

County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION AGENDA

July 10, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Aptos Safety Center
171 Aptos Village Way
Aptos, CA

For questions regarding the meeting process, please contact Christine Bennett, staff for the JJDP, at 831-454-3853 or Christine.Bennett@santacruzcountyca.gov

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:
- II. CONSENT AGENDA:
Approval of this Agenda, Minutes from June 12, 2025 and June 20, 2025; and Monthly Statistical Information from Probation and Juvenile Hall (Accept & File)
- III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: Any member of the public will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes each to address the Commission on any item listed on today's Agenda and/or any other topic within the scope of the responsibility of the Commission, now or when the item is called by Chair. If the issue or matter is not listed on today's agenda, Commissioners will not take actions or respond immediately to any public comment, but may follow up later, either individually or at a subsequent meeting.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS (Including items via email on file)
- V. ACTION ITEMS:
 1. Finalize Teams for Juvenile Hall Inspection
 2. Finalize Members for Policy and Legislative (Sub Committee or Ad Hoc)
 3. Approval for Support Letter regarding AB1376 to be submitted by Chair
 4. Finalize Members for Quarterly Newsletter from Commission to Board of Supervisors
- VI. INFORMATION ITEMS: None
- VII. SUB-COMMITTEES:
 1. Inspections
 2. Data
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, as no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you are a person with a disability, including a communication disability, and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting or need language service assistance, please contact the Santa Cruz County Probation Department at (831) 454-3853 (TDD: call 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternate format.

Por favor haga arreglos anticipadamente por teléfono al número (831) 454-3800.

County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, June 12, 2025
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Probation Success Center
303 Water St., 1st Floor
Santa Cruz, CA

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependency and juvenile justice-involved youth and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. As a Commission, we will educate and inform our community and system leaders on the importance of positive youth development and advocate for coordinated and well-resourced systems that promote family and youth success and prevent system involvement.

In furtherance of that purpose the Commission has adopted three goal areas to guide its work over the next 2 years (2024 – 2026):

1) Juvenile Hall Inspection; 2) Positive Youth Development through the 41 Developmental Assets; and 3) Convening Stakeholders.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Beverly Brook, David Brody, Julia Feldman, Bernard Gomez, Elias Gonzales, Deutron Kebebew, Jeri Limon, Reyna Ruiz, Sierra Thompson

Excused: Cynthia Druley, Maria Rodriguez-Castillo

Ex Officio: Judge Vinluan, Jennifer Martinez

Staff: Christine Bennett

II. CONSENT AGENDA: Commissioner Kebebew moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Commissioner Brook seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Feldman, Gonzales, Kebebew, Ruiz

No: None

Abstain: Thompson, Limon

(Commissioner Gomez arrived after)

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

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IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Assistant Division Director of Juvenile Hall, Jennifer Martinez, provided packets about the programming RFP which will open in early 2026 and encouraged all to complete the survey using the QR Code provided. Commissioner Kebebew shared that the County Board of Supervisors has declared June "Fatherhood and Father Involvement Month" (see Proclamation attached).

V. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Juvenile Hall Inspection: Chair Gonzales reminded everyone of the meeting on June 20th from 2:00-4:00PM in Aptos where Commissioner Druley will be providing an educational presentation for all members.
2. Circle with Probation/Community/JJDPC: Commissioner Kebebew proposed to hold an event in Fall to create connection in a safe, open space to work toward bridging relationships and understanding. Will bring back as an Action Item on a future Agenda.
3. Proposal for a Quarterly Newsletter from Commission to Board of Supervisors: Commissioner Feldman proposed a quarterly newsletter from the JJDPC to the Board members to share information, events, and accomplishments. Will bring back as an Action Item on a future Agenda.

