

NOTE: MEETING MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORMAT AND HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED BY MEMBERS OF THE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE, AS SUCH, INFORMATION IN THE MINUTES HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED FOR CONTENT AND ACCURACY.

JUVENILE JUSTICE STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Department of Human Services, State of Hawaii  
Office of Youth Services  
1010 Richard Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96813-2940

Youth Sub Committee Meeting  
Hosted on Zoom  
(Link available upon request)

Thursday, January 29, 2026  
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Members: Present: Andrew Sabanal

Members Absent: Tori Ikeda

Members Excused:

Guests Present: Shawwna Opiopio, Anuhea Ferreira, Paloma Almanza, Brock Esau, Harley Kiko-Wolfe, Melody Rezentes-Pocock, Steve Lukas, Jaden Ponocho, Micah Meippen, Rommy Jay Espin, Syles Nakatani, Syress Nakatani, Paki Morgado, Sinui Louis, Leo Kristoph, Kainalu Pratt,

Staff Present: Shannessy Ahu, Mimari Hall, John Paekukui, Norene Machida

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/CONCLUSIONS	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DATE DUE
<p>I. Call to order/Establishment of Quorum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of Members &amp; Guests</li> <li>• Youth Committee Overview</li> <li>• Establishment of Quorum (1/2)</li> </ul>	<p>(11:36)</p> <p>A. Sabanal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting called to order at 11:36 am by A. Sabanal</li> </ul> <p>Introduction of Members &amp; Guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shawna Opiopio, Guest, EPIC OHANA</li> <li>• Anuheia Ferreira, Guest, Student, Hilo High School</li> <li>• Paloma Almanza, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Brock Esau, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Harley Kiko-Wolfe, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Melody Rezentos-Pocock, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Steve Lukas, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Jaden Ponocho, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Micah Meippen, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Rommy Jay Espin, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Syles Nakatani, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Syress Nakatani, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Paki Morgado, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Sinui Louis, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Leo Kristoph, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Kainalu Pratt, Guest, Kinai'Eha</li> <li>• Mimari Hall, Office of Youth Services, Program Development Officer</li> <li>• Shannessy Ahu, Office of Youth Services, Federal Grants Manager</li> <li>• John Paekukui, Office of Youth Services, Compliance Monitor</li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norene Machida, Office of Youth Services, Office Assistant</li> <li>• No quorum has been established</li> <li>• Informational only meeting</li> </ul> <p>(11:40) A. Sabanal Youth Committee Overview (Presentation available upon request)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Youth Committee operates as one of five subcommittees under the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council (JJSAC)</li> <li>• Committee Size: Designed to include 5-10 active members</li> <li>• Age Requirement: Members must be between 15-28 years old</li> <li>• Member Background: Participants should have experience in or demonstrated interest in juvenile justice issues</li> </ul> <p>Mission and Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowering youth voices in juvenile justice policy and practice</li> <li>• Strengthening community partnerships to support young people</li> <li>• Enhancing services and programs for youth involved in or at risk of entering the justice system</li> <li>• Advocating for youth-centered issues at the state</li> </ul>			

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	<p>level</p> <p>Leadership Structure The committee maintains three officer positions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairperson: Currently held by Andi, responsible for leading meetings and setting agenda</li> <li>• Vice Chairperson: Supports the chair and assumes duties when needed</li> <li>• Secretary: Maintains records and documentation</li> </ul> <p>Membership Benefits and Compensation Financial Compensation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hourly Rate: \$25 per hour for all meeting attendance and authorized committee work</li> <li>• Annual Cap: Members can earn up to \$600 per year</li> <li>• Payment Processing: Handled by the Office of Youth Services through formal paperwork</li> <li>• Meeting Frequency: Quarterly meetings throughout the fiscal year</li> </ul> <p>Professional Development Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Programs: Access to specialized training in juvenile justice, advocacy, and leadership</li> <li>• Professional Development: Skill-building opportunities in public speaking, policy analysis, and community organizing</li> <li>• Networking: Connections with juvenile justice professionals, policymakers, and community</li> </ul>			

