

MINUTES
Juvenile Justice Standing Committee

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Sacramento, CA 95833
March 21, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Juvenile Justice Standing Committee (JJSC) meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair David Steinhart.

The following Committee members were in attendance:

Mr. David Steinhart, Chair
Ms. Sandra McBrayer
Judge Donna Groman

Dr. Arash Anoshiravani
Ms. Sue Burrell
Chief David Bejarano

Mr. Gerry Lopez
Chief Laura Garnette

Agenda Item A

Welcome and Introduction

Chair Steinhart opened with welcoming all in attendance. Introductions were made by members of the committee. Chair Steinhart asked members to provide updates to member profiles to Field Representative Lisa Southwell.

Agenda Item B

Approval of the December 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. McBrayer motioned to approve minutes. Judge Groman seconded with one amendment: correct Chief Garnette's name and add Chief before her first name. Motion approved.

Public Comment:

No comments

Chair Steinhart opened the floor for member comments on proposed agenda for the day.

Chief Garnette shared the recent media coverage involving San Jose Police Department and the increased arrest of young kids; there appears to be a lack of diversion.

Judge Groman noted the need for a legislative fix for probation to have more discretion for diversion options.

Chief Garnette noted that the removal of deferred entry of judgment (DEJ) screening tool is the result of lack of understanding from higher levels of law enforcement of the codes, requirements, options, DEJ, and adolescent brain development.

Ms. McBrayer suggested that perhaps this is an opportunity for education between the League of CA Cities and California Chiefs of Police.

Chief Garnette encouraged members to review the report that Santa Clara distributed in response to media coverage on arrests and crime. The report highlights a five-year trend tracking the seven most common offenses.

Chair Steinhart stated that this was an important item to bring up in the joint meeting with the SACJJDP.

Agenda Item D Discuss JJSC Workplan, Priorities and Coordination with SACJJDP

Previously identified key issues for coordination between JJSC and SACJJDP committees are:

- diversion
- upgrading JDPS data collection
- assuring cultural fairness and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities
- mental health and competency

With respect to competency, Chief Garnette noted that if a regional center is serving a youth, that young person shouldn't be declared noncompetent. If an adult is declared noncompetent, they will not be placed in jail; however, youth declared noncompetent can end up in detention.

Judge Groman agreed, the determination of noncompetency is very narrow. Ms. Burrell replied that legislation related to restoration of competency was vetoed because of concerns that some kids were dangerous and not remediated within six months. The bill will be reintroduced by CPOC this year; an alternative should be that youth be eligible for conservatorship, which is difficult to achieve for young people.

Ms. McBrayer commented that mental illness and behavioral health are different things and there is a belief that youth have issues that can be resolved.

Dr. Anoshiravani asked the members if the JJSC has recommended supporting restorative justice; members agreed that this is an important practice where youth have an opportunity to repair harm and not be swept into the criminal justice system.

Members discussed the fact that there are law enforcement interventions that seem counter-productive to rehabilitation. Young people with no prior history are getting locked up based on fear.

JJSC decided to break for lunch before reconvening with SACJJDP for joint meeting.

BSCC staff members in attendance:

Ms. Allison Ganter, Deputy Director

Ms. Lisa Southwell, Field Representative

Ms. Tameka Shedwin, Associate Governmental Program Analyst