

Marin County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission  
2016 Annual Report

January 15, 2017

The Marin County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission serves as a state mandated, court-appointed authority that inquires into the administration of the juvenile justice system of Marin County. Key functions of the Commission, as specified in the by-laws, include: the annual inspection of any juvenile confinement facility, coordinating and conducting public or closed hearings on matters relevant to Juvenile Justice, and assuring that needed services are identified, developed, and provided for all children and youth of the County, particularly services related to the diversion of youth out of the Juvenile Justice System.

The Marin JJDPC's activities include: Education, Advocacy, Engagement, Review and Oversight.

1. Education

The Commission strives to increase Marin's community education, including the integration of evidence-based practices, such as Restorative Justice.

The Youth Officers Roundtable is an example of community education and engagement. In 2016, we gathered the Youth Officers and school safety personnel for two workshops, to build relationships, collaborate and share best practices. During our first meeting, the officers got to know each other, shared their community challenges and what they were doing to address these concerns and shared areas of further interest/education. Based upon this discussion, we invited Dr. Monique Morris to speak at the second gathering. She spoke about engaging youth, families and communities, especially Black girls. She was very well received. Participants shared that they gained a better understanding of youth, especially Black girls. In addition, the officers appreciated "bringing us together" and suggested other areas of interest/learning. We are currently talking with various departments to find out how the Commission can provide a forum for collaboration and best support Youth Officers' education.

2. Advocacy

The Commission researches and advocates for best practices, including Restorative Justice.

The YMCA Marin County Youth Court is a program originally sponsored by/supported by the Juvenile Justice Commission. In September, YMCA Restorative Services Director, Don Carney, was invited to make a presentation at the YMCA of the USA. As a result, the YMCA of the USA is planning to replicate the program throughout the nation. In October, the Youth Court documentary, ***Finding Justice: Ending the School to Prison Pipeline*** premiered in the prestigious Mill Valley Film Festival. Noah Block, Youth Court Advocate and activist, received both the 2016 Heart of Marin Youth

Volunteer Award and the 2016 MLK Jr. Youth Award for his leadership in keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system.

### 3. Engagement

The Commission continues to engage stakeholders, including the Marin County Probation Department, the Marin County Office of Education, community-based agencies and the greater community.

Commissioners take part in the RED (Reducing Ethnic Disparities) yearly meeting, as well as the Juvenile Hall Visioning Committee.

We are actively recruiting new Commissioners. We have: outreached to community members, spoken about the Commission with prospective Commissioners, sent materials to interested parties, invited folks to meetings, updated our website, advertised in the Marin IJ and even produced a Public Service Announcement. We are currently a Commission of 7, but would like to be 11-13.

### 4. Review

The Commission gathers and reviews current policies and practices at juvenile justice agencies. For example, in 2016, the JJDPC reviewed and provided feedback to the probation department regarding the Violation of Probation Scale.

Recently, the Commission researched/reviewed the activities of other Juvenile Justice County Commissions. The chair and vice-chair also attended the Juvenile Justice Commission State meeting, recently held in Sebastapool.

### 5. Oversight

We inspect Juvenile Hall yearly and meet with the Director of Juvenile Hall to provide feedback. We also inspect and meet with Youth Officers from police stations where youth were detained. This year, we are using these inspections as another opportunity to engage the police departments.

### 6. Administration

In addition, this year, the Commission: updated the website, shared education opportunities with Commissioners, began providing legislative updates during monthly meetings and produced a PSA (with the intention of recruiting new Commissioners).

The Commission's future goals include: increasing the number of Commissioners, focusing more on prevention efforts and continuing to build relationships to increase community awareness of the Commission.

As mentioned, in 2016, the scope of work of the Commission was limited, due to the low number of commissioners. With more engaged commissioners, we hope to expand our activities and roles in 2017.

#### Recruitment:

We are expanding efforts, especially to targeted populations (e.g. TAY, system-impacted persons, etc.) and support orientation of new recruits to grow the commission to an active, engaged, and sustained membership of 11-15.

#### Prevention:

We want to be able to focus more on prevention. What are youth serving agencies doing with respect to preventing youth from entering the judicial system? Commissioners are aware of community activities but would like to do a systematic review and see how the commission can support best practices, increase collaboration, education, etc.

#### Advocacy and expertise:

We want the Commission to be the “go to” body for advice on systemic issues and valued as the community’s voice within the juvenile justice system.

#### Current Commissioners:

Dana Pepp, Chair  
Don Carney, Vice-Chair  
Ira Okun, Secretary  
Noah Block, Youth Commissioner  
Marilyn Mackel  
Beverly Farr  
Damian Morgan