

# Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission

Mendocino County  
100 N. State Street, Room 303  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
(707) 463-4664

<https://www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/jjdp>

## DECEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kate Gaston, Bode Gower, Vanessa Curl, Libbe Madsen (Remote), Tanya Estrada-Ruiz, Marquez Gibson (Remote),

OTHERS PRESENT: John Bednar, Kim Turner, Darius Parakh (OYCR Bay Area Liaison)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Scott Marsh, Sarah Martin, Esperanza Montana-Culbertson, Josephine Pady

The meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm by JJDPC Chairperson, Kate Gaston.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda
  1. Formation of Committees, Kate Gaston.
  2. Preauthorization/clearance of Commissioners by Probation Department, Kim Turner.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** None.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** After discussion, the Commissioners approved the November 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Bodie Gower moved to approve; Ms. Vanessa Curl seconded.

4. **PROBATION REPORT:** Mr. Bednar reported that Probation has hired a new probation officer for the Juvenile Probation side, and she started this week.

5. **JUVENILE HALL REPORT:** Mr. Bednar reported that a new Youth Corrections Officer has been hired and started work this week. Juvenile Hall is currently fully staffed. They are still recruiting to fill extra help positions in the hall. The extra help position is for a Youth Corrections Officer in an "on call" status to cover unfilled shifts due to vacations or absences. There are 12 youth in the facility: eight males (two from Lake County), and four females (one from Lake County.) Next week is the follow up inspection with the Board of State Community Corrections to review and finalize the corrective action plan. They are working with MCOE and Mendocino College on a college course called Eagle Rise for the spring semester to introduce the youth to college and what they could expect if they chose to attend college. The garden project is currently on hold as they continue to search for a person to run the program. They are speaking with a few individuals who may be interested, but they may have to put out an RFP. The garden infrastructure has been procured and once the weather clears up they will continue to work on the area for the garden. The music program is progressing. They are waiting for one piece of equipment to arrive concerning the speakers in order to begin. Meanwhile, they

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continue to work on soundproofing and painting the room. They are working on a demo for a tablet program that is education based and contains vocational training. It's all self-paced learning that the youth may be able to continue using when they are out of the hall.

6. **UPDATE/DISCUSSION ON SPEAKERS FOR JJDPC MEETINGS THIS FALL:** Item passed to the January meeting.

7. **PROPOSED SUPPORT AND INFORMATION FROM OYCR (ATTACHMENT):** Mr. Parakh discussed rising truancy rates (mentioned at the October meeting). Their office began to research prevention and early interventions options here in the Ukiah area. The Arbor Youth Resource Center provides resources and early intervention programs. Another organization that is not currently working in Mendocino County is ACE Overcomers (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and OCYR is able to connect the JJDPC with them. The program comes to the county and is an evidence-based intervention program. They currently have some programs in Lake County. Santa Clara County has recently launched a Truancy Court. The Santa Clara District Attorney prepared a presentation, and he is more than happy to forward that to the commission. This is a good resource to provide to the District Attorney's office and school district here since many of the issues with establishing the court have been worked through. Ms. Turner will reach out to Santa Clara to get contact information for the Judge handling the court. Mendocino County Youth Project is also an available resource. Ms. Gaston would like to have a group compile a list of what each organization provides to see if there is duplication or if there is an area lacking where the commission can help fill the gap. Ms. Gaston asked what OCYR is seeing with other counties. Marin has recently launched Youth Transforming Justice with grant funds from Elevate Youth California in its San Rafael high school. The goal of OCYR is to bridge the gaps between the organizations providing services. Ms. Turner suggested holding a Truancy Summit inviting agencies to connect and collaborate. Ms. Turner asked if OCYR has looked into grant options through CAL OES or other funding agencies. Mr. Parakh will research this and report back to the commission, however he is aware of Cal AIM and their office has been working to connect agencies with Cal AIM for funding. The commission will need to decide on the focus for the group and then figure out a plan to obtain funding and institute the programs. Ms. Curl presented concerns about who will apply for funding and how the funding will be managed. It was suggested that the commission start with the summit and find out what the county needs, what's working, what isn't working, create a plan, and then worry about funding and grants. The commissioners requested that we add Truancy as a topic to focus on for the Agenda for the January meeting. Ms. Turner requested that Mr. Parakh bring additional information concerning truancy at the January meeting, as well as help with planning the summit.

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OUTGOING CHAIR AND SECRETARY:** Ms. Turner acknowledged the time, energy, and work that they have contributed to the JJDPC for the last decade by Commissioners Gaston and Madsen.

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9. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDA, INCLUDING AGENDA DATE(S) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION:**

The commissioners requested that Truancy and a Truancy Summit be added to the January agenda.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** After discussion, it was agreed that the next JJDPC meeting will be held on January 10, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Ukiah Courthouse. A Zoom link will be provided for Commissioners who cannot attend in person and for any members of the public to attend.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:14 p.m.

MINUTES COMPLETE

Submitted by Kim Weston