

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION



**PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

Held in-person with virtual public comment at:

**City Hall, #1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 241, San Francisco, CA 94103**

**Commissioners:**

Johanna Lacoë, Chair  
Linda Martley-Jordan  
James Spingola

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Roll Call:** Meeting called to order 6:04 pm.  
Commissioners Lacoë and Spingola present.

**2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda.**

**3 Discussion of JPD Monthly Data Reports from May 10, 2023 and June 14, 2023 Full JPC Commission Meetings. (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)**

**(Please see attached Monthly Data Report prepared for, but not presented, for the Full Commission, September 13, 2023.)**

Commissioner Lacoë: It is clear from summary, referrals and admissions are up compared to last year, trend is up. At same time, the length of stay shorter.

Chief Miller states that the numbers are up but still below 2019. They are seeing the percentage of young people, and the length of stay, lower. Mentions policy changes around the “front door” decisions. Mentions that before PO can bring a young person back to custody, they need approval and must show have worked with family, with providers, have they tried everything else. Also gives example of young people arrested for drug charges, they are being referred to Huckleberry House. Also working on building other supports.

Re: Length of stay, we are more engaged in release strategies. Out-of-home placements have gone down. Also we have resourced 7 family beds now, and City has taken on the funding of the Boys Home to make sure they continue to run. Staes this is noteworthy, even with State decertifying our group homes, and with supply going down – that these policy changes have made difference.

Commissioner Lacoë asks about how the front-end changes show up in the data. Mention made of replications driving down length of stay.

Maria McKee – At the front door, we are not detaining kids for violation because they do not have a parent or care provider. We are depressing admission via these policies, but states there is a general approach now that even if they are detained, what do we do to get them released as soon as possible? With these new services online, the judge can now release to other resources thereby speeding up their departure.

Commissioner Spingola asks what determines foster care or not going home. Maria McKee answers that the judge makes the determination whether youth stays in juvenile hall or goes somewhere else – judge decides youth cannot go home, not JPD . Chief Miller mentions that sometimes the judge orders a temporary placement while the family gets what they need to take the youth back. Ms. McKee mentions intensive family services, which helps a family be wrapped with 24/7 support to make them more successful.

Commissioner Lacoë asks if the issues that bring them to detention are from these family issues. Answer: No.

Commissioner Spingola states this is all so scary for the kids; thinks the rate of picking up young people is going to increase now, "It's summertime, it's hot, kids don't have summer camps," Mentions that the Jewish community has taken several into programs. Chief Miller states they are adding some summer services.

Commissioner Spingola states that when school is out, he sees kids hanging out. So even though we release them, wants to know the return rate. Chief Miller mentions that the JPD Annual Report will show if 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> time they are admitted. Will show in admissions and how many are in for first time. States will be revising recidivism mechanisms. Also, Maria McKee mentions that some kids are being seen who are severely traumatized by pandemic.

Commissioner Lacoë – Wants data to tell a story. Suggests a timeline of all the things JPD has done, things that are changing. Thinks this would help when we see different trends in the data.

Out-of-state placements: Chief Miller doesn't think that number of young men who are staying longer, would be as high if we still had out-of-state placement. States that right as DJJ closes, these group homes became inaccessible to us, and some of those homes used to take older youth.

Commissioner Spingola states that sometimes you just need to give the kids some space and home may not always be the place. Commissioner Lacoë thinks data is split on this. Some severing of connections may be good; data split. Chief Miller also mentions that some young people elected to not come back, perhaps to finish school, etc. Also mentions that for other kids, going *away* to college is a learning experience; could be same for these youth.

Commissioner Lacoë - re asks if average daily population includes secure track. Maria MaKee states we will not do this in the annual report. For the average daily population, this makes a difference.

Discussion turns to younger kids. Maria McKee states that there are more girls, but hasn't changed that much. Chief Miller also mentions that data may be showing that there is one young person who stays a longer time.

re DDT slides: The orange-colored category are not mandatory. Ms. McKee states that for the DDT, 25% are not mandatory.

What changed? Biggest concern was that the previously called "overrides" would go up, but this has not been happening.

Discussion continues re non-secure option; question does this mean youth are being held until there is an option? Answer: Yes. We may need to activate an AFS bed, and we have to admit them during this time while we are working on a place to release. Can vary, mentions young woman released, took hours to find her mother and convince the mother to come pick her up.