VI. ACTION ITEMS:

1. Approval of By-Laws: Commissioner Brody gave background and update information on this project for the group. There was discussion about further research with other counties regarding the use of subject matter experts which will be revisited in the future for clarification. Commissioner Brody moved to approve the By-Laws as submitted and Commissioner Brook seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Ruiz, Thompson

No: Kebebew

Abstain: Limon

2. Approval of a Co-Sponsorship of Asset Builders Coalition: Commissioner Kebebew moved to approve JJDPC participation as a co-sponsor in the roll-out for an ABC Asset Event which would be focused on delinquency prevention (date is still to be determined) and Commissioner Brook seconded. Will bring back as an Action Item on a future Agenda.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Feldman, Gonzales, Kebebew, Limon, Ruiz, Thompson

No: None

Abstain: Gomez

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3. Disband SB823 Sub-Committee: Commissioner Brook moved to dissolve the SB823 Sub-Committee and Commissioner Kebebew seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Limon, Ruiz, Thompson

No: None

Abstain: None

4. Create Policy and Legislative Ad Hoc: Commissioner Brook moved to create a Policy and Legislative Ad Hoc to research and share with the Commission information on topics of importance to the JJDPC or for consideration to make a formal statement on position regarding legislature, etc. Members are to be selected at a future meeting. Commissioner Ruiz seconded.

Motion Passed

Yes: Brook, Brody, Feldman, Gomez, Gonzales, Kebebew, Limon, Ruiz, Thompson

No: None

Abstain: None

VII. SUB-COMMITTEES:

1. Facility Inspections: No report.
2. SB823: Waiting to hear back from Sonoma County regarding a future visit.
3. By-Laws: Covered under Action Item 1.
4. Data: No report.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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County of Santa Cruz



JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2025
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Special Meeting

Aptos Safety Center
171 Aptos Village Way
Aptos, CA

The purpose of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependency and juvenile justice-involved youth and to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system. As a Commission, we will educate and inform our community and system leaders on the importance of positive youth development and advocate for coordinated and well-resourced systems that promote family and youth success and prevent system involvement.

In furtherance of that purpose the Commission has adopted three goal areas to guide its work over the next 2 years (2024 – 2026):

1) Juvenile Hall Inspection; 2) Positive Youth Development through the 41 Developmental Assets; and 3) Convening Stakeholders.

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 2:08 p.m.

Present: Bernard Gomez, Beverly Brook, Cynthia Druley, David Brody, Elias Gonzales, Jeri Limon, Julia Feldman, Maria Rodriguez-Castillo, Reyna Ruiz

Excused: Deutron Kebebew, Sierra Thompson

Staff: Christine Bennett

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

III. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Study Session for Conducting the 2025 Detention Center Inspection: Commissioner Druley referenced a Power Point presentation slideshow and draft Inspection Timeline (see attached) and answered questions from other Commissioners. The decisions for which members will be participating and on what section(s) will be determined at the Regular July meeting. Commissioners who have not performed the inspection before are to register on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website to take the training and have access to the modules and information.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

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June 2025 Snapshot

There were 2 firearm related bookings in June:

- Both Latinx boys from Watsonville
- One 14-year-old / one 18-year-old

Youth on Probation by area of residence:

count	Area
3	Aptos Total
4	Ben Lomond Total
2	Capitola Total
1	Castroville Total
1	England Total
2	Felton Total
1	Freedom Total
1	Fresno Total
1	Harrisburg, OR Total
1	Marina Total
1	San Jose Total
16	Santa Cruz Total
2	Scotts Valley Total
1	Soquel Total
1	Spanawau, WA Total
1	Stockton Total
45	Watsonville Total
84	Grand Total



County of Santa Cruz

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

June 30, 2025

*The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814*

RE: AB 1376 (Bonta) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Arreguín,

On behalf of the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC), I write in strong support of AB 1376 (Bonta), which would establish statewide standards for youth probation, ensuring terms are developmentally appropriate, time-limited, and tailored to each young person's needs.

