

**JUVENILE JUSTICE
AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
COMMISSION**

AGENDA

April 11, 2025, 12:00 PM

Jury Deliberation Room, 5th Floor

Ukiah Courthouse

100 N. State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

<https://mendocino-courts-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/j/1600926095?pwd=V0RqYUZJMIRGUnQvZmh6b0NmMGxiUT09>
Meeting ID: 160 092 6095 Passcode: 161251 Toll-Free Call-in Number: (833)568-8864

- 1. Call to Order**
 - a. Welcome and Introductions**
 - b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda**
- 2. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda**
- 3. Review and approval of Draft Minutes from January 10, 2025 meeting (attachment)**

Recommended action: Approve minutes.

- 4. Review and approval of Draft Minutes from February 14, 2024 meeting (attachment)**

Recommended action: Approve minutes.

- 5. Chief Probation Officer Report**

Recommended action: Receive the oral report and provide input to CPO Locatelli, as needed.

- 6. Juvenile Hall Report**

Recommended action: Receive the oral report and provide feedback to staff, as needed.

7. Discussion of Del Norte Teen Court Program (attachment)

8. Discussion on Speakers for JJDPC Meetings

Recommended action: Discuss potential guest speakers to provide a report on restorative justice efforts in Mendocino County. Determine who will contact speakers and arrange presentations.

9. New Business

10. Review and Discuss Requests for Items to be included on Future Agenda, Including Agenda Date(s) and Provide Direction

11. Adjournment: JJDPC meeting are held from noon to 2 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room at the Ukiah Courthouse on the following dates:

May 9, 2025

June 13, 2025

July 11, 2025

August 8, 2025

September 12, 2025

October 10, 2025

November 14, 2025

December 12, 2025

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/jjdpc>

JANUARY 10, 2025 MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vanessa Curl, Marquez Gibson (Remote), Libbe Madsen (Remote), Bode Gower, Esperanza Montana-Culbertson, Scott Marsh, Tanya Estrada-Ruiz, Kate Gaston (at 12:30 pm)

OTHERS PRESENT: John Bednar, Izen Locatelli, Judge Carly Dolan, Kim Turner, Kim Weston, Darius Parakh (OYCR Bay Area Liaison), Francisco Ruiz

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Sarah Martin, Josephine Pady

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by JJDPC Vice-Chairperson, Marquez Gibson.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
 - b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** None.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 13, 2024 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** After discussion, the Commissioners approved the December 13, 2024 meeting minutes with requested changes. Mr. Marsh moved to approve; Ms. Estrada-Ruiz seconded.
4. **PROBATION REPORT:** Chief Locatelli reported that CPOC is waiting for the Governor to release his updated budget so they can begin the review for any impacts to funding. He is working on finalizing an agreement with Shasta, Merced, and Sonoma Counties for placement of any Mendocino County youth on a secure track. Mendocino County currently houses youth on a non-secure track for Mendocino, Siskiyou, Lake, and Del Norte counties. He will be attending a Chief Retreat at the end of the month in Sacramento. They will discuss the DJJ closure and mental health treatment. They want to close any loopholes in this closure. They will be drafting a face sheet to provide to Senator McGuire to help draft a formal response. He announced that he is serving as the CPOC Secretary in 2025, CPOC Vice-President in 2026, and CPOC President in 2027.
5. **JUVENILE HALL REPORT:** Mr. Bednar reported there are nine youth in the facility: eight males (one from Lake County), and one female. They are going to begin working on remodeling the intake area to make it more accessible for staff. Current work on Units A and B includes removing/replacing fencing with cork board. They are also in the process of contracting for work on a basketball court. He reported that Judge Dolan inspected the facility last week and it went well. The Civil Grand Jury is scheduled to visit the hall on 1/31/25 to determine a focus, if any, for their reports. Kim is planning on looking into this as she does not believe that the Civil Grand Jury can have access to the hall without going through the same background checks as

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JJDPC members. John reported that they are exploring options with NCO for both the garden program and the culinary program.

