

JTDC Advisory Board Meeting
March 23, 2023
12pm, in person & via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:09pm by Co-chair Meade Palidofsky. Roll taken by Secretary Briana Payton.

Advisory Board Members Present in person : Meade Palidofsky, Garien Gatewood, Marjorie Moss

Advisory Board Members on Call: Dakeda Horton, Amanda Klosnky, Briana Payton, Savannah Felix- Quorum achieved

Advisory Board Members Absent: Lisa Daniels, Darius Ballinger

Others present in person: Leonard Dixon, Bridget Degnan (Commissioner), Kristina Krupa (JAC), Colin Kruse (Board of Commissioners), Fredrick Dennis, Crystal Morales, Amy Fager, Zenaída Alonzo (JTDC), Diane McGee (JTDC), R.Ramos (JTDC), Dr. Kenneth Soyemi (JTDC), Jamie Barnett (JTDC), Darrin Lowery (JTDC), Michael Fowin (JTDC), Jacqueline Ferroli, Anthony Mademan (JTDC), Shawn Miner (JTDC), Lori Probasco (Board of commissioners)

Comment from Supt. Leonard Dixon: Reentry is not what you do at a detention facility. Detention is the ER of the juvenile legal system. 44% of kids are gone within the first 72 hours. Upon exiting youth are committed to facilities.

Dixon brought JTDC staff to the meeting to be a part of Q&A and provide insight from doing the work every day.

Answer to question about programming: programming will not resume as normal until clearance is granted due to COVID - happening gradually. Programming happens from the time youth are awake until the time they are asleep.

Request: All Advisory Board members to complete Open Meetings Act training if haven't already and send bio and headshot to Ryan Gougis

COVID 19 Update from JTDC Dr. Kenneth Soyemi, MD,

- 2% COVID positivity rate this year
- 270 cases to date this year, California has 800+ (but is this among a higher population?)
- JTDC focus is getting kids vaccinated so they can resume full time programming
- Following best practices for a safe reopening

Youth and families present

- Fred

- resident at JTDC from 2010-2012, was charged as an adult at the age of 15. Thought the facility would be like Cook County Jail. Feared violence. Didn't have freedom, but felt he had understanding staff who understood their background.
- Due to education inside, he was able to graduate on time and attend prom even while facing 30+ years
- The counselors restored his hope that he would go home
- From North Lawndale/Little Village
- Works for the lawndale christian legal center
- Says he wouldn't change what he went through because it taught him important lessons and allowed him to meet good people even while going through the system
- Crystal Morales
 - Her son has been on honor roll and working toward participating in Barber School, has good counselors and good rapport
- Parent
 - Mental health counselors, case workers, communication, have all been positive for her
 - Brought in a comedian to JTDC for youth in custody
 - While youth are in custody, staff are closer to their youth than parents
 - Have not had visits due to COVID lockdown in child's pod, perceives facility is following COVID protocols
- Follow up questions regarding COVID
 - Dr. Klonksly works at UCLA Law School's COVID Behind Bars Project - area of expertise and interest for her
 - Appreciated presentation from Dr. Soyemi, found the information helpful. Was concerned by the outbreak that happened in December of 2021, in large part due to low vaccination rates. Would like to know how vaccination rates have gone up since then
 - Supt. Dixon noted that JTDC did not have the authority to ensure all the youth in custody were vaccinated
 - Dr. Soyemi noted they have done weekend webinars, and are just not getting the numbers they want. Education required youth to be in the classroom, which facilitates transmission.
 - Pods don't mix, but some mixed programming is allowed for youth who are vaccinated.
 - Some youth believe conspiracy theories about the vaccine that deter them from getting vaccinated.
 - One parent shared that it took a long time for her and her son to come around to getting the vaccine. Feels attempting to incentivize vaccination could feel like coercion.
 - Supt. Dixon acknowledged his trust in his staff's work and expertise
- Confinement Time

- Confinement time, 30-35 was enacted immediately, Supt. Dixon notes this was being enacted prior. 30 minutes in, 5 minutes, come out, follow state guidelines that say if a kid is confined for 4 hours there must be a review
- They do not place kids in the room unless it's absolutely necessary to keep a safe facility. Attempting to avoid riots that have happened in other facilities.
- Bedtime: was 7pm when they took it over, then went to 7:30 for level 1s, now level 1 bedtime is 8pm, level 2 is 8:30, 9, and 9:45, based on a behavior modification system
- Says this must happen organically
- **Plans to share data with AB/public? Data needs to be organized. Raw numbers may not tell the whole story. Wants to bring in his data officer who can break down the information for us. But still need the data as does the public, prob qualitative data**
- **Ask about timeline for pushing bedtime “organically” to 8:45, so now the 8pm bedtime is only for level 1?**
- Commissioner Degnan - doesn't see resolution to the issue raised in the reports. Questions are being raised and received as criticism though the intent is the best interests of the children in custody. Data on room confinement would be really helpful to the public conversation
 - Supt dixon sees clothing as a non-issue
- Savannah Felix follow up question
 - Youth moving without permission were getting 8 hours of room confinement, is this still the case?
 - Supt. Dixon says this has never been the case. But does note that facility does require youth to obtain permission to move.
 - Staffer: most incidents in the facility start with movement without permission
- Garien follow up question
 - Where can we “the JTDC advisory board” get access to this data to get a better understanding?
 - Supt Dixon noted that Maria can give us that data overview.
- Staffer Qiana Young Response
 - Notes concerns with independent reports from BRC and Equip for Equality that claim certain aspects of JTDC are inadequate, wants to see more concrete measurements
- Response from Commissioner Gainer
 - Feels more concrete data is needed to assess claims that JTDC is outperforming other facilities or for us to understand the information we are receiving about their performance
 - Response from Supt. Dixon: standards are set by the wisdom of the people in the field
- Jacqueline Ferrolì
 - Feels there is a false impression in the media that confinement is a bigger issue than it is

- Superintendent Dixon
 - IDJJ audit found that mental health and medical offerings at JTDC are outstanding
 - Shares concerns that data is used for ulterior agendas rather than working with JTDC for the best interest of the youth
 - Needs transparency to be a two way street
 - Invited to take a meeting at JTDC

Meeting adjourned by Board Chair Meade Palidofsky