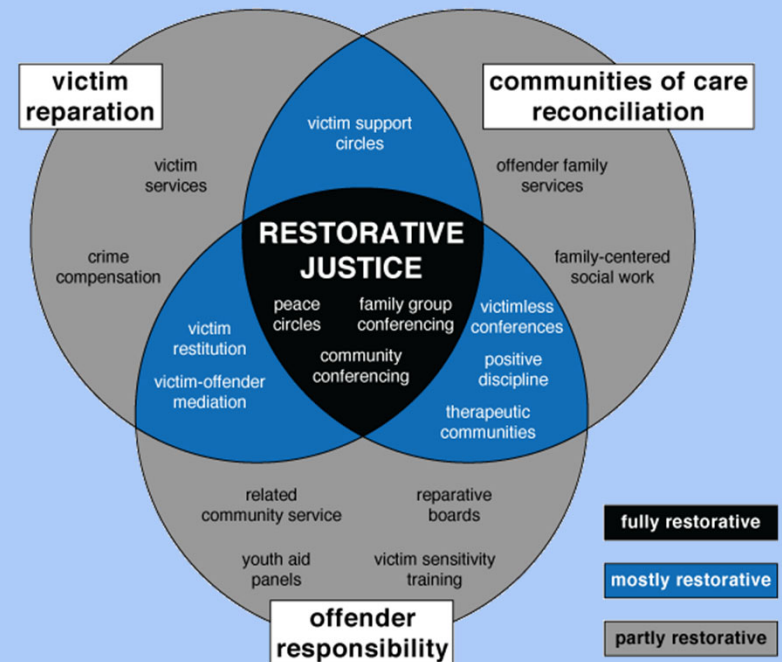


# Restorative Justice

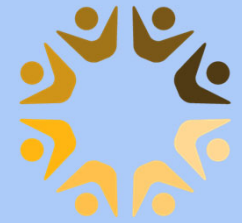


- Philosophy & Social Movement
- Current system
  - *Focus on Punishment*
  - *State as primary victim*
  - *Casting victims & prisoners in passive roles*
- RJ focuses on healing & rehabilitation
  - *Human rights, Race, Class*
  - *Restoring losses and taking responsibility*
  - *Shift Victim vulnerability*

Types and Degrees of Restorative Justice Practice

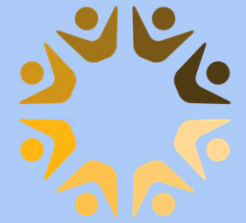


# Comparison of Punitive Justice & Restorative Justice



Current Punitive System	Restorative Justice
What laws were broken?	Who has been hurt?
Who did it?	What are their needs?
What do they deserve?	Who has the obligation to address the needs, to make right the harms to restore relationships?

# Mission

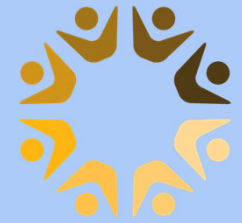


Transforming the lives of those *impacted by crime and incarceration* through evidenced-based programs rooted in *Restorative Justice* and designed to develop behavior inspired by:

- Insight
- Accountability
- Compassion

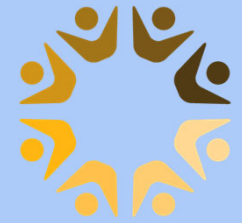


# Past & Present



- 1997
- 14 male prisoners at San Quentin State Prison
- Offers unique & effective programs for thousands of men, women, and children
- Currently 7 prisons in California, one juvenile hall, and six prisons in Colorado
- Core program:
  - *VOEG (Victim/Offender Education Group)*

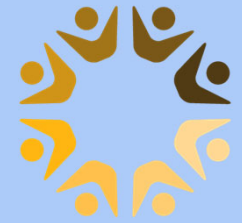
# VOEG



- Victim/Offender Education Group
- Explores root causes of harm
- Bring understanding of the impact of harm to:
  - *Victims and Survivors*
  - *Community*
  - *Themselves*
- Three Units
  - *Offender Accountability & Impact of Crime*
  - *Self Trauma*
  - *Victim Impact*



# Benefits of VOEG



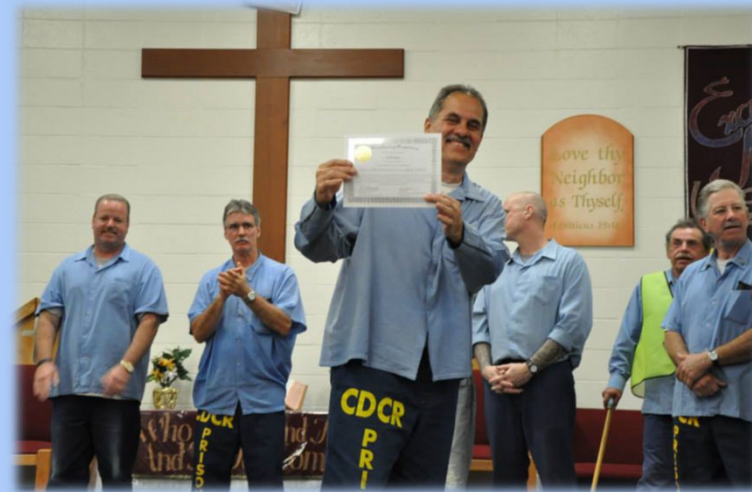
- One of the most effective programs
- Prison administration and IPP staff & Facilitators have been tracking VOEG for 15 years:



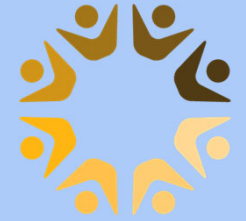
- Anger
- Impulsivity
- Incidences of Violence



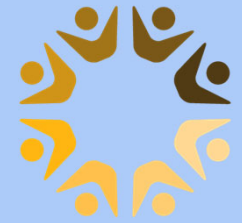
- Compassion
- Emotional Intelligence
- General Health
- Desire to help and give back
- Renewed connection to lost family



# The Prison Within



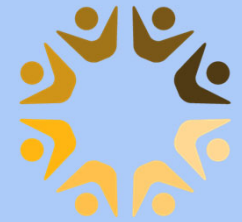
# VOEG at Juvenile Justice Centers



- Camp Sweeney in Alameda County in 2012-2013
- San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center (SFJJC) from December 2022 through April 2024 funded by Department of Children, Youth, & Their Families (DCYF)
- July 2024 – San Francisco DCYF authorized a Five Year Grant to continue VOEG at the SFJJC
- October 2024 - Starting a second cohort the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Center

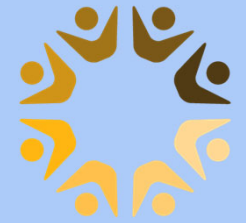


# VOEG at Juvenile Justice Centers



- At SFJJC we have VOEG Facilitators with Lived Experience
- Working with Transitional Aged Youth in their Secure Track
- Judge required it as a part of their reentry plans
  - *This created pushback as the youth felt they were being mandated to do something they did not want to do.*
  - *In the Adult Prison system we have waiting lists of people that want to participate in VOEG, which is often recommended by the Board of Parole Hearings*
- We did receive positive feedback from Staff and other CBOs regarding the insight and accountability our participants were sharing in other situations.

# Our Graduates & Returning Citizens



- Insight Prison Project
- Five Keys Schools & Programs
- Veterans Healing Veterans
- Bonafide
- Mend Collective
- Impact Justice
- The Last Mile
- Insight Garden Project
- Mt. Tamalpais College  
(Formerly the Prison University Project)





# Contact Us



- Leonard Rubio, Executive Director  
- [leonard@insightprisonproject.org](mailto:leonard@insightprisonproject.org)
- Yadira Ramirez, Program Manager  
- [yadira@insightprisonproject.org](mailto:yadira@insightprisonproject.org)
- Bev Shelby, Advisory Board President  
- [bev@insightprisonproject.org](mailto:bev@insightprisonproject.org)



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
September 24, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.  
Joint Meeting Minutes**

**I. Preliminary Business**

- a. Call to Order: Chair Johanna Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.
- b. Sherry Golestan, Clerk gave Instructions for Spanish translation services.

**c. Commissioners Present**

Chair Johanna Rasmussen, Vice Chair Administration, Karin Huber-Levy, Vice Chair Membership, Ruchi Mangtani, Shakeel Ali, Paul Bocanegra, Eugene Jackson, Ameya Nori, Susan Swope, and Kenneth Williams. A quorum was established.

**Commissioners Attending Online via Zoom**

Jennifer Blanco

**Commissioners Absent**

Whitney Geneviro, Sathvik Nori

**Staff Present**

Sherry Golestan, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**Juvenile Court**

Hon. Susan I. Etezadi, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court

**Stakeholders Present**

Ron Rayes, Private Defender Program

John Keene and Nora Cullen, Probation Department

Sarah Notch, San Mateo County Office of Education

Maria Delgado, FLY-Fresh Lifelines for Youth

**Stakeholders Absent**

Sanam Aram, Probation Department

Ornit Shoham, BHRS

John Fong, Director of HSA: Children & Family Services

**I. Oral Communications**

Clara Jaeckel shared that the Sequoia School District is hosting a Youth Town Hall on November 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm at Sequoia High School in Redwood City.



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
September 24, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting Minutes**

**II. Meeting Agenda**

- a. **M:** Swope, **S:** Huber-Levy to accept the Agenda for September 24<sup>th</sup> with Item V moved before Item IV. Passed unanimously.

**III. Presentation by the National Center for Youth Law, Raymundo Armendariz, Senior Policy Associate and Alejandra Gutierrez**

Formed in 1971, the Center has five attorneys, one policy advocate, and one community organizer. They advocate for a shift from punishment to a public health approach in juvenile justice, and to reduce youth incarceration and justice system involvement. They work to increase community capacity to serve youth. They are active in San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Benito, Monterey, San Joaquin, Fresno, and Riverside Counties. Among their legislative accomplishments, they removed youth from the adult system, reduced reliance on justice systems for youth and increased community power and resources to benefit youth. They have done a lot of research on alternatives to incarceration for youth, pre-arrests, post-arrest and pre-charge.

**IV. Updates from System Partners**

- a. **Private Defender**—Ron Reyes reported 41 new cases assigned, seven with 707(b) allegations, and nine detentions. The rest were out-of-custody (five with 707 allegations) They held 19 SB 203 Miranda consultations on the hotline. Ron shared that Kevin Nowack received 2024 PJDC Annual Youth Defender of the Year Award on September 13, 2024, for his “fearless advocacy of young people facing transfer to adult court in San Mateo County”.
- b. **Probation**—Nora Cullen gave the full report from probation, in Sanam’s absence. Nora reported 22 youth in custody at the Juvenile Hall—20 males and 2 females. There are two housing units open, Forest 3 (co-ed) and Pine 4. Of the 22 youths, two were from another county. 193 youths are being supervised on probation, 13 youths are in the Electronic Monitoring Program, and 176 youths are participating in diversion.
- c. **County Office of Education**—Sarah Notch reported that Commissioners had conducted their inspections all day today. She was appreciative of the team’s thoughtfulness in scheduling to avoid disruption to the school day. COE is in talks with Commissioner Blanco on Educational Summit. Commissioner Rasmussen noted Dr. Maria Ramos, the new principal of Court and Community Schools (Juvenile Hall, Camp Kemp, Canyon Oaks, & Gateway) was placed on administrative leave shortly after the school year began. This is the second year in a row where a new principal was hired and then placed administrative leave within weeks.