6. **DISCUSSION ON SPEAKERS FOR JJDPC MEETINGS:** After discussion, the commissioners agreed upon the following questions regarding truancy to ask Ms. Gentzler:
1. What data do the schools keep?
 2. What to the schools do with kids who simply do not attend school/stop coming to school?
 3. Where do they see kids falling off the path?
 4. How do the various schools handle the problem?
 5. Is there a written protocol that schools are supposed to follow? Do they follow it?
 6. Are there kids that aren't even being enrolled in school?
 7. Why has truancy court been eliminated in many counties?
 8. What are the rules for home schooling? Do they have to register with the district? How are home school kids tracked?
 9. How are the children in the district identified?
 10. How do we change the culture regarding school?
 11. Does the need for immunizations effect attendance?

Supplemental questions should be forwarded to the court by 1/31/25. Ms. Turner reported that she has a meeting scheduled with the CEO of Santa Clara Court to discuss their program.

7. **INFORMATION FROM OYCR REGARDING TRUANCY PROGRAMS (ATTACHMENT):** Mr. Parakh reviewed the list of funding opportunities provided. He reported that Dr. Michael Massa of his office is leading the efforts to track absenteeism in schools. Dr. Massa is excited to work with the commission and Mr. Parakh will see if he can attend next month's meeting.
8. **TRUANCY AND PROPOSED TRUANCY SUMMIT:** After discussion, it was agreed that the commissioners are still in the information gathering phase and it is too early to schedule the summit. The commission needs to decide on the goal/outcome of the summit. The timeline for the summit will be decided at the February or March meeting.
9. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- LUCKY DEUCE SHOWER PROGRAM:** Ms. Curl reported that Lucky Deuce will be enhancing its services to the community. A new program allowing showers to the homeless will be held on Sundays by appointment only starting in March. There is no age limit to this program. There will be additional programs in the future.
10. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDA, INCLUDING AGENDA DATE(S) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION:**

None.

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11. **ADJOURNMENT:** After discussion, it was agreed that the next JJDPC meeting will be held on February 14, 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 1:12 p.m.

MINUTES COMPLETE

Submitted by Kim Weston

DRAFT

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FEBRUARY 14, 2025 MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sarah Martin, Libbe Madsen (Remote), Esperanza Montana-Culbertson

OTHERS PRESENT: John Bednar, Izen Locatelli, Judge Carly Dolan, Kim Turner, Darius Parakh (OYCR Bay Area Liaison), Nicole Glentzer (Mendocino County Office of Education), Chris Francis (Mendocino County Office of Education), Percilla Stevenson (Sacred Generations and perspective commissioner)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Marquez Gibson, Vanessa Curl, Tanya Estrada-Ruiz, Kate Gaston, Josephine Pady, Scott Marsh, Bode Gower

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by JJDPC Chairperson, Sarah Martin.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
 - b. Additions or Corrections to Agenda
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** None.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 10, 2025 MEETING (ATTACHMENT):** Due to the lack of a quorum, this item is passed to the March meeting.
4. **PROBATION REPORT:** Mr. Locatelli reported that he attended a meeting regarding SB 357 which would allow the county Board of Supervisors to determine if the Probation Department would oversee Juvenile Hall or 602 matters in the county. Theoretically, the county could hand over the management to the Sheriff's Office, Social Services, or a newly created department. He will be working on his budget for CCP, JJCC, and the County, as well as traveling for meetings and presentations during much of March.
5. **JUVENILE HALL REPORT:** Mr. Bednar reported there are 10 youth in the facility: seven males and three females. Five of the youth are from Lake County and one is from Del Norte County. The grand jury toured the facility on January 31, 2025. The county is issuing the notice to proceed on the basketball court replacement. They will be fixing some instability issues with the concrete surface. This will take place during the next few weeks, weather permitting. He is working on getting the youth rooms repainted. They hope to have this completed by the end of the calendar year, if not the fiscal year. They are continuing to work on removal of the chain link fence above the workstations. The hall is fully staffed, and he has several individuals that are currently in the background stage for extra help positions. The JJDPC inspection of the facility will need to be scheduled sometime during March or April. Chairperson Martin will send out an email to all commissioners to discuss possible dates for the inspection.