The mission of the Santa Cruz County JJJPC is to advocate for and protect the safety and well-being of dependent and delinquent youth, and to promote prevention and intervention services in our county. Our juvenile justice mandate includes conducting annual inspections of the local juvenile hall and making recommendations to the Chief Probation Officer and Board of Supervisors to ensure that system practices are in the best interest of our youth.

Santa Cruz County: A Model of Reform and Innovation

Santa Cruz County has long been recognized as a model site for juvenile justice reform, embracing data-driven, trauma-informed, and community-centered practices. Our local probation department has made strides in reducing youth confinement and expanding alternatives to detention. Between 2010 and 2020, the average daily population at Juvenile Hall was reduced by more than 65%¹, and the number of youth on formal probation has consistently declined due to early diversion, family engagement, and needs-based assessments.

*Despite this progress, we know that local discretion alone is not enough. We continue to see youth—especially youth of color—subjected to excessively long probation terms with complex conditions that often set them up for failure. In Santa Cruz County, youth of color makeup **over 80% of the probation population**², while representing **less than half** of the general youth population. Latino youth, in particular, are overrepresented on wardship probation and often experience longer supervision periods.*

A Policy that Reinforces What Works

AB 1376 will help counties like ours continue to lead while aligning the entire state with research-backed best practices. Specifically, this bill:

- **Creates a nine-month presumptive probation cap**, allowing extensions only when clearly in the youth's best interest;
- **Requires probation conditions to be developmentally appropriate**, understandable, and tailored to the individual's needs and circumstances;
- **Supports youth success** by rewarding positive behavior and reducing the risk of technical violations for non-criminal adolescent behavior such as curfew violations or school absences.

This bill reflects the lessons we have learned locally through decades of reform: that over-supervising youth leads to deeper system involvement, not better outcomes. By aligning probation practices with adolescent development science, AB 1376 provides clear, consistent guardrails that uphold equity, reduce harm, and maintain public safety.

Santa Cruz County's work as a model site - including our engagement with community organizations, our commitment to data transparency, and our focus on positive youth development - demonstrates what is possible when policy and practice are aligned. AB 1376 would codify key elements of this work into law and send a strong signal to all counties that youth probation must prioritize support over surveillance.

We believe this legislation is a critical next step toward a more just and effective juvenile justice system—one where all young people, regardless of zip code or background, are treated with dignity and provided a meaningful path forward.

For these reasons, the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission strongly supports AB 1376 and respectfully urges your "Aye" vote.

Sincerely, Elias Gonzales

Chair, Santa Cruz County Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission

¹ Data from Santa Cruz County Probation Department Annual Report (2021).

² Santa Cruz County Juvenile Justice Data Snapshot, W. Haywood Burns Institute (2023).

AB 1376 (Bonta): Get the **FACTS** on Ending Endless Probation

MYTH

FALSE: AB 1376 places a "cap" on probation.

FALSE: All youth will automatically be off probation in 9 months.

FALSE: The presumption of termination will lead to negative outcomes.

FALSE: Youth need a minimum of a year on probation.

FALSE: AB 1376 will create an excessive burden on courts.

FALSE: Regular reviews will diminish youth faith in the system.

FACT

AB 1376 places absolutely no cap on how long a young person can stay on probation. A youth can remain on probation for 3 months, 3 years, or longer if that's what they need. After 9 months on probation, the court reviews their case to determine if continued supervision is beneficial. After that, the court reviews the case every 6 months.

There is nothing automatic about AB 1376. The burden of proof to keep a youth on probation is very low – a judge only needs to find that it is "more likely than not" that continued probation benefits the youth and public safety. If there's any legitimate reason a youth should stay on probation – whether to complete a program, address ongoing needs, or protect the community – they will remain under supervision.

Without a presumption of termination, the burden of proof shifts unfairly from the courts to the child and their family. This continues to harm vulnerable youth who lack resources to navigate the system and advocate for themselves. A simple "check-in," without the presumption of termination, would maintain the status quo where probation continues by default rather than based on necessity.

