



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE VIRTUAL
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE



poc.lacounty.gov

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and provided an overview of how the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission was created.

2. Introductions

Each Commissioner introduced themselves and provided a summary of their background experience. Ms. Julien conducted roll call:

Present: Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy,
 Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Comments from public

Ms. Julien explained public comment protocols and how to submit public comment. Public comments can be given during each agenda item, and at the end of the meeting before adjournment.

III. COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

4. Select Committee Chair

Commissioner Garcia-Leys was nominated as Chair by the Education Standing Committee.

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

Ms. Julien requested the Commissioners to cast their vote for Chair.

The Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission's Education Standing Committee unanimously cast their vote for Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys.

On motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and duly carried by the following vote, the Education Standing Committee approved the election of Commissioner Garcia-Leys as Chair:

Ayes: 4 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

5. Update on return to in-person learning

a. Commissioner Site Visits

This agenda item was discussed after discussion of the LACOE and Probation report (agenda item 5b).

Commissioner Garcia-Leys discussed the role of Commissioners in conducting site visits and Dr. Hasty agreed that LACOE is open to site visits.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about individual learning plans (ILPs) where students take individual courses relative to their grade level. Dr. Hasty mentioned that an ILP is done after 20 days of enrollment and is accessible by local school districts, and RTSA provides the curriculum. Dr. Velasquez expressed that students are placed in courses based on their progress in Odysseyware, which is the digital textbook. RTSA's learning exhibitions and site visits encourage students to share their learning experiences with a diverse audience.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys suggested that the Education Standing Committee share their site visit findings in a report back to the Probation Oversight Commission in 120 days.

Commissioner Jackson asked for more insight from the public on areas that the Education Standing Committee should focus on during site visits.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and duly carried by the following vote, the Education Standing Committee approved the request to give a report to the public and the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission on its site visit findings in 120 days:

Ayes: 4 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

Discussion on the history of LACOE settlement agreement with DOJ and the role of Probation Oversight Commission in oversight of the progress (agenda item 6) ensued.

b. LACOE and Probation report

This agenda item was discussed before the discussion of Commissioner site visits (agenda item 5a).

Dr. Diana Velasquez, Director of Road To Success Academies (RTSA), reported that April 5th and 6th were Pupil free days for teachers to prepare classrooms, and teachers returned in person to LACOE schools in halls and camps on April 7th. A small percentage of staff were approved to continue virtual instruction with the support of a credentialed substitute teacher present in the classroom.

Dr. Jesus Corral, Senior Director of Education Services at the Probation Department, stated that it has been an exciting collaborative effort with LACOE to welcome teachers back to live instruction.

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

Dr. Velasquez responded to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry regarding the in-person curriculum once teachers return. The RTSA, a structure within a thematic interdisciplinary project-based curriculum, has been utilized to keep the themes and interdisciplinary connections for the students.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys raised questions about how credits would be awarded for in person learning as students transition from virtual to in person learning. Dr. Jason Hasty, Executive Director of Educational Programs at LACOE explained that students earn a daily credit of 0.062 for a total of one credit over 16 days. LACOE has been finding innovative ways to ensure that students are earning their credits. Comparatively, attendance rates were over 80%. One of the new systems currently in place is ARES, which is a student information system that tracks students' time and attendance, and how students engaged in learning (in-person or virtual), annotated by the teacher of record and administrators.

Commissioner Jackson asked about whether LACOE had set goals for attendance. Dr. Hasty shared that the goal is a 95% attendance rate in juvenile facilities. Maricela Ramirez from LACOE added that LACOE is in the process of creating a guiding document that leads the work of each school and solicits input from stakeholders.

Dr. Hasty responded to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry by attributing low attendance rates to factors such as technology issues. However, he noted that the current attendance rate at Central Juvenile Hall is about 90%.

Dr. Corral expressed that Probation staff were assigned to each classroom for virtual learning during the pandemic. For in-person learning, an officer is not assigned to each classroom, but is in the vicinity of the school area to help as needed.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys initiated a conversation about in-person learning and its impact on probation officers assigned to school duty, raising staffing concerns. According to Dr. Corral, as the duties of probation staff decrease, the amount of money allocated to the Probation Department has not decreased due to the youth having more specialized needs.

Dr. Corral responded to Commissioner Jackson’s question regarding training and staffing. He expressed that the training should correspond to the needs of the population being served.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, the Education Standing Committee accepted the reports given by Dr. Hasty, Dr. Velasquez, and Dr. Corral.

Discussion regarding Commissioner site visits (agenda item 5a) ensued.

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

6. History of LACOE settlement agreement w/ DOJ and the role of Probation Oversight Commission in oversight of the progress

Ms. Julien shared her insights from Los Angeles County’s interagency settlement agreement by highlighting the 12 objectives outlined in the settlement agreement. Dr. Corral shared that the Probation Department, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Health Services are the entities in the county agreement, but LACOE is under a separate agreement with the California Department of Justice. Both agreements are intertwined to ensure that compliance is reached in all the outlined areas.

Ruth Cusick & Michael Ball from the Education Justice Coalition gave a presentation.

Public comment on this topic was provided by Florence Avognon.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about any progress that has been in creating the detailed plan. Dr. Corral expressed that progress has been made, and he is optimistic about ongoing collaboration between LACOE, the Probation Department, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Health Services, and community-based organizations to systematically improve services offered to the youth.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys explained that there is a stipulated judgement and within that stipulated judgement there are several objectives outlined in them. The detailed plan, which is a confidential document, explains what exactly is going to happen. Further discussion regarding which metrics and results of this detailed plan can be shared publicly is underway.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired how the Education Standing Committee can broaden the scope beyond the hall schools to the camp schools, and to the community due to the significant overlap for reports and related items. Ms. Julien responded that the vision of the Education Justice Coalition and the First Supervisorial District was to expand the oversight of education from the halls to the camps and community day schools.

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)

7. Set Committee Priorities and Action Items
 - a. Committee will hear from Probation Oversight Commissioners, LACOE administrators and teachers, and members of the Education Justice Coalition regarding recommendations for what the committee should prioritize.

Recommendations:

- **120-day report on site visits**
- **Robust oversight over progress on the settlement agreements**
- **Elida Ledesma, Executive Director at Arts for Healing and Justice Network**
 - **Compliance and oversight**
 - **Transparency with community and soliciting feedback**
 - **Accountability**
 - **Centering education as a priority**
- **Betty Fang, Education Equity & Youth Justice Policy Associate for the Children's Defense Fund-California**
 - **School discipline data**
 - **Inequalities with curriculum**
 - **Special education services and access to those services**
 - **Education loss and mitigation strategies**
 - **Transition outcomes for students (re-enrollment, etc.)**
 - **Joint policies**
- **Ruth Cusick, Education Justice Coalition**
 - **Community intervention and educational outcomes**

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

IV. NEXT STEPS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. LACOE/Probation Policies

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared that state law recommends a specific set of written agreements between Probation Departments and education programs offered through the Probation Department.

Dr. Hasty emphasized that LACOE's policies can be found online, and there is an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Probation Department.

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

9. Opportunity for members of the public and the committee to make announcements

Justus Jones and Florence Avognon addressed the Education Standing Commission regarding education for youth.

Various dates and frequencies were proposed by the Commissioners for upcoming

Education Standing Committee meetings.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and duly carried by the following vote, the Education Standing Committee approved the request to hold the next meeting on June 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with reoccurring meetings on the first Thursday of each month:

Ayes: 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

Excused: 1 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

10. Adjournment for the meeting of April 29, 2021.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.