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6. **DISCUSSION ON SPEAKERS FOR JJDP MEETINGS:** There was not a discussion of future speakers. Commissioners received the presentations of Nicole Glentzer and Chris Francis.

PRESENTATION OF NICOLE GLENTZER: Ms. Glentzer responded to each of the questions presented to her by the commissioners:

1. What data do the schools keep? In relation to attendance, the schools are accountable for data at the state level. They track student performance, suspension, and chronic absenteeism. She reported that the chronic absenteeism rate is going down countywide. They are working on engagement and re-engagement efforts. Differentiated Assistance is one of the accountability measures.
2. What do the schools do with kids who simply do not attend school/stop coming to school? Schools are never absolved of the responsibility to engage or get kids to school. Many parents aren't aware of the number of absences for their students. This involves kids who are out of school because they didn't want to get out of bed or are taken out for family vacations too often. They are trying to intervene early with kids in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, and 1st grade because the chronic absenteeism is more likely to continue if it starts early in a child's schooling. A large part is due to the age of the parents and the attitude of post-pandemic parents regarding attendance.
3. How do the various schools handle the problem? This will be addressed in Chris' presentation.
4. Are there kids that aren't even being enrolled in school? The district doesn't know about kids that are never enrolled in schools. However, they have a very good partnership with Social Services and other agencies who work with the schools when children who have not been in school are identified. They want to get a grasp on the kids that they do know about before they focus on the kids that they don't know about.
5. What are the rules for home schooling? Do they have to register with the district? How are home school kids tracked? You must file a private school affidavit with the California Department of Education to homeschool your children, however, there is no notification sent to the local districts. The district does not have an idea of who is strictly being homeschooled. There are homeschooling charter schools. Ukiah has Ukiah Independent Study Academy which is geared towards people who want to homeschool. They meet with teachers once a week and have study groups. It is a very robust program. Other counties have non-classroom based charter schools – online schools and there are approximately 200 students from Mendocino County attending those schools, however the district does not receive notification about those children. There is currently a moratorium on non-classroom charters which expires at the end of the year.

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6. How do we change the culture regarding school? Schools are trying to incorporate fun programs (i.e. hot chocolate cards on Fridays). Lack of transportation and living in rural areas where there is flooding creates attendance issues during the winter for the kids on the Coast.
7. Does the need for immunizations affect attendance? It does affect enrollment in schools. The schools start early with information on how to get immunizations and where to get immunizations. Some even offer immunization clinics. The child must have specific immunizations to be to attend public school. There are required immunizations to attend transitional kindergarten and/or kindergarten and then there are additional immunizations required in 7th grade. Mr. Locatelli brought up that this was more in regard to the section of the population that doesn't believe in immunizations. Ms. Glentzer stated that there wouldn't be tracking on those individuals because they would never come across the threshold of the district.

Ms. Glentzer reported that she came from Tulare County where they have a very good SARB process. She found that Mendocino County did not have a process and learned that the superintendents of the schools were struggling and really wanted to reestablish the SARB process that had gone away during the late 1990's. Schools have district level SARB's, but there currently is not a county level SARB. Chris Francis is in charge of reinstating the SARB.

PRESENTATION OF CHRIS FRANCIS: Mr. Francis reported that Education Code is specific about what needs to happen concerning the kids who are considered truant. If the students miss 30 minutes or more of a given time period three times in a school year. There are excused absences, unexcused absences, and school administrator excused absences. Once a student is determined to be truant, letters are sent to the parents and a meeting with the family takes place. If the interventions that are put in place do not work or there isn't a response to multiple letters, there can be a referral over to juvenile probation, the District Attorney's Office, or a Student Attendance Review Board. The Education Code gives frameworks for how the SARB is comprised and supports that can be provided to people. There is a state SARB that meets four times per year. Along with truancy, SARB can address the kids who are defiant, disruptive, and have habitually anti-social behavior. The county dynamics are complicated when it comes to the creation of a Truancy Court. Counties need to have collaboration between the schools, Juvenile Probation, and the District Attorney's Office.