The average time on probation is already less than 9 months in many counties. In San Diego County, policy sets reviews for early probation termination at 6 months. And, in 26% of counties the cosponsors received data from (6 of 23) the average time a youth spent on probation was 9 months or fewer.

While court hearings have initial costs, these are more than offset by the reduction in probation caseloads. Each hearing has a high chance of removing a youth from supervision, significantly reducing workloads and allowing probation officers to dedicate more time to youth who truly need supervision.

Youth currently and formerly on probation are the strongest supporters of this bill. Clear deadlines give them goals to work toward, motivating them to complete programming with an end in sight.

AB 1376 (Bonta): Get the **FACTS** on Ending Endless Probation

MYTH FACT

FALSE: AB 1376 will affect youth in Camps, Halls and SYTFs.

AB 1376 only impacts non-custodial wardship probation (youth on probation supervised in the community) and does not apply to youth who are currently incarcerated.

FALSE: Youth won't complete programs if they extend beyond 9 months.

If a youth has not completed a court-ordered rehabilitative program, this bill allows the court to extend probation as many times as necessary. Additionally, youth are able to attend supportive, healing programs in the community even if they are not on probation. This is the ideal scenario, as community-based programs have the advantage of being long-term support systems for youth, while ideally probation is a short-term intervention.

FALSE: AB 1376 will lead to more youth in secure facilities.

AB 1376 makes community probation more effective, healthier, and safer. There is no evidence supporting the conclusion that it will increase secure placements. Evidence shows that providing regular reviews will help youth complete probation appropriately, improving public safety and preventing recidivism.

FALSE: AB 1376 treats petty theft the same as serious violent crimes.

AB 1376 requires an individualized approach. The provisions only apply after a judge has already decided a youth can be safely supervised in the community. Youth with serious offenses typically serve time in secure facilities before community supervision.

FALSE: AB 1376 ignores public safety and victims' needs.

AB 1376 explicitly requires judges to consider "the safety and protection of the public, the importance of redressing injuries to victims, and the best interests of the minor" when making decisions about extending probation, as it incorporates Section 202 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

PASS #AB1376BONTA





SUMMARY

AB 1376 creates consistent court check-ins for youth who have been sentenced by a judge to formal probation supervision in the community, known as “non-custodial wardship probation.”

The bill will ensure proper oversight on the amount of time youth spend on probation and will prevent youth from unnecessarily languishing on probation, which wastes precious resources and negatively impacts their healthy development. The bill would also codify existing case law that requires that the conditions of probation are individually tailored, developmentally appropriate, proportional, and not excessive.

AB 1376 only applies to cases where a judge has determined that there is not a public safety risk to the youth being supervised by probation in the community. This bill would not affect youth in locked facilities such as juvenile halls, camps, ranches, or secure youth treatment facilities (SYTF).

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

The Legislature has long neglected to issue comprehensive guidelines on non-custodial wardship juvenile probation, which is the most common sentence for youth in contact with the justice system. In contrast, the Legislature passed AB 1950 (2020), which established time limitations for adult probation.

In 2023, over 10,000 young people were placed on wardship probation in California. 86% were youth of color. Of the 10,647 wardship dispositions, more than half (6,025) were youth placed on non-custodial wardship probation. On averaging across the state, these youth spend almost two years on probation, with some counties averaging more than three years. In contrast, several counties have better practices, average six-month probation terms or having already instituted six-month regular check-ins with the court. Lengthy probation terms also limit the ability of young people to pursue positive activities like sports, arts, leadership development, work opportunities, and advocacy.