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
September 24, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting Minutes**

- d. **Behavioral Health and Recovery Services**— Commissioner Rasmussen read a written update provided by Regina Moreno that stated: BHRS has hired two bi-lingual clinicians who will be on-boarding in mid-October.
- e. **HSA: Children and Family Services**—Did not attend or send written report.
- f. **FLY**: Commissioner Rasmussen read a written update submitted by Maria Delgado stating: “There are 14 youth in the TAY program—two of which are new entries to the program. There are 4 youths on the TAY wait list. The Re-Entry program currently has two case managers managing 25 youth—23 males and 2 females. There are currently 10 youths on the wait list. FLY reports that there are enough youth consistently on the waitlist to expand the program and add a third case manager. However, funding is not currently in place to support the expansion.

**V. 2024 Inspection Team Updates**

- a. Canyon Oaks: Commissioner Sathvik Nori reported that Canyon Oaks is complete. Their top concerns were the team’s inability to interview a youth in residence who is on active probation and the facility currently does not have a PE teacher.
- b. Juvenile Hall: Commissioner Rasmussen reported the team formally requested the routine annual data for Juvenile Hall and SYTF/Secure Track on July 25, 2024, 64 days ago. There is currently no ETA on when the data will be made available. The team typically receives the data within 7-10 days— the delays are unprecedented and excessive. The team is currently 6 weeks behind the agreed upon timeline.
- c. Camp Kemp: Commissioner Rasmussen reported that the inspection has been completed. The team formally requested the routine annual inspection data on July 8, 2024, 82 days. The Probation Department has no ETA on when the data will be provided.
- d. Education: Commissioner Ameya Nori noted that Juvenile Hall inspection was conducted today. Chair, Rasmussen joined Commissioners, Ameya Nori, Huber-Levy, and Blanco for the inspection. The team hopes to present the Hillcrest educational inspection report in November. The Canyon Oaks Educational Inspection will be presented at the October meeting.
- e. Police Holding Facilities: Commissioner Rasmussen: South San Francisco and San Bruno Police Department inspection reports will be presented at the October meeting.
- f. Elysian: Commissioner Rasmussen: The report is expected to be presented at the November meeting.



**Juvenile Justice &  
Delinquency Prevention Commission  
September 24, 2024, 5:15 - 7:15 p.m.**

**Joint Meeting Minutes**

**VI. Project Updates**

- a. Educational Summit: Commissioner Blanco said she has met with Kris Shouse at the County Office of Education, and they will be meeting again. She plans to have the Summit on a Saturday at CSM because CSM's Cafeteria would not be available during the week when classes are in session. Her committee includes Commissioners Swope and Ali, and Dr. Cousins.
- b. Foster Care: Commissioner Genevro has met with John Fong. She has emailed Alameda, San Francisco, San Diego and Santa Cruz Counties. She has also contacted Santa Clara's JJDPCC Chair about their Foster Care programs.

**VII. Liaison Updates**

- a. Voting Rights: Commissioner Huber-Levey reported that eligible youth at YSC have all been registered to vote. The County Register is happy to arrange to provide and collect ballots.
- b. Justice Bound & Jobs for Youth: Commissioner Mangtani reported that she is working to provide formerly incarcerated youth with resumes, interviewing skills, and clothing to assist in gaining employment.

**VIII. Matters of Commission Interest**

- a. Commissioner Rasmussen said that the Annual Family Support Group's Fall Dinner will be on October 18, 2024.

**IX. Chair Rasmussen adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.**





# Youth Justice Team

Reymundo Armendariz , Sr. Comm. Policy Associate  
Alejandra Gutierrez, Policy Attorney

**National Center**  
for **Youth Law**



# The Youth Justice Team

Attorneys, Policy Advocates,  
Community Organizers



## Diverse Backgrounds & Experiences

- Race, Ethnicity, Nationality
- Low-Income/Underserved
- Justice-Impacted Communities
- Formerly Incarcerated

# Goals

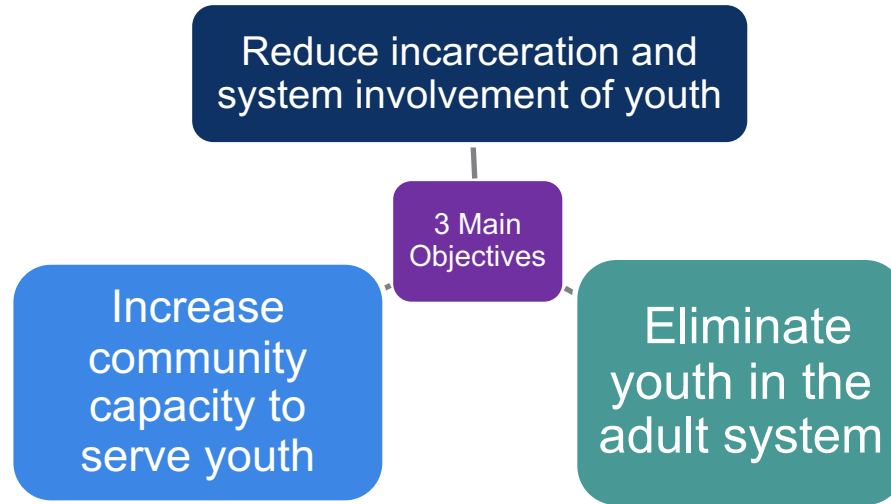
Ensure youth are treated fairly and appropriately for their age and level of development, in a trauma informed and culturally-centered manner, in their communities

## Sub-goals:

1. Shift youth justice system away from punishment to public health
2. Empower impacted youth and communities to advocate for and participate in systems reforms
3. Fight justice by geography – Raise floor of progress
4. End racial, ethnic disparities in youth justice system

# Project Mission

We work at state and local levels to create an equitable, trauma-informed, gender responsive, youth- and family-centered justice system that values community and is aligned with positive youth development principles.



## Activities

Youth Leadership  
Development

Strategic  
Communications

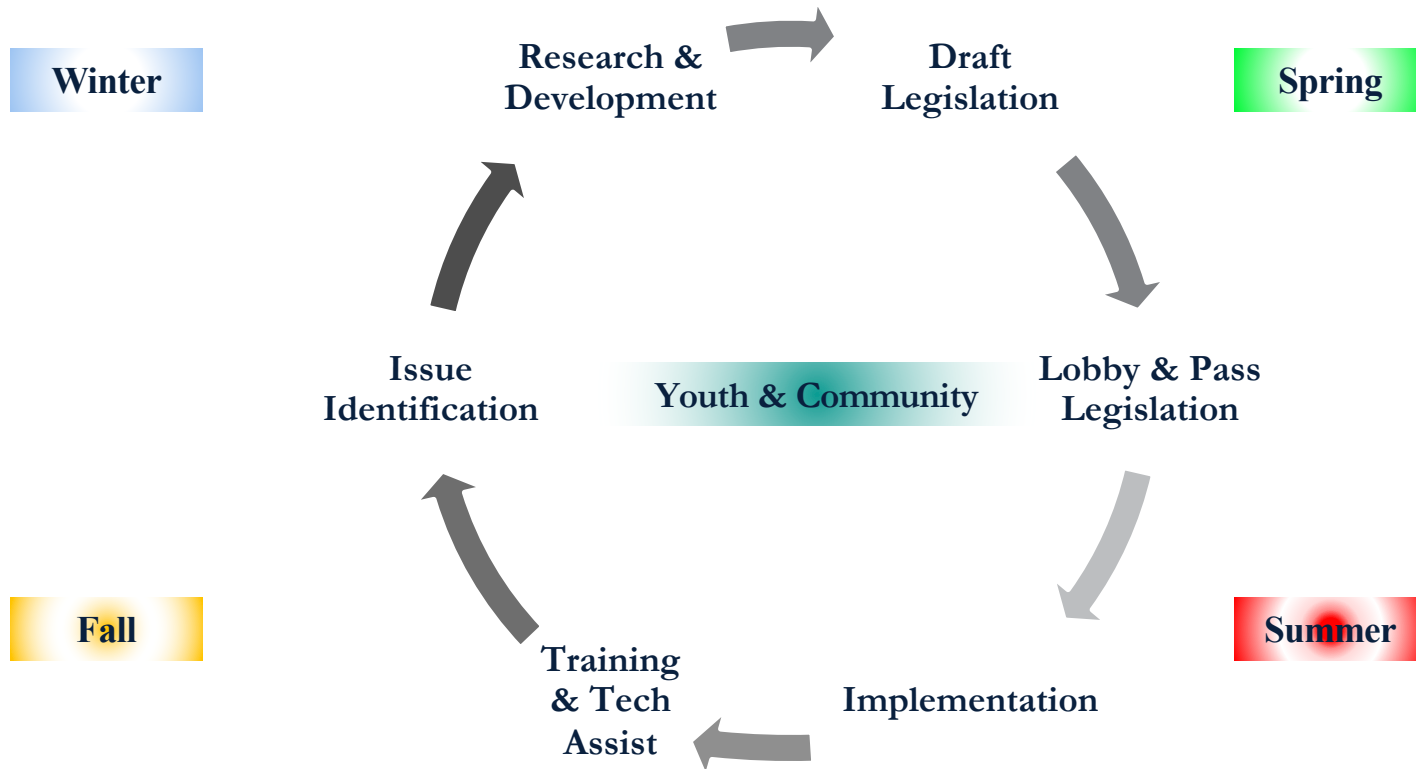
Community Power,  
Capacity Building

Data & Research

State & Local  
Policy Advocacy

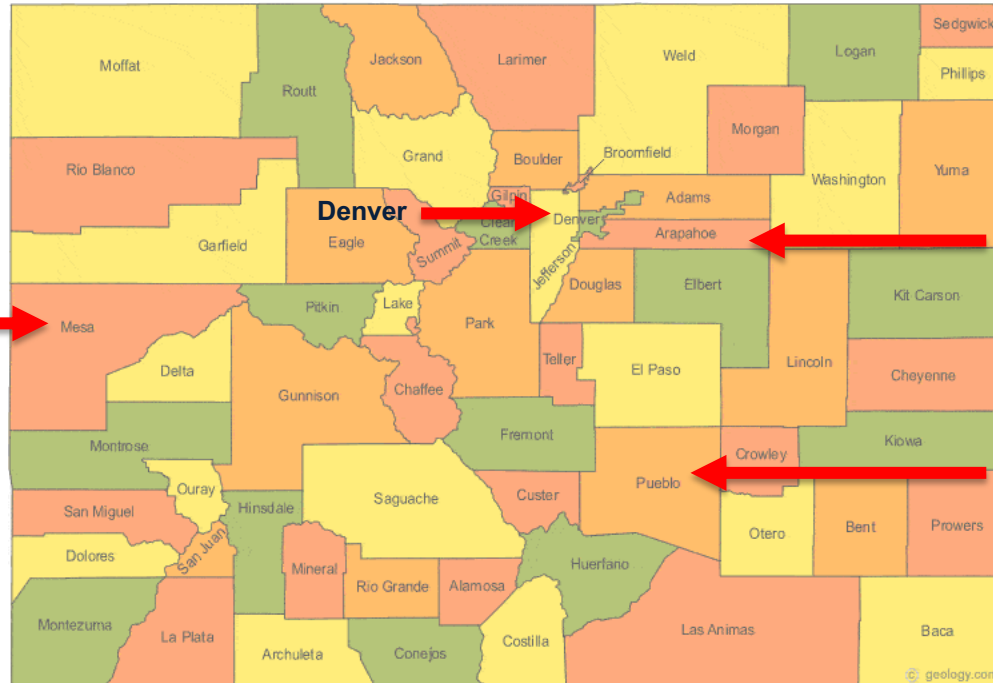
Technical  
Assistance &  
Policy  
Implementation