The spirit of the Education Code is to create a system in which the families are engaged and encouraged to come into school. The current approach is to create a multi-tiered system of support that is more engaging and supportive of families than punitive. SARB's of the past focused on punishment. The schools are required to provide support for students and alternatives to get them to participate in school. After the pandemic the chronic absenteeism rate was 36.9% which means that the student has 10 or more absences in a school year. This is beyond the 13 excused absences allowed. The rate dropped to 28.3% in 2024. The county is still above the state average of 20%. The breakdown of the most severely impacted populations is: Native

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American 44.9%, Hispanic/Latino 25.9%, White 27.6%, African American (also high but no % given). There is a lot of governmental distrust due to generational trauma in the affected populations with high absenteeism. They are working on creating support and building trust to remove the barriers. They are in the process of developing a system of tiered re-engagement included in the handout provided at the meeting. Tier One is handled at the school site. Tier Two is handled by the school on a more personal outreach and creating an action plan for assistance, if needed. Tier Three is handled at the County level. It's a coordinated interagency response to have all the important parties in place to address the issues. MCOE will be facilitating this meeting about four times per year (two inland, one north, and one at the coast). They have put together a toolkit for school administrators which will include forms and required paperwork, as well as information and steps regarding the referral process. There is a principal support network available at the county office. They are working on who will participate in the SARB at the county level (ie, probation, social services, district attorney, tribal leaders, et al).

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

UPDATE ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE MEETING CONVENED BY SAN MATEO: Ms. Martin reported there will be a monthly meeting. This first meeting was an introduction. She was provided a list of every JJDPC in the state. There will be two topics discussed at every meeting. She will send out information on the next meeting. There is a presentation on the new juvenile laws and statutes for 2024 being held on Tuesday, February 18th from 12:00 – 1:30 pm by the Public Defender and District Attorney's office from Santa Clara county. She will forward the information on to the commissioners.

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

None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The next JJDPC meeting will be held on March 14, 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 1:03 p.m.

MINUTES COMPLETE

Submitted by Kim Weston

MCOE SARB Process

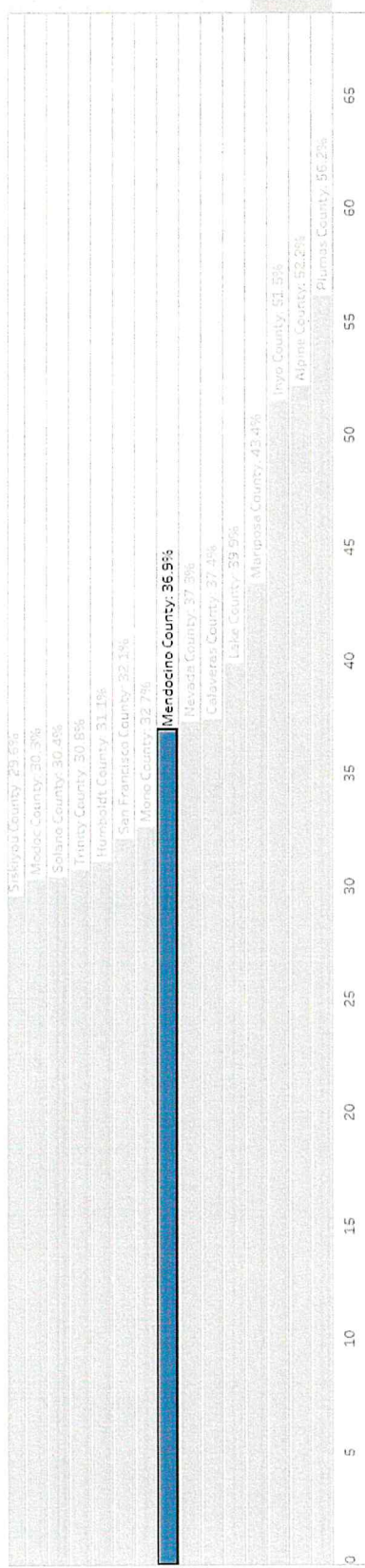
Chris Francis

Principal of Mendocino County Office of Education
Alternative & Special Education Schools

