



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021, 12:00 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE MEETING BEGINNING AT 12:01 P.M.

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chairman Franky Carrillo called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys,
 Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong,
 Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché
 L. Jackson, Chairman Franky Carrillo

Absent: Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

2. Approval of the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Vice Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman, and duly carried by the following vote, the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the May 13, 2021 minutes:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Chairman Franky Carrillo

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
 [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

II. REPORT

3. Report by Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer, on current issues in the Department including a reflection on his first 100 days as Chief.

Chief Gonzales reported on his first three months as Chief which began with observation and a listening tour in which he met staff and toured the department's many facilities. Among the top issues that have emerged is the Probation Department's work towards

compliance with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement. Chief Gonzales has been collaborating with the Probation Oversight Commission (POC), Youth Justice Reimagined, Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI), labor unions, the Board of Supervisors, Justice Deputies, and Human Resources to support their efforts. Human Resources is assisting the Probation Department with the hiring process of two new deputy chiefs, a process which is taking time because he wants to engage the community and ensure it aligns with the County's policies. To help inform his selection, Chief Gonzales mentioned that surveys have been distributed and townhalls with the community and Probation employees held. Furthermore, the Probation Department has been focused on SB 823 – Juvenile Justice Realignment, AB 109 – Public Safety Realignment, recruitment, hiring, training, and enhancing juvenile services in facilities. The Chief along with his staff have visited the Probation Commuter Transition Center in San Diego and the San Diego Probation Training Center because the Probation Department in Los Angeles would like to implement a restorative model for youth development which would include topics such as technology and workforce readiness. Chief Gonzales informed the group of the creation of a five-year strategic plan, which will include the formation of a Citizens Academy to show the community how the Probation Department operates and a Chief's Advisory Group which would consist of community residents, business people, and educators who provide guidance and support the Chief and the Probation operations.

Jose Osuna, Ruth Cusick, Mel Bailey, and Paula Kahn addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys requested additional information about the status of the Probation Department's strategic planning process and how it is incorporating the PRIT Recommendations into their strategic plan. Chief Gonzales expressed that he is starting to look at previous plans to see how they can be changed while being inclusive. Essentially, he would like a strategic plan that spans over three years and is a living document updated annually in three-year increments to focus on service delivery. Commissioner Garcia-Leys sought Chief Gonzales' thoughts about the Probation Department being the appropriate organization for pre-trial and detention alternatives and Probation could ensure that funding is allocated to fund the goals of Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR). Chief Gonzales mentioned that there are statutory issues related to the implementation of the YJR goals and the Probation Department and County are looking at those.

Vice Chair Jackson requested copy of the previous strategic plan for the Probation Department to learn about future proposed changes and track the improvements that have been made. Chief Gonzales responded to Vice Chair Jackson's inquiry by stating that he would like to see more information on the Probation Department's website such as the previous strategic plan, policy and procedures, and training materials. She also requested a report back on the status of the data systems used and recommended by the Department.

Chief Gonzales further elaborated on access to data, and the Probation Department's efforts in enhancing its antiquated data collection systems. He added that several systems are being surveyed to streamline data transparency and have information readily available.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about the YJR and ATI collaboration and the Probation Department's role in the collaboration. Chief Gonzales mentioned that the group meets weekly to discuss the next steps once funding is available to support that effort.

Commissioner Canales asked about the members of the Chief Advisory group and requested a list of members once established. Chief Gonzales clarified that the group has

not yet been formed and assured Commissioner Canales that future town hall meetings will be available to the Probation Oversight Commission.

Chief Gonzales responded to Commissioner Nong's inquiry regarding the use of Probation funding to support the goals of YJR by stating that funds allocated from the County can be used for the YJR goals, but that funds designated from the state have to be spent on the Probation Department. He further added that additional information regarding the Citizens Academy.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Probation Oversight Committee accepted Chief Gonzales' report.

