



**San Francisco Youth Commission**  
**Immigration, Justice & Employment Committee**  
**Draft ~ Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 14, 2017**  
**4:30~6:30 PM**  
**City Hall, Room 345**  
**1. Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.**  
**San Francisco, CA 94102**

*There will be public comment on each item.*

Members: Mary Claire Amable (Chair), Martin Krause (Vice Chair), Cecilia Galeano, Tsia Blacksher, Jonathan Mesler, Madeleine Matz, William Juarez

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 4:37pm. Commissioners present: Amable, Krause, Galeano, Mesler, Matz, Juarez. Commissioners absent: Blacksher. Staff present: Adele Failes-Carpenter. There was quorum.

**2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**

Commissioner Matz, seconded by Commissioner Galeano, moved to approve the agenda. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by acclamation.

**3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)**

- A. February 7, 2017  
([Document A](#))

Commissioner Krause, seconded by Commissioner Mesler, moved to approve the minutes. There was no public comment. The motion was approved by acclamation.

**4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)**

There was none.

**5. Presentations (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)**

- A. Presentation and discussion on youth and TAY related findings from Work Group to Re-envision the Jail Replacement Project; Presenter: Roma Guy, Work Group Co-Chair;  
([Documents B and C](#))

Ms. Guy shared some highlights from the upcoming March report from the work group to the Board of Supervisors and some insights from the work group process:



- 63% of people in our jails are out in 7 days. These people have different needs than those who stay for two years. For instance, their needs may be best addressed by working on the prevention side and addressing homeless needs.
- Young people make up a large portion of those that are there for a long time. Especially young African-Americans
- The needs of juveniles were not considered deeply, even though juvenile probation has been successful at decarcerating juveniles than the adult system has been with 18-24 year olds.
- Women are 10% of the jail population. They are the least violent, but their incarceration has a huge impact on families.
- Women are at county jail #2, which they want to renovate.
- Swords to plowshares developed a very successful model for addressing the needs of veterans. They did an analysis and came up with a model to get veterans out of jail.
- What are other models elsewhere in the country for dealing with the needs of young adults? The Youth commission could take a lead role in convening a group to discuss this.

Youth commissioners inquired about the proposal to renovate county jail #2 and presenters share the following insight:

- During renovation, the people detained there would have to be relocated which could involve moving them to Santa Rita and renting beds, or renovating CJ3 (which is now closed), which could lead to an overall increase in the number of beds.
- The community is proposing moving the DA's office to the site of the old McDonald's close to the hall of justice.
- The DA supports closing the jails at hall of justice and not rebuilding a new jail.

There was no public comment.

B. Presentation on TAY Court Initiative; Presenter: Katherine Weinstein Miller, Chief of Alternative Programs & Initiatives, Office of the District Attorney

Ms. Weinstein Miller shared the following:

- 18-24 year olds are 50% of the gun and robbery cases and 25% of the jail population, and a larger percentage of those the city sends to state prison.
- New research shows young people's brains are still developing until age 25. Some people hear this as being about young people's deficit, but another way to hear this is that young people are uniquely positioned to learn, change, and benefit from rehabilitation.
- 4 states have moved to increase the ages overseen by juvenile court.
- The Young Adult court is for 18-24 year olds and those that enroll in it do not receive a strike on their record. There are currently 65-70 young people enrolled and the court will have its second graduation on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- It is a high-touch program that requires a lot of the young people engaging with it, so it is not for everyone, but there is more demand for it than there are slots available. The program has shut the door twice due to capacity issues.
- The main barriers to expansion are accessing the time of judges and needing more budget for case management. There is also a need to build more housing for TAY and



TAY-specific treatment programs. These gaps need to be addressed to reduce entries into the criminal justice system for TAY. Right now, the court is successful in exiting people to job and educational opportunities but not housing or treatment. 1/3 of participants are fully homeless.

- Right now the program reallocates general fund dollars from other typical DA purposes. DCYF covers some case management and they have some support from a BSCC grant.

There was no public comment.

## **6. Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)**

A. Debrief and discuss presentations from jail replacement work group and DA's office

Commissioners discussed and identified the four areas of possible follow up on these issues:

- Requesting support for prevention/exits from criminal justice system for TAY:
  - Fulfilling and resetting TAY housing plan
  - establishing a TAY substance abuse treatment facility
- Looking at options for piloting having young adults in juvenile system (young women?) How much discretion do we have locally?
- Requesting convening of work group to look at needs of young adults in criminal justice system, ie a task force with DA, public defender, etc.
- Request support/funding for young adult court model

Commissioners shared the following things in discussion:

- Committee should find out if the community supports the renovation plan for CJ 2 (Commissioner Galeano)
- The committee needs to continue to push for more services to be available outside of the criminal justice system. People should not have to go to jail to get services. (Commissioner Galeano)
- It would be helpful to talk to the housing committee about the TAY housing plan (Commissioner Amable)

The committee agreed during their discussion to draft a motion asking the board of supervisors to hold a hearing on the needs of young adults in the county jail system. Commissioners Mesler, Galeano, and Juarez will sponsor.

There was no public comment.

B. Review upcoming meeting dates for immigration, justice, and employment priorities

Commissioners reviewed their upcoming meetings with: Angelina Romano, Bernal Heights Neighborhoods Center, OCEIA, and Young Workers United.

Commissioners reminded staff to follow up on requesting a meeting with Chief Scott.

There was no public comment.



- C. Check in about next steps and timeline for submission of committee's budget and policy priorities

Commissioners asked staff to include a "alternatives to incarceration for young adults" item as a placeholder in their budget & policy priorities.

Commissioners confirmed the date of their upcoming presentation to DCYF, and Commissioners Galeano, Krause, and Matz agreed they could go.

There was no public comment.

#### **7. Committee Report to Full Commission (Discussion and Possible Action)**

Commissioners prepared their remarks to the full commission. There was no public comment.

#### **8. Executive Committee Report (Discussion Only)**

There as none.

#### **9. Staff Report (Discussion Only)**

Staff thanked commissioners for their hard work.

#### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.