# Our Approach: Policy-Practice-Policy





Mesa



Denver



Aurora

Pueblo County

# Partnerships

State	Local
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child-Serving Agencies</li><li>• Community Coalitions</li><li>• Corrections &amp; Parole</li><li>• Governor &amp; Cabinet</li><li>• Health Services</li><li>• Labor</li><li>• Legislature</li><li>• State Associations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community-Based Orgs</li><li>• Courts</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Faith-Based Orgs</li><li>• Law Enforcement</li><li>• Probation</li><li>• Public Health Depts</li><li>• Service Providers</li><li>• Youth &amp; Families</li></ul>



## Legislative Accomplishments

Remove youth  
from adult  
justice system

Repealed Prosecutorial Direct File, Abolished Juvenile LWOP, Established Youthful Offender Parole Hearings, Trauma Informed Sentencing (Gender Justice)

Reduce reliance  
on justice systems  
for youth

Enhanced Miranda Rights, Established Minimum Age of Juv Court Jurisdiction, Expanded Pre-Arrest Diversion Programs & Resources, Closing DJJ (Youth Prisons)

Increase  
community power  
and resources to  
benefit youth

Established Statewide Coalition, \$57.5M for Pre-Arrest Diversion & Community-Based Services, Community Capacity Building

# Current Priorities

## Strategies for Health-Based Alternatives to Incarceration

Addressing the impact of the system on Girls and Gender Expansive Youth

Addressing the erasure and disproportionate justice system involvement of Native American youth

Increasing investments in the under-resourced community

Building partnerships with allies (i.e. Labor Unions, Courts)

# YJI Areas of Support: Capacity Building



## TRAININGS

Provide trainings for staff and youth on juvenile justice transformation, youth justice policy implementation, and rights of youth.



## POLICY ADVOCACY

Identify and develop ideas for policy change at the local and state levels. Partner with communities to advocate for health-based alternatives.



## ACCESS

Support youth and communities to gain access to decision-making spaces



## RESEARCH & DATA

Assist with gathering and analyzing local juvenile justice data, including racial/ethnic disparities, to identify areas of focus for advocacy.



## POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Provide implementation information, guides, and trainings on recent policy changes to be implemented locally.



## SUSTAINABILITY

Build sustainability plans, including fundraising and infrastructure, alongside local partners to institutionalize the long-term goals and strategies. Support partners in identifying, navigating, and advocating for funding opportunities.



## COMMUNICATIONS

Inform strategic communication to shift public perceptions, and influence policymakers and administrators to improve responses to systems-impacted youth.



## COALITION BUILDING

Support relationship building and forming connections with other organizations working to achieve similar goals.



## LEGAL SUPPORT

Connect to organizations providing legal clinics and participatory defense trainings to address pressing needs and help bolster direct legal representation in delinquency court.

# Legislative Priorities

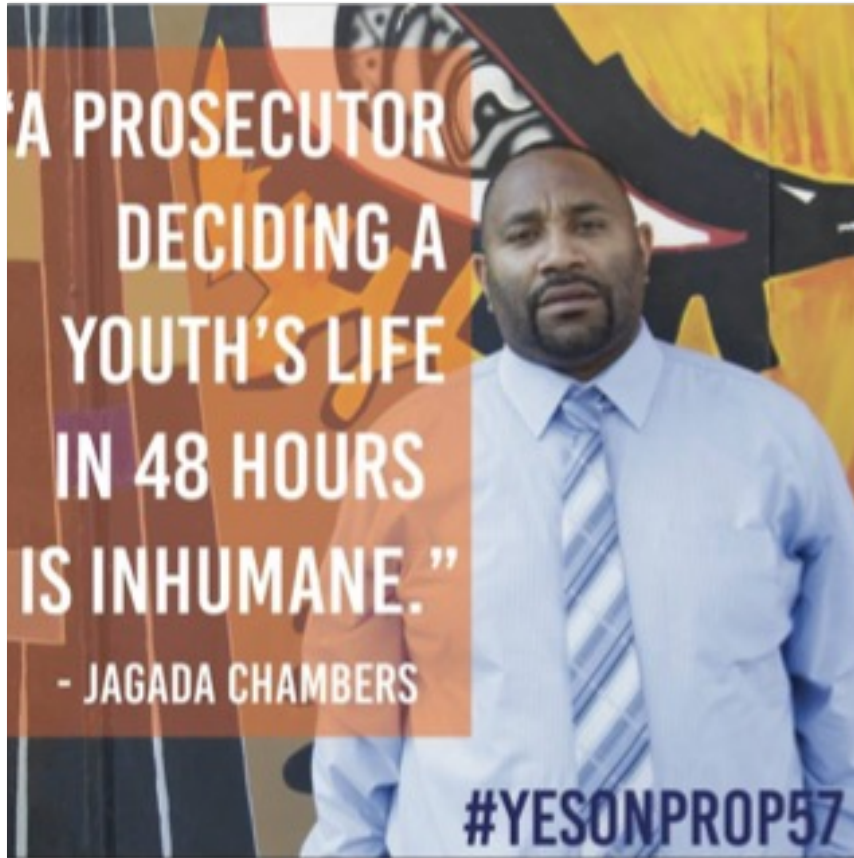
1. Ending the Adultification of Youth
2. Reducing Reliance on the Juvenile Justice System
3. DJJ Realignment (SB 823 & SB 92)
4. Alternatives to Incarceration



# Adultification of Youth



- I. Legislation and policies that enter youth into the adult justice system or have consequences based on adult level punishment instead of rehabilitative services.
- II. Examples of legislation and policies to roll back adultification
  - Senate Bill 260 (2013)
  - Senate Bill 261 (2015)
  - AB 124 Justice for Survivors
  - Prop. 57 Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act
  - SB 1391 Barring youth from Adult Courts and Facilities



## Ending the Adulthood of Youth

### Proposition 57: Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act (Ballot Initiative, 2016)

- Eliminated prosecutors' authority to directly file charges against youth in adult court and established new procedures for judges in determining whether to transfer a youth's case to adult court.

### SB 1391 (Senator Ricardo Lara, Senator Holly Mitchell, 2018)

- Youth under age 16 cannot be sent to adult court.



# ***AB 124 JUSTICE FOR SURVIVORS***

**A judge makes a decision based on the evidence  
of these mitigating factors**

## **History**

**Physical  
Psychological  
Childhood**

## **Age**

**25 or younger  
Presently or  
at the time of  
the offense**

## **Victimization**

**Human  
Trafficking  
Intimate Partner  
Violence  
Sexual Violence**



# REDUCING RELIANCE ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM





# SB 203: Miranda Protections for Youth Bill

## Effective January 1, 2021

- All youth under the age of 18 must consult with an attorney in person, by telephone, or by video conference prior to a **custodial interrogation** or **waiver of Miranda Rights**.
- This includes custodial interrogations that occur on school campuses.
- The consultation may not be waived.
- 

**The JJDPC can help ensure implementation by inquiring into local practices.**



# What Protections Does SB 203 Provide to Youth?

- The Miranda Protections for Youth Bill ensures that:
  1. Students have meaningful access to understanding and asserting their constitutional rights, and
  2. Students understand the consequences of waiving those rights.
  3. It does this by requiring them to consult with an attorney prior to speaking with police



# DJJ Realignment-Closing Youth Prisons



## Senate Bill 823 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

- Closed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) by transferring the responsibility for the custody, treatment, and supervision of youth to local counties.
- Established the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), a state agency to provide meaningful oversight and administer state juvenile justice funding programs.

## Senate Bill 92 (Senator Nancy Skinner)

- Established requirements for local counties, such as local secure youth treatment facilities (SYTF) for youth 14 years or older adjudicated for offenses that would have resulted in a commitment to DJJ.

# Less Restrictive Programs (LRP's)

- **Less restrictive program (LRP)** (also known as step downs):
- Any program or setting that is less restrictive than an SYTF
- This may include a community residential living program, a camp or ranch, or home with support.
- **Process:**
- Every 6 months, youth in SYTF have a 6 month review hearing
- This is an opportunity to:
  - Reduce term of confinement
  - Step down to a less restrictive program, or
  - Release the youth



- **LRP's help prevent recidivism and help increase public safety**

# Challenges with Implementation

- Lack of appropriate programming in SYTF
- No Individualized Rehabilitation Plans (IRP)
- Lack of less restrictive programs (LRP)
- Lack of reentry support → high recidivism rates
- Inadequate conditions inside SYTF
- 
- **The county's SB 823 subcommittee is tasked with overseeing implementation.**
- **JJDPC members should be informed of implementation and of the subcommittee's work.**
- **JJDPC should inquire about conditions inside SYTF.**
- **Ensure Title 15 minimum standards and Youth Bill of Rights are enforced.**

# ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION



A community-based response that serves as an alternative to formal court system-involvement by providing youth the support, treatment, and services they need to address unmet needs.

- **This is related to the JJDPC's purpose of reducing system-involvement and increasing public safety.**

- **This is related to your focus on prevention.**

# DIVERSION





# Focus on the Earliest Point of Intervention

## Pre-Arrest Diversion

Law enforcement refers a young person to a diversion program instead of arresting them or referring them to probation.



## Post-Arrest Diversion

Law enforcement or probation refers a young person to a diversion program after arrest, instead of referring to the District Attorney for filing.