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	<p>leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference Attendance: Opportunities to attend out-of-state conferences related to juvenile justice</li> </ul> <p>Administrative Support The Office of Youth Services provides comprehensive support including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting space coordination (both in-person and virtual)</li> <li>• Stipend payment processing and tracking</li> <li>• Record keeping and documentation</li> <li>• Technical support for virtual meetings</li> </ul> <p>Membership Requirements and Process Application Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No formal application required, only a basic information form on Google Docs</li> <li>• The Office of Youth Services (OYS) will distribute and collect essential information from interested participants</li> <li>• Approval Process: New members must be voted in by existing committee members at an official meeting</li> <li>• Appointment Type: Youth Committee positions are not governor-appointed, unlike the full JJSC board positions</li> </ul> <p>Technical Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to a computer or device capable of video</li> </ul>			

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	<p>conferencing apart</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliable internet connection for Zoom meetings</li> <li>• Ability to participate in virtual meetings when in-person attendance is not possible</li> </ul> <p>Time Commitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Service: One year commitment to the committee</li> <li>• Meeting Attendance: Quarterly meetings (approximately 4 per year)</li> <li>• Meeting times are normally 2 hours long</li> <li>• Occasional authorized work between meetings (compensated at \$25/hour)</li> </ul>			
<p>II. Consideration and Approval of Minutes for the Following Meeting(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft of Minutes for November 17, 2025 (To be approved)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabled until next meeting</li> </ul>			
<p>III. Community Input [Pursuant to section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Community Members will have 3 mins. to speak, i.e., per person, per item, or written testimony can be</p>	<p>(11:54) A. Sabanal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No community input and testimony received</li> </ul>			

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<b>submitted on agenda items]</b>				
IV. Old Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to Join the Youth Committee               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Youth Committee Overview</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on this topic covered in Item I.</li> </ul>			
V. New Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Western Regional Coalition of Juvenile Justice (CJJ) Meeting</li> </ul>	(11:55) A.Sabanal 2025 Youth Justice in Action Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connected with peers interested in juvenile justice reform across multiple states</li> <li>• Highlighted presentation from Minnesota police chief focusing on building positive relationships between law enforcement and youth</li> <li>• Community-based approaches to reduce youth involvement in justice system</li> <li>• Programs that create dialogue between officers and young people</li> <li>• Expressed interest in adapting similar relationship-building programs locally</li> </ul>			
VI. Action Items & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tabled for the next meeting</li> </ul>			