While the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges recommends that probation conditions should be limited to ideally four or fewer conditions, Los Angeles County has up to 56 probation conditions in their standard form, and several other counties have more than 30. The more choices offered to simply check a box and assign a condition, the more likely that the conditions assigned to youth will be excessive and

boilerplate. Subjecting a youth to a long list of burdensome probation conditions—the sheer number of which are nearly impossible for a youth to understand, follow, or even recall—for an indeterminate length of time, limits their potential and wastes precious resources. These conditions can also result in youth being incarcerated for non-law breaking “technical” violations of probation, such as missing an appointment or being late to class.

SOLUTION

Evidence shows that limiting the length of time on probation, and requiring individualized conditions of probation, improves outcomes for youth and reduces costs without compromising public safety. Evidence also shows that the adolescent years are critical to development and that longer probation terms increase youth’s risk of deeper system involvement, and poorer long-term life outcomes, which ultimately undermine public safety. Regular check-ins with the court will ensure that youth get the appropriate “dosage” of support and programming that is individually tailored to their needs and strengths.

AB 1376 PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR YOUTH ON NON-CUSTODIAL WARDSHIP PROBATION:

- An initial check-in with the court at nine months (or earlier if set by the court) and every six months thereafter if probation is extended to evaluate youth’s progress and needs.
- Presumes that probation will not be extended at the nine-month hearing unless the court determines by a preponderance of the evidence that extending probation is in the best interest of the youth and community.
- Requires probation conditions be individually tailored, developmentally appropriate, proportional, and not excessive for all youth.

If a judge finds that it is more likely than not that the youth would benefit from continued probation supervision, they can extend probation. There is no limit to the number of times probation can be extended; rather, a judge makes an individualized determination.

A conservative estimate of cost savings for AB 1376 is approximately \$80 million after implementation. Any costs associated with check-in hearings will be more than offset by the reduction in probation caseloads, as each hearing has a chance of removing a youth from the probation caseload. While court hearings come with an initial cost, the cost of keeping youth on probation unnecessarily is much higher, to both the State and impacted families.

SUPPORT:

Alliance for Boys and Men of Color **(Cosponsor)**
California Alliance for Youth and Community Justice **(Cosponsor)**
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice **(Cosponsor)**
Fresh Lifelines for Youth **(Cosponsor)**
National Center for Youth Law **(Cosponsor)**
Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition **(Cosponsor)**
W. Haywood Burns Institute **(Cosponsor)**
Western Center on Law & Poverty **(Cosponsor)**
ACLU California Action
Alianza For Opportunity
All Of Us Or None (HQ)
Alum Rock Counseling Center
Anti Recidivism Coalition
Arts For Healing and Justice Network
Black Parallel School Board
Brown Issues
Building Healthy Communities Monterey County
California Alliance Of Child and Family Services
California Attorneys for Criminal Justice
California Public Defenders Association (CPDA)
California United for a Responsible Budget (CURB)
California Youth Defender Center
Californians For Safety and Justice (CSJ)
Californians United for a Responsible Budget
Cancel The Contract
Center On Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Ceres Policy Research
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund-California
Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ)
Community Interventions
Conxion To Community
Debt Free Justice California
Disability Rights California
Drug Policy Alliance
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
End Child Poverty California Powered by Grace
Freedom 4 Youth
Grace Institute - End Child Poverty in Ca
Hoops4Justice
Human Rights Watch
Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Initiate Justice
Initiate Justice Action
Integral Community Solutions Institute
Justice Policy Institute
Justice2jobs Coalition
La Defensa
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
Local 148 LA County Public Defenders Union
Messaging For Success
Milpa Collective
NASW California
National Compadres Network
Peace And Justice Law Center
Rubicon Programs
Ryse Youth Center
San Francisco Public Defender's Office
Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos
Sigma Beta Xi, Inc. (SBX Youth and Family Services)
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Smart Justice California, A Project of Tides Advocacy
Starting Over Inc.
Starting Over Strong
The Collective for Liberatory Lawyering
Urban Peace Institute
Urban Peace Movement
Youth Alliance
Youth Forward
Youth Justice Coalition
Youth Law Center

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**AB 1376
Additional
Resources**

