

**MARIN COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION
(JJDPC)**

NOTES 6/7/22
4:30 to 6:00 pm

Introductions and Meeting Call to Order

(List people in attendance, their role on the commission, and whether or not they're a commissioner)

Jack Parnell-Wolfe (commissioner)
Veronica Geretz (commissioner)
Don Carney (commissioner)
Alexa Davidson (commissioner)
Cameron Henn
Marlon Washington
Lori Frugoli (commissioner)
Kathleen Waterbury
Laura McDonnell
Richard Carlton (commissioner)

Commissioner Updates, Roles, Responsibilities

Dr. Marie Gillespie, the Young Adult Court Study Coordinator at the UCI Development, Disorder and Delinquency Lab will present to us in the July 5th meeting

4:50 School Safety Initiative

Unclear how the report will be received and internalized by NPD

- Student's house was searched by an SRO without a warrant but with permission from parents. Search was inconclusive but the student's phone was then unlocked and searched without their permission. Information was found incriminating another student.

NUSD data suggests RJ program's current implementation is ineffective

- Looking into a new model and service provider to pivot to
- Jennifer Larson, NUSD Assistant Superintendent said, "Based on student, family, and staff feedback it is important that Restorative Practices/Justice be implemented by a full-time member of the school's community.
- What data is NUSD using to evaluate the effectiveness of the RJ program?
- How can the JJDPC meet with NUSD officials to learn from their rebuilding process?
- Potential to connect YTJ with NUSD? **ACTION ITEM: Don will reach out.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Veronica to set up June meeting for School Safety Initiative**

5:05 Gun Buyback Program

- County-wide effort to educate parents and youth on gun safety
- Gun buyback event was successful, 550 guns brought in
- Guns are melted down and destroyed

5:15 Reflecting on the Response to the Sheriff SRO funding request

- Don brought up the fact that our commission is an outlier in the state as one of few JJDC's that has a DA and police officer as commissioners
- Don and Alexa shared their LEO experience that changed their perspective on the inclusion of the DA and police officers on the commission
- LEO training info:
<https://www.impactlaunch.org/so/d6O41QbWr?languageTag=en&cid=4732e278-fef6-4a61-a957-9ff3047dd6a9#/main>
- Alexa proposes closed session/open session format for commissioners
 - Veronica proposed piloting this format and increasing meeting times to twice a month come July
 - **MOTION PASSED: to meet in July in a closed session meeting**
 - **ACTION ITEM: Jack to send out doodlepoll for scheduling the meeting**
- Potential to reevaluate/rewrite bylaws

5:40 YTJ/BACR training

- YTJ received funding from MCOE to do training in West Marin
 - Substance abuse workshops
 - Youth justice information sessions
- SR city schools to do community building circles during summer sessions for Venetia Valley and Coleman Elementary School
 - The earlier that community building circles can start the sooner we can identify ACEs in youth

5:50 Juvenile Hall Updates

- 7 youth, 5 boys/ 2 girls
- Community inspections scheduled for this week
- Probation: Clean Slate Program in action as we speak
 - Community was notified by social media as well as local flyers

5:55 YAC

- Cameron shared this awesome article on alternatives to suspension produced by the YAC (Scroll down to view)

Follow-ups, Next Steps

ACTION ITEM: Don and Veronica to reach out to the group about a conversation regarding the Sheriff Oversight Committee

ACTION ITEM: Richard confirming Dr. Gillespie as speaker for next meeting



The Case for Alternatives to Suspension

PRESENTED BY
The Youth Advisory Council



The Youth Advisory Council is a group of high school interns and volunteers in Marin County that work to stimulate positive community change by promoting awareness, education and legislative action regarding substance use and misuse.

Alternatives to Suspension are a way for schools to re-imagine the consequences of student substance use in a way that supports youth to thrive. This approach encourages schools to understand substance use as a health issue rather than a criminal issues, to consider actions that lead to positive outcomes for youth throughout the lifespan, and to build both accountability and support into school policy and protocols.

A New Perspective: Changing the Way We View Teen Substance Use

The traditional punitive response of schools to teen substance use reflects a wider social and cultural perspective on substance use as criminal behavior. Under this framework of Zero-Tolerance, drug use is viewed as a moral failure, a problem behavior, and a rebellious act that needs to be punished via suspensions and expulsions.

But what we know is true, backed by research, data, and the voices of youth and families right here in Marin County, is that substance use is a health issue and a mental health issue. It is born of a complex interplay of risk factors, some individual, some interpersonal, and some environmental. Like all health issues facing adolescents, an effective school and community response calls for a collaborative, strategic, trauma-informed lens, and strong support systems to promote healing and resilience.

The Consequences of "Zero-Tolerance" and Punitive Action

The most typical school response to teen substance use is suspension, and in some cases, expulsion. Yet the evidence on suspensions in fact shows the harmful effect they have on student outcomes, school climate, and equity. Consider this:

- Zero-tolerance policies have increased the number of students who are suspended or expelled, leading to lost days of learning and support
- Being suspended once increases the chance of repeated suspensions
- Students who are suspended are more likely to drop out of high school
- Students of color are disproportionately impacted by suspensions and expulsions
- Students who are suspended are more likely to spend time in the juvenile justice system and also in prison as adults



Alternatives

In response to the evidence that punitive actions lack efficacy, and aligned with a growing movement in schools towards trauma-informed practice and school-based health and wellness, Alternatives to Suspension offer a new framework for addressing student substance use through principles and practices of accountability and healing. A sample of models and strategies used as alternatives include:

- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support
- Social Emotional Learning
- Mental health and substance use counseling
- Health Education
- Safe and Responsive Schools
- Peer programs that encourage accountability and repair

Check out this resource for evidence-based strategies:



Benefits to schools who adopt Alternatives to Suspension may include:

- Higher achievement for all students
 - Improved school climate
 - More funding through schools through increased attendance
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Paragraph V of California Ed Code 48900 states that "a superintendent of the school district or principal may use his or her discretion to provide alternatives to suspension or expulsion that are age appropriate and designed to address and correct the pupil's specific misbehavior."

Recommendations from the Youth Advisory Council

- Adopt a clear process and practices for Alternatives to Suspension
- Write Alternatives to Suspension into school and district policy
- Train teachers and staff on the principles and practices behind Alternatives to Suspension to foster a school climate and culture of support and accountability instead of punitive action
- Stop in-house suspensions as well and replace these with an alternative model

<https://www.aclusocal.org/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Ev-Based-Practices-LCFF-Discipline-Toolkit.3.17.14.public.pdf>
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/bestpracticesalternativestozerotolerance>
<https://www.justice4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Zero-Tolerance-and-Alternative-Strategies-NASP-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
<https://www.air.org/resource/spotlight/exclusionary-school-discipline>
https://www.njln.org/uploads/digital-library/instead_of_suspension.pdf