

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION



PROGRAMS COMMITTEE MEETING  
Programs Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 30, 2019  
3 p.m.

Juvenile Probation Department  
375 Woodside Avenue, Main Conference Room  
San Francisco, CA 94127

**Commissioners**

Suzy Jones, Chair  
Toye Moses  
James Spingola

Meeting Minutes

**Proceedings:**

1. Roll Call  
Commissioner Jones called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.  
Present: Susan Jones; Toye Moses; and James Spingola.  
Others Present: Allen Nance, Chief Probation Officer; Paula Hernandez, Assistant Chief Probation Officer; and Luis Recinos, Juvenile Hall Director.
2. Tracy Gallardo, Supervisor Walton's Office, said she was there to answer any questions regarding the proposed legislation to close Juvenile Hall and provided her contact information (415-509-7266). In addition, she provided Supervisor Walton's fact sheet and discussed the proposed legislation (see supporting documents at: <https://sfgov.org/juvprobation/meeting/programs-committee-april-30-2019-supporting-documents>).  
Damon Bures, Counselor, said he hopes that Counselors can be part of this solution and not be seen as part of the problem.  
Stephanie Speech, Deputy Probation Officer's Union Representative, said the Probation Officers do a great job and they disagree with the closure of Juvenile Hall.  
Kwanza Morton, Probation Officer, said everyone needs to look at both sides of issue before making a decision to close Juvenile Hall.  
Derek Hom, Supervisor, is advocating for victims and asked if they had a voice in the Blue Ribbon Panel.  
Dan McAllair, Executive Director, CJCJ and on Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel, understands legislation is causing anxiety, however JJC will close in two years and the transition plan will be ongoing.  
Mo Tamasese, Probation Officer, discussed the number of youths in custody and safety concerns for youths housed at JJC and in the community.  
Emily Bolden, SF Deputy Public Defender, said her view to house youths in a jail-like setting who are not endangering the public is not appropriate and traumatizing for these youths.

Patty Lee, SF Public Defender, said her office is in support of the resolution in terms of repurposing Juvenile Hall to have a humane setting for children.

Ryan Call, Probation Officer, said youths feel safe at Juvenile Hall and kids are comfortable expressing their concerns with their PO's.

Lisa Randall, SFPD, urges BOS to see what Counselors and Probation Officers really do before closing JJC.

Yvonne Moore, JPD employee, urges everyone to work together for the interest of the minors to give them the best opportunities in life to succeed.

Luis Recinos, Juvenile Hall Director, said he looks forward to discussing the facts with all the stakeholders.

No further public comments.

3. Review and Approval of the Programs Committee Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2019 (ACTION ITEM)

Motion to approve by Commissioner Moses; second by Commission Spingola.

Ayes (3): Susan Jones; Toye Moses; and James Spingola. Minutes approved.

No public comments.

4. Staff Input/Ideas on High Impact Programs for Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Alonda Austin, Juvenile Hall Counselor, discussed the need for updated programs. She said rehabilitation should be the focus and feels they should collaborate more with CBO's. She discussed the need for substance abuse education; what programs are lacking, such as conflict resolution; gang resistance education and training; anger management; job training; and theater to work on depression and stress.

Damon Bures, Counselor, said they focus on instilling self-respect in the girls' unit, which leads to respecting others. He also addressed mental health needs.

Lyslynn LaCoste said that most programs discussed today are offered by CBO's in the City and she would like to see more coordination for kids to be exposed to these programs without getting into system.

Adrian Garcia, Development Specialist, discussed rehabilitation, accountability and integrity. He also discussed the programs offered to kids in Juvenile Hall.

Casey, Attorney, agreed that they need more programs that offer conflict resolution and said a lot of CBO's offer these programs.

Moe Tamasese, Probation Officer, said the problem is that a lot of CBO's do not provide the services offered, nor do they provide them with reports.

Name undiscernible, discussed the therapeutic component in Juvenile Hall.

No further public comments.

5. Impact on Juvenile Probation Department (JPD) and Youth of Notice of Intention to Close Juvenile Hall, including Statistics on Who is Employed by JPD by Chief Nance (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Chief Nance discussed the anxiety and disappointment the proposal has had on JPD staff; the impact it will have on youths to close Juvenile Hall by 2021; and how it will impact San Francisco. He hopes through the Blue Ribbon Panel, they understand the feasibility of implementing options.

Public Comments:

ACPO Hernandez provided demographic data on staff that would be directly affected by the closure of JJC.

Dan McAllair said there has been an 84% drop in referrals to Juvenile Probation over the last 20 years and there is need for a change.

Stephanie Speech, Probation Officer, agreed that times are changing, but they also serve as social workers and hold these kids accountable.

Joy Jackson Morgan, Executive Director, Third Street Clinic, said she heard a lot of anecdotes today and wants to see Department come up with data points.

Samuel Carr, Counselor, said he would like to see data from other detention facilities that have closed to see what is and is not working.

Lyslynn LaCoste asked that the Blue Ribbon Panel explore urban environments, not the Missouri Model, that have actually shut down juvenile facilities and the impact.

Tracy Gallardo, Aide, said Supervisor Walton knows the programs are good at Juvenile Hall, however she said this legislation has two years to work on and implement a plan.

No further public comments.

6. Progressive Programs and Performance Metrics that Differentiate San Francisco Juvenile Hall from its Peers in the State by Chief Nance and Staff (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Chief Nance said it is difficult to measure success and said they could look at recidivism and re-arrest rates. In addition, he said he would like to reach youths before they come to Juvenile Hall. Chief Nance said they measure success by looking at the number of youths cycling back into the system and that number continues to decline.

Commissioner Jones would like to see performance metrics.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Margaret Brodtkin participated as a member of the public. She said there is a lot of expertise in City to evaluate programs, however this is not done equitably.

No further public comment.

7. Key Messages for Letter to SF Supervisors regarding Intention to Close Juvenile Hall by the Programs Committee (DISCUSSION ONLY)

Commissioner Jones said she would like to compose a letter that adequately reflects the views and concerns of the Commission.

Commissioner Spingola said he would like to see the City come together to make a change. He wants to be sure the Commission, as a body, does the right thing for youths today.

Commissioner Moses suggested including how SF will be impacted upon the close.

Commissioner Jones expressed a concern to put forth a proposal to put children first before closing JJC. She agrees that the letter must be done right.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Margaret Brodtkin participated as a member of the public. She said she agrees that the everyone should weigh in on this matter at the Full Commission meeting. Commissioner Moses suggested postponing letter until all seven commissioners have been updated.

Commissioner Arellano participated as a member of the public. He said a decision was made at last Full Commission meeting to draft letter and it is up to this Committee to pursue. He said he is in support of the letter.

Tracy Gallardo advised everyone to read the legislation.

No public comments.

8. Future Agenda Items (ACTION ITEM)

- Commissioner Jones requested a follow-up Programs Committee to review and draft letter to City Officials to be heard at May 8<sup>th</sup> Full Commission meeting agenda.  
No public comments.

9. Adjournment (ACTION ITEM)

Commissioner Jones adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact the Commission Secretary at 415-753-7870 or visit (copy & paste links):  
<http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=542><https://sfgov.org/juvprobation/juvenile-probation-commission>  
<https://sfgov.org/juvprobation/juvenile-probation-commission-meeting-information>  
<https://sfgov.org/juvprobation/juvenile-probation-commission-audio-archive>