



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

April 9, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Jerry E. Powers *J.P.*
Chief Probation Officer

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., Superintendent *AD*
Los Angeles County Office of Education

Subject: **COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL REFORM IMPLEMENTATION IN
JUVENILE HALLS AND CAMPS – FINAL REPORT
(JULY 2011 – DECEMBER 2011)**

Pursuant to your Board's October 14, 2008 motion, this is our eighth progress report on education reform covering July 2011 through December 2011 activity. During this reporting period, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and Probation worked collaboratively to ensure key stakeholders were aware of and concurred with the proposed Education Reform Spending Plan that would be submitted to your Board for consideration.

On November 29, 2011, your Board approved the Comprehensive Education Reform Committee's Education Reform Spending Plan that included the appropriation of funds from the Provisional Financing Uses Budget to Probation's budget for Education Reform. This funding is enabling the implementation of various projects that will support the majority of the remaining 22 recommendations that have not yet been completed.

Attached is a summary of the implementation status of the 35 recommendations reflecting that all recommendations are either fully or partially implemented. The implementation status has been reviewed by Probation Department's Quality Assurance Services and the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Internal Audits and Analysis Division representatives.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

As reflected in the attached chart, of the 35 recommendations:

- 13 (37%) have been fully implemented; and
- 22 (63%) are underway or partially implemented

BOARD-APPROVED EDUCATION REFORM GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed LACOE's Superintendent to oversee the education reform endeavor, which includes chairing the existing Comprehensive Education Reform Committee that was created in 2007. In addition, the Board instructed LACOE to submit quarterly implementation status reports on the proposed projects as well as on the Committee's 35 education reform recommendations. Consequently, although this report will be the final report pursuant to the October 14, 2008 motion, it covers activity for the period ending December 2011, and highlights in general, some key areas where progress has recently been made.

On March 27, 2012, during Closed Session, we provided an update to your Board regarding educational matters that included a status on addressing issues at Challenger Memorial Youth Center camps pursuant to the Casey A. Settlement Agreement.

In accordance with the November 29, 2011 Board action and in recognition of the recent Closed Session update and this close-out report, LACOE will be providing their initial written report to your Board in May 2012, that will formally cover January 2012 through April 2012 activity. Thereafter, LACOE will submit quarterly reports to your Board.

FULLY IMPLEMENTED KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a recap of the key recommendations that have been fully implemented since the October 14, 2008 Board-approved motion.

- The Probation Department's Senior Probation Director (Director of School Services for Youth) position became vacant in early September 2011. Although this position is currently vacant and the Probation Department has conducted a recruitment process to backfill the position, the related recommendation has been fully implemented with the initial filling of this position in 2010. The hiring process is well underway to backfill this position. Probation anticipates filling this position by May/June 2012. *(Relates to Recommendation #1)*
- All youth entering the camp system are provided a multi-disciplinary assessment by Camp Headquarters deputies at the Camps' Assessment Unit, located at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Youth who appear to be eligible for placement at Camp

Onizuka are referred to Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) deputies for an enhanced multi-disciplinary assessment where the process includes a second face-to-face interview. In addition, youth receive a multi-disciplinary team assessment within 10 days of camp arrival/entry. The multi-disciplinary team may consist of members representing Mental Health, LACOE, Probation and parents or guardians.) ***(Relates to Recommendation #2)***

- LACOE has an adequate number of school psychologists to perform psychoeducational assessments of youth with suspected special education needs in a timely manner. In addition, LACOE has provided a Senior Programs Specialist to work with Probation and the Department of Mental Health in the Camps Assessment Unit. ***(Relates to Recommendation #9)***
- At Probation's Camp Headquarters Camps Assessment Unit, all youth receiving court-ordered camp placement are assessed by Probation, DMH, and LACOE for criminal histories, mental health counseling, medication concerns, and educational needs such as Individual Education Plans or Individual Learning Plans. ***(Relates to Recommendation #12)***
- Conducted Effective Case Management (ECM) training of Probation Staff as ECM trainers in November/December 2009. CCTP Deputies, Transition Counselors, Juvenile Field Deputies, and School-Based Deputies have been assigned responsibility to track minors after release from the Juvenile Hall or Camps. ***(Relates to Recommendation #13)***
- Redesigned the JCS curriculum to capitalize on integrated use of instructional minutes. Delivered the instructional program in a comprehensive, coordinated, collaborative way to more effectively use the school day as well as after school hours. ***(Relates to Recommendation #19)***
- Probation and LACOE have established a plan to develop Court Classes at all of the Detention Facilities, and are working on a plan to distribute learning packets to students on the move. Court classes are held in the "holding areas" of the juvenile halls – this strategy will help reduce lost average daily attendance and the related revenue. LACOE has revised their curriculum guides and pacing plans to better address the transience of the students. ***(Relates to Recommendation #20)***
- With regard to ensuring that educational service providers are delivering a full continuum of services as required under State law and based on an Individual Educational Program, regardless of a student's history, they are receiving services in accordance with an out-of-state-approved Local Plan which includes a continuum of program options and is in accordance with a student's IEP. ***(Relates to Recommendation #23)***

- LACOE has developed and fully implemented an educational staffing plan to ensure that there are adequate numbers of teaching, special education, assessment, counseling, and psychologist staff to meet the needs of youth in the juvenile halls and camps. Probation and LACOE staff have been collaborating on the projected student population numbers to adequately staff every school with a high qualified teaching staff. **(Relates to Recommendation #30)**
- On June 24, 2010, LACOE and Probation signed a revised MOU. Corresponding performance indicators were updated to reflect the drafted changes made to the MOU. **(Recommendation #35)**

PARTIALLY IMPLEMENTED KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a recap of key recommendations that have been partially implemented since the October 14, 2008 Board-approved motion.

