

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION



JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 12, 2014  
5:30 p.m.  
City Hall, Hearing Room 408  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Commissioners

Susan Jones, President  
Joseph Arellano, Vice President  
Julian Chang  
Annie Wong  
Rebecca Woodson

Meeting Minutes

**Proceedings:**

1. Roll Call:  
President Jones called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.  
Present: Julian Chang; Susan Jones; Annie Wong; and Rebecca Woodson.  
Joseph Arellano arrived at 5:44 p.m.  
  
Others Present:  
Chief Probation Officer: Allen Nance
2. Public Comments:  
Ramon Gomez, Youth Commission, hopes that security cameras are included in this year's budget and placed in the recreational yard to get it operational for the youth in the facility.
3. Approval of the Full Commission Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2014.  
Motion to approve the Full Commission meeting minutes of February 12, 2014 by  
by Commissioner Chang; second by Commissioner Woodson.  
AYES: Chang; Jones; Wong; and Woodson. Minutes approved.  
No public comments.
4. The Beat Within Presentation, Lisa Lavaysee, Program Director (DISCUSSION ONLY)  
The Beat Within writing workshop started in SF Juvenile Hall in 1996. The co-founder, Mr. Inocencio, started as a social worker, saw a break-down in communication when youths appeared in court and the need for youths to find their voice. The organization has grown and is now in 24 Juvenile Halls across the country, sees around 5000 youths every year, and has 100 workshops every week nationwide. The writing workshops are voluntary and last 60 minutes. They start with three questions and a quote. Youths can write about any topic, as long as it respectful. Youths are also free to draw and create art. Fifty issues are printed

each year. Responses are provided at the bottom of each entry from The Beat Within team. It connects facilitators to the writers and vice-versa. The results have been very positive. Ms. Lavaysee said funding is provided mostly from private foundations, and small amounts from the City and governments. One of their goals this year is to increase individual donors and corporate connections. The Beat Within 2014 issue was provided (see supporting document at: <http://sfgov.org/juvprobation/full-commission/meetings>).

Commissioner Chang said this program could address summer learning loss; would like to explore Prop 49, afterschool money; and inquired about a possible SFUSD link.

Commission President Jones would like to discuss this topic further at the upcoming retreat. No public comments.

5. Report to the Commission (DISCUSSION ONLY)

a. Chief's Report:

• Title IV-E update

The California Probation Departments provided an acceptable plan to the Federal Government that will allow funding claiming capacity to be restored, however, there are strict stipulations that requires extensive documentation of eligibility; a case plan that clearly defines that a youth is at-risk from removal from their home; and an expectation that probation departments maintain detailed logs. Probation departments are still awaiting further instructions and will receive state-wide training. The California Department of Social Services, the agency that licenses group homes and oversees the quality of residential facilities for foster youth, is now the Title IV-E centralized claiming authority.

• Youth Outcome Measures Study

Over the past couple of months, JPD staff has worked with Ms. Mathews, a second-year graduate student from the Berkeley School of Public Policy, to look at community-based organizations and their outcomes regarding youths referred to these agencies. Specifically, what strategies have yielded the best outcomes, which programs are utilizing best practices, and if recidivism was reduced. This study will help the department see what is happening with youths in the system. Chief Nance will share the results with the Commission once they are available. Garry Bierenger, Coordinator for the Juvenile Detention Alternative, said the project is divided into five parts: Project Start-Up; Descriptive; What's Working?; Why is it Working?; and Writing Report.

• System Improvement Plan – Peer Review

Probation Departments and Human Services Agencies across the state conduct work peer reviews every three to four years to improve systems, and identify goals and objectives regarding foster care youth. SF's goal is to improve the number of kids that graduate with a high school diploma or GED while in out-of-home placement or at LCR. Probation Officers assembled from Alameda, Orange, San Bernadino, and San Mateo counties and looked at the different practices, meet with staff; and assembled observation reports. Chief Nance will share the full set of recommendations with the Commission.

No public comments.

b. Committee Reports.

Commission President Jones said the Ad Hoc Committee met on March 6<sup>th</sup> regarding the Commission retreat. The draft agenda and materials have been created, two locations have been selected, and an outside facilitator will present. An update will be presented at the April Full Commission meeting for feedback and a date will need to be selected.

No public comments.

6. Future Agenda Items (ACTION ITEM)

- Commission President Jones asked Chief Nance to provide an update on the JJC recreational area.
- Commission President Jones asked the Commission to think about off-site meeting locations and suggested JPD's cafeteria. Commissioner Arellano recommended the Sunset district. Commissioner Chang recommended the Portola or Excelsior districts.
- Commissioner Woodson would like Ms. Mathews to present at one of the upcoming Full Commission meetings.
- Commissioner Arellano said the Finance Committee will meet before the April Full Commission meeting to present the Mayor's letter recommending JPD's budget. No public comments.

7. President Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

For more information, contact the Commission Secretary at 415-753-7870 or visit:

Juvenile Probation Commission: <http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=542>

Juvenile Probation Commission Meeting Information: <http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=578>

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