



# San Francisco Youth Commission Transformative Justice Committee Minutes

Monday, April 8th, 2019

5:00-6:30 PM

City Hall, Room 345

1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

San Francisco, CA 94102

*There will be public comment on each item.*

Members: Nora Hylton (Chair), Josephine Cureton (Vice Chair), and Natalie Ibarra

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Hylton called the meeting to order at 4:59 PM. There was no public comment. Quorum was met. Commissioner Cureton, seconded by Commissioner Hylton, motioned to excuse Commissioner Ibarra's absence. The motion passed by a vote of acclamation.

## 2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

There was no public comment. Commissioner Cureton motioned to approve agenda with amendment to Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice title, seconded by Commissioner Hylton. Motion passed by a vote of acclamation.

## 3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
([Document A](#))

There was no public comment. Commissioner Cureton motioned to approve of the March 25th minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hylton. Motion passes by a vote of acclamation.

## 4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)

There was no public comment.

## 5. Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Presentation from Center for Juvenile and Criminal Justice: [Pervasive Violence and Isolation at California's Division of Juvenile Justice Endanger Youth](#)



- a. Presenter: Renee Menart & Maureen Washburn  
[Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice](#)
- b. Renee: this report covers unmet promises: continued violence & neglect in California's division of juvenile justice. Youth and adult issues served by justice system. CJCJ has a 3 pronged approach - direct services, technical assistance with government (best practices & model program), policy advocacy - locally and state level to reduce city's reliance on incarceration. It is important to note when people make contact with criminal justice system, it's not the first time - the services they need are in the community or at home. For direct services - it is tailored to reflect that with youth in detention, mentoring, clinical, - youth with highest needs are tailored most at risk and further at risk. Not beyond getting arrested, food - roof, education, employment.
- c. Maureen, this report looks at state youth correctional system since 1985, what's happening in DJJ and conditions for young people. Every county has its own juvenile system, state level that operates simultaneously, about 20% locked up in state, 10% in juvenile hall, about 20% in DJJ. Population is around 700 youth, big decline from what it once was 10,000 in DJJ ten years ago. This generation low in rates of arrests & crime that prior generations were. 40 young people in juvenile hall with capacity of 150. Similar in state. 40% full in DJJ facilities so 60% of beds are empty. Counties make decision on DJJ population. Huge disparities - state wide. Most youth are there for assault and robbery offences 17 - 19 yrs old and youth of color. History of institutions - DJJ is v old set of institutions, scandal & reform repeating cycle. Lawsuit (Farrell in early 2000s) of horrendous conditions of youth suicides and staff abuse, all of that ended in 2016 when lawsuit dismissed. Which is why the report focus in 2016 - 2019 on what's going on since lawsuit dismissed.
- d. Renee - what is important to think about is way they went about report, research and CJJ crime trends, how many youth involved in justice system. Beyond data available, public records redact request, went on tours of 3 facilities (Stockton & Ventura), spoke with staff & youth while there, what wasn't talked about - interviews with released youth (before and after), family members, lawyers, that contributed with findings
- e. Questions?
  - i. Commissioner Cureton: What's the relationship with county and DJJ?; Renee counties when youth qualify for DJJ it is up to juvenile court judge based off probation dept, once county successfully sends to state system little to no contact with state and county - over 2 years, they have to get back to county system, very disconnected
- f. Maureen - key findings



- i. facilities are dangerous - youth have daily threats in DJJ,
  - ii. isolation - kept apart from family,
  - iii. no rehabilitation for young people
  - iv. what it feels like for young person - day to day, to live in and tours, interviews, young people, ever-present sense of fear this shows up in numbers, increased rates of violence, fighting beatings riots and etc, increased use of force from staff - pepper spray, rubber bullets, 3x worse than 2016, constant sense of vigilance, and isolation (lock down separated with violence as response).
- g. Renee - isolation is big role in daily life, way too often in policy that adults talk about peers, youth needs to be advocates for each other. BTP (behavioral treatment program) - is big isolation unit - no school, no activities or group therapy - isolation from families, gas transportation fee, for support and connection
- i. limited one hug beginning or end of visit, restrictions with family visits
  - ii. limited with phone calls & mail - screened
  - iii. challenging when returning home - > with new traumas and conditioned behavior
- h. Maureen - high rates of recidivism, shows up with reentry outcomes, 75% within 3 years are rearrested.
- i. when you come home back supervised with county - so, unprepared to meet needs, navigating systems
- i. questions:
- i. Commissioner Hylton: What are your asks and do they align with our committee?
    - 1. Renee - what's happening at state level, in line with locally - what investments have we made in state and county, conversation of closing facilities to investing youth in communities & hoping to extend conversation state level: 600 youth in state institutions, every county varies how they deal with state locally, some counties take it to question what's the best thing for families, and communities,
      - a. sf has been a model with lower rate and commitment to other counties, on the rise number of djj is low to other counties, a few years ago moratorium on commitments to sending youth there, but 9 in DJJ - compared to where we



were several years ago, **ending commitment and realigning with moratorium and stop DJJ**

2. Maureen - **flagging state b 284** - keep youth close to home, san francisco is helping to support state system even though not sending youth to send djj
  - a. increase cost of counties sending cost to DJJ - \$24000, to djj from current county, flat rate but sb 284, far less expensive to invest locally
    - i. juvenile hall 200+ - increase bill to \$125, on par what it would cost locally just got out of 1st committee
    - ii. There was no public comment. Commissioner Hylton motioned to support CJCJ with their ask on SB284 via a letter of support and with the report, seconded by Commissioner Cureton. Motion passes by a vote of acclamation.

## **B. Project Updates and Timeline Review**

- a. Timeline Review
- b. Youth Justice Updates
  - i. SFPD-SFUSD MOU hearing
    1. On April 11th, will send document to safai's office with all our recommendation on mou language. Hold for meeting on April 16th 4pm. Potential thought for outreach for the hearing in may a twitter townhall with input as well from instagram polls and facebook live.
  - ii. Draft Police Commission resolution
    1. Commissioners approve of this, but wish to communicate capacity to be a part of the commission, that it is not just youth commissioners, but youth recommended representatives. It is a privilege to be offered a seat at the table, but we also want to make space for our fellow youth.
  - iii. SF Juvenile Hall Closure
    1. Mayor's office want to include the Youth Commission in the Blue Ribbon Panel. This panel has changed from the Log Cabin ranch Reenvisioning task force that the commission agreed to participate in, since the issues have become larger than just log cabin ranch.



c. Budget Priorities Process

i. Policy Priorities: Public Safety Hearing

1. It has been moved to April 24th, 1pm. Although committee does not have capacity to go, committee can write public comment and submit to clerk.

C. Next steps

- a. Send emails to SFUSD, Police Commission, Orgs, and work on BPPs.

**6. Staff Report (Discussion Only)**

Doing great, please keep up with the energy with all our work groups.

**7. Adjournment**

Chair Hylton adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.