COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
ACTING AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

April 2, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT – MARCH 2008 MONITORING RESULTS**

As requested, attached are the results of the Auditor-Controller (A-C) monitoring review of the County's juvenile halls for March 2008. The monitoring reviews are used to measure Los Angeles County's (County) progress in implementing the 56 recommendations (referred to as paragraphs) contained in the Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement. The paragraphs covered by this report do not include the paragraphs that have been fully implemented or paragraphs that are undergoing formal monitoring by the DOJ Project monitors (Monitors).

The Summary of Monitoring Results (Attachment 1) is a summary of the status of the paragraphs not in formal monitoring. We have also provided the applicable County departments (e.g., Probation, Mental Health, etc.) the specific findings of our assessment of the paragraphs reviewed for the month of March 2008, for corrective action.

Background

In December 2004, the A-C assumed oversight responsibility of the Quality Assurance Unit (QA Unit) as directed by your Board. The QA Unit was established to conduct on-going monitoring of the County's progress implementing the paragraphs contained in the DOJ settlement agreement. Los Angeles County Department of Education (LACOE) has been designated as the lead agency for nine of the 56 paragraphs and monitors their own progress implementing these paragraphs. LACOE reports are submitted to the A-C and Monitors monthly.

Implementation Status Summary

As of March 2008, 29 of the 56 paragraphs are in full compliance. During February 2008, the DOJ initiated formal monitoring for Paragraphs 50 (Materials, Space and Equipment) and 55 (Youth Hygiene). Before a paragraph is considered implemented, it must undergo formal monitoring by the Monitors for one year. During the formal monitoring period, the Monitors evaluate the County's compliance with the paragraphs' provisions. The DOJ will classify paragraphs as implemented (full compliance) if the County maintains substantial compliance with the paragraphs' provisions during the one year formal monitoring period. The total number of paragraphs in formal monitoring is five (41, 45, 46-1, 50 and 55).

For seven of the remaining 22 paragraphs, LACOE staff monitors the implementation status. For the remaining 15 paragraphs:

- 10 paragraphs showed a 90% or above compliance rate.
- 2 paragraphs showed an 80% to 89% compliance rate.
- 3 paragraphs showed a 70% to 79% compliance rate.
- 0 paragraphs showed a less than 70% compliance rate.

Overall, the compliance rates for 15 paragraphs have not changed significantly since our February 2008 review. Attachment 1 contains a summary of the status of the 15 paragraphs not in formal monitoring.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff call Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

Attachment

WLW:MMO:DC

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Dr. Bruce Chernof, Director, Department of Health Services
Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Justice Deputies
Children Services Deputies
Education Deputies
Audit Committee
Public Information Office

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT SUMMARY OF MONITORING RESULTS

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT AUDIT RESULTS		DEC 07	JAN 08	FEB 08	MAR 08	SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE (1)
Paragraph 11	Treatment Planning	81%	81%	79%	84%	80%
Paragraph 12	Implementation of the Treatment Plan	73%	72%	74%	78%	85%
Paragraph 13 A	Counseling Services	72%	77%	67%	66%	80% **(2)**
Paragraph 13 B	Counseling Services	50%	62%	80%	77%	50% **(2)**
Paragraph 15	Individual Behavior Modification	95%	95%	95%	95%	**(3)**
Paragraph 16	Substance Abuse	85%	90%	95%	95%	Implementation of Contract Service Providers
Paragraph 25	Management of Suicidal Youth	97%	97%	97%	97%	**(3)**
Paragraph 26	Care for Self-Harming Youth	95%	95%	95%	95%	90%
Paragraph 27	Staffing	80%	80%	80%	80%	**(3)**
Paragraph 28	Chemical Restraint	95%	95%	95%	95%	90%
Paragraph 29	Use of Force	95%	95%	95%	95%	95% at all three halls
Paragraph 31	Child Abuse Investigations	90%	95%	95%	95%	DOJ has not set a substantial compliance level
Paragraph 32	Use of Force Review	93%	93%	93%	95%	90%
Paragraph 33	Rehabilitation and Behavior Mgmt	95%	95%	95%	95%	**(3)**
Paragraph 35	Reduction of Youth on Youth Violence	85%	85%	85%	85%	**(3)**
Paragraphs 46-2,3,4,5 &49	LACOE	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	**(4)**
Paragraph 56	System	85%	85%	90%	90%	100%

Footnotes:

(1) Substantial compliance is the level of compliance set by DOJ that the County must achieve for the paragraph to be granted formal monitoring. There must be a commensurate level of compliance at all three halls.

(2) Paragraph 13-A measures the adequacy of treatment; Paragraph 13-B measures improvement in the client's condition.

(3) These paragraphs do not have an actual set percentage of substantial compliance. DOJ is monitoring these paragraphs by monitoring and observing the environmental change brought about by the reduction of use of force, reduction of youth on youth violence, appropriate management of suicidal youth and an environment free of fear and intimidation.

(4) Paragraphs 46-50 are monitored by LACOE and are outside the scope of this report. In August 2007, the Memorandum of Agreement between the County, LACOE and the DOJ was amended to expand Paragraph 46 into five separate paragraphs (46.1, 46.2, 46.3, 46.4, and 46.5) to more easily track the progress by LACOE to implement the paragraph. LACOE reassessed their progress on Paragraphs 46 through 50 and revised the anticipated formal monitoring dates of their paragraphs. LACOE management stated they have been working closely with the Monitors and have reached a mutual understanding of the definition of substantial compliance. The Monitors will provide details of LACOE's progress toward substantial compliance in their upcoming semi-annual report.