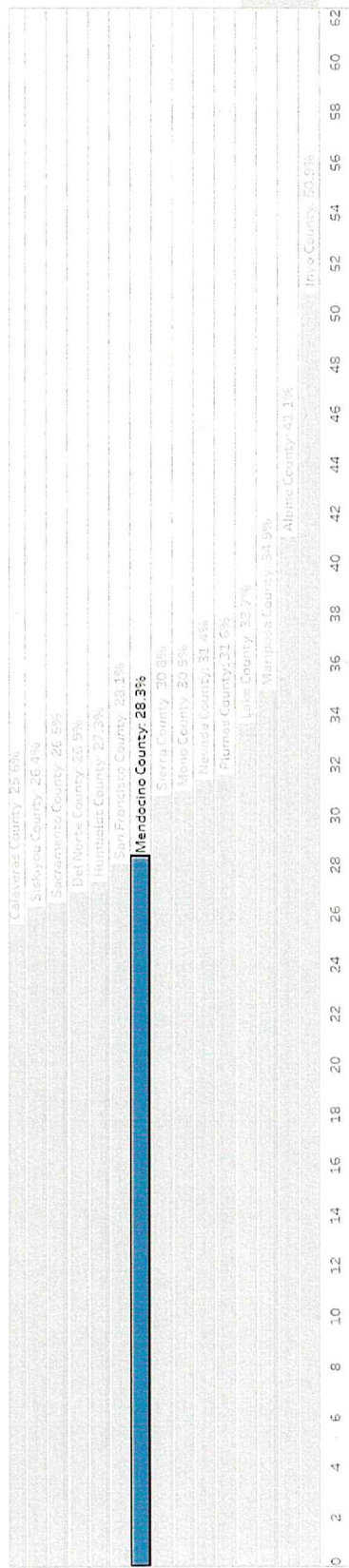


Why do we need SARB?

State of CA | 2023 Chronic Absenteeism Rate
All Students



State of CA | 2024 Chronic Absenteeism Rate
All Students



Why do we need SARB?

Race / Ethnicity	Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
African American	65	21	32.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	778	349	44.9%
Asian	99	16	16.2%
Filipino	34	4	11.8%
Hispanic or Latino	6,256	1,619	25.9%
Pacific Islander	17	3	17.6%
White	4,605	1,271	27.6%
Two or More Races	607	187	30.8%
Not Reported	630	232	36.8%