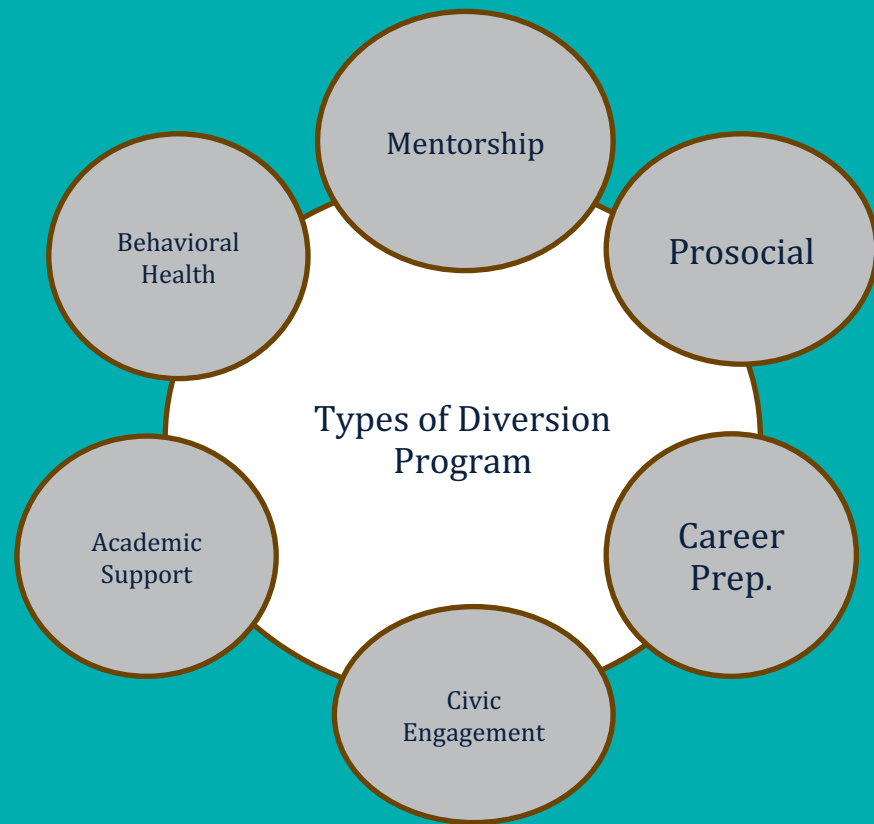
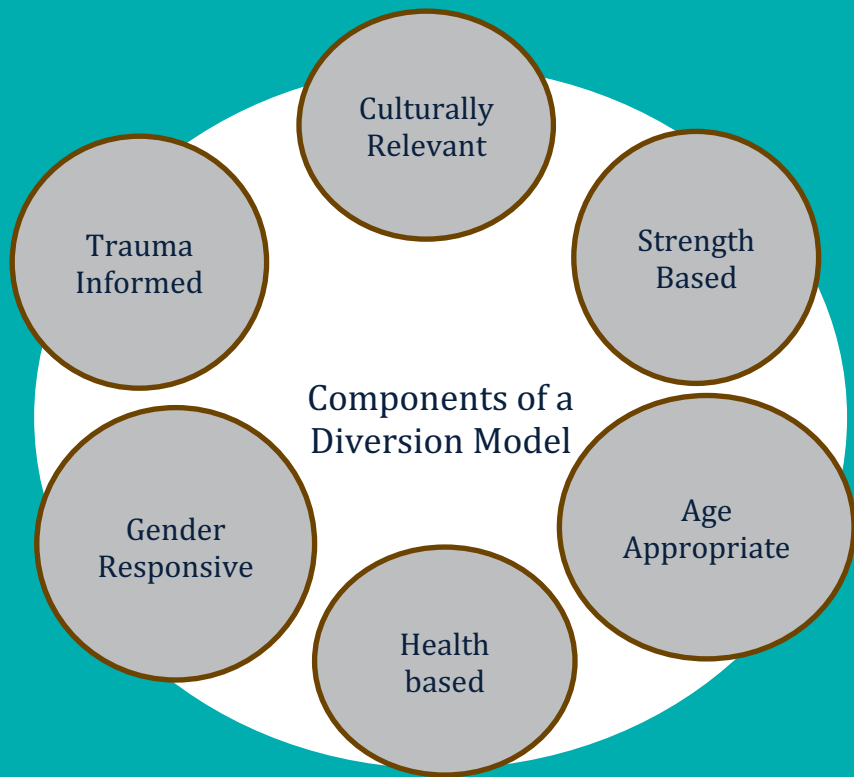


## Pre-charge / Pre-filing Diversion

A District Attorney refers a young person to a diversion program instead of filing a petition (charging or prosecuting them).



# Community Based Diversion Model



# CALIFORNIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM FUNDING SOURCES

This guide provides an overview of state funding streams that fund components of county-level juvenile justice systems in California. Some of these funds are available for community-based programs and support for youth.

Name	Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Stated Uses	Relevant Links
<p><b>Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA)</b></p>	<p>The JJCPA program provides state funding for counties to implement programs that have proven effective in reducing crime and delinquency among “at-promise” youth and “youthful offenders.” This can include early prevention, intervention, supervision, and treatment programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Overview of JJCPA and YOYG with links to plans, reports, etc.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WIC 749.22</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Government Code Section 30061</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOYG)</b></p>	<p>SB 81 (2007) developed the YOYG program to provide flexible state funding for counties to deliver custody and care (i.e., appropriate rehabilitative and supervisory services) to “youthful offenders” who previously would have been committed to the California Department of Corrections &amp; Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Overview of JJCPA and YOYG with links to plans, reports, etc.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WIC 1950-56</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG)</b></p>	<p>SB 823 (2020) developed the JJRBG to support counties in caring for youth who would otherwise have been committed to DJJ. This funding is used for services for youth in local Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF), which replaced DJJ facilities. The funding can also be used to provide transitional/reentry services to youth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Plans by Individual Counties for JJRBG Funding / SYTF Programming</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WIC 1991</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WIC 1995</a></li> </ul>

The logo consists of two white circular arcs, one above and one below the text, forming a partial circle around the words "National Center" and "for Youth Law".

# National Center for Youth Law



## Juvenile Justice Commission 2024 Annual Group Home Inspection

---

**Facility Name:** Canyon Oaks Youth Center

**Facility Capacity:** 12

**Address:** 400 Edmonds Rd, Redwood City, 94062

**Phone Number:** (650) 839-1810

**Date of Inspection:** August 12, 2024

**Date of Last Inspection:** August 23, 2023

**Annual Population:** Average 9-10

**Population at time of inspection:** 7 youth in residence, 4 female 3 male. 7 of the current residents are from San Mateo County; since date of last inspection, 5 youth have been referred through Special Education/IEP, 2 youth have been referred through CFS.

**Contact Person:** Victoria Valencia, Head of Service, Clinical Services Manager

**Facility Commission Inspection Team:** Sathvik Nori, Ruchi Mangtani

**School Commission Inspection Team:**

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:** Hon. Susan Irene Etezadi

### Facility Overview

*Canyon Oaks Youth Center (COYC) opened in August 2003 as a Level 14 group home. To comply with the policy changes of AB403 (Continuum of Care Reform, 2015), COYC converted to a Short Term Residential Treatment Program (STRTP) facility, receiving their permanent STRTP license on June 1, 2019. COYC is a co-ed facility with 12 beds, located at the Cordilleras site in Redwood City, and operated by the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Division of San Mateo County Health. The program serves seriously mentally ill and emotionally disturbed boys and girls, ages 12-18. Serving as an alternative to psychiatric hospitalization for youth in crisis, the program's "crisis beds" are used to stabilize out-of-control, dangerous behaviors so that youth can be returned to the community as quickly as possible. The program also serves the most challenging youth that require out-of-home treatment for a longer period of time. Intensive individualized services are provided to these youth, engaging families as working partners in the treatment process. Youth in COYC can also be AB12 youth (extended foster care). The program is designed to work closely with all levels of service providers within BHRS and the referring agencies of Children and Family Services, Juvenile Probation, and local Special Education Departments, to provide effective and well-integrated services.*

*Before placement, residents are certified by the County's Interagency Placement Review Committee as youth who require residential treatment services at an STRTP that provides intensive mental health services. The objective of the program is to help youth reduce symptoms, gain stability, and transition into the least restrictive setting in which they can succeed. The typical resident spends one year at Canyon Oaks.*

*COYC is guided by a program philosophy that provides placement for youth who face serious emotional and behavioral challenges: they strive to ensure that youth are not discharged as a result of their prior or current challenging behaviors. This is referred to as a 'no eject, no reject' philosophy. If the treatment team is unable to meet a youth's needs safely or adequately, a treatment plan is made for the youth to be transferred to a facility that can better meet their needs. A plan is made for a youth to return to COYC once they have been stabilized. The ultimate goal is always to return the youth, in the least amount of time possible, to the least restrictive setting in which they can succeed.*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Commendations**

We visited Canyon Oaks Youth Center on August 12, 2024 to interview Victoria Valencia, Head of Service. During our visit we interviewed her, toured the facility, and reviewed key documents.

Our overall impression of the facility is that it is *professionally run by a knowledgeable and dedicated staff large enough to present a very favorable staff-to-resident ratio, and that despite the fact that teens in an STRTP setting will often have some complaints, they are generally well cared for and appear to appreciate the team at Canyon Oaks and the services provided to them. The facility is commendable and does a very good job of serving the youth entrusted to their care.*

*The physical condition of the facility is very good. There are always repairs and replacements that a facility would like to have but can't get immediately, but Canyon Oaks largely seems to have what it needs from the County's procurement department with improvements from last year*

### **Concerns & Recommendations**

*As stated above, the facility is commendable for the treatment, services and opportunities provided for residents. The physical facility is well maintained and provides a positive, supportive environment for residents. The laundry machines are still in need of upgrading, but a new washer and dryer are on order with BHRS procurement. In the meantime, bed linens and towels are sent out to a commercial service for laundering. The only identifiable concern is they currently do not have a PE teacher and have not been given a replacement.*

**Other Notes:**

**Access to Youth**

JJDC Commissioners are permitted to interview and view the records of youth who have been placed at COYC by the court. COYC confirmed that all youth placed at COYC since the date of the 2023 inspection have been referred by their school district. Accordingly, the 2024 inspection team did not have access to youth records or conduct any interviews with youth during this inspection. This was the first year in any Commissioner’s memory that the inspection team had not been able to interview youth who are residents.

**REPORTS**

**Fire Inspection Report:**             Yes  No            Date: 7/26/2024, satisfactory / no violations  
Comments:

**Resident’s Handbook:**             Yes  No            Date: no changes since last year  
Comments: Also available in Spanish

**Licensing Inspection:**             Yes  No            Date: 5/25/2024  
Rating: No deficiencies  
  
Carf accredited - STRTP  
  
Community Care licensing

**Note:** *In addition to reviewing the Fire Inspection Report, the inspection team also reviewed COYC’s “Field Operating Guide for a Temporary Shelter” which lays out in detail the procedures to be followed in the event that COYC needs to be evacuated due to wildfire, earthquake or any other incident that requires evacuation. Commissioners were concerned that because of the location of COYC it might be especially vulnerable to a wildfire in the area. In the event of wildfire, CalFire is the agency that would “have jurisdiction over the incident scene” and take command of ensuring that the prescribed procedures are followed.*

**AREAS REVIEWED**

**Quality of Life**

- Physical Buildings
- Meals/Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Physical/Dental Health
- Religious Services
- Programming
- Visiting
- Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Personal Rights
- Grievance Logs
- Ombudsman information

**Programming**

- Education
- Vocational/Employability
- Community Service
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Substance Abuse
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Persons Interviewed**

- Youth
- Director
- Youth Supervisor/Staff
- Food Services Staff
- BHRS
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Target population of youth:** The Mental Health Services at COYC serve emotionally disturbed youth aged 12-18 years old (up to 19 years old if Non-Dependent Minor) who are in residence at the COYC, Short Term Residential Treatment Program. Youth are referred to COYC by Juvenile Probation, Children & Family Services of San Mateo County, and by school districts throughout San Mateo County per the IEP process. Placement is paid for by the referring school district. Each youth served will have been certified by the County’s IPRC (Interagency Placement Review Committee) as requiring residential treatment services at an STRTP facility providing intensive mental health services. Canyon Oaks takes youth whose challenges are appropriate for the type of therapy they provide, which is dialectical behavior therapy. For example, they do not take on youth with intellectual disabilities. Youth need to have at least a 5th grade level reading ability.

*All of the youth currently in residence were referred by school districts and their exit will be determined by an IEP team meeting or by a parent or guardian. One youth in residence is on informal probation, referred by a social worker.*

**Age range of youth:** 12-19

**Ethnicity of youth:** “Mostly Latinx”, per the Head of Service. 2 youth are African American and 1 youth is biracial.

**Youths’ home counties & number of youth per county:** San Mateo County only, by design, so that youth remain close to their families.