- The first DVD and handout for Helping Education LA Parents Series was developed. The Learning Rights Law Center provided the speakers and expertise to create the Special Education DVD. However, upon further review and consideration of other competing priorities, this project was terminated and was not included in the November 29, 2011 Board-approved Education Reform Spending Plan. **(Relates to Recommendation #3)**
- Timely determinations of the holders of educational rights needs to occur. This is part of the court report and verified by the judicial officer at the hearing. Revised Court documents will have a space for the name of the holder of educational rights identified on the first page. This is addressed by Probation Directive #1270. **(Relates to Recommendation #4)**
- The identification and assignment of qualified and appropriate surrogates or educational representatives, when necessary, to serve in place of the absent parent as advocates for youth in juvenile halls and camps needs to occur. Judge Donna Groman is overseeing the recruitment, training, and assignment of a pool of volunteers -- as holders of educational rights for delinquent youth -- who are available to advocate for a youth who has no parent available or capable of advocating for the youth's special education needs. There are 26 fully trained volunteer advocates. **(Relates to Recommendation #5)**
- Probation has conducted training classes for Challenger Memorial Youth Center (CMYC) camp staff to serve as advocates for youth throughout their detainment and as they transition back into the community. The Board-approved Education Reform Spending Plan includes funding to provide for additional training. **(Relates to Recommendation #6)**

- Regarding the timely and comprehensive assessments of the criminogenic, educational, and health and mental health needs of youth in juvenile halls and camps as well as strength-based assessments of their interests and abilities, productive Multi-Disciplinary Teams are being held throughout the system. **(Relates to Recommendation #8)**
- Regarding the integration of camp-to-community transition programs and training staff to produce “meaningful” transitional plans, the Camps Holton/Smith pilot is complete, with LACOE and Los Angeles Unified School District staff trained. The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) pilot project from Camp Onizuka is complete and the identified MDT protocol is being implemented in every camp. Resources are included in the Board-approved Education Reform Spending Plan that includes 6.0 positions to specifically help probation youth with transition issues. **(Relates to Recommendation #11)**
- The electronic data exchange (EDE) process/system which was implemented between LACOE and the Los Angeles Unified School District among other school districts needs to be replicated within the County and the juvenile halls and camps to ensure timely transfer of school records to and from juvenile camps and schools in the community. Probation and LACOE personnel are working together to track and support case management even when the minor is released from detention and returned to the field. **(Relates to Recommendation #15)**
- A “charter look-alike” pilot school at Camps Scott/Scudder began on September 27, 2010. The outcomes of this pilot school focus on the needs, interests, and successful transitioning of female youth in the camps to higher education and/or successful employment, internships, and vocations. With the implementation of this “Road to Success Academy” we have identified remarkable progress in girls’ level of engagement. The program implements a project-based instructional delivery which is centered on the individual interests and abilities of each student. Utilizing evidence-based research, the California Academic Content Standards are taught as they are necessary to fulfill the components of each student’s research for their projects. Projects reflect various aspects of unit themes such as self-esteem, empowerment, and hope. The project-based strategies have resulted in a school-wide culture where the girls have exhibited improved levels of self-confidence, greater focus and attention on classroom engagement, and higher quality of academic work. **(Relates to Recommendation #22)**
- Access to the four instructional pathways leading either to a high school diploma, a GED certificate, a vocational education certificate, and/or college preparation needs to be provided to students. The Camps Assessment Unit provides educational feedback in the form of eligibility data. LACOE is facilitating the Los Angeles Unified

School District's Diploma Plus program. ***(Relates to Recommendation #18)***

In addition, in accordance with the November 29, 2011 Board-approved Education Reform Spending Plan, a career technical education (CTE) program is being implemented first at CMYC. Under a contract with the County, LACOE is providing a Building Trades Curriculum utilizing the Paxton/Patterson program that began on March 5, 2012. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on March 28, 2012. The curriculum consists of 20 construction trade areas (i.e., blueprint reading, cabinet making, communications, concrete, drywall, electrical, estimation, finish carpentry, green construction, hand tools, HVAC, masonry, painting, plumbing, power tools, roof framing, surveying and site planning, tile setting, wall framing, and weatherization). A CTE program is anticipated to also be implemented at Camps Mendenhall (in lieu of Afflerbaugh/Paige as originally identified in the Education Reform Spending Plan), Miller and Scott/Scudder. Probation and LACOE have determined that the Camp Afflerbaugh/Paige site does not have the necessary classroom space to set up the shop classes. Consequently, in lieu of the Camp Afflerbaugh/Paige site, a CTE program will be implemented at Camp Mendenhall. ***(Relates to Recommendation #28)***