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Brochure/Flyer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and Finalize Design</li> </ul>				
VII. Future Agenda Items (open for discussion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed Goals and Activities for Committee</li> </ul>	<p>(11:57)</p> <p>A.Sabanal Group Session Discussion</p> <p><u>Shannessy Ahu</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As an Example               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The former members of the Youth Committee created a survey to be informed about youth needs and rights they have at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)</li> <li>○ Facilitated on Zoom in coordination with HYCF</li> <li>○ Gift cards and food were provided for participants</li> <li>○ They presented their findings in a report to the JJSAC</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Shawwna Opiopio</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce career pathways and goal-setting programs to youth at HYCF while they are still in detention facilities</li> <li>• Rationale:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early exposure to career options can</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<p>provide hope and direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Helps youth envision positive futures beyond detention</li> <li>○ Addresses lack of career guidance in detention settings</li> <li>○ Provides motivation for positive behavior and engagement</li> <li>○ Reduces recidivism by creating clear pathways to success</li> <li>● Implementation Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partner with vocational programs and career counselors</li> <li>○ Bring career professionals into detention facilities</li> <li>○ Provide career assessment and exploration tools</li> <li>○ Create individualized career development plans</li> <li>○ Establish mentorship connections with professionals in fields of interest</li> <li>○ Coordinate with educational programs to align with career goals</li> <li>○ Develop transition plans that continue after release</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Potential Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased youth engagement in educational programs</li> <li>○ Better preparation for workforce entry</li> <li>○ Reduced recidivism through clear goals and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<p>pathways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved self-esteem and sense of purpose</li> </ul> <p><u>Paloma Almanza</u> Educational Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Making education relevant and engaging for justice-involved youth</li> <li>○ Connecting academic learning to real-world career applications</li> <li>○ Addressing educational gaps and barriers</li> <li>○ Providing individualized educational support</li> <li>○ Creating pathways to credential completion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proposed Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project-based learning tied to career interests</li> <li>○ Hands-on educational experiences</li> <li>○ Integration of career exploration into academic curriculum</li> <li>○ Flexible learning options to accommodate different learning styles</li> <li>○ Credit recovery programs for youth behind in school</li> <li>○ Partnerships with community colleges and vocational schools</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<p><u>Anuheia Ferreira</u> Youth Engagement and Summer Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase youth activities, particularly during summer months</li> <li>• Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Get youth involved in positive activities</li> <li>○ Provide alternatives to potentially negative home environments</li> <li>○ Reduce idle time that can lead to risky behaviors</li> <li>○ Create structured, supervised environments</li> <li>○ Build positive peer relationships and social skills</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Structured programs that provide supervision and engagement</li> <li>○ Diverse activity options to appeal to different interests</li> <li>○ Community-based programming accessible to at-risk youth</li> <li>○ Combination of recreational, educational, and skill-building activities</li> <li>○ Transportation assistance to ensure accessibility</li> <li>○ Meals or snacks provided to address food insecurity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Prevention Benefit: Proactive engagement to prevent justice system involvement</li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduces opportunity for delinquent behavior</li> <li>○ Provides positive adult supervision and mentorship</li> <li>○ Builds protective factors and resilience</li> <li>○ Creates connections to community resources</li> </ul> <p><u>Harley Kiko-Wolfe</u> Prevention and Early Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on prevention and better support systems within schools</li> <li>• Key Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intervene before youth enter the justice system</li> <li>○ Strengthen school-based support services</li> <li>○ Address underlying issues that lead to justice involvement</li> <li>○ Create positive school climates that support all students</li> <li>○ Reduce reliance on punitive discipline measures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• School-Based Approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enhanced counseling and mental health services</li> <li>○ Restorative justice practices instead of punitive discipline</li> <li>○ Early identification of at-risk youth</li> <li>○ Family engagement and support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Trauma-informed educational practices</li> <li>○ Positive behavioral interventions and supports</li> <li>○ Peer mediation and conflict resolution programs</li> <li>• Community Partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collaboration with mental health providers</li> <li>○ Connections to family support services</li> <li>○ Partnerships with community organizations</li> <li>○ Coordination with law enforcement for diversion programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Brock Esau</u> Expanding Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal: Expand options and opportunities for younger generations</li> <li>• Focus Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create more pathways for success</li> <li>○ Reduce barriers to positive outcomes</li> <li>○ Increase access to resources and programs</li> <li>○ Ensure equity in opportunity distribution</li> <li>○ Address systemic barriers facing marginalized youth</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implementation Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Diversify program offerings to match varied interests</li> <li>○ Remove financial barriers to participation</li> <li>○ Provide transportation and logistical support</li> <li>○ Create flexible programming to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<p>accommodate different schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure cultural relevance and responsiveness</li> </ul> <p><u>Leo Kristoph</u></p> <p>Workforce Development Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy: Collaborate with existing workforce development programs</li> <li>• Benefits of Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leverage established programs and resources</li> <li>○ Avoid duplication of services</li> <li>○ Build on proven models</li> <li>○ Access existing employer networks</li> <li>○ Utilize established training infrastructure</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Youth Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide practical job skills and experience</li> <li>○ Create connections to employment opportunities</li> <li>○ Build work readiness and professional