**STAFFING**

**Describe staff specialties:** Clinical staff includes two full-time therapists (one is starting end of September 2023) with a maximum caseload of 6 youth, plus full-time occupational therapist (Tina Jenson) and a full-time art therapist (Pearl Krownauer). In addition, the Head of Service (Victoria Valencia) and Supervisor for Direct Care (Laketha Parker-Rodriguez) are also therapists. There is also a co-occurring AOD therapist (Wesley Kobashigawa) who now works 40 hours a week (used to be half-time, 20 hours). Dr. Mur Cooper is now the psychiatrist. They are available all the time.

**Describe staff including numbers, background, ethnicity, language:**

*Staff include a Supervising Mental Health Clinician (1), Mental Health Program Specialist (1), Psychiatric Social Workers/Marriage and Family Therapists (2.5), Creative Arts Therapist (1), Occupational Therapist (1), Psychiatrist (.25), Residential Counselors (19 plus per diem relief staff) and a Medical Office Specialist (1).*

*The 19 full-time Residential Counselors (RCs) provide care and coaching for residents and provide for their safety. Residential Counselors are the primary caregivers for residents and are on-site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Canyon Oaks also has 13 'relief' RCs who are called on when full-time RCs need to take time off. Canyon Oaks currently has a full-time bilingual (Spanish-speaking) therapist on staff*

**Educational requirements for staff:** *All clinicians have at least a Master's degree. RCs are required to have at least a Bachelor's degree, and several have Master's degrees as well.*

**Training provided for staff:** *All staff receive a minimum of 40 hours of training every year, including the year they're hired, as required for STRTPs. At onboarding, RCs and clinicians receive direct training from more senior staff, e.g., 8 hours of shadowing, in addition to using the Relias online training system (a state-approved system for STRTPs) for start-up training. Ongoing training includes trauma-informed, cultural, suicide prevention, and County-required training. There is also a separate 40 hours (2 ½ days) training (similar structure) for clinicians. Proact Advantage training for hands-on situations includes trauma-informed care, cultural competence, and psychotropic medications. Clinicians also have required training of 36 hours every two years to maintain their license. Starting this year, the staff can no longer use restraints unless to save a kid's life. The doors have alarms, but the youth can leave at any time.*

**Staff to Youth Ratio**

**Awake:** RCs are on duty seven days per week: four for the morning shift, and six for the afternoon shift (10am to 6pm). In addition, during weekday work hours, the four staff clinicians/therapists are on site, plus the Head of Services and Supervisor for Direct Care. Teachers rotate in for different subjects during the school day. During the day on weekdays, staff often outnumber clients/youth.

**Sleeping:** Three RCs remain onsite for the overnight shift, seven days a week. One additional shift is being added, with one RC onsite from 5pm to 1am.

**How is staff backup handled during graveyard shift?** The 'relief' RCs are available to backup staff during the grave-yard shift. Several relief RCs prefer working grave-yard shifts. Normally, three RCs are staffed



overnight, and even if the facility was at capacity with 12 youth and only two RCs were able to work, the facility would still be in compliance. Clinicians are onsite Monday through Friday. In addition to RCs, either the Head of Service or Supervisor for Direct Care, both clinicians, are always on call 24/7, including during grave-yard shifts and on weekends to respond in the event that law enforcement must be called on site, e.g., for a 5150 call when a youth is a danger to themselves or others. Only the Head of Service or Supervisor for Direct Care are authorized to call law enforcement.

**Describe staff turnover, including frequency and reason:** There is little to no turnover amongst RCs at Canyon Oaks; most have a tenure of around 15 years. The Head of Service has also been at Canyon Oaks for many years. Staff clinicians turn over more frequently, which the Director described as typical when serving youth like the residents of Canyon Oaks. Staff clinicians tend to be clinicians early in their career who are still working on their licensing, and after a few years at Canyon Oaks, once they are licensed, most move on to other types of clinical work.

**Describe general staff and youth interactions:** We were unable to meaningfully observe staff and youth interactions because of the restrictions on access to youth described above.

## **CONDITIONS OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

**Give a general description of the property:** The building is a one-story structure on the edge of a wooded area on three sides and a fire station and mental health hospital on the road leading up to it. There is a walled court inside the entrance. The building looks neat and maintained from the outside. The interior courtyard contains an area of artificial turf (installed last year), benches and tables, a freshly resurfaced basketball court, and planting boxes. Generally the recreation area looks more inviting than at our visit last year. . There are several small vegetable/flower beds that have been planted and are tended by the residents. Up the hill on the property are storage sheds and a garden in development. The building and property are relatively small, however this is not unreasonable given the small number of youth in residence.

**Give a general description of the main facility including housekeeping and sanitation:** There is a wing that has a lobby, two classrooms and a therapy room. There is a dining room with a connected kitchen and a pass through window at which food is served for pick up by the residents. There is a hall with bedrooms on either side that leads to a living room area furnished with armchairs and bean bag sofas, exercise equipment, a bookcase, large screen TV, and a chalkboard wall. The area with the large screen TV, chalkboard wall, and bean bag sofas includes a memorial area designed by residents to honor a long-time and beloved RC who passed away last year. On the other side of the living room, there is another hall with bedrooms on either side. At the end of that hall is an office for the therapists, a laundry room, a safety room, and a therapy room. A janitor comes in every day Monday through Friday. The facility looked clean and well organized. A generator for power outages has been installed.

**Lawns:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Artificial turf is new.

**Playing Fields:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable.  NA

**Blacktop:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paint:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Roof:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drains and Gutters:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**General Appearance:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition of Interior of Building**

**Walls:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Windows & Window Coverings:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Paint:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Floors:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ceilings:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Restrooms/Sowers:**

**Plumbing Fixtures:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Drains:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Air Vents/Heating/Windows:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Smoke Alarms:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Storage of Cleaning Fluids/Chemicals:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Recreation/Sports Equipment:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hallways Clear/Doors Propped Open:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sleeping Rooms:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Beds:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Storage: Graffiti Present:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Art, Books, Personal Items Allowed in Rooms:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ample Blankets:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Study Area:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adequate Lighting:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Temperature:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Graffiti Present:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF YOUTH

**Appearance:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Showers (frequency, privacy, supervised):**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Condition of clothing (clean, fit, etc.):**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clothing appropriate to current weather:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUTH ORIENTATION

**What is the intake process for the facility?** *The Interagency Placement Review Committee notifies the Head of Service when they have a youth to recommend for admission. The youth's social worker or school guidance counselor provides information about the youth. The Head of Service interviews the youth wherever they are at the time (hospital, YSC, home, school) to get a sense of the child; typically this takes place outside of Canyon Oaks for a first visit. The child would then be brought to Canyon Oaks by the parent, guardian, school counselor, social worker, or probation officer.*

**Are youth oriented to the house rules and procedures?**  Yes  No **Explain:** *The orientation includes reviewing the house rules and grievance process verbally, providing a copy of the Resident Handbook, and having the youth fill out an orientation questionnaire to see how much they heard and understood.. The referring school district gives a copy of the handbook ad orientation packet to the youth's parents before admission.*

**Are house rules and grievance procedures posted?**  Yes  No **Explain:** *These are posted in the hall.*

**What is in place to ensure that these rules and procedures are understood by youth?** *Staff go through the handbook with the youth and quiz them on it to be sure they understand. Also, youth are held*

accountable to rules and procedures through an incentive and phasing system. As residents learn and demonstrate compliance with rules and procedures, they advance through phased levels: 1) Orientation, 2) Learning, 3) Practicing, and 4) Succeeding. With each new phase, youth acquire new privileges. Once they attain a phase, they don't lose it even if they stop behaving in accordance with their level, however, they may temporarily lose certain privileges.

**Are clothing and possessions inventoried on arrival and departure? How are youth's clothing and possessions protected or stored?** Youth wear their own clothes. Staff inventories everything at orientation, and takes away anything that could be used for self harm or is inappropriate, e.g., overly revealing. They also do not allow anything gang-related, including gang colors, if the youth has gang orders from the court. Youth cannot keep a mobile phone unless they need it for a job. Clothing and possession inventories are updated upon return from each day or overnight pass. If appropriate for their development level, youth may have a lockbox in their room to safely store their possessions.

**Natural Disaster Drills: Fire:**  Yes  No **Date of Last Drill:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Earthquake:**  Yes  No **Date of Last Drill:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interviewed Youth:**  Yes  No **\_No youth placed by court\_**

**Evacuation Plan(s):**  Yes  No

## MEALS/NUTRITION

**Kitchen:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:

Food is supplied by the hospital of San Mateo County. Food, including raw ingredients and prepared items are supplied by Sysco Foodservices (primary) and BiRite Foodservices, who deliver food to the hospital, where food is prepared and then frozen or refrigerated. Food is then transported to San Mateo Medical Center (5-10 minutes transport) and then delivered on to COYC. Menus for COYC are approved for nutritional content by the head dietician at San Mateo Medical Center, Nutrition Services. A dedicated dietician (Sharon Woo) visits bi-weekly and regularly audits the kitchen. She attends staff meetings and has introduced "Chef's Choice" to expose residents to different cultural food offerings.

**Do the youth share in preparation of meals?**  Yes  No:

---

**Are meals served family style?**  Yes  No:

Youth come to the window between the kitchen and dining room to pick up their plated meal. They have a choice of the scheduled menu or an alternate.

**Are youth permitted to converse during meals?**  Yes  No:

**Are staff present and supervising during meals?** ✓ Yes  No:

**Are weekly menus posted?** ✓ Yes  No: *In accordance with regulations, each menu must be posted for 3 weeks. A month's worth of menus is posted in the dining room next to the kitchen door.*

---

**Are servings ample, nutritious, appetizing?** ✓ Yes  No: *We did not closely observe a meal, but are unaware of any issues with meals. All meals are created by a nutritionist to meet all dietary requirements.*

**Weaker youth protected from having food taken from them?** ✓ Yes  No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are snacks and beverages available?** ✓ Yes  No: *AT 7:30 am, 10:10 am, 12:10 pm, 2:30 pm, 5 pm, and 8 pm. Youth can purchase snacks with points they've earned. They just ask the staff. Snacks they can choose are in a closet in the dining room (small mall). Fruit is available all day long.*

**How does the facility meet special nutritional needs?** *When a special need is identified, e.g., diabetic, vegan, appropriate meals are prepared as needed.*

**Length of time allowed to eat?** Up to an hour. They can be at dinner as long as they want.

**Mealtimes** *(no more than 4 hours between meals, breakfast to dinner, without a snack - meals are also available from staff on a flexible schedule to accommodate activities and individual needs). A chef is onsite from 7am to 2pm.*

**Breakfast:** *9-10:30 am summer/ 7:30-8:45 school year* **Lunch:** *12:10 - 2:30 pm summer/12:20 PM school year* **Dinner:** *5 pm all year (unless they are off-site)*

## MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

**Access to Medical and Dental Services:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable: Each youth has a physical within 30 days of admission. They can choose to go to their own doctors if they have one. Otherwise they are taken to the teen medical clinic in San Mateo.

