



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021, 12:00 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

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 Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong,
 Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché
 L. Jackson, Chairman Franky Carrillo

Absent: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys,
 Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

2. Approval of the August 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of by Vice Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Dupuy, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the August 12, 2021 minutes:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner
 Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman,
 Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson,
 Chairman Franky Carrillo

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean
 Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

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

II. REPORT

3. Report from the Probation Department on leadership staffing updates.

Mr. Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer in the Los Angeles County Probation Department, announced that the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the appointment of three new executive leaders in the Probation Department: two Chief Deputies, Adam

Bettino and Karen Fletcher, and one Deputy Director, Richard Giron. The Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources held two town halls to solicit input from community members and Probation Department staff to help inform the selection of these candidates. He shared that Ms. Karen Fletcher previously served as Chief Probation Officer for the San Francisco Adult Probation Department and will be beginning her tenure as Chief Deputy Probation Officer with the Los Angeles County Probation Department on September 13, 2021. On September 1, 2021, Mr. Adam Bettino, former Bureau Chief of the Professional Accountability Bureau and Mr. Richard Giron, former Bureau Chief of the Adult CORE Services Bureau will officially begin in their new roles. Chief Gonzales congratulated Mr. Brandon Nichols, former Chief Deputy Probation Officer, on his new role in the Chief Executive Office and thanked him for his excellent leadership as Chief Deputy Probation Officer.

Executive Director Wendelyn Julien congratulated the Probation Department's three newly appointed executive leaders. She thanked Mr. Nichols and his team for a successful partnership in launching the Probation Oversight Commission (POC), responding to information requests, and linking the POC with other leaders in the Department.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Chair Carrillo expressed his gratitude to Mr. Nichols for exemplifying transparent leadership and making the transfer of leadership smooth.

Commissioner Meredith extended a welcome to Ms. Fletcher and Mr. Giron, and congratulated Mr. Bettino on his new role. He wished Mr. Nichols well in his new assignment.

Mr. Gonzales responded to Mr. Maddox's question, confirming that Ms. Fletcher will be overseeing the Domestic Violence Facilitator's Program as well as anything that falls under Adult Probation including the Juvenile and Adult Field Services.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Dupuy, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC accepted Mr. Gonzales' report.

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

4. Report by Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director of the Probation Oversight Commission, on the POC's progress over its first six months and plans for the future.

Ms. Julien expressed the importance of the POC's robust oversight of and collaboration with the Probation Department and acknowledged the work of hundreds of community members, advocates, and county employees in creating the POC. The success of the POC so far can be attributed to the excellent leadership of the nine appointed Commissioners who have lived, academic, and professional experiences in the realm of criminal justice reform. These experiences have guided their abilities to envision things through a lens of empathy, rehabilitation, and "Care First." She highlighted that the mailing list has nearly tripled since February 2021 to over 3,600 people. With an average of 100 people attending each POC meeting, Ms. Julien is hopeful that future public meetings held in person will continue to foster robust participation. The primary value of the POC is shining light on the Probation Department in both positive and constructively critical ways. Ms. Julien encouraged everyone to view the attached supporting document, which details the POC's

successes and challenges over the first six months in detail, and invited everyone to attend the upcoming POC meeting on September 9, 2021 to obtain updates on the POC strategic plan.

Ms. Julien thanked the Commissioners, POC staff, and the Civilian Oversight Commission staff for their work in propelling the POC towards meeting its goals and the Board for trusting her to lead the POC as the Executive Director.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Chair Carrillo conveyed his thanks and gratitude to Ms. Julien for her guidance and leadership. Commissioner Meredith and Commissioner Nong expressed their appreciation for Ms. Julien's dedication, thoughtfulness, and provision. The Commissioners thanked the staff as well.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Dupuy, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC accepted Ms. Julien's report.

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

III. DISCUSSION

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Probation Department's plan to phase out OC Spray in juvenile halls outlined in the attached August 16, 2021 report back to the Probation Oversight Commission.

Mr. Bettino discussed highlights from the attached memo to the POC on the OC Spray phase out plan and explained that those goals overlap with many of the requirements of the Department of Justice (DOJ) stipulated judgement. He explained that Probation will train about 800 Probation staff (20-25 participants per class) in 40-hour blocks beginning September 13, 2021, with training sessions running through June 30, 2022. Mr. Bettino will continue meeting with collaborative partners such as the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), Juvenile Court Health Services, and the Department of Mental Health to identify specific areas that mandate collaborative training. He emphasized that there may be changes to the initial OC spray phase out plan to account for the need to continually train and offer refresher training. Ultimately, the Probation Department is trying to achieve system change while remaining in compliance, where the training modules will be conducted and then evaluated. He added that he wants to maximize relationships with supervisors, managers, and partners while promoting flexibility as he provides updates, and the training is transformed.

Edith Macias, Zoe Rawson, Jose Osuna, Aditi Sherikar, Milinda Kakani, Eric Walton, Krista Newble, Mel Bailey, Olivia Shields, Thomas Bell, Ezekiel Nishiyama, and Kevin Bodden addressed the POC.

Commissioner Meredith suggested that the POC request a monthly report from the Probation Department highlighting the number of staff and youth assaults, number of times OC spray was deployed, the circumstances surrounding deployment, and the facility and/or personnel involved. He made referenced to a Board Motion from 2019 that required the Probation Department to devise a plan to phase out of OC spray and identify

alternatives.

Commissioner Nong addressed some of the comments made by members of the public by acknowledging that she hears Probation Officers' frustrations and agrees that training needs to happen. She further mentioned that there may be underlying denial to the documented investigations that have been conducted by the Office of Inspector General (OIG), which triggered this board motion to phase out the usage of OC spray. She expressed concern about public comments blaming young people for Probation staff deploying OC spray and about any suggestion that OC spray should be used in group home settings with children in foster placements. She stressed the importance of system and cultural change to change how young people are viewed and incorporating Credible Messenger Programs to mentor the youth.

Commissioner Nong expressed concern and requested a clear explanation for the six-month extension for eliminating the use of OC spray as compared to the original proposal. Mr. Bettino responded that the prevalence of OC spray usage will be considered in delivering targeted training on phasing out OC spray, but ongoing conversations with labor partners are taking place to address this issue. He emphasized that when the plan was first proposed, the Probation Department provided alternative defense tactics to staff, with an emphasis on de-escalation. Mr. Bettino further explained how the timeline for the phase out plan was created, which influenced the predicted completion date. He added that this is a tentative date because there will be modifications to the phase out plan as the plan is collaboratively streamlined.

Mr. Bettino replied to Vice Chair