

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>

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 JJDP 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 JJDP 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