

# Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission

Mendocino County  
100 N. State Street, Room 303  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-4664

<https://www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/jjdpc>

## APRIL 12, 2024 MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kate Gaston, Chairperson; Gary Levonson-Palmer, Libbe Madsen

OTHERS PRESENT: Esperanza Montano-Culbertson, prospective Commissioner; Sarah Martin, prospective Commissioner; Bode Gower, prospective Commissioner; Susie deCastro, prospective Commissioner; Marquez Gibson, prospective Commissioner; Nicholas Canaday, prospective Commissioner; Vanessa Curl, Arbor Youth Resource Center and prospective Commissioner; Tanya Estrada-Ruiz, prospective Commissioner (remote for a portion of meeting); Izen Locatelli, Chief Probation Officer; John Bednar, MCJH Division Manager; Hillary Gayheart, OCYR; Judge Carly Dolan; Kim Turner; Kim Weston

ABSENT: Tanya Estrada-Ruiz, prospective Commissioner

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm by JJDPC Chairperson, Kate Gaston.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
  - a. Welcome and Introductions
  - b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda  
**No additions or corrections to the agenda.**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**  
None.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 9, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** After discussion, the Commissioners approved the February 9, 2024 meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Levonson-Palmer moved to approve; Commissioner Madsen seconded.
4. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 8, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** After discussion, the Commissioners approved the March 8, 2024 meeting minutes with requested name spelling corrections. Commissioner Madsen moved to approve; Commissioner Levonson-Palmer seconded.
5. **PROBATION REPORT:** Izen Locatelli gave a brief history on the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. Commissioners are involved in the hiring of the Chief Probation Officer. The Chief Probation Office works in collaboration with the JJDPC. The JJDPC is funded through the Probation Department. Chief Locatelli provided an overview of the Welfare and Institutions Codes which govern the mission and functions of the JJDPC, as well as the other commissions and councils the Chairperson of the JJDPC is required statutorily to serve

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on. Previously the focus of the Commission has been on juvenile justice and Chief Locatelli is hopeful that the commission will be able to address the prevention side more fully in the future. Chief Locatelli discussed the smaller School Attendance Review Boards (SARB) within the 12 school districts in the county and the larger county-wide SARB. The Commissioners discussed school truancy and how it relates to juvenile delinquency. Prospective commissioner Gower discussed the School Survey that has been completed by all students and when results from that survey should be made public. Chief Locatelli stated that the schools should be more involved as they have more funding for programs that can work with the JJDPC. Chief Locatelli stated that more outreach needs to be made with the alternative education high schools in the area and that a new principle is being hired to cover those three schools and he is hopeful that the new principle will be open to working with the Probation Department and the JJPDC on new programs to help with truancy and delinquency prevention.

6. **JUVENILE HALL REPORT:** John Bednar reported:
  - a. Currently nine youth are in Juvenile Hall. Eight male, and one female. Two youth are on hold for Lake County. Staff are currently reviewing all detainees for any required mental health interventions.
  - b. Programs
    - i. Garden Program: Program has begun with the assistance of Mendocino College. The area is being cleared and prepared for raised beds to be installed. There will be an update on the progress at the next meeting.
    - ii. Culinary Program: There is a meeting scheduled in three weeks with the Culinary Advisory Board at Mendocino College regarding implementation of this program.
    - iii. Existing Programs: They are continuing to work on improving quality of existing programs making sure they best suit the youth.
7. **INSPECTION OF JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES:** After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to schedule the inspection of Juvenile Hall once the new Commissioners have been sworn in and passed the Livescan so they can attend the inspection. It was agreed that Kate Gaston and Gary Levonson-Palmer will attend the inspection with new commissioners Sarah Martin, Marquez Gibson, and Susie deCastro. John Bednar will send the required forms for the Livescans to Kim Weston to forward on to the prospective Commissioners. This item will be revisited at the next meeting for an update on the status of Livescans with the goal of scheduling the inspection as soon as possible.
8. **REVIEW OF RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND ADDITION OF NEW MEMBERS ON THE JJDPC:** Kim Turner reported that we have several Commissioner candidates attending today's meeting. Chairperson Gaston requested that we continue additional outreach including the Administration of Justice program at Mendocino College and Leadership Mendocino. Kim requested that the Commissioners also provide information to any individuals they know who might be interested in serving. Commissioner Levonson-Palmer will forward information concerning contacts from underserved and tribal communities he has worked with in the past.

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9. **MENDOCINO COUNTY RESOURCE GUIDE PROVIDED BY ARBOR:** Kim Turner thanked Vanessa Curl and The Arbor for providing their resource guide which was updated at the end of December 2023. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed that they would like to research and add additional resources to the list, including resources from out of the Ukiah area, and out of county. They requested that a list of resources be obtained from the Homeless Continuum of Care and the 24/7 Help Commission of CASA. They would like to place the QR Codes or links to these resources on the JJDP website.
10. **ORIENTATION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS:** Kim Turner distributed the Handbook for Mendocino County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissioners and a copy of Inside/Outside to each of the prospective commissioners in attendance. Kim asked the current Commissioner's to review the handbook and let her know if there are any additions that need to be made to the handbook. Kim discussed the Agreement to Confidentiality provided for each Commissioner to sign. Kim will provide a Commissioner Roster at the next meeting and update as any new commissioners are added.
11. **NEW BUSINESS:**  
**Oath of New Commissioners:** Judge Dolan administered the Oath to the following: Esperanza Montano-Culbertson, Sarah Martin, Bode Gower, Nicholas Canaday, Susie deCastro, Marquez Gibson, and Vanessa Curl.
12. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDA, INCLUDING AGENDA DATE(S) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION:**  
**Honoring Retired Commissioners:** Kim Turner reported that she is working with the Probation Department on this project and will provide an update at the May meeting.
13. **ADJOURNMENT:** After discussion, it was agreed that the next JJDP meeting will be held on May 17, 2024 from noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Ukiah courthouse.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:34 p.m.

MINUTES COMPLETE  
Submitted by Kim Weston