Mr. Max Huntsman, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General introduced Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, who will be providing independent oversight over the Probation Oversight Commission. He emphasized the importance of data driven and evidence-based approaches to oversight, which requires additional staffing that his department has received.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee (JJCC) Realignment Block Grant (RBG) Subcommittee regarding the closure of the State of California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the appropriate site and programs for youth who will no longer be transferred to the State facilities beginning July 1, 2021.
 - Josh Green, Urban Peace Institute
 - Bikila Ochoa, Anti Recidivism Coalition
 - Brandon Nichols, Chief Deputy Probation Officer
 - Alisa Blair, Special Advisor to the District Attorney

Chief Deputy Nichols provided an overview of the JJCC RBG subcommittee's purpose, responsibilities, membership, especially as they apply to the closure of DJJ and transfer of the DJJ programs to the counties. He explained that Los Angeles County's subcommittee has 12 members who have met 13 times so far since January 2021. The subcommittee will be present and discuss the draft plan on June 9, 2021, with a final plan and report to the Board on October 21, 2021. Chief Deputy Nichols added that the actual plan must be filed with the State of California on January 22, 2021. Despite these deadlines, he reported that the county becomes responsible for providing services to DJJ beginning July 1, 2021. The subcommittee has been working diligently to create an effective care plan for the youth who will be relocated and foresees continual improvements and enhancements as time progresses. Chief Deputy Nichols explained that placement decisions will be based on the core principles stemmed from the YJR framework: holistic and trauma-informed, therapeutic, and home-like with decreased reliance on detention, transparency, accountability, as well as education and development training. The Probation Department is partnering with labor unions for their support as staff are considered for new work locations. He further reported that campus Kilpatrick is the preliminary interim placement for DJJ youth and Camp Scott has been

identified as the long-term placement option. An external consultant will be hired to support the process of preparing Camp Scott and to provide recommendations on how other facilities can be transformed into therapeutic home-like environments. Chief Deputy Nichols shared the subcommittee's next focus area of programming for DJJ youth, which would consist of small supervision groups, family connections, mental health, and behavioral therapy. During the next phase, the subcommittee will be soliciting services from other departments to take on more leadership roles in the program.

Mr. Green expounded on the YJR's staffing model of youth development and wellness approach, which would entail partnerships with other county departments.

Mr. Ochoa explained that the state has allocated \$8 million to fund the initial phase of this plan. He also added that the subcommittee will be outlining a continuum of care that would decrease populations in the halls and camps and close facilities. As the subcommittee commits to the principles of YJR, he recommended that full staffing be considered and what that would look like. He further added that the county's commitment to drive down the population of youth in the halls and camps through diversion and other efforts can reduce the overall population levels.

Ms. Blair shared that the District Attorney wants to implement prevention and diversion programs in hopes of driving down DJJ youth eligibility. She further suggested using Proposition 57 as a model where every young person starts in juvenile court to eliminate direct files. She added that with a pathway to pre-filing diversion, the number of robberies and assaults would decrease due to having the ability to avoid the delinquency system early on.

Varden Phan, Edin Madrid, Ronaldo Villeda, Oscar Canales, Armando Ruiz, Kruti Parekh, Gloria Gonzalez, Ezekial Nishiyama, Leah Gasser-Ordaz, Mel Bailey, Robert Lamb, Milinda Kakani, and Elida Ledesma addressed the POC.

Chairman Carrillo shared that he is satisfied with the recommendations of the subcommittee.

Chief Deputy Nichols addressed Commissioner Saltzman's concern about potentially displacing youth currently at Campus Kilpatrick. He stated that the projected population volume is unknown at this time. However, there is currently space to house a number of DJJ youth at Campus Kilpatrick without displacing current residents. Commissioner Saltzman further inquired about youth who are in the process of being housed at Campus Kilpatrick to which Chief Deputy Nichols suggested that those youth may be placed in other camps during this interim process. He explained that Camps Scott and Scudder would have to be made ready to house new residents, with one of them potentially being ready within 90 days.

Ms. Blair added that the District Attorney's Office is committed to working with the defense bar to identify candidates for DJJ, but they would still be referring to DJJ until it closes in 2023. The subcommittee is working to ensure that there are not youth left in limbo after July.