Caseloads going up; knows they were scaling down, where are we in terms of hitting a maximum of caseloads? Chief Miller mentions that late last year, DPOS were dealing with 30+ cases, highest in 10-yrs. States that ideally should be 17-20 cases/DPO. Mentions a disparity between divisions (placement unit, etc.). States they are finishing a reorganization process; working w Controller's office for a probation mapping project. Trying to balance how to work with families as compassionately as possible.

Chief Miller mentions Budget Process, accepted by BOS. JPD has been hiring; have new probation officer and are filling some positions left from departures.

Time management discussion for DPOs follows.

Chief Miller mentions CARE TEAM. (Will be added to timeline.) Chief Miller states that once CARC can take the felony cases, they will see some numbers jump. Currently working with them to help fill their staff vacancies. Mentions that some CBOs would love to be lead in the CARE TEAM, but they do not have the bandwidth.

Commissioner Spingola states that a lot of people do now want to work in the kids' space, they want to be remote, so that hampers having staff. Mentions a shortage of teachers. States that all staffing will be a challenge including staffing for summer camps.

Chief Miller mentions being very grateful in this climate that for Counselor positions, 80 people responded.

Commissioner Spingola states that kids need to be parented; they are looking for attention and need to be around people, to have connections.

Slide 19 on Data Report: Counting secure and regular commitments = 11 youth; because some commitments are so long, you don't see them cycling through.

Slide 38 & 39 – Commissioner states it is important to be put into the timeline to know how numbers change with policy change.

re Electronic monitoring, question raised about what went on in March? Ms. McKee mentions that the numbers are small. Other outliers mentioned. 29 population (6/27); in compared to last year, this is high.

Commissioner Lacoë mentions she'd like to see data back to 1980.

Maria McKee mentions that it was worrisome when the population number went above 20, however, thinks this is due to long term commitments.

Commissioner Lacoë states that we need a place for those secure youth. Chief Miller mentions that there are 3 locations in state that will take kids from other locations. There had been a lot of discussion about locations outside the county or counties sharing, but we are not there yet; mentions that the DJJ Realignment Sub-committee members wanted to keep kids in San Francisco.

#### **Public Comment**

Margaret Brodtkin, calling on for public comment; states her concern about the number of out-of-county youth. Thinks there is "still a lot of room" for using CARC, and that out of 32 felonies, only 9 were 707bs. Mentions involvement with CBOs; states the data doesn't tell us if the CBO was helpful or not. Data doesn't tell us if CBOs are getting their referrals responded to. Doesn't know how to get something to help us problem solve, but would like to talk about in the full commission, what data is realistic?

Maria McKee states "active" means cases have been referred but not closed. Happy to do deep dive annually. Chief Miller asks how much we are asking our community providers to put into the data? Probation Officers are checking with youth about how the CBOs are doing, but we need an understanding of how much we can ask of CBOs.

Maria McKee states there is a module in the JPD case management system that allows CBOs and DPOs to share information; states it took a year to fix and was launched today. Success Center reported that it worked today, 6/27/23. Plan is to rollout to other secure commitment providers, then we can measure referrals, enrollment, acceptance, participation and engagement and the number of contacts.

In some cases, we can decide to put youth on 654 informal probation; states this can look differently, they can be on 654 and we are connecting them with CBOs, or even a lighter touch. The court can also put youth on 654. It is a strategy of defense lawyers to keep the kid on 654 as long as possible to allow kid to show the judge they deserve to come off probation. Judge Chan wants the number of these cases lowered; mentions that the Judge looks at this (data report) slide every month.

Re: CARC – We do have the ability to refer 100% of cited kids to CARC, but right now CARC doesn't have capacity. CARC staffing is precluding them from taking more cases. Felonies when CARC is closed cannot be served now.

It is mentioned that there were four **Make-it-Right** (MIR) referrals recently.

It is mentioned that the July data underpins the annual report and there will be a walkthrough of the new data dashboard mentioned at the upcoming full commission meeting. Staff will walk the Commissioners through how you can use, manipulate it. Will show 5-year trends; JPD very excited to preview.

**4. Approval of Program Committee Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2023.**

No discussion; no public comment.

Motion to approve the May 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

Vote: Ayes: Lacoë, Spingola. Motion passes.

**5. Meeting adjourned 7:02pm.**