**Access to Mental Health Services:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable: The most common mental conditions of the residents are depression, anxiety, PTSD, and trauma. Some have bipolar, other psychotic disorders. Clinicians check in with them all the time. They have meals with them. They check in with the school teachers every other week to see how they are doing academically. Individual and family therapy are provided.

**Individual Counseling:** ✓ Acceptable  Unacceptable: The trauma-informed psychosocial skills-based/therapeutic attachment model focuses on increasing each resident's ability to form and sustain more gratifying and supportive relationships within the program, their family, and the greater community. Through the development of an individualized, strength-based, family-centered *Needs Appraisal and Service Plan*, the program facilitates acquiring skills necessary for youth to reunite with their family or move to a less restrictive setting/lower level of care. *Each youth is provided with a*

minimum of one hour of individual psychotherapy per week and one hour of family therapy per week. Additional psychotherapy sessions are offered as needed depending on emergent needs and phase of treatment, reflective of the youth's needs as indicated in their Needs Appraisal and Services Plan and their BHRS treatment plan.

**Group Counseling:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: *Dialectical Behavioral Therapy groups are offered 3 days/week, focusing on the acquisition and generalization of dialectical behavioral skills to improve functioning in areas of mindfulness, emotional regulation, distress tolerance and interpersonal effectiveness. The goal is to learn to reduce self-harmful behavior, interpersonal conflicts, emotional lability, impulsivity and aggression. They have two groups by age: one for 12- to 14-year olds, the other for 15- to 18-year olds. Groups meet twice a week for 90 minutes. They have art therapy twice a week for 45 minutes and occupational therapy three times a week for 45 minutes.*

**Substance Abuse Counseling:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: *The AOD Counselor (half-time) provides counseling from Monday through Thursday at 4pm-8pm and Friday at 9am to 1pm. AOD counseling is also integrated with individual counseling therapy. If youth in residence are in need of it, AA groups are brought onsite, or youth may attend sessions with an outside group.*

## PROGRAMS

**Recreation (type, amount, etc.):**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: *There is a weekly trip to Square Pegs, a local ranch in Half Moon Bay, for equine therapy (two sessions: a.m. for up to two residents; p.m for up to 4 residents). There are therapeutic walks. The facility has completed a contract to provide access to programs at the Riekes Center for Human Advancement in Menlo Park. Residents also go to museums, parks, and movies. Youth are also permitted to go home whenever they choose; some return home for visits several times per week.*

**Exercise (daily schedule, amount, etc.):** Acceptable Unacceptable: **(Unclear )**They lost their PE teacher and they have not been replaced. Optional exercise activities with staff are offered, however participation can sometimes be lacking

**Access to Religious Services:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Access is on request. They will take youth to services, they may attend with their parents, or online services are also an option. There have been no requests in the past year.

**Victim Awareness Classes:**  Yes  No: *This is not relevant to this population. Youth at COYC who are at risk for trafficking are identified for Rape/Trauma Services and will have a team assigned to work with them through a non-profit organization who also provide trainings for COYC staff. They have used them a lot this year.*

**Gang Awareness Classes:**  Yes  No:   Not considered necessary  

**Sexual Harassment Classes:**  Yes  No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parenting Classes:**  Yes  No: *However, if a youth is pregnant or has a child, staff would arrange appropriate classes for them..*

**Vocational Classes:**  Yes  No: \_\_\_\_\_  
*The occupational therapist tailors classes for youth as needed with the goal that all youth be employable in a vocational pathway in the future.*

**Work Program:**  Yes  No:

---

*Some residents do have jobs.*

**Internet Access and Use of Technology:** Supervised access available and decisions made based on individual circumstances

## YOUTH DISCIPLINE

### Describe the discipline process of youth:

COYC no longer uses the Color System. The staff cannot force any intervention on the youth even if they are carrying drugs.

*COYC utilizes a phase system which is detailed in the Resident Handbook. Each phase has a set of criteria that measures the client's engagement in treatment. The Handbook also sets out specific disciplinary procedures along with the therapeutic interventions, and limit-setting techniques employed by staff. A list of strategies and techniques developed to aid staff in planning interventions is also detailed in the Handbook.*

**Describe incident reports:** *We were unable to review incident reports because of restrictions on access to youth records described above.*

**Describe interactions with law enforcement:** *We were not able to access the details, but were informed by the Director that there were contacts with law enforcement in the past year, as is typical at Canyon Oaks and required by law for reporting of 5150s (risk of harm to self or others) and runaway youth (it is not a locked facility; youth under 18 years of age who leave without consent are considered runaway and missing persons reports are filed).*

## GRIEVANCES

**Grievance Process:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: *The San Mateo County BHRS grievance process is set out in the Resident Handbook. Upon admission to COYC, all youth and their parents/caregivers or authorized representatives are given written information about the grievance processes. Staff reviews the written material with them and a copy of the State-mandated Clients Rights is visibly posted in the lobby area, with contact information for BHRS - Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA) and Community Care*

Licensing (CCL). BHRS Problem Resolution Request Forms are also openly available in the lobby area. Youth, caregivers, or authorized representatives may file grievances with BHRS-OCA, or they may report them directly to the Head of Service or Supervisor for Direct Care. Any grievances received in person or by telephone that are resolved by close of business the next day following receipt are exempt from the requirement to send a written acknowledgement and resolution letter, however they still are logged and included in reports to the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

If the youth is not satisfied, they can report their grievance to the Office of Consumer Affairs and OCA will investigate. Youth can also call Community Care Licensing at any time. In addition to grievances filed, OCA also sends out a satisfaction survey to youth and their families twice a year.

**Number of grievances this year:** We were unable to review the grievances file because of restrictions on access to youth records described above. Ms Valencia informed us that there have been 2-3 grievances filed by residents this year. Grievances are submitted to BHRS-Office of Family & Consumer Affairs, who visit Canyon Oaks twice per year to conduct surveys with the residents and encourage youth to speak about any issues. Any type of dissatisfaction identified in the surveys is considered a grievance. BHRS investigate grievances and loop back with the result to the youth who filed the grievance.

## COMMUNICATION

**Access US Mail?**  Yes  No:

**Postage Free?**  Yes  No

**Incoming/Outgoing Mail (screened? Confidential?):**  Yes  No:

Someone who is authorized for contact with the youth will open mail to check for contraband. They do not read the message.

**Access to Telephone?**  Yes  No: They can only call people on their approved contact list.

**Visiting Schedule:** Flexible, based on the needs of the youth and their families. Usually week to week and parents arrange their visits with the youth's therapist.

**Do all youth have access to visitations?**  Yes  No:

**Under what circumstances would visitation be restricted?** The court may restrict visits. The youth can say if they don't want to see a person, including a parent.



San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
2024 Canyon Oaks Youth Center Group Home/STRTP Inspection Report

**Are visitation logs kept?**  Yes  No: Visitation schedules are only kept for one week. There is no long-term tracking of visits.

**Adequate Space:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable: Youth and families can use a therapy room, a classroom, or use the bench and table in the courtyard (although this location does not preserve privacy as youth windows are open to the courtyard)

**Staff Supervision:**  Acceptable  Unacceptable:  
Canyon Oaks staff do not supervise visits. The youth's social worker may.

**Privacy Provided:**  Yes  No:

**Games or Activities Provided:**  Yes  No: They are free to choose to play any games, watch TV, read, or play video games.

**Outings & Recreation:**  Yes  No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Commissioners preparing this report:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/21/24

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Sathvik Nori \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 10/21/24

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Ruchi Mangtani \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_

# Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions San Mateo County, California

## Canyon Oaks Youth Center School Year 2023-2024 (May 2023 - August 2024)

### Canyon Oaks School Education Evaluation

**Date of this Inspection:** September 4, 2024

**Contact Person:** Sarah Notch, Executive Director, Center for Access & Engagement, County Office of Education

**Facility Name:** Canyon Oaks Youth Center (COYC)

Phone Number: (650) 802-5629

Address: 400 Edmonds Rd, Redwood City, 94062

**Date of Last Inspection:** September 8, 2023

**Acting Principal/Administrator:** Dr. Jesus Jimenez, Director of School Programs, COE

**Commissioners Conducting Evaluation:** Ameya Nori (Lead), Karin Huber-Levy, Jennifer Blanco

**Note:** This evaluation was conducted per Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 15, § 1370 - Education Program

### Executive Summary

#### Background

The school at COYC, ("Canyon Oaks School") educates youth who face serious emotional and behavioral challenges for which they were provided placement in the residential treatment facility. The facility is operated by San Mateo Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS). The San Mateo County Office of Education (COE) provides education. All students have IEPs.

There is one full-time teacher (Mr. George Rehmet) who currently teaches all subjects: Math, Science, Social Studies, English, Physical Education, as well as Credit Recovery, with the support of one full time paraeducator (Mr. Jose Giacoman) who interacts with students as a 'co-educator' with the teacher. The shift to one full-time teacher is a recent development. Up until June 2024, there was also a part-time English teacher; four years ago, there were 2 full time teachers. The COE is in the process of hiring at least one additional paraeducator as soon as possible, however the process of hiring is lengthy due to requirement that all hires proceed through the SMCOE Personnel Commission.

The teacher, who is fully credentialed as a special educational teacher, leads IEPs with the assistance of the district program specialist, and supported by the COE Principal for Special Education Services. Academic and vocational counseling is provided to Canyon Oaks School students by the academic counselor, who serves all SMCOE County Community Schools (Ms Lauren Sneed). From the teacher's perspective, students seem to benefit most from spending 1 - 1.5 years at COYC; he observed declining benefits for any individual student overall after that amount of time.

**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**School Summary and Comments**

The teacher and paraeducator maintain a school environment that serves students in a therapeutically appropriate way through: 1. strong collaboration with each other and with therapeutic staff, 2. skill in working with special needs students, and 3. sensitivity and caring. Instruction is a combination of computer-based learning, individual instruction, and group teaching.

Many students are performing below grade level upon arrival, so teaching focuses on basic skills acquisition and proficiency. Instruction is also guided by the teacher's awareness of what students will need in order to transition back to their home school. California's Common Core Standards guide instruction, however Science instruction does not align with the common core's Next Generation Science Standards.

A trauma-informed model of teaching is applied in the classroom at COYC. New students are asked to fill out a survey to assist the teacher in meeting their needs. Many students have processing issues which are noted in IEPs, as well as dysgraphia, which impacts writing and communication skills.

The Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test is given three times per academic year to track student progress. The most recent MAP test was given at the end of August 2024, another will be given at the end of December, and then a final one at the end of the school year. This data is used to understand the progress students make in the aggregate and to better target the needs of individual students.

**Commendations**

SMCOE, the teacher and paraeducator show enthusiasm for and a strong commitment to teaching and supporting the students in residence at COYC.

**Recommendations**

Continue differentiation in education for higher level students so that they are appropriately challenged and continue to learn at their skill level to facilitate the transition back to their home school environment without learning deficit.

Hire additional teachers/paraeducators as soon as possible to provide additional resources and support for the one current teacher and single paraeducator. We are concerned that the heavy responsibility of educating the challenging and extremely diverse cohort of Canyon Oaks School students for any length of time puts any single teacher at a high risk for burnout.

The cohort of students at COYC school have highly differentiated needs and entry levels of ability. In addition, we were advised that the school is likely to be at capacity (12 students) within the year.