Chief Deputy Nichols responded to Commissioner Saltzman's inquiry by mentioning that the Probation Department makes the decision as to which camps the youth go to to complete their program. Chief Deputy Nichols reiterated that placement for DJJ youth is contingent upon completed negotiations with the union before sending them to camp Scott or Scudder. The success of this interim placement will be determined by trends and the number of youths being diverted. It has not yet been determined if DJJ youth and current Kilpatrick residents will be comingling. Commissioner Saltzman asked for a legal opinion about the that possibility. Chief Deputy Nichols explained that there is plenty of classroom space for education but limited outdoor space. Commissioner Saltzman asked how the services described in the draft report such as individualized rehabilitation plans, family assessment, case management services, can be performed at camp Kilpatrick. Chief Deputy Nichols expressed that the subcommittee will be relying of their primary service provider to confirm if the services in the plan can be delivered successfully.

Commissioner Dupuy requested that the subcommittee explicitly demonstrate to the public how the plan aligns with the goals of the YJR. Chief Deputy Nichols responded to Commissioner Dupuy's inquiry by stating that significant discussion took place to ensure that the YJR concepts were infused throughout the plan. Mr. Ochoa added that the plan can align with the YJR timeline, however, the plan will be revamped in August for delivery in January. Additionally, he informed the group that the population at Campus Kilpatrick has been half total capacity in recent months, which allows room to separate the DJJ youth from current Kilpatrick residents.

Vice Chair Jackson shared that the public and the Commissioners are at juncture where they must move from the theoretical to the practical without knowing how the decision was made to have camp Kilpatrick as the primary temporary location. Chief Deputy Nichols answered by explaining that there was a vote on where the interim location was based on facility visits, recommendations, and discussions. He further shared that concerns surrounding security are being addressed through staffing engagement and security recommendations from the Sheriff's Department. The multidisciplinary staff of the camps and halls will need training, trauma care, and wellness support. In response to Vice Chair Jackson's question about assurance that Sylmar would not be a temporary site for DJJ youth, Chief Deputy Nichols confirmed that both pre and post sentencing, youth will continue to be at Sylmar until the subcommittee and department are able to meet with the unions and finalize the interim plan. Thereafter, the youth will be transferred to Campus Kilpatrick while Camp Scott is being upgraded.

Commissioner Nong expressed appreciation for having components of the subcommittee's plan align with the core principles of the YJR, as well as incorporate a diverse staffing model. While the plan is transitional, Commissioner Nong raised a concern of focusing on staffing diversity with an emphasis on full time staff from the community that would serve as credible messengers. Additionally, she wants to ensure that talks about safe and secure healing centers ensue with camps closing completely and the new model being implemented.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Probation Oversight Committee accepted the panel's report.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

5. Receive report from and take appropriate action on recommendations from the ad hoc subcommittee on strategic planning regarding establishing Probation Oversight Commission goals and ad hoc committees to work on the accomplishment of those goals.

Vice Chair Jackson provided a brief update on the development of the POC's strategic plan and shared member assignments for each strategic category. She stressed that the categories were expanded vertically to allow each ad hoc committee to expound and identify key issues within their categories. Furthermore, each ad hoc committee would have finalized the draft of their strategic plan to include the goals, priorities, deliverables, and timelines by the week of June 1st. She added that public participation is encouraged to ensure their perspective is considered, therefore, the ad hoc committees will be conducting public meetings to solicit feedback on the contents and direction of the strategic plan. She stated that the goal is to take the plans from the individual ad hoc committees and combine them into a single cohesive strategic plan that is representative of the goals, interests of the POC, YJR stakeholders, probationers, Board of Supervisors, and the community at large with the assistance of a strategic planning consultant. A robust report back will be rendered during the June 10th POC meeting, and the drafted strategic plan will be presented on June 24, 2021.

No members of the public commented on this item.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Probation Oversight Committee accepted Vice Chair Jackson's report.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

6. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

There were no matters proposed to be discussed at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the POC.

You may submit public comment by e-mail to info@poc.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting. Please include the Agenda Item and meeting date in your

correspondence. Correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

Thomas Bell and Mel Bailey addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

8. Adjournment for the regular meeting of May 27, 2021.

Chairman Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.