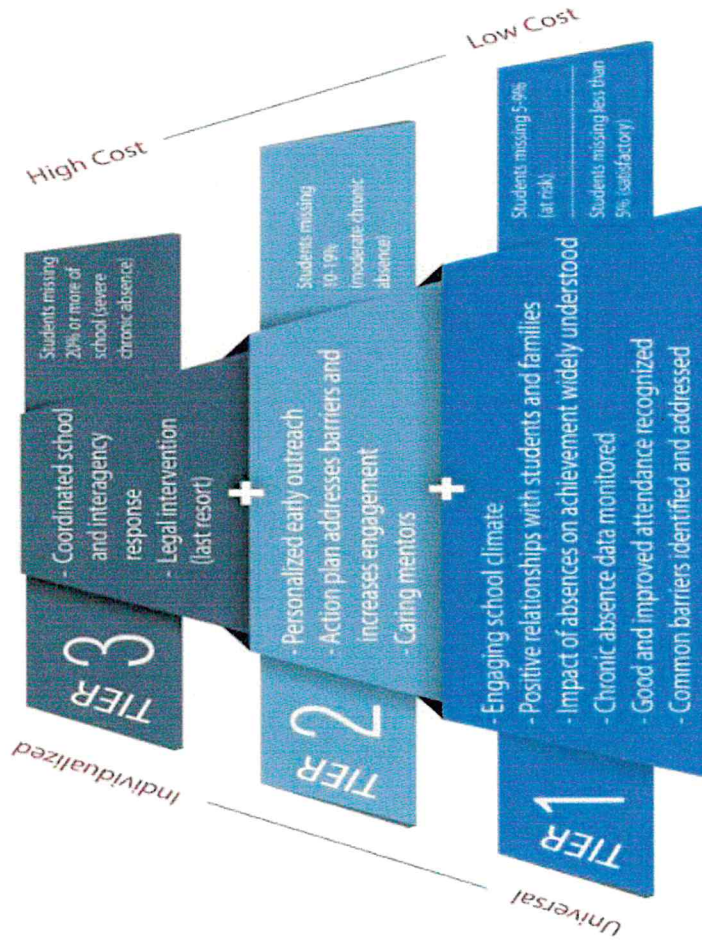
Report Totals

Name	Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
Mendocino	13,091	3,702	28.3%



What is a County SARB?

Tiered System of Supports For Improving Attendance



3 Tiers of SARB

Tier #1:

- School Level
- Review attendance records to confirm a pattern of chronic absenteeism
- Notification Letters Home
- School Attendance Review Team (SART) Meetings
- School-based Supports Offered
- Develop and implement an attendance improvement plan in collaboration with the family

Tier #2:

- District Level
- Referral to District SARB
- Hold/Attend District Level SARB
- Attempt Additional Interventions

Tier #3:

- County Level
- Referral to County SARB
- Hold/Attend County Level SARB
- Decisions made by County SARB Team



How MCOE is Preparing the County SARB

- We are gathering feedback from Superintendents
- We are reaching out to members who would be on the SARB Panel (Probation, CPS, Mental Health, DA, Tribal Leaders, etc.) and holding meetings this spring for training.
- We have 4 dates set for next year. We will run quarterly SARB meetings in different parts of the county.
 - October 20, 2025, Inland
 - January 26, 2026, North
 - March 16, 2026, Coast
 - May 18, 2026, Inland
- We have the [referral process](#), [referral document](#), and other resources available for school districts



A jury of their peers: Del Norte County launches teen court diversion program

Jefferson Public Radio | By [Jane Vaughan](#)

Published February 15, 2025 at 7:31 AM PST



Jane Vaughan

/

JPR News

Members of the volunteer group leading the teen court program. From l-r, Denise Schnacker, teen court facilitator, Baylee Dundom, youth coordinator, and Paul Dillard, chairman of Del Norte County's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Teenagers in trouble will soon be offered an off-ramp to a better life, courtesy of other teens in their community.

Teen court is a diversion program run by teenagers for teenagers. Youth are trained to run the courtroom with a focus on restorative justice and harm reduction. The goal is to help teens who have committed minor crimes get back on track.

"You're gonna be wrong at times," said Paul Dillard, chairman of Del Norte County's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission. "A major thing in life is, there's nothing wrong with being wrong, it's staying wrong. And we're trying to break that cycle."

Here's how it works: Say a teenager commits a first-time, non-violent offense – not a felony, something like fighting, smoking or graffiti. They can be voluntarily referred to the program by schools, police or other entities.

Then they work with a court of their peers. After the intake process, there's a sort of judge, called a youth facilitator, a sort of jury, made up of teenagers and advocates rather than attorneys. There's also a legal representative, an adult judge or attorney, to guide the process.

"You're gonna be wrong at times ... A major thing in life is, there's nothing wrong with being wrong, it's staying wrong. And we're trying to break that cycle."

Paul Dillard, chairman of Del Norte County's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

Unlike normal court, teen court starts with the premise that the participant did commit the offense. They have to accept responsibility. The jury comes up with a decision to help the kid correct the harm they've done. That might mean writing a letter of apology, painting over the graffiti or attending mental health counseling.

But they only get one chance.

"If you don't complete it, and you get referred back to the agency that referred you, then you could end up in formal court," Dillard said.

Teen court participants must also get trained as jurors themselves and participate in at least three juries in the future.

