
Juvenile Justice Commission

San Diego County

Annual Report*

2013-2014

*This report covers the 18-month time period from July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014 because future annual reports will be based on the calendar year, rather than the fiscal year used for previous reports.

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JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION MISSION AND MANDATE

The legal authorization for the establishment and operation of the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) of San Diego County is set forth in the California Welfare and Institutions Code, Sections 225 through 231. These policies are intended to supplement the governing provisions of State Law and aid the Commission in effectively fulfilling its statutory duties and responsibilities. The Welfare and Institutions Codes states that, "It shall be the duty of the Juvenile Justice Commission to inquire into the administration of Juvenile Court Law in the county or region in which the Commission serves."

The San Diego County JJC was created in 1965 through a mandate issued by the State of California. The Commission inquires into activities surrounding the administration of juvenile justice regarding children in both the delinquency and dependency systems. This includes conducting inspections of publicly administered institutions in which youth who are incarcerated or in foster care are housed. The Commission consists of between seven and fifteen Commissioners appointed by the presiding judge of the juvenile courts to a term of not more than four years.

2013-14 OFFICERS

Chair
Kimberly Allan

1st Vice Chair
Melanie Delgado

2nd Vice Chair
Nicole Lo Coco

2015 OFFICERS

Chair
Kathleen Edwards

1st Vice Chair
Kimberly Allan

2nd Vice Chair
Melanie Delgado

COMMISSION MEMBERS as of December 31, 2014

Kimberly Allan
Damon Booth
Margie Cameron
Melanie Delgado
Kathleen Edwards
Mary Sue Glynn
Marc Gotbaum
Joan Hiser

Amy Lansing
Korah Loyd
Meagan Nuñez
Janice Tang
David Walton
Ed Weiner
Gennene Wilburn

Kimberly Allan, appointed May 17, 2010, is an attorney and former San Diego federal prosecutor. Ms. Allan received her Bachelor's degree in economics with honors from UC Berkeley and her law degree from UC Davis. She was an attorney at the US Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. for over seven years and an Assistant US Attorney in San Diego for over nine years. Her interest in juvenile justice is based on her service as a Board Member and Site Coordinator for the San Diego Juvenile Court Book Club.

Damon Booth, a native of Nevada, is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. He earned his undergraduate degree in General Studies with an emphasis in Criminal Justice, along with minors in Substance Abuse Treatment and Business Management. He recently moved to San Diego to attend law school at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Prior to moving, Mr. Booth worked for the Washoe County Juvenile Services in Reno, Nevada. He was appointed by the governor for multiple terms to serve on the Nevada State Juvenile Justice Commission, where he served as a youth member, as well as a member of the Policy and Legislation Committee. Mr. Booth was also a member of the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's National Youth Committee and served as the Western Regional Youth Representative until moving to San Diego to attend law school. Mr. Booth is currently in his second year at Thomas Jefferson and is a member of the Thomas Jefferson Student Bar Association.

Margie Cameron is a retired Supervisor with the San Diego County Probation Department. She holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from San Diego State University. She has worked at almost all of the facilities run by the Probation Department during her career, as well as working with the Placement Unit, which places children out of county. She also worked with the Family Violence Project, a program where Probation Officers and CPSA workers work together with families. She is a native San Diegan who has also worked with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a fraternal group for teenage girls. She has volunteered in a reading program for children, as well as a Domestic Violence Shelter since her retirement. Mrs. Cameron has been married 37+ years and has two children and one grandchild.

Melanie Delgado, appointed May 17, 2011, is an attorney at the Children's Advocacy Institute at the University of San Diego School of Law. She is a graduate of the USD School of Law where she was a co-recipient of the James A. D'Angelo Outstanding Child Advocate Award in 2006. Ms. Delgado works on issues involving transition-age foster youth and she directs CAI's Homeless Youth Outreach Project.

Kathleen Edwards, appointed July 3, 2008, is an advocate for students with special education and mental health needs. She holds a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Special Education Administration. For the past 35 years, she has worked as a teacher, administrator and trainer dealing with special education and mental health issues. Her interest in the JJC is fueled by the high percentage of adjudicated youth with special education and mental health needs. Ms. Edwards is a former member of the Mental Health Association of San Diego County and was an Arizona Special Education Teacher of the Year.

Mary Sue Glynn is the former Director of Special Education for both San Diego Unified School District and the Grossmont Union High School District. She has experience in the classroom, in human resources, and in administration. Frequently, a member of educational and parental teams, she listens to a variety of perspectives, then synthesizes the information and helps teams reveal the core issue(s) which leads to a practical resolution. Ms. Glynn worked daily with principals at K-12 schools on special education issues of law, procedures and instruction. She has made suggestions to Boards of Education and Superintendents' Cabinets. She has successfully represented the District in the longest due process hearing in the history of the Federal IDEA. She received the ACSA Special Education Administrator of the Year in 2001. Ms. Glynn is busy in retirement fostering deployed soldiers' pets, volunteering for ElderHelp of San Diego, and enjoying her son and daughter-in-law and her large extended family on both coasts.

Marc Gotbaum, appointed May 17, 2010, is currently the Director of Vista Hill's Juvenile Court Clinic which serves delinquent and dependent youth with psychiatric medication stabilization and counseling. He continues in private practice as a Critical Incident/Trauma Specialist, providing on-site disaster counseling and consulting, locally and around the globe. Mr. Gotbaum has served on the Child Sexual Abuse and Victim Assistance Coordination Councils. He has been an adjunct Professor/lecturer at SDSU, USD, and National Universities.

Joan Hiser, appointed July 19, 2011, is currently a marketing consultant within the San Diego community. She has over 20 years' experience in marketing for both media and non-profit organizations, as well as extensive experience with the production and analysis of focus group research data for various clientele. She serves as a board member for the San Diego Broadcasters Association, Mission Hills Heritage Association, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of San Diego, where she also sponsors a "little sister".

Amy Lansing, appointed September 23, 2009, is a member of the faculty at the University of California, San Diego, in the School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, and is also an adjunct professor in the Sociology Department, Division of Criminology, at San Diego State University. She holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, with specializations in Neuropsychology, Developmental Trauma and Forensic Epidemiology. In addition to the JJC, Ms. Lansing is an independent contractor for the State of California, providing assessments of mentally disordered adult offenders.

Korah Loyd has worked as an advocate for the Child Welfare System since 2011. She was president of Shasta County's chapter of California Youth Connection, a foster care advocacy organization, for over a year and facilitated and planned fundraisers and community events to help raise awareness of the system. She has shadowed Senators and Assembly Members at the Capitol to work with them on advocating and working on improvements in the system. She has worked closely with the California Department of Social Services where she helped with policy recommendations. Korah was elected to be the Co-Chair for the California Youth Connection Youth Advisory Board for the 2013-2014 term. When her term was up she was voted onto the Board of Directors for California Youth Connection and currently holds that position. Recently she was sworn into the Juvenile Justice Commission for San Diego County to help advocate for the Juvenile Justice System. When she is not working or attending college classes, she travels across California to train Child Welfare Professionals on topics that she helps develop curriculum on for The Y.O.U.T.H. Training Project.

Meagan Nuñez is an attorney who has devoted her legal practice to helping parents of disabled children who are fighting for a meaningful education for their children. Meagan is on the board of the Disabled Services Advisory Council where she volunteers her time to promote access to recreational activities for people with disabilities. Prior to attending law school, Meagan graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Meagan then gained valuable experience teaching English as a foreign language and later working with students with emotional difficulties. When not working, Meagan spends her time with her husband and two young children.

Janice Tang recently graduated from UC San Diego with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. She is passionate about empowering children and youth. She previously worked at San Diego Juvenile Court for two years where she helped plan annual events for foster youth, including "College & Career Day" and "I Can Go to College!" She currently works at Harmonium, a non-profit organization, dedicated to providing prevention and intervention services to children, youth, and their families. Ms. Tang enjoys volunteering and is actively involved in community organizing and policy advocacy. Most recently, she assisted 200 eligible high school students in completing their applications for consideration under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. A native of San Diego, she loves to practice yoga, rock climb, and cook Mediterranean food.

Dave Walton is a business consultant working primarily in the life science arena, pharmaceutical and medical device companies. He holds a BS degree in biology from UC Berkeley and an MBA from St Mary's College. He has worked in industry as a mechanical engineer and manufacturing executive, the medical field in pathology, and in the life sciences. Dave's interest in juvenile justice is based upon his observations of the inequities inherent in our current system and a desire to help ensure that children finding themselves in the care of adults other than their parents are treated with the utmost care and respect and with a clear path to productive adulthood. Dave lives in San Diego with his wife.

Edward Weiner is a retired San Diego Federal prosecutor, a member of the San Diego Behavioral Health Advisory Board (previously the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board), and a former member of the 2013-2014 San Diego County Grand Jury. He is a graduate of UCLA and UCLA Law School and holds an advanced law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. For 27 years, Mr. Weiner was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Diego and before that was a trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He also worked as a Deputy District Attorney handling juvenile matters in Kern County (Bakersfield), California. Mr. Weiner has served on the Board and as President of his homeowners association for 12 years. He is married to a retired teacher, has one son (also a UCLA Law graduate) and two grandchildren.

Gennene Wilburn has 40-plus years in human services, 25 of them were with the Probation Department in San Diego County. Before she retired, Gennene was a Program Manager for the award-winning truancy suppression project. During her career, she focused on strategic planning and developing collaborative partnerships with other community agencies. She is passionate about children's rights and helping them realize they have options. Her reason for joining the JJC is to continue her advocacy on behalf of youth and families.

For more information on Active Commissioners, please visit us [online](#).

COMMITTEES

The Juvenile Justice Commission has established several committees to focus and carry out the efforts of the Commission. Committees formed to date are described below.

- Critical Incident Committee. The JJC has formed a committee to review critical incident reports received from the Probation Department and Child Welfare Services.
- Membership Committee. This ad-hoc committee discusses strategies for commissioner recruitment and reviews applications for commission membership.
- Awards Committee. This committee is responsible for planning the annual awards recognition event and reviewing award nominations.
- Mental Health Committee. This committee reviewed annual facility inspection reports for trends in the provision of mental health services to detained youth.
- Education Committee. This committee reviews annual facility inspection reports for trends in the provision of education services to detained youth.
- Investigation Committee. This committee was added as an ad hoc committee to investigate the suicide which occurred for a detained adolescent in Sept. 2013. The committee will develop recommendations based on its review of documents.

JAIL AND LOCKUP INSPECTIONS

Section 209 of the Welfare and Institutions Code contains several requirements for juvenile court judges and juvenile justice commissions. The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is responsible for inspecting all local detention facilities, juvenile halls and camps in California and is also responsible for monitoring jails and lockups that securely detain minors in California.

Pursuant to WIC Section 209(a), a judge of the juvenile court shall annually inspect each jail or juvenile hall in the county that held one or more minors for more than 24 hours during the preceding calendar year. Additionally, this code requires the judge to promptly notify the operator of the facility of any observed noncompliance with minimum standards for juvenile facilities adopted by the CSA (Title 15, California Code of Regulations).

WIC Section 209(b) requires the juvenile court judge or a delegated member of the juvenile justice commission to inspect each law enforcement facility that contains a jail or lockup for adults in which one or more minors was securely detained for any length of time.

As the designee to the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, the Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County inspected 16 jail and lockup facilities where minors are temporarily detained.

Police Departments:

Coronado
CSU San Marcos
El Cajon
National City
Oceanside
San Diego State University

Sheriff:

Alpine Substation
Encinitas Station
Fallbrook Substation
Imperial Beach Station
Lemon Grove Station
Poway Station
Ramona Substation
Santee Station
Vista Station
4s Ranch Substation

Excerpts from the 2014 lock-up facility reports are noted below. Additional inspection detail can be found in the complete reports on the JJC [website](#).

Coronado Police Department:

The JJC member who inspected this facility noted that the Coronado PD detains very few juveniles but Sgt. Hima is very knowledgeable about policies and procedures pertaining to juveniles. The inspector recommended that facility staff make sure log book forms are being filled out correctly. No minors were securely detained over the six-hour time limit.

CSU San Marcos:

This is a new, clean facility with juvenile rights prominently displayed. The inspector recommended that minors in secure detention must be under constant supervision rather than current protocol at the facility for 30-minute checks. In addition, minors of the opposite sex must be held in separate holding areas. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

El Cajon Police Department:

The El Cajon Police Department was very well-organized, clean, well-lit and accessible. All logs and materials were available for review. No concerns were noted. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

National City Police Department:

The JJC member who inspected this facility found it to be a very clean and modern station. One conference room with windows is used for non-secure detentions when youth is not sitting next to officers. It was not clear if the camera or audio is working in the conference room but windows are big and officers are right next to the room. It was also unclear if the room is locked, which would make these secure detentions. The inspector noted that some status offenses were mistakenly counted as detentions. Corrected statistics were sent to Sacramento after the inspection. The department will also clarify why some "JDO" detentions ("Juvenile Detention Order") go to Polinsky and some to the Hall in order to clarify whether to count them as non-secure detentions. One juvenile detained in a patrol car for 75 minutes was reported as a non-secure detention. There may have been a second patrol car detention. It was recommended that all lock up facilities be provided with standard signage, but the report mentioned that National City has a good sign. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Oceanside Police Department:

Staff was cooperative and cordial. There was a discrepancy between the data reported on the State forms and the logs. Logs showed five secure detentions and four were reported on State forms. Part of this discrepancy could be due to the fact that there are two separate holding areas for minors, one for investigations. On the data sheet prepared for the State, it shows only two months of data for investigations and ten months for regular police station. Additionally, there seemed to be ten days in December 2013 with no minor secure or non-secure detentions documented. The inspector recommended that department staff discern the difference in reported numbers and apparent missing data from December 2013 and consider organizing data in one binder by month so that data does not exist on same page for two separate months. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

San Diego State University:

This is a clean, well-organized facility. Minors held at SDSU were either young students or youth from surrounding neighborhoods who were not students. Signage of minor rights is prominently displayed. There is a citizen's complaint form available at front desk. No recommendations at this time. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Alpine Substation:

This is a clean and organized facility. Sgt. Blanding was very accommodating. Data was off, as only one secure detention was noted in monthly data sheets, yet two secure detentions were noted on data sent to State by Fatima Pia of the Sheriff's Department. This is a small substation with only five non-secure detentions. The inspector recommended that staff double check monthly data for secure detentions for calendar year 2013. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Encinitas Station:

The JJC member who inspected this facility noted that there are excellent record keeping and files but appropriate signage is necessary in holding areas and cells. No minors were securely detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Fallbrook Substation:

This is a neat and clean facility. Data from secure monthly sheets indicated six secure detentions, while data from Sheriff's Department indicated seven. Data was well organized and Sgt. Yates was

accommodating. No issues noted except discrepancy in secure data. The JJC member who inspected this substation recommended that staff coordinate with the Sheriff's Department to ascertain why numbers of secure detainees are inconsistent. No minors were securely detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Imperial Beach Station:

The Imperial Beach sheriff's sub-station, which serves the town of Imperial Beach, has one officer assigned as a dedicated School Resource Officer. This officer can also be an arresting officer at the schools. They also have one dedicated detective for juvenile matters. The inspector recommended that minors receive an orientation upon entry into facility. In addition, minors should not have visual or auditory contact with adults when in secure detention and staff needs to be in constant visual and auditory contact with detained minors. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Lemon Grove Station:

This facility recently underwent a restructuring. Several staff moved out of the facility to another one. The facility is small and well-maintained. Appropriate signage is posted, policies are readily available and minors are appropriately supervised. However, the inspector mentioned that facility staff should address the following issues: 1) Log books should be more carefully reviewed because there was a critical error in math with regard to the amount of time a minor was held in unsecure detention; and 2) Although a juvenile is not to be held in excess of a total of six hours in temporary custody, this facility had three instances in 2013 where juveniles were held in custody for over six hours. No minors were securely detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Poway Station:

Overall, the Poway facility is doing well. The facility is well-maintained and the log books are well-kept. The rooms that are designated for secure and non-secure detention of minors allow for constant supervision of minors and detained minors have safe and ready access to food, water, and toilet facilities. However, there are two areas in which the Poway facility should improve: 1) There should be signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure/non-secure detention of minors; and 2) Detained minors should always be informed of the six-hour maximum time limit for detention. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Ramona Substation:

This is a clean, efficient facility and rights are prominently posted. Lt. Williams was cordial and cooperative to the inspector. There were only five secure detentions listed in the monthly statistics, but the data provided by the Sheriff's Department listed six secure detentions (with only eleven months of data). The inspector recommended that Ramona staff check the inconsistency in data between the Sheriff's Office statistics and facility statistics. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Santee Station:

The JJC member who inspected this facility mentioned that it was organized and all materials were made readily available for review. No concerns were reported. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

Sheriff - Vista Station:

Vista is an extremely busy SDSO Substation. It is clean, efficient, and organized. There is a totally separate juvenile detention area. All rules and regulations were being followed. Data was consistent with that provided by the State. No concerns were reported. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

4S Ranch Substation:

This facility was extremely well-organized. All Title 15 and 24 Compliance materials were available and inspection materials were in their files as well. The inspector noted that this facility has their files in a file cabinet rather than a binder. No concerns were reported. No minors were detained over the six-hour time limit.

JUVENILE INSTITUTION INSPECTIONS

In 2014, the JJC inspected three juvenile detention facilities and two juvenile camps maintained by the County of San Diego Probation Department. In addition, the Commission inspected Polinsky Children's Center, a temporary housing facility for children who must be separated from their families for their own safety, and the San Pasqual Academy, a residential education campus designed specifically for foster teens. The recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Commission for each facility are included below. Additional inspection detail can be found in the complete reports on the [JJC website](#).

Facility Name: CAMP BARRETT

Inspection Date: 1/30/2014

Last Inspection Date: 11/27/2012

Superintendent: Leann Kowalski

Address: 21077 Lyons Valley Road
Alpine, CA 9190

Telephone Number: (619) 401-4918

Fax: (619) 401-4921

Type of Facility: Juvenile Camp

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:

Hon. Carolyn Caietti

Commission Inspection Team:

Kathleen Edwards

Margie Cameron

Facility Capacity: 135

Average Daily Population: 112.5

Recommendations:

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

1. Consider a feasibility study comparing cost of consolidation of beds for delinquent and dependent youth vs. spending to complete all deferred maintenance on both Camp Barrett and Juvenile Ranch Camp. Census at Camp Barrett on the day we visited was 89. This may be due to holiday releases or emphasis on alternatives to incarceration by judicial system.
2. Implement Skype to increase family contact.
3. Revisit the way minors are assigned to dorms and how that impacts assignment to classrooms.
4. Work with the Courts to help determine a proper length of sentence that corresponds with the degree of rehabilitation sought for individual minors.
5. Fill open positions.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education:

1. Replace the Education Administration Building.
2. Revisit the way minors are assigned to classrooms based on dorm assignments. Example: Minors in Alpha Dorm may be in grades 9-college. They attend all classes together. They cannot access appropriate diploma-bound curriculum. This is discriminatory.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to the California Forensic Medical Group that:

1. A Data sheet be kept to reflect the number of hours between a minor's request to be seen by a nurse and actual nurse visit; this data was not available. According to the medical staff this is 8-10 hours; however a data sheet would better reflect this. Also, only medical personnel may make the decision to honor a request to see a minor or reject such a request; this cannot be the decision of Probation.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the Health & Human Services Agency:

1. Mental Health staff at Camp Barrett be increased. While Dr. Stephenson spends at least 20 hours at Camp Barrett and another 10-15 hours seeing Camp Barrett detainees at other facilities, the mental health needs of these minors are very high and needs to be addressed if they are to return to society in a "rehabilitated" state. There is an intern who spends approximately 20 hours at Camp Barrett; however, Dr. Stephenson's intern can hardly be expected to have the experience to deal with this high-risk, high-need community.

Additional Comments:

Physical plant improvements are noted and appreciated. Ongoing physical plant improvements are needed at this aging facility. The school administration building is in need of replacement. Coordination between Probation and Education staff has greatly improved the opportunity for educational success for minors. Minors are still not able to access Diploma track A-G offerings as minors are still assigned to dorms and school program by gang or neighborhood affiliation. This is understandably safer for Probation and Education staff to manage, but does not group those needing a ninth grade curriculum with other ninth graders. In other words, if Alpha dorm is in science class together, one science curriculum is taught to students who could be in grades 9-12. Additionally, these credits do not transfer to the home school once the minor goes home.

Probation has implemented a "Steps to Success" program for behavior management. This program has five phases that the wards must pass through each with corresponding assignments that must be completed prior to moving up to the next phase. The goal is to transition home having made positive changes in behavior. Among the assignments is an autobiography which focuses on all aspects of their lives. There is also a victim empathy statement, an ownership assignment, as well as an assignment that addresses relapse/recidivism. The "Steps to Success" program has had positive outcomes at Girls' Rehabilitation Facility and is already showing positive changes at Camp Barrett.

Follow up on 2012-2013 recommendations:

1. Reinstitute Fire Science Academy Program. This has been reinstated and is very popular with minors.

2. Institute Skype as potential aide to increased family contact. Camp Barrett staff continues to work on this.
3. Institute Group for survivors of abuse. The mental health component at Camp Barrett needs to be increased as minors who were abused need group therapy and not simply education about the syndrome.
4. Electronic Medical Record: Electronic medical record is to be on board by April 1, 2014.

Facility Name: EAST MESA JUVENILE
DETENTION FACILITY

Inspection date: 4/4/2014
Last Inspection Date: 11/29/2012

Superintendent: Lisa Southwell, Prob. Director
Address: 446 Alta Road
San Diego, CA 92154

Telephone Number: (619) 401-4918
Fax: (619) 677-9482

Type of Facility: Detention Facility

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Hon. Carolyn Caietti

Commission Inspection Team:
Kimberly Allan
Charles Cleaves
Damon Booth

Facility Capacity: 290
Average Daily Population: 138

Recommendations:

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

1. Ensure that youth on medications are appropriately followed by medical and Probation staff for possible side effects and interactions.
2. Work with Sheriff's Department to determine if nearby firing range practice can be halted during outdoor activities for youth to avoid constant gunshot noise.
3. Develop a plan for creating a more "campus" like physical environment in order to counteract the current cell block appearance of the units.

Additional Comments

East Mesa is a very clean, well-run facility. If new budget funding allows, facility administrators are working to restore much needed ROP programs for youth at the facility.

Facility Name: GIRLS' REHABILITATION
FACILITY

Inspection Dates: 3/24/14 and 6/19/14
Last Inspection Date: 11/16/2012

Superintendent: Craig Stover, Probation Director
Leann Kowalski, Supv. Prob. Officer
Address: 2861 Meadow Lark Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

Telephone Number: (858) 694-4510
Fax: (858) 514-8488

Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Hon. Carolyn Caietti

Commission Inspection Team:

Kathleen Edwards
Melanie Delgado

Facility Capacity: 45
Average Daily Population: 34

Recommendations:

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to the San Diego County Probation Department:

1. A study needs to be conducted to evaluate location and access to information about each detained minor by stakeholders involved in treatment. There exist at least four databases which contain various aspects of court orders, psych reports, mental and physical health treatment history, Child Welfare Services (CWS) reports, competency evaluations, and Probation reports on each detained minor. Three of these systems are Anasazi, used by the Mental Health providers; Justice Electronic Library System (JELS) and Probation Case Management System (PCMS), used by the Courts and Probation. CWS currently uses its own database program, as does OPTUM, for T.E.R.M. treatment and evaluation reports. In the interest of appropriate case management of detained youth, coordination and access to information in these systems needs to be accessed by Probation, Mental Health, CWS, Public Defenders and District Attorneys. It is understood that certain mental health records cannot be shared, but the importance of coordinated case management cannot be overlooked.
2. Continue collaboration regarding efficacy of newly developed Suicide Watch Protocol.
3. Protocols are put in place for secure storage of gardening tools.
4. Minors should not lose educational time to participate in ROP experience (horticulture or culinary programs.)
5. Addition of security surveillance cameras in common areas would enhance safety and allow review of incidents.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education:

1. Consider staggering the vacation of regular educational staff so as not to have an entire contingent of substitute personnel at any one time.
2. Initiate additional SST meetings for minors with a history of school credit problems, poor grades, poor attendance, etc. Only two minors were on IEP's on the day of the inspection, which would constitute only a 10 percent rate of disability. As research reveals, many of these minors are victims of trauma and have concurrent learning issues. A more realistic number of IEP's for this population would be 30 percent. Returning to a home school with additional supports and services available will support lower recidivism.
3. Minors should not lose educational time to participate in ROP experience (horticulture or ROP).

General Comments:

GRF appears to be a generally well-maintained, comprehensively conceived, program. Supervisory staff appear caring, and supportive of this unique rehabilitative “camp” environment. For the past several months, investigations, changes in population, protocols, and staff have required considerable adaptation and adjustment. Due to stipulations in AB 109, which requires supervision vs. probation, many new field staff were hired and promoted and is central to many of the current staff changes. While changes in administration and staffing occur regularly, the number of changes has required additional administrative oversight and staff training. The current and recent census at GRF is at a historic low. This is partially a function of Alternatives to Detention.

Facility Name: JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY	Inspection Date: 2/19/2014
Superintendent: Heidi Barajas, Probation Director	Last Inspection Date: 12/17/2012
Address: 957 Forrest Gate Rd. Campo, CA 91906	Telephone: 858-694-4501
	Fax: 619-401-3512
Type of Facility: Juvenile Camp	Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Carolyn Caietti
Commission Inspection Team: Charlie Cleaves Janice Tang	Facility Capacity: 135 Average Daily Population: 109

Recommendations:

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

1. Continue to build on strategic plans to use resources in the most efficient manner possible to fill any vacant positions that come up due to retirement, despite budgetary challenges.
2. Carefully monitor General Funds to continue to repair, paint, and update facility needs despite historical site designation, and continue to address San Diego Grand Jury findings of 2009-2010 that the exterior maintenance has been neglected and is deteriorating.
3. Monitor East Mesa youth for suitable youth for transfer to JRF to better utilize the facility.
4. Build and develop mentoring programs prior to reentry to the community and/or adulthood. Invite community mentoring programs into the facility to develop mentors and relationships prior to discharge and reintegration.
5. Build relationships with faith-based and other community organizations to start programs prior to discharge into community.
6. Use Tele-Mental and Tele-Psychiatry services to support Dr. Nelson at the facility and STAT Team when and if needed.
7. Upgrade thickness of mattresses in residential areas.
8. Install video cameras throughout the facility to protect residents from PREA incidents and to protect staff from false allegations despite budgetary challenges.

General Comments:

Directors Barajas and Hicks run a great facility. The location and facility itself provides a positive environment for youth.

The kitchen was clean and in good condition. Dietitian and staff take pride in providing quality foods equaling 2500 calories a day with no fried foods. Milk is served at every meal and snacks are available before bedtime.

Correctional staff were very professional and those interviewed stated that they loved working there and would work nowhere else. Positive attitudes were evident in their direct communication with residents.

Progress Update from Previous Inspections:

Juvenile Ranch Facility has done well with Orientation, stressing the dangerousness of escaping into the desert environment which has resulted in lower escape numbers over the last few years.

Privacy walls for showering is a continued improvement and still in place.

Per the Director, there has been a positive increase over the last year with parental involvement programs and parental visits despite the distance and remoteness of the facility.

All vacant positions have been filled.

The facility has worked extremely hard at staying more connected to the school of record.

There has been successful implementation of the Probation Department's After Care Program prior to release to support successful transition into the community and completion of probation.

Facility Name: KEARNY MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY (KMJDF)	Inspection Date: 2/27/2014 Last Inspection Date: 12/4/2012
Superintendent: Craig Stover, Probation Director Address: 2801 Meadow Lark Drive San Diego, CA 92123	Telephone Number: (858) 694-4501 Fax: (858) 694-4333
Type of Facility: Juvenile Hall	Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Hon. Carolyn Caietti
Commission Inspection Team: Melanie Delgado Joan Hiser Janice Tang	Facility Capacity: 359 Average Daily Population: 215

Recommendations:

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

1. Where possible, increase the frequency of the Anger Management program and/or offer more similar programs. During the individual interviews of two youth, they stated that they benefit

from the program, which is currently offered once a week. They noted that they would further benefit if the program was offered more frequently.

2. Take further steps to reduce or eliminate the use of O.C. (oleoresin capsicum) spray: The Commission is encouraged to see that this facility has undertaken efforts to reduce the use of O.C. spray. However, there were still 86 uses of O.C. spray in 2013, which is, on average, more than one use every week. The Commission recommends that Probation ensure that written policies are in line with the practices as they were described at the inspection. Staff noted that O.C. spray is used only when there is a threat to the physical safety of officers or youth in the facility, and it is not used to gain compliance with an order or for punishment in any circumstance. The Policies and Procedures should very clearly reflect this. Interviews with staff and the documented decline in the usage of O.C. spray in the facility indicate that the facility is taking successful steps to reduce the usage of O.C. spray. Probation is encouraged to continue these efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of this chemical agent on the youth in the facility. Probation should continue to train officers in areas such as Safe Crisis Management (SCM) and Integrated Behavioral Intervention Strategies (IBIS) and should explore additional methods by which officers can avoid situations that would require the use of O.C. spray. Probation should also explore ways in which it can provide more oversight in instances where O.C. spray is deemed necessary.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the San Diego County Office of Education:

1. If feasible, implement Saturday School at the facility as an additional resource to students who are not academically prepared to complete work at their grade level.

Additional Comments

The Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility is working to improve the quality of education youth receive. Curricula are tailored around youth's current level. Ongoing evaluations are conducted to assess youth's reading and math skills. The average stay at the facility is usually between 21-26 days. To ensure a smooth transition when the youth leaves the facility, a comprehensive report of the youth's academic record, including transcripts and assessments, will be sent to the school the youth will be transferring into.

As to the staffing vacancies, Probation Director Craig Stover indicated that the vacancies are in the process of being filled and will be filled shortly.

Attempted suicides have increased over the last year. Staff reports that this increase may be due in part to some of the youth in the facilities attempting multiple times. The facility has a strict procedure that it follows in cases of attempted suicide and has in place a suicide prevention plan. The facility is very cautious and cognizant of risk factors. Staff reports that if a youth in the facility even mentions suicide, that youth will be put on suicide watch.

Facility Name: POLINSKY CHILDREN'S
CENTER (PCC)

Inspection date: 3/13/2014
Last Inspection Date: 12/14/2012

Superintendent: Fran Cooper, Asst. Deputy Dir.
Address: 9400 Ruffin Court
San Diego, CA 92154

Telephone Number: (858) 514-4601
Fax: (619) 514-4619

Type of Facility: Shelter Care

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:

Hon. Carolyn Caietti

Commission Inspection Team:

Kathleen Edwards

Mary Sue Glynn

Facility Capacity: 204

Average Daily Population: 60

Recommendations:

The 2013-14 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends that the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services:

1. Consider alternate use of empty beds by other needy youth populations as average daily census continues to drop. We understand the current constraints under CCL.
2. All PCC staff who participate in restraints is PROACT trained. Under PROACT guidelines, minors are asked about their well-being every 15 minutes while restrained and upon release. It might be wise for the nurse to check minor vitals on release from restraint, rather than accepting their self-assessment of well-being.
3. Analyze data on disposition of minors following a serious incident.
4. Staff should consider purchasing draperies with easy tear-away tabs which fasten to a rod but tear down when light weight is applied. Windows in children's rooms have nonfunctional drapery rods without draperies. Children and staff have cut construction paper and taped paper over these windows. Abused children are often concerned about privacy.
5. Complaint form process needs review. According to provided statistics, there were 25 resident complaints in 2012 and 28 resident complaints in 2013. Statistics also state that there were zero family complaints in 2012 and only two in 2013. These numbers are low. Adding complaint boxes to visiting area and improving signage and access to complaint boxes in reception areas might allow more input.
6. Security inspections of equipment and tapes are currently done "randomly" which probably should switch to a regular monthly or weekly schedule with random reviews as well as "for cause."
7. Staff has agreed to sample the percentage and number of children receiving either day treatment or counseling services on an annual basis and to provide this data to JJC inspectors.

Additional Comments:

PCC team was cooperative and well-prepared for the inspection.

Follow-up on 2012 recommendations:

1. Frequency of meetings with Contractors: Follow-up is that these meetings are held regularly.
2. AWOL/Police Relationship: PCC staff has spent significant time enhancing relationships among staff, minors and police. This is partially responsible for the reduction in AWOLs this year.
3. Sharing of donations: This query was not made.

Facility Name: SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY
(SPA)

Inspection date: 4/8/2014
Last Inspection Date: 12/5/2012

Superintendent: Tia Moore, Academy Director
Address: 17701 San Pasqual Valley Road
Escondido, CA 92025-5301

Telephone Number: (760) 233-6005
Fax:

Type of Facility: Residential Education Campus
For Foster Youth

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Hon. Carolyn Caietti

Commission Inspection Team:

Amy Lansing
Thomas Nelson

Facility Capacity: 184
Average Daily Population: 114

Recommendations:

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to New Alternatives, Inc., Health and Human Service Agency (HHS), San Pasqual Union School District, Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS), and the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE):

1. Overall, the JJC recommends that all agencies involved in services for SPA residents establish *much greater* transparency, better communication, and efficiency in providing consistent and accurate information among partners as well as to inspection teams and other affiliated agencies on issues related to the coordinated care of SPA youth (mental health and education services).
2. While understandable, the multi-agency involvement with SPA residents can serve to cloud responsibility and accountability. Many individuals, groups and agencies may be advocating for these vulnerable youth but the current tensions among the parties involved with SPA residents does not serve the best interest of these youth.
3. All relevant inspection teams should routinely be provided with documentation related to any "SPA" school related action plans, inspection issues, and performance improvement plans that involve SPA residents. These data points must be provided by SDCOE and JCCS to inspection teams, and if not already done routinely, school related inspection reports, PIPs and action plans should be provided to New Alternatives.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to San Diego County Office of Education and JCCS:

1. In terms of issues raised about the residential school at SPA:
 - a. A Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) was reportedly in effect with the State of California for approximately three years due to SPA's under performance on the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) test scores for at least two years prior to the initiation of the PIP. It is currently unclear if a PIP is still in place, if the goals of that PIP were met, or if the PIP was simply removed due to SPA's no longer accepting federal funds (e.g., Title 1).

It is disconcerting that the current SDCOE Principal at SPA was unable to provide details about the Federal Audit or any related PIP and that New Alternatives representatives were unaware of the situation. This emphasizes the need for better communication between SDCOE/JCCS and the residential SPA school, regardless of turn-over in principals. Miscommunication could also

be reduced if New Alternatives was regularly apprised of the SDCOE-run SPA school's progress in addressing issues of underperformance and alignment with Federal Standards. The Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) acknowledges that Principal Davis is relatively new to SPA and that perhaps the confusion is related to the Action Plan set in place between JCCS and the SPA advisory board to address issues related to academic proficiency. While it is not clear what the PIP entailed, and the official Action Plan was not provided to the JJC, the following information was provided by Principal Davis with regards to improving academic performance among SPA students:

- 1) Two resource teachers were hired to support classroom instruction. The Math resource teacher began March 1, 2014 and ELA resource teacher began on April 7, 2014.
- 2) Students that scored below grade level in reading on the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) taken during the fall were scheduled for an extended day class that focuses on reading improvement and assistance in current English classes.
- 3) Teachers work with after school tutors--specifically hired by New Alternatives to supplement educational resources--to implement a plan to target students that need additional assistance in core subjects.
- 4) A class was incorporated into the master schedule to support underperforming students in math.

The JJC was independently able to obtain a copy of the Federal Inspection audit through the DLG since the on-site SPA school never provided one after several requests.

No details were provided by the SDCOE run on-site SPA school with regards to their response to the Federal Audit indicating failure of compliance with regards to School Parent Involvement Policy (I-CE 02, CE 2.3); School Site Counsel Composition (II-CE 07); the Single Plan Student Achievement (SPSA) revision to account for all Title 1 Part A and EIA-SCE funds allocated to the school in CARS and alignment of the expenditure of these funds with SPSA goals, actions and strategies; SES Parent Selection of state-approved providers (II-CE 13) and LEA-Provider Contract Monitoring (II-CE 14); Local Education Agencies (LEA) use of Title 1 for Language Instruction (II-CE-16), website documentation (II-CE-17) and fund distribution (III-CE 18); proof of service supplement rather than supplant with Title I, Part A and EIA/SCE funds as well as correction of administrative charges (III-CE 19 and 20); School Accountability Report Card posting (IV-CE 26); Evaluation of the Compensatory Education Program report and documentation (IV-CE 28); documentation of paraprofessionals' qualifications (V-CE 30); school resource allocations for professional development for staff and parents (V-CE-31); **adequate documentation of procedures to ensure equitable access to, and receipt of, appropriate SES accommodations and assistance for Students With Disabilities (SWD) and limited English proficiency** (VI-CE 35); other fiscal monitoring and allowable costs (III-FM 02) as well as Supplement, not Supplant issues (III-FM 03) related to Title 1 Part A (3010), Title II, Part A (4035), Title III (4203), Title IV, Part B (4124); and documentation to support expenditures of Title IV, 21st Century funds (III-FM 06).

The JJC notes that details about overall LEA compliance with Federal standards and response to audits should be provided directly from JCCS and SDCOE, and that information about compliance should be routinely made available by JCCS/SDCOE during all inspections that include Juvenile Court and Community Schools. If the lack of compliance was "resolved" only by no longer accepting funds such as Title 1, some explanation is needed with regards to the impact on students' education and availability of services. If the SPA school continues to be out of compliance, that should also be made transparent.

Overall, given the issues raised by various entities in relation to the SPA school, if feasible it would be productive to have an onsite Professional Learning Communities program to supplement the regular teacher consultations conducted on Fridays.

- b. SDCOE/SPA's school has not met the University of California (UC) A-G requirements. It is the position of the SDCOE Principal Davis and New Alternatives representatives that these requirements have always been met (i.e., SDCOE adhered to the textbook/curriculum adoption protocols set forth by the California Department of Education and the associated applicable Education Code). However, the appropriate paperwork was never filed. As the deadline was missed last year, SPA will be eligible to apply for UC approval in September 2014.

An inspection of the entire curriculum was not conducted by the JJC, but we understand the need for UC approval regardless of how well a curriculum adheres to the A-G principals. We further underscore the urgency for this approval as "SPA" is held up as a model for providing gold standard services to foster youth and is viewed as a college preparatory program. As such, diligence with regards to obtaining appropriate approvals and credentialing is critical. It is the understanding of the commission that the responsibility for filing the A-G paperwork was the responsibility of the SDCOE, with only input from the SPA Principal regarding the curriculum. It is not clear why SDCOE did not complete this paperwork many years prior.

- c. Availability of AP coursework to facilitate A-G requirements, limited academic summer program and onsite library access. In 2013, it was reported to the JJC that SDCOE had purchased a full continuum of online courses through Compass Learning and that these courses would allow students to complete necessary requirements for direct enrollment in the UC system. The DLG reported in July 2013 that SPA specifically had Advanced Placement courses directly available to youth at SPA. During our inspection, however, Principal Davis stated that students enrolled at SPA may be dual enrolled at a community college (examples included Palomar and Grossmont Community College) which offers classes that are not available at SPA or additional classes needed that do not fit into the student's regular school day schedule. However, these are not AP classes and students that are eligible and request AP classes would need to elect to enroll in the local high school.

It is likely that the demand for AP coursework is not high, as it was reported during the inspection that SPA students are performing, on average, at the 5th to 6th grade level academically. However, a significant impact on the continuity of academic opportunities is likely when there is a combination of scheduling issues for A-G coursework (not all classes available throughout the year, student scheduling conflicts), AP coursework is not available onsite and the SPA library is essentially closed. Of note, plans were in place to move the library contents to the computer/technical center, and we encourage this plan so that both electronic and original source materials are available to residents in a central, monitored, location.

Given that it is extremely rare for high school level SPA residents to attend school off campus, it seems that onsite online availability of AP courses, as well as other A-G coursework, would offset scheduling problems related to regular onsite SPA course availability which likely interfere with academic progress. These measures should be taken to reduce additional student burden of dual enrollment, commute time etc. Further, gaps in education could be offset by a move to year round classes as supported by the 2013-2014 San Diego Grand Jury investigation of detention centers and other special purpose community schools serving at-risk youth (access to 'The Education & Rehabilitation of At-Risk Juveniles: An Opportunity for Positive Change' is available through the following link:

<http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/sites/eastcountymagazine.org/files/2014/May/The%20Education%20and%20Rehabilitation%20of%20At-Risk%20Juveniles-1.pdf>

- d. Individualized Education Plan (IEP). In general, with regards to IEPs and Special Education Services, the JJC believes that because foster youth are frequently moved between schools and school districts, they are particularly vulnerable to falling through the cracks when it comes to early identification of learning or other disabilities. In the 2012-2013 calendar year, only three (3) students were SPA identified with IEPs (special needs), for a total of 22 students on IEP. In the 2013-2014 calendar year, again only three (3) students were SPA identified with IEPs, for a total of 18 students with IEPs. Based upon the low number of children identified as having special needs by SPA, it may be that they assume that students who need IEPs are typically already identified before they get to SPA. Therefore, additional efforts are strongly warranted to identify youth with disabilities. Because of their frequent transitions, the assumption that most IDEA eligible youth are identified in elementary school are inaccurate for foster youth. SPA rarely identifies youth for IEP screening (averaging 2-3 youth per year over the last several years) and yet this is especially critical for success at SPA as well as movement from high school to college.

The SPA school has small group instruction, so many youth who might otherwise be referred for a special education evaluation (or might be on an IEP) are not so referred, even if a disability is suspected. *While this small group instruction may be a strength of SPA, it may not be enough to meet all of the disabled child's needs and may also set a youth up to fail upon entrance to college.* Any time that a youth is suspected of having a disability and who needs some form of specialized instruction, a referral should be made irrespective of whether SPA's small group instruction may help the youth. This is especially important if the youth changes schools, or if they graduate from high school and move on to college. If a youth transfers out of SPA, other schools may not have the same small classroom size, and without a potentially needed IEP, the youth could be lost. **Further, the youth has the potential for accommodations under a 504 plan in college if they graduate high school with an active IEP.**

The JJC recognizes that it may be too burdensome to offer a full range of services so that a youth who is otherwise appropriate for the program does not have to change placements. Therefore, if the SPA on-site school does not have the amount or type of services that a youth with an IEP needs for an educational benefit, they should make strong efforts to refer to either the local district serving SPA residents (i.e., Escondido Union High School District) or back to their home district for a change of placement.

- e. SPA reported graduation rates are significantly discrepant from those noted by the State of California. SPA reports 92% graduation rates while the State reports rates closer to 28%. While some discrepancies may be related to whether or not graduate equivalency diplomas (GED) are classified as "graduation" (SPA includes GEDs in their calculations), it seems that the primary discrepancy lies in how standard graduation itself is calculated.

SPA reports **any** successful graduation from High School, regardless of the youth's age or initial date of high school enrollment. In contrast, the State appears to calculate graduation based on the number of students who earned a high school diploma or passed the California High School Proficiency Exam within four years from their enrollment in high school relative to the number of first-time 9th graders in the fall four years prior, plus students who transfer in, minus students who transfer out, emigrate, or die during the four school years prior to graduation.

Given the significant mobility of foster youth that translates into movement between various school systems, delays in transfer of credits, redundancy of class time to make up for partial credits and established differences in academic performance because of these discontinuities and disruptions, a strict four-year graduation rule from initial date of 9th grade enrollment, such as used by the State, is very misleading. Reporting graduation rates in both forms (strict four years from initial enrollment versus any graduation) provides transparency and also highlights what is possible for foster youth who are given

adequate time to complete their degrees as well as the type of support available in a residential academic environment such as SPA.

Further, while the inter-agency goals should be to elevate foster youths' academic performance to the level of their non-foster care peers, it is still more accurate--and less misleading--for academic performances to be compared between SPA youth and foster youth serviced in non-SPA high schools relative to non-foster youth peers. This is simply the only way to fairly evaluate the educational impact of on-site residential education programming at SPA and it is our hope that Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) and SDCOE will do this in the future. We hope that the costs associated with education at SPA will not result in disbandment of the on-site programming. SPA is among the most successful academic settings under the JCCS umbrella and when combined with internships and work readiness programming may be the best hope for high-risk youth--both on the child welfare and juvenile delinquency side.

- f. Discrepancies in reports of Teacher Certifications. SDCOE and DLG noted that only two of eight teachers on the SPA campus were certified to teach the courses they were teaching but the teachers were reassigned to teach the correct courses in the fall of 2013. SPA Principal Davis and New Alternatives representatives firmly state that was not the case, and their teachers have always been appropriately credentialed.

JJC is unable to resolve these discrepancies based on information available at the time of this report but they may be related to distinctions between 'qualified' and 'highly qualified' based on the State of California definitions.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to San Pasqual Union School District, HHSA and New Alternatives:

1. Supplemental Mental Health Service Issues at San Pasqual Union School District: It has come to the attention of the JJC that Vista Hill, LAC was contracted--at least during a portion of the inspection review period--by the district to provide supplemental mental health services to SPA residents who attended the middle school at San Pasqual Union. However, after contacting HHSA directly to request consent, staff at Vista Hill have been unable to provide mental health services to identified students in the offsite middle school run by San Pasqual Union. While HHSA was supposed to consult with the appropriate lawyers to obtain consent, Vista Hill never received any follow-up communication. It is not clear at this time if students' lawyers are impeding access to the youth for further evaluation and services, if HHSA social workers have not been forthcoming with education related counseling information which impedes appropriate treatment, if additional pertinent information is needed from New Alternatives or if a combination of factors are at play.

Judge Caietti previously issued a blanket order allowing communication among all treatment providers for dependent youth, and thus no barriers should exist for a reasonable flow of information to provide much needed support and treatment to youth serviced at SPA, particularly when behavioral issues impact academic achievement and funds are available to provide additional support. That said, the judicial order does not necessarily apply to schools and providing services to youth in an educational setting may fall outside of the parameters of the order. If HHSA has a concern that confidential information was requested that may not be directly related to education service needs, that concern should be discussed in a meeting with all concerned parties (HHSA, Vista Hill--or any contracted provider of mental health, IEP or ERMHS services, San Pasqual Union, New Alternatives). The JJC is specifically concerned that San Pasqual Union has been unable to obtain appropriate mental health support for students and has chosen instead to call for police intervention at their school as a means of managing the behavior of SPA residents receiving their education offsite. San Pasqual Union would benefit from training in Trauma Informed Care, as trauma and mental health issues are certainly not

exclusively limited to their pupils who come from San Pasqual Academy. Police intervention does not further educational or mental health goals. If San Pasqual Union has already obtained TIC training, then additional support and training for their administrative staff and teachers are clearly necessary for the benefit of all students at their school.

The JJC strongly recommends that San Pasqual Union, HHS social workers, and New Alternatives make every coordinated effort to facilitate the provision of services to qualified students by SDCOE contractors. All agencies involved in the delivery of services to SPA residents should facilitate transparent, non-territorial inter-agency collaborations. Every effort should be made to be transparent and to provide relevant and appropriate information in a timely manner. This requires various entities and organizations to work together, irrespective of potentially competing interests or agendas and to truly represent the best interests of these vulnerable, dependent youth. San Pasqual Union must also be aware that calling for police intervention should absolutely be a last resort as it only escalates conflicts and is not an effective method of improving behavior or delivering education-related services.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to New Alternatives, Inc.:

1. SPA responded to the JJC recommendation from 2011-2012 to provide for better tracking of self-harm incidents, assaults and grievances, which allow SPA staff and inspection committees to review grievances and incidents in a systematic way. While the SPA created a form to record grievances, the SPA response(s) to and/or action(s) taken to resolve grievances, are still not systematically recorded. We recommend that: 1) the grievance form specifically include a designated section to denote how the grievance or complaint was resolved; and 2) that self-harm incident and assault reports be routinely provided during inspections. We fully recognize that Child Welfare environments differ from custodial incarceration placements and that most grievances at SPA are more personal (and unrelated to punitive or restrictive measures) in nature, but some record of conflict resolution and/or general outcomes are warranted.
2. The JJC continues to recommend more staff training, as well as resident services and psychoeducation with regards to the precursors of addiction in youth so that residents are better informed about the consequences of addiction, as well as the interrelationship between trauma exposure and substance use/abuse.
3. Consistent with our prior recommendations and those of the Grand Jury, we encourage the inclusion of appropriate youth from the delinquency side of the Juvenile Court where possible. We do not recommend the involvement of the San Diego Probation Department in the selection of SPA students and understand the challenges as SPA is relatively remote and parents/guardians, as well as youth who successfully complete Probation, would need to be willing for their child to reside at SPA. However, there are a number of youth who may be academically motivated, eligible for enrollment at SPA upon completion of the Probation commitments and would benefit from a more consistent environment that helps the youth disengage from delinquent peers in their home community. We concur with the Grand Jury that after successful completion of Probation supervision, the Juvenile Court and HHS could process referrals to SPA for possible admission.

The 2013-2014 Juvenile Justice Commission recommends to appropriate legislative action be taken with respect to the following issue:

1. Congregate Care Status: The move away from congregate care has been based in part on the inadequately regulated growth in residential care in the past. However, institutions such as SPA are highly regulated and provide an extension of home long after a youth turns 18. The Commission recommends that legislative action be taken to classify institutions like SPA as a hybrid so that the placement of youth at SPA and the use of services there can be maximized for appropriate youth.

Commendations:

1. SPA's dedication to providing a home-like environment for foster youth, which extends to all aspects of their life (personal growth, healthy development, school, work readiness, life skills, health care etc.) is exceptional. Further, the extension of this "touchstone" for young adults to come back to at any time, just as they might a biological family, should be recognized as outstanding. This home environment is further facilitated by the foster grandparent program that provides opportunities for "grandparents" to live on campus for reduced rent while mentoring youth and sharing their life experiences.
2. The job-readiness program run by the San Diego Workforce Partnership at SPA is state of the art and has a very dedicated staff that provided hands-on classes including the Youth Empowerment Services program. Among the programs available are computer skills, college application preparation, video production and financial literacy. Additional opportunities are available on-site to learn organic gardening, farmer's market skills, working at the student-run coffee shop, and culinary skills. In conjunction with the extracurricular activities on campus (including football and basketball teams), these services truly make SPA a model facility.
3. Overall there are broad opportunities for staff training and development and these trainings are extended to school personnel. This clearly translates into strong relationships and bonds between staff and youth in residence.
4. The embedded mental health services, as well as health clinic model at SPA is commendable. This permits addressing issues as they arise in a manner more comparable to a healthy, familial response.

Additional Comments

SPA continues to be a model facility delivering essentially full-service, wrap-around services in a residential setting to foster youth, with an eye to providing *integrated living skills* (social, occupational/vocational, academic), trauma-informed care and an embedded residential education program to residents. A 10-Year Evaluation report based on data from alumni strongly suggest safety, permanency (significant relationships with adults) and well-being in health, education and employment are predicted by engagement in SPA programming and length of SPA stay.

Many questions have arisen, however, about the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) run school on-site at SPA, as well as the inter-agency interactions with San Pasqual Union School District, including, but not limited to, concerns raised by the Dependency Legal Group (DLG)--who holds the State of California contract to provide lawyers for the parents and youth involved in the Child Welfare System--a Federal Program Monitoring audit (06/24-27/2013), a Grand Jury inspection and the District Contract holder (Vista Hill) for provision of supplemental Mental Health Services during the inspection period. There have also been three different principals in the last two years which impact the continuity of information flow related to the concerns raised and information provided to various agencies and inspection teams has been discrepant. To that end, we have attempted to highlight the main areas of concern along with specific recommendations for each area. The goal of these recommendations is to bring together the various agencies and groups involved in direct service provision, oversight, and inspections in an effort to improve transparency and communication among all parties involved in caring for dependent youth at SPA.

GUEST SPEAKERS

The San Diego County Juvenile Justice Commission is committed to ongoing training for its members. Commissioners strive to stay informed of current juvenile justice trends, programs, and practices. The JJC often invites speakers from County agencies, the academic world, and community organizations to share information and insights. During 2013-2014, the JJC was pleased to welcome the following speakers to present during regular business meetings:

- Candy Mayes, Executive Director, Dependency Legal Group
- Christina Sanchez, Dependency Legal Group
- Nancy Gannon Horn, Chief Executive Officer, SAY, San Diego
- Kelly Vales, Director of Youth, Family and Community Services. SAY, San Diego
- Kevin O'Neill, Director of Integrated Neighborhood Services, SAY, San Diego

ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, the JJC recognizes outstanding professionals and volunteers working within the juvenile justice community. Nominees and award recipients were honored at an Awards Luncheon held on July 17, 2014 at the University of San Diego Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. The Guest Speaker was Shane Harrison, of Just in Time for Foster Youth. The following individuals received awards from the Juvenile Justice Commission in 2013:

Probation:	Theresa Salgado, DPO, Breaking Cycles
Child Welfare Services:	Madelyn Ochoa-Wingate, PSW, East Region
Law Enforcement:	Officer Jordan Wells, SDPD, Northwestern Division Detective John Whiteman, Sheriff, Santee Station
Educator/Court Schools:	William Horton, Teacher, Sarah Anthony
Volunteer:	Joni Gabriel, Master Gardeners
Former Youth in Care or Probation:	Yasmin
Judge:	Hon. Garry Haehnle, Juvenile Court
Juvenile Court:	Linda Johnson, Staff Attorney, S. D. Volunteer Lawyer Program
At-Large:	Alternatives to Detention Program

2013-14 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The JJC made progress in the following areas:

1. Advanced the cause of reducing use of OC spray in facilities.
2. Continued press for standard A-G curriculum for all detention centers and camps.
3. Recommended additional attention to suicide prevention and mental health services in detention centers and camps.
4. Supported use of Skype for family visits at remote detention centers and camps.
5. Supported consolidation of camps to concentrate service delivery to minors.
6. Recommended additional security cameras in most facilities for minor safety.
7. Held annual Awards Banquet.
8. Conducted detention center and camps inspections.
9. Conducted Polinsky and SPA inspections.
10. Conducted inspections of sheriff's departments and police departments which securely detain youth.

2015 GOALS

The Commission identified the following goal areas for the following calendar year:

1. Education and orientation of new commission members.
2. Support appropriate care of dependent and delinquent minors with mental health needs. This population is known to suffer a 70% rate of mental illness.
3. Support alternatives to detention for nonviolent status offenders.
4. Support alternatives to physical force and use of OC spray.
5. Add inspection of group homes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the Juvenile Justice Commission, please visit our webpage:

http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/portal/page?_pageid=55,1857027&_dad=portal

Comments regarding the content of this report may be submitted via email to:

commission.juvenilejustice@sdcourt.ca.gov.