skills</li> <li>○ Develop resume and interview skills</li> <li>○ Gain industry-recognized certifications</li> <li>○ Establish professional references and networks</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Partnership Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ American Job Centers and workforce boards</li> <li>○ Vocational rehabilitation services</li> <li>○ Apprenticeship programs</li> <li>○ Industry-specific training programs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employer partnerships for job placement</li> </ul> <p><u>Paki Morgado</u> Practical Credential Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Work: Helping youth obtain GEDs and driver's licenses</li> <li>• Impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Addresses practical barriers to employment</li> <li>○ Provides essential credentials for independence</li> <li>○ Opens doors to job opportunities</li> <li>○ Increases self-sufficiency and confidence</li> <li>○ Removes obstacles to accessing education and training</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Replication Potential: Demonstrates successful model that could be expanded <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scalable to serve more youth</li> <li>○ Adaptable to different communities</li> <li>○ Cost-effective intervention with high impact</li> <li>○ Addresses immediate, tangible needs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Additional Credential Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Birth certificates and identification documents</li> <li>○ Social Security cards</li> <li>○ Professional certifications and licenses</li> <li>○ College application and financial aid assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<p><u>Steve Lukas</u> Education and Business Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Key Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Educational Advancement: Academic support and achievement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tutoring and academic support</li> <li>▪ Credit recovery and alternative education options</li> <li>▪ College and career readiness preparation</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Business Skills Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Entrepreneurship and financial literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Basic financial management and budgeting</li> <li>▪ Entrepreneurship training and support</li> <li>▪ Business plan development</li> <li>▪ Access to microloans or startup funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Law Enforcement Relations: Improving relationships between youth and police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community policing initiatives</li> <li>▪ Youth-police dialogue programs</li> <li>▪ Know-your-rights education</li> <li>▪ Positive interaction opportunities</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Integrated Approach: Combining education, economic opportunity, and community safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Holistic support addressing multiple needs</li> <li>○ Recognition of interconnected challenges</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comprehensive pathway to success</li> </ul> <p><u>Rommy Espin</u> Mentorship Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Importance: Highlighted the critical role of mentorship programs</li> <li>• Mentorship Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide positive role models</li> <li>○ Offer guidance and support</li> <li>○ Create lasting relationships</li> <li>○ Help youth navigate challenges</li> <li>○ Increase sense of belonging and connection</li> <li>○ Improve outcomes across multiple domains</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One-on-one mentoring relationships</li> <li>○ Group mentoring opportunities</li> <li>○ Peer mentoring among youth</li> <li>○ Mentor training and support</li> <li>○ Structured activities and relationship-building</li> <li>○ Long-term commitment and consistency</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mentor Recruitment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community volunteers</li> <li>○ Professional mentors from various fields</li> <li>○ College students and young professionals</li> <li>○ Successfully transitioned formerly justice-involved youth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cultural and linguistic diversity in mentor pool</li> </ul> <p>Group Suggestions Physical Activities and Wellness)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Type: Incorporate physical activities and sports programs</li> <li>• Therapeutic Benefits:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Help youth process trauma through physical activity</li> <li>○ Provide healthy outlets for emotions</li> <li>○ Reduce stress and anxiety</li> <li>○ Improve emotional regulation</li> <li>○ Build coping skills and resilience</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Social Benefits:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Build teamwork and social skills</li> <li>○ Create positive peer relationships</li> <li>○ Develop leadership abilities</li> <li>○ Foster sense of belonging and community</li> <li>○ Teach conflict resolution and sportsmanship</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health Benefits:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve physical fitness and health</li> <li>○ Enhance mental well-being</li> <li>○ Establish healthy lifestyle habits</li> <li>○ Reduce risk of chronic health conditions</li> <li>○ Improve sleep and overall wellness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Program Options:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Team sports (basketball, soccer, volleyball)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Individual activities (running, swimming, martial arts)</li> <li>○ Outdoor recreation (hiking, camping, rock climbing)</li> <li>○ Yoga and mindfulness-based movement</li> <li>○ Dance and creative movement</li> <li>○ Fitness and strength training</li> </ul> <p><u>Andi Sabanal</u> Common Themes Identified: 4 major themes that emerged from both groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intervening early to keep youth out of the justice system through school-based support, community programs, and family services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Community Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Building strong relationships between youth, families, community organizations, and support systems to create a network of care.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mentorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Providing positive role models and one-on-one guidance to help youth navigate challenges and build toward positive futures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Cultural Connection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Honoring and incorporating cultural</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

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	identity, traditions, and community values into programs and services for youth.			
VIII. Next Scheduled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Committee Meeting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TBD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council Thursday, February 26, 2026</li> </ul>	(12:43) A.Sabanal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next Youth Committee meeting will be determined and advised</li> </ul> (12:44) S. Ahu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please let us know if you are interested in attending the JJSAC meeting scheduled in February and we will send the invite</li> </ul>			
IX. Adjournment	(12:44) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No quorum, meeting ended at 12:45p.m.</li> </ul>			

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