- School-Based Probation Supervision, Camp Community Transitional Program and Community Detention Program deputies have undergone four hours of Educational Rights Training to address Special Education needs and how to advocate for minors that currently have or may be in need of an Individual Education Program. This training is ongoing to capture new or transitioning staff. ***(Relates to Recommendations #25)***
- Regarding the development and implementation of a training plan to ensure that all LACOE instructional staff are appropriately trained in evidence-based practices principles and staff skills, such as Core Correctional Practices and Motivational Interviewing, by utilizing Probation's Staff Training Office, training classes with designated trainers have been established and are ready for the next step, delivery. Probation and LACOE will schedule classes using a regional delivery plan for ease of deployment. ***(Relates to Recommendation #31)***
- LACOE, in partnership with County offices of education, was unsuccessful in its efforts to move the State to revamp the funding model. However, county juvenile court schools, beginning in 2010, do receive Economic Impact Aid on an annual basis. ***(Relates to Recommendation #33)***

CASEY A. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT UPDATE

The following provides an update regarding LACOE's and Probation's progress made to address educational issues at Challenger Memorial Youth Center pursuant to the Casey A. Settlement Agreement. Of utmost progress is the implementation of the Paxton/Patterson career technical education program that began on Monday, March 5, 2012, for students at CMYC. The students are thrilled with being chosen to participate in this marvelous program. Additional LACOE and Probation recent progress is noted below.

Los Angeles County Office of Education

- Building Skills equipment purchased and delivered – December 2011.
- NWEA contract completed – November 2011.
- PBIS Lead Psychologist position developed – November 2011.
- First *"It's Time For Kids"* contest – December 2011.
- All Culinary Arts students received ServSafe certificates – October 2011.
- \$10,000 Perkins grant awarded to our Landscaping program – October 2011.
- Guitar Therapy class opened July 2011.
- Animal Care class opened July 2011.

Probation Department

- The Rewards program, funded by Probation, has rewarded those youth at the top of the merit ladder and rewarded students who participated in monthly academic contests at the McAuliffe School. In February, over 50 percent of the student population submitted entries in the *"Books We Love"* contest jointly administered by LACOE and Probation. Students submitted essays, poems and art. Each student entering the contest was given a small reward and the 45 winners participated in a mobile game-truck which was equipped with the latest video games. After the event, the students enjoyed a BBQ with Probation and LACOE staff.
- The Bicycle Repair program recently received some additional parts provided by LACOE and was very much appreciated.
- Landscaping and Animal Shelter programs are progressing in a very positive manner.

- Probation signed a contract that will enhance security at CMYC. The contract will have security provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. This important security enhancement just began in April 2012.

PRIORITIES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

As the lead agencies spearheading the education reform effort, LACOE and Probation remain committed to this endeavor and will continue to focus on the following priorities over the next few months:

- Probation will recruit and hire a new Director of School Services for Youth position to backfill the previously vacated position.
- Probation will continue implementing the Probation-related projects included in the Board-approved Education Reform Spending Plan.
- LACOE will continue implementing the projects pursuant to the Board-approved contract that expires in June 2012, including purchasing the necessary equipment and services needed to implement a career technical/vocational educational program at a total of four camp sites.
- LACOE will continue to monitor the progress of the "charter look-alike" pilot school at Camps Scott/Scudder.
- Probation will be implementing mobile technology labs that can be accessed by youth in the living units during non-school hours for the purpose of enhancing student credit recovery opportunities.
- Development of a transportation services program for families to visit youth was including in the proposed education reform initiatives. This requires LACOE and Probation to work together to develop a program and obtain your Board's approval prior to implementation. Preliminary discussions are currently underway regarding the use of video conferencing as a means of allowing parents and families to visit youth. Once a program is developed, it will be presented to your Board for approval prior to implementation.
- As part of the November 29, 2011 Board-approved action, funding is included for Probation to implement additional career technical education (CTE) and pilot projects in conjunction with LACOE. Probation and LACOE are working on pursuing the implementation of a Pipefitters Program as another CTE opportunity. This may necessitate a purchase order or a contract with LACOE. If a contract is necessary, Probation will prepare a recommendation for your Board's consideration.

In accordance with the November 29, 2011 Board action and in recognition of the recent Closed Session update and this close-out report, LACOE will provide their initial written report to your Board in May 2012, on the implementation status of the 35 recommendations that will cover January 2012 through April 2012 activity. In addition, LACOE will be reporting on the implementation status of all the projects included in the Board-approved Education Reform Spending Plan. Thereafter, LACOE will submit quarterly reports to your Board with subsequent reports due in August, November, and so forth.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if additional information is necessary, or your staff may contact Steve Gores, Special Assistant, DOJ Project Management Bureau, at (909) 469-0745, or Dr. Henry Mothner, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Programs, LACOE, at (562) 803-8301.

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Attachment

c: Honorable Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
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Comprehensive Educational Reform Committee
Children's, Education, and Justice Deputies