"It's much more uncomfortable for a child not to have a punitive consequence and have to fix it," said Jeff Harris, superintendent of the Del Norte Unified School District and Del Norte County Office of Education. "But it also builds character, and it builds community and it builds maturity."

Baylee Dundom — a high school senior on the Juvenile Justice Commission who's helping coordinate the program — thinks it will help her peers who struggle with certain problems.

"Mainly smoking. Graffiti. I know a lot of people steal from the self checkouts at Safeway," she said.

The program has a lot of community support. Talking to a judge, District Attorney, County Chief of Probation, Crescent City Police Chief and school superintendent, they're all on board.

"Why not try, at least?" said Police Chief Richard Griffin. "The worst that could happen is the same thing that's happening right now."

"Happening right now"

What's happening right now in Del Norte County is kind of rough. It's a small, rural county with few resources and a population of only about 26,000. Almost 14% of people live in poverty, and many struggle with substance abuse or trauma.



Jane Vaughan

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JPR

Del Norte County District Attorney Katherine Micks on January 9, 2025.

District Attorney Katherine Micks said the region has a high level of neglect.

"I see the condition of homes that law enforcement responds to, I read all of the suspected child abuse reports, and this is a depressed economy, and I think that a lot of our youth aren't provided the tools and the resources and the support from their families that would maybe prevent them from committing crimes or using drugs," she said.

All of this trickles down to kids.

Chief Griffin said many of them seem to think a life of crime is not only inevitable, but enviable.

"I've had kids tell me they couldn't wait to get their number tattooed on them in San Quentin [Rehabilitation Center] because their parents did," he said.

The volunteers spearheading the teen court program hope it will be a supportive way to divert kids from heading down that path.



Jane Vaughan

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JPR

Del Norte County Courthouse in January 9, 2025.

Maybe they need help mapping out goals for their life. Maybe participating in teen court sparks an interest in law.

"We have an opportunity to make a real difference," Micks said. "The opportunity to have youth engaging with other youth in that process as opposed to engaging with this cold justice system — we could really hit a sweet spot there."

And the county doesn't have many other options for struggling youth. There's a Youth Opportunity Center run by the [Probation Department](#), but a school for boys who were wards of the court closed in 2017, and the county's youth detention facility closed in 2023.

"There was a huge gap," said Denise Schnacker, who's implementing the teen court. "Where are we going to divert young people so that we can stop things from going down that road?"

Del Norte actually used to have a teen court decades ago, but it shut down, and no one seems to know why.

"I've had kids tell me they couldn't wait to get their number tattooed on them in San Quentin because their parents did."

Richard Griffin, Crescent City Police Chief

The new version, called the John Wilson Teen Court program, is named for a previous member of the Juvenile Justice Commission who passed away. Dillard said the program has been in the works since before COVID, but the pandemic stalled efforts. The idea was first suggested by David Dornaus, the Commission's vice chairman.

The program is entirely volunteer-run and currently has no funding. Schnacker said in the next year or two, they'll need funding and will work on applying for grants.

Looking south for advice

In building the new program, Del Norte has turned to Humboldt County for guidance. Humboldt founded the first teen court program in the state, 24 years ago.

Gemma Caruso, a high school junior and teen court leader in Humboldt, said having the program be peer-led makes it uniquely supportive.

"While adults are amazing and sympathetic and they really do their best, there are some things that you might only feel comfortable sharing with a teenager, or that only a teenager could fully understand because we're dealing with the same things," she said.

According to Caruso, the program has been really successful, with a 9% recidivism rate. Over the years, she said they've heard about 670 cases.

Meanwhile, teen courts have cropped up across the country in recent decades, with over 1,000 programs.

Caruso said their main problems are lack of funding and lack of volunteers.

But she has some advice for the youth in Del Norte County as they start their new teen court.

"Remember that you're seeing a person, not a statistic, not a police report," she said. "You are seeing them as they are, and we all have our rough moments. And forgiveness is really important."

Del Norte's teen court will hear its first cases on February 27. The goal is to hold hearings every two weeks.