

# 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>

## **OCTOBER 11, 2024 MEETING**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kate Gaston, Chairperson, Vanessa Curl (via Zoom), Sarah Martin, Scott Marsh, Tanya Estrada-Ruiz (via Zoom), Libbe Madsen (via Zoom), Marquez Gibson (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT: Judge Carly Dolan; John Bednar, MCJH Division Manager; Kim Turner, Court Executive Officer; Kim Weston; Christine Wilson (ARBOR); Damian Ruby (MCYP); Analise Alvarez (via Zoom) (Ukiah Highschool Principle); Akilla Ellenna (via Zoom) (Lake County JJDPC); Darius Parakh (via Zoom) (OYCR Bay Area Liaison); Krystall Rollins (via Zoom) (OYCR Liaison)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Esperanza Montana-Culbertson, Bode Gower, Josephine Pady

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by JJDPC Chairperson, Kate Gaston.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
  - a. Welcome and Introductions
  - b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda
    1. Formation of Committees, Kate Gaston.
    2. Preauthorization/clearance of Commissioners by Probation Department, Kim Turner.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** None.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** After discussion, the Commissioners approved the September 13, 2024 meeting minutes with requested change. Ms. Estrada-Ruiz moved to approve; Ms. Curl seconded.
4. **PROBATION REPORT:** None.
5. **JUVENILE HALL REPORT:** Mr. Bednar reported that there are currently 11 youth in Juvenile Hall, nine males (one from Lake County), and two females. He reported that the OYCR walkthrough went well, and they received positive feedback on the current programs. They were given a few housekeeping items to work on (i.e. haircuts, assistance with contacting attorneys, water weights, and handing out the Youth Bill of Rights to the parents as well as the juveniles). He is continuing to work with Mendocino College on the Garden Project. The work on the outside planting beds is starting. Weed mat has been purchased and they will be obtaining metal troughs to use as the beds. They are able to obtain free compost and mulch through the Department of Transportation. The aikido/meditation program would like to use the garden for classes as well. His next focus will be on the culinary program. The music program is moving

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along as well. They have received grant money and are working on buying the equipment needed. Staff are working on lesson plans that will cover music theory, genres, and reading music along with making music. SUDT is also working on creating a program so the juveniles can continue to use this resource once they are out of Juvenile Hall.

6. **UPDATE/DISCUSSION ON SPEAKERS FOR JJDPC MEETINGS THIS FALL:** Ms. Gaston noted that she is concerned about the juveniles having difficulty contacting their attorneys. Mr. Bednar commented that Juvenile Hall staff do their best to facilitate meetings between the juveniles and their counsel. Ms. Gaston stated she would contact the Public Defender's Office and invite them to attend the JJDPC meeting next month.

Ms. Gaston also reported that she will be contacting both UUSD and MCOE to discuss a possible SARB presentation. She also stated she will contact them to obtain a copy of any confidentiality agreement she would need to sign to attend SARB hearings for Ms. Turner to review. Ms. Martin agreed to take over this role when Ms. Gaston decides to retire from the board.

Ms. Wilson from ARBOR made a presentation of the restorative justice program run by ARBOR and RCS. She reviewed the referral process, paths that each youth follow to be admitted to the program, and the possible classes that can be included in the youth's plan when they are accepted into the program. She reported that she is currently working with Fort Bragg and Anderson Valley to start programs in their areas.

7. **UPDATE/DISCUSSION ON RECRUITMENT OF COMMISSIONERS:** Ms. Turner reported that Ms. Pady has passed the background check process and needs to be sworn in. Ms. Weston is directed to contact Ms. Pady to schedule an appointment. Ms. Gaston stated that she felt 10 was a good number for commissioners and would like to recruit some commissioners from the coast and the Anderson Valley areas. Ms. Turner requested that Ms. Weston provide the handbook to the newest commissioners.
8. **PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS (ATTACHMENT):** Ms. Gaston reminded the commissioners that the election of new officers will take place at the November meeting. Nominations will be accepted for the following positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary. If multiple people are nominated for each position, a ballot will be prepared, and voting will occur at the December meeting. She asked that anyone interested in nominating themselves or another commissioner for a position contact either Ms. Madsen or herself. The new officers will assume their new roles in January.
9. **UPDATE AND DISCUSSION FROM JUVENILE DATA REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Mr. Gibson reported that he has not received responses from commissioners and would reach out again to see who would be willing to sit on this committee. The goal of this committee is to obtain information so that the JJDPC can have data driven policies and plans for the commission. Ms. Turner suggested that Ms. Gibson forward his committee invitation to Ms. Weston so she can

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forward to all the commissioners. Mr. Parakh of the OYCR was asked if they already track this information and he stated he would investigate and get back to the commissioners with an update. Ms. Gaston also recommended he reach out to Mary Cohen with the Sonoma County JJDP to see if they already have this data collection template or data elements

## 10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**TRAINING WITH BSCC:** Ms. Gaston suggested that the commission reach out to the Lake County JJDP and see if they would be interested in coordinating trainings. After discussion, it was agreed that she would reach out and discuss this possibility with the Lake County JJDP Chair. Mr. Bednar reported that the Lake County JJDP will be conducting a walkthrough of Juvenile Hall on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 am.

**UPDATE FROM JUDGE DOLAN:** Judge reported that she is seeing a large number of juveniles who are not enrolled in school nor are they being home-schooled. She noted there has been a recent increase in gang activity in the Ukiah area. She also noted that many of the dependent youth not going to school are on a trajectory to the 602 path.

## 11. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDA, INCLUDING AGENDA DATE(S) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION:**

Ms. Weston was asked to review the 2025 meeting schedule for any holiday conflicts.

## 12. **ADJOURNMENT:** After discussion, it was agreed that the next JJDP meeting will be held on November 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Ukiah Courthouse. A Zoom link will be provided for Commissioners who cannot attend in person and for any members of the public to attend.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:15 p.m.

MINUTES COMPLETE

Submitted by Kim Weston