It seems neither optimal nor sustainable for a single full-time teacher and one full-time paraeducator to be responsible for teaching 5 subjects, oversee and manage students' credit recovery, plus counsel students on their career interests/job prospects and support attaining relevant skills in that regard. We recommend that SMCOE take steps to identify and commit to a sustainable staffing model with an appropriate level of teaching resources to support students at Canyon Oaks School going forward.

Identify services and learning outcomes in the [Single Plan for Student Achievement](#) and [Local Control and Accountability Plan](#) by site or issue separate reports for each school.

**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**Notes for Next Year's Inspection**

Follow up on progress of the commitment to a sustainable staffing model to provide appropriate teaching resources for the Canyon Oaks School students going forward.

**Inspection Notes:**

**Number of Full-Time Instructors:** one (1) credentialed teacher, with Multiple Subject and Special Education credentials, currently responsible for teaching Math, Social Sciences, Science, Physical Education, English, Credit Recovery and serving as teacher of record for the Art Therapist. The current teacher also has a background in independent studies teaching.

The teacher also teaches the 4 week Summer Session, which is a more flexible learning environment than during the school year. The teacher is also responsible for assessing students' interests in careers, job prospects and supporting related interviewing, resume writing skills-building.

**Number of Part-Time Instructors:** none.

**Number of Full-Time Instructional Aides:** 1 experienced Paraeducator

**Number of Tutors (Paid? Volunteer?):** 0

**Frequency of Substitute Teachers:** We were advised that there is currently a substitute teacher shortage in the county. Teacher absences are covered by an administrator or itinerant teacher (a teacher on special assignment). There is no substitute coverage provided for the paraeducator.

**Number of youth attending School:** At the time of inspection, there were 8 students in residence (3 - 8th grade; 2 HS seniors; 2 HS juniors; 1 HS sophomore). One additional student (6th grade) was expected to arrive within the week, for a total of 9 students - capacity of the facility is 12 residents. One of these students was also on court ordered probation, with placement by SMC Children & Family Services.

On the day of our visit, one resident was temporarily living at home while on rehabilitation for an injury. When this youth returned, there would have been 10 students in residence. Since the date of our visit, we were advised that this student has been placed in a different program and will not be returning to COYC.

**Average Classroom Size:** 6

**Max Classroom Size:** 6

As the number of students exceeds the maximum classroom size, the need for additional teaching resources to utilize the second classroom is critical.

**School Day:** M,T, Th, F - 8:30am to 12:20pm; W - 9am to 12:10pm

**Number of youth on independent study:** 0

**Reason:** There is no independent study program; students have individualized instruction built into their school day.

**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**Number of youth not attending school:** All youth except for one (temporarily at home on rehabilitation) attend school. The teacher advised us that 7 of the 8 students have attended classes regularly and typically stayed throughout the school day.

**Reason:** Students are not forced to attend school. COYC residents receive intense therapeutic care and on any given day may be adjusting to changes in medications, need additional sleep, or dealing with anxiety or other psychiatric symptoms. There may also be social dynamics with other students that make attending school on a given day difficult. Sometimes a student will have therapy during class time.

**Describe the general atmosphere of the classrooms:** There are two classrooms. Often, the teacher instructs in one classroom and the aide works with some students in the other room. This accommodates curricular differences between students (for example, a student working on algebra when the rest of the class is learning geometry) or interpersonal conflict that prevents certain students from being in the same classroom at once.

The teacher pays great attention to the social and emotional needs of the students in the classroom, taking into account energy levels and social situations on any given day. For example, Mondays are particularly challenging for students as they have been on home visits on the weekend. As well, there may be anxious energy in anticipating visits from family during the week.

**Adequate Supplies, Books, Paper, Computer?**  **Acceptable**  **Unacceptable**

It was noted in last year's evaluation that Social Studies and Science textbooks are over 16 years old. Gwenn Lei, Ed. D, (Executive Director, Curriculum & Instruction Services, Education Services Division of SMCOE), is leading the adoption of new Science and Social Studies materials. Consideration is being given to ensuring continuity with District-wide materials and ethnic studies considerations. A pilot is being designed to help guide the adoption.

In addition, it was explained to us that the textbooks are generally only used as a resource as needed, and the focus is on relevancy through referring to current events (using CNN 10 for news) and undertaking project work to encourage students to take more ownership of the subject matter and incorporate more creativity in the learning process.

**Are youth given access to computers/internet?**  **Yes**  **No**

Details (when, purpose, supervision):

The school typically uses a blended learning approach and students often use classroom computers as part of their education. In addition to Edgenuity, the teacher uses Khan Academy and MATHia. COE provides a list of approved sites. Security is provided by the program "Go Guardian".

Credit Recovery work is typically done on a student's own time outside of school hours; students are assigned packets to do with pencil/paper. Students do not have access to school computers outside of the school day. The credit recovery packets are no longer Starline - they are more individualized to best match students' reading levels. During the school day, students may use the Edgenuity individualized learning platform for Credit Recovery. We were informed that students with high academic abilities like to use Edgenuity for the 'test out' option, but packets work well given the shorter academic day. The current cohort at Canyon Oaks School prefers learning through direct teacher contact over working online.

**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**Describe the relationship between school and facility staff:** There is close collaboration. Typically, teachers and therapeutic staff have bi-weekly meetings to discuss each student, and therapeutic staff participate in IEP meetings and support compliance. Therapeutic staff are also accessible outside of the classroom to manage emotional issues that present themselves in the classroom. Teaching staff read students' therapeutic logs before class each day for an up to the moment understanding of the recent therapeutic status of their students.

**Describe access to school, recreation, etc. for youth confined to their rooms:** COYC is a residential treatment facility. Youth are not confined to their rooms. They always have access to school, recreation and counseling during the day as scheduled, as well as opportunities for field trips, local hikes, and visits home on weekends.

**When is school held on the unit instead of in the classroom?** Not applicable.

**Post High School/GED:**

**Are there educational opportunities available for youth who have completed high school or have their GED?**  Yes  No

Describe:

**College Education:** A student may attend college (in-person or online) while at the facility. If a child is a minor, they require permission of parent/guardian to attend college. The therapeutic staff facilitates a student's enrollment and registration, transportation, and provides educational support. No students are currently enrolled in college. We were told that it is rare for students to attend college; the few that graduate while at COYC tend to be more interested in getting jobs when they graduate.

**Vocational Training:** The school does not offer vocational education other than California CareerZone, an interest inventory and career exploration website. Vocational counseling is provided by Ms Lauren Sneed, the academic counselor and also by Ms Tlina Jensen, the occupational therapist on staff. "WorkAbility", a program providing job skills training and internships with coaching, had been available in the past. However, due to reduced funding (which was based on enrollment in the program), the staff position has been eliminated and the program discontinued. We were advised that a grant for CTE is in process, and this will support enrolling students for access to rehabilitation programming, facilitated by Mr Jonas Barbour (Coordinator, Transition Services, Court & Community Schools).

The loss of the Workability program is regrettable as it supported access to outside jobs through covering the salaries of the students and creating a win:win scenario for both students and employers. In the past, students obtained jobs at Michaels and supermarkets.

Currently, the students at Canyon Oaks school are interested mainly in vocational opportunities for training and working, or in taking a gap year upon graduation, rather than attending college.

**Learning Outcomes:** MAP testing is given at intake and to assess learning with an objective to improve student RIT scores by +4 per quarter. MAP testing takes place three times per academic year.

**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**Are youth given info/counseling on community college & 4-year college options?**  Yes  No

Describe: There is currently no option for 4-year college entry from COYC—when youth spend 2+ years of their high school education at COYC, they are only eligible to graduate with a COE diploma, which does not meet the UC/CSU 'A-G' requirements. The academic counselor visits COYC once per month for one-on-one check-ins with students to provide information about career and community college options. Also, students are offered the opportunity to participate in field trips to community colleges and high school college information events. In the past, there was some feeling that COYC students were not included in all opportunities available to other court and community school students, however now they are being offered access to such events and also through the Independent Living Program as well.

**Are youth given information/counseling about financial aid options for college?**  Yes  No

Describe: The school academic counselor offers this information and helps fill out financial aid applications.

**Are youth given resources for college entrance exam prep when appropriate?**  Yes  No

Describe: Materials to study for college entrance exams are available to students by special request.

**Are youth able to take courses for college credit online?**  Yes  No

Describe: Students have access to computers, and interested students could enroll in online (through Project Change) or in-person college courses. Scheduling at COYC is flexible enough to allow them to participate, and the hope is that this will be offered in the near future.

**Special Education/IEP Programs:**

**How many youth in the facility have an Individualized Education Program (IEP)?** All students at Canyon Oaks School have an IEP. On the date of our visit to COYC, there were 8 students attending Canyon Oaks school.

**Do credentialed special education teachers participate in lesson planning and curriculum development?**  Yes  No

**How many credentialed special education teachers are at the facility full-time?** The one full-time teacher is credentialed in Special Education.

**Are regular IEP meetings held?**  Yes  No

Describe: There are four IEP meetings held per youth: within 30 days after admission, at the annual marker, at the triennial with retesting as needed, and the final is held as part of the youth's transition to his or her next school. The county also follows-up with all IEP students 1-year post graduation if they graduated from a SMCOE school. Therapeutic staff (and probation staff if the student is also under the supervision of a probation officer) are part of the IEP meetings. Student records are accessed via the SEIS system.

**Are parents notified of these meetings?**  Yes  No

Describe: The appropriate holder of the student's educational rights attends. Parents are notified if they have these rights.

**Are parents permitted to attend these meetings?**  Yes  No

Describe: If they have educational rights.

**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**Describe the most common obstacle to IEP compliance:** IEP compliance when a student enters has improved because IEP meetings are typically up-to-date and documentation is prompt.

**Signature of Commissioner(s) preparing this report**

Ameya Nori

Date: October , 2024

Karin Huber-Levy

Date: October , 2024

Jennifer Blanco

Date: October , 2024



**San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
Canyon Oaks Inspection Report**

**Attachment 1: School Supplement**

**How many minutes of instruction per week do students receive?** Instructional minutes are per Educational Code (240 minutes per day). Actual minutes vary by student based on their attendance. The school schedule provides ½-hour for P.E., 1-hour for Science/Math, 1-hour for English, and 40 minutes for Social Science daily. Therapeutic time is also a for-credit “class” that results in Life Skills elective units.

**Do students attend school within three (3) days of placement? Does the school create a preliminary education plan for each new student before the student attends school or once the student has started?** Yes, the students attend within 3 three days if the student is emotionally ready to do so. Although sometimes there is a delay in receiving IEP information, students have an educational plan upon arrival.

**Are there difficulties obtaining transcripts from the student’s prior school? Are these typically received before or after the student has started attending school?**

The education plan is created in anticipation of the student’s arrival unless the student is an emergency placement or if there is a delay in receiving school records. Transcripts are typically received in advance.

**How are limited English-speaking students identified and served? How are these services provided once the student has been identified as non-English proficient?**

There are no non-English-speaking youth at the school because a youth must speak English to benefit from the therapeutic services. At times, there are limited English speakers, and the teacher provides individualized instruction employing universal design for learning methodology (UDL).

**Is credit recovery offered? Please describe.** Yes, credit recovery is offered via the computer application Edgenuity, but is mostly accomplished through individually created paper packets. Students work on credit recovery at a dedicated time each day, after the academic day ends, and there is a credit recovery teacher who comes to work with students every Friday morning (Courtney Pereira). The teacher on staff is responsible for working with students on credit recovery and supervising student progress, and provides feedback to the credit recovery teacher to allow her to adapt credit recovery work for each student based on their progress.

**Is homework assigned? When and where do students do homework?**

Canyon Oaks does not assign homework. The after-school program is therapeutically demanding and the school does not add schoolwork to the students’ schedules. In addition, there is no formal testing per se, but rather normative assessment: the teacher assesses students’ abilities through observing their performance and activity in progressing through materials.

**How is transition back to a student’s home district handled?**

The goal at Canyon Oaks is for students to transition back to their home school to graduate. Because all students have IEPs, Canyon Oaks initiates an IEP planning meeting with the receiving school before a student returns. The teacher manages this process with the receiving school.

**Student Interviews**

As none of the 8 students currently in residence and attending school were at COYC as a result of placement by the SMC Superior Court, these students are not considered to be within the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Justice Commission and were not available for us to interview.



**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility  
Inspection Report**

---

**DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

**Law Enforcement Agency:** San Bruno Police Department  
**Physical Address:** 1177 Huntington Ave E, San Bruno, CA  
**Name & Title of Contact Person:** Captain Brent Schimek: Administrative Services  
**Phone Number:** (650) 616-7104 | Cell: (650) 515-2231  
**E-mail:** [bwschimek@sanbruno.ca.gov](mailto:bwschimek@sanbruno.ca.gov)

---

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

**Date of Inspection:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024  
**Date of Report:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024  
**Commissioner Performing Inspection:** Johanna Ramussen  
**Commissioner Contact Information:** [johannasmcjustice@gmail.com](mailto:johannasmcjustice@gmail.com)  
**Juvenile Court:** The Honorable Susan Etezadi

---

**BSCC / OYCR: LAW ENFORCEMENT  
DETENTION REPORTING**

1. Total number of Juveniles reportedly held in secure detention: 31
  2. Total Number of youth(s) held in non-secure detention: Secure: 0 Non-Secure: 31
  3. San Mateo County Law Enforcement Juvenile Detention Ranking: Corrected ranking is Unknown
  4. Comments: The Department inadvertently reported the total number of youths held in non secure detention. There were actually no youth held in Secure Detention during this inspection period.
-



**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility  
Inspection Report**

**DETENTION LOGS**

1. Total Number of Juvenile Detentions logged in Secure Detention: 0
  2. Were all records available for reviewing?                     Yes      No      N/A
  3. Are the detention logs current, complete and legible?     Yes      No      N/A
  4. Do logs reflect entry and exit times?                         Yes      No      N/A
  5. Is the basis for the decision to detain the minor noted?    Yes      No      N/A
  6. Are the detention related offense(s) noted?                 Yes      No      N/A
- 

**SECURED DETENTION**

1. List the names, dates, intake, release times, and circumstances for all youths held for longer than six hours. (Youths names will be redacted prior to publication.):  
Not Applicable
2. Were all detention area(s) inspected?     Yes      No  
Please list: Secure Detention Cells and Non-Secure Detention Room
3. Is the secured detention area a locked cell or room?             Cell      Room  
Comments: Cells are no longer used for secure detention.
4. Do youths come into contact with any detained adults ?     Yes      No
5. Are youths separated by identifying gender?                     Yes      No
6. Are water and food available, if requested?                     Yes      No
7. Do youths have access to a toilet and sink:                       Yes      No
8. Are the state mandated provisions available                       Yes      No  
(clothing, blankets, shoes, hygiene, etc.)
9. Comments: A supply of food, water, blankets, clothing, first aid, personal hygiene items, etc. are kept on hand for youth.





**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility  
Inspection Report**

4. How often are in custody youths observed? (Section 1548): Supervision is constant
  5. Are these observations logged?:  Yes  No
  6. How are youths in custody observed (video, audio, personal observation, Section 1547)?  
Primarily, Direct Supervision. There is video and audio throughout the police station and officer worn body cams that capture video footage.
  7. Do youths have auditory access to staff at all times?:  Yes  No
- 

**TRAINING**

1. How often does the department provide training on issues related to Juvenile Detention?  
Whenever there are changes in the law(s), or internal policies or procedures.
  2. Name & Title of person(s) providing training? Captain Brent Schimek: Administrative Services
  3. Do all sworn personnel receive this training?  Yes  No
- 

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

In monthly reports to the BSCC, the San Bruno Police Department reported holding a 31 youths in secure detention during this inspection period—which triggered this inspection. The reporting was in error. The department actually held zero youth in secure detention and 31 in non secure detention during this time period. I met with Captain Brent Schimek at the Police Department for approximately 40 minutes during which—this time, the inspection questionnaire was completed. I was given a full tour of the facility—including all areas in which youth are held and shown where the mandated provisions and supplies were stored.

Signature of Commissioner preparing this report:

Date: October 22, 2024

Johanna Rasmussen



**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility Inspection Report**

---

**DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

**Law Enforcement Agency:** South San Francisco Police Department

**Department Physical Address:** 1 Chestnut Avenue South San Francisco, CA 94080

**Name & Title of Contact Person:** Lieutenant Matt O'Connor & Captain Ken Chetcuti

**Contact Phone Number:** 650-877-8900 or 650-877-8920

**Contact Email:** [Matthew.O'Connor@ssf.net](mailto:Matthew.O'Connor@ssf.net) & [Ken.Chetcuti@ssf.net](mailto:Ken.Chetcuti@ssf.net)

---

**INSPECTION INFORMATION**

**Date of Inspection:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024

**Date of Report:** October 18, 2024

**Inspection Team Lead:** Commissioner Johanna Ramussen

**Contact Information:** [johannasmcjustice@gmail.com](mailto:johannasmcjustice@gmail.com)

**Juvenile Court:** The Honorable Susan Etezadi

---

**BSCC / OYCR: LAW ENFORCEMENT  
DETENTION REPORTING**

1. Total number of Juvenile Detentions reportedly held in secure detention: 1
  2. Total Number of youth(s) held in non-secure detention: 37
  3. San Mateo County Law Enforcement Juvenile Detention Ranking: 1st
  4. Comments: SSF Police Department was the only law enforcement agency in the county that held a youth in secure detention during this inspection period.
-



**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility Inspection Report**

**DETENTION LOGS**

1. Total number of Juvenile Detentions reportedly held during this inspection period: 1
  2. Were all records available for reviewing?                     Yes     No
  3. Are the detention logs current, complete and legible?     Yes     No
  4. Do logs reflect entry and exit times?                         Yes     No
  5. Is the basis for the decision to detain the minor noted?    Yes     No  
Comments: While the basis for the secure detention was not listed, the department's established protocols for secure detention—including the approvals for the detention were clearly documented.
  6. Are the detention related offense(s) noted?    Yes     No
- 

**SECURED DETENTION**

1. Please document the names, dates, intake, release times, and circumstances for all youths held for longer than six hours. (Confidential information will be redacted prior to publication.):  
Not Applicable: There were no youths held longer than 6 hours.
2. Were all detention area(s) inspected?    Yes     No  
Please list: Secure Detention Cells and Non-Secure Detention Room
3. Is the secured detention area a locked cell or room?             Cell     Room
4. Do youths come into contact with any detained adults ?     Yes     No
5. Are youths separated by identifying gender?                     Yes     No
6. Are water and food available, if requested?                     Yes     No
7. Do youths have access to a toilet and sink:                       Yes     No
8. Are the state mandated provisions available                       Yes     No  
(clothing, blankets, shoes, hygiene, etc.)  
Comments: A supply of food, water, blankets, clothing, first aid, personal hygiene items, etc. are kept on hand for youth.
9. Are cuffing rails used ?     Yes     No



**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility Inspection Report**

10. Are youths given the proper access and opportunity to contact an attorney?  
All youths are put in contact with an attorney via the Private Defender Program's Miranda Hotline.
11. Are youths in secured detention informed of the following?
- The purpose/reason for being placed in secured detention:           X Yes      No
  - The length of time spent in secure detention is expected to last:   X Yes      No
  - The six-hour limit of being held in secured detention                X Yes      No
  - Are youth given an orientation? (Section 1540):                        X Yes      No
12. Under what circumstances does the agency place a youth in secured detention?  
Please explain: Approval must be obtained by the watch commander prior to placing a youth in secure detention. Factors would include the safety of the youth and staff, behavior, and seriousness of the crime.
13. Have any youths been held in secured detention for more than six hours?    Yes   X No
14. In what proximity is the juvenile secured detention area to the secured detention area for adults? There is a block of holding cells in designated area of the Police Department. Youths and adults are never detained in the same cell together.
15. Describe the protocols for youths suspected of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol.  
Youth who are suspected of being under the influence are taken to San Mateo County Medical Center to be medically cleared prior to being transported and booked into the juvenile hall.

---

**SUPERVISION & OBSERVATION**

1. Areas Under Observation:   X Secure Detention Cells   X Non-Secure Detention Room
2. How often are in custody youths observed? (Section 1548): Supervision is constant
3. Are these observations logged?:   X Yes      No
4. How are youths in custody observed (direct observation, video, audio, Section 1547)?  
Primarily, Direct Supervision. The Police Department is brand new and has video throughout. Sworn personnel also wear body worn cameras.
5. Do youths have auditory access to staff at all times?:   X Yes      No





**San Mateo County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
Juvenile Holding & Detention Facility Inspection Report**

6. How are youth in custody supervised while in a locked cell/room (Section 1547)?  
Youths are under direct supervision at all times.
7. How are youth supervised while in non-secure custody (Section 1550)?  
Youths are under the direct supervision of arresting officer or a designated staff member at all times.
- 

**TRAINING**

1. How often does the department provide training on issues related to Juvenile Detention?  
Whenever there are changes in the law(s), or internal policies or procedures.
2. Name & Title of person(s) providing or coordinating training? Captain Tony Pinell
3. Do all sworn personnel receive this training?     Yes     No
- 

**COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

The South San Francisco Police Department excels in reporting and logging every detention, maintaining logbooks that are thorough, organized, detailed, and transparent. The department has strong policies in place to limit the use of secure detention. I spent approximately 75 minutes at the department, during which I met with and interviewed Lieutenant Matt O'Connor and Captain Ken Chetcuti, and reviewed the detention logs in the juvenile interview room. I was given a full tour of the facility, including all areas where youth are held in both secure and non-secure detention, and shown where mandated provisions and supplies for youth are stored. Both Lt. O'Connor and Captain Chetcuti went above and beyond to accommodate the inspection and ensure all of the necessary information and data were readily available—which made the inspection process both smooth and efficient.

Signature of Commissioner(s) preparing this report:

Date: October 18, 2024

Johanna Rasmussen

# YOUTH TOWN HALL

What would it take to make Redwood City  
a more fun, rich, and safe place  
for youth?

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**NOVEMBER 13, 5:30-8PM**  
**SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL**

Hosted by  
Redwood City Police Advisory Committee



# REUNIÓN SOBRE JOVENES

¿Qué habría que hacer para crear un lugar más divertido, rico y seguro en Redwood City para los jóvenes?

**GUARDA LA FECHA**

**13 DE NOVIEMBRE, 5:30-8 P.M.  
SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL**

Evento organizado por  
El Comité Asesor de la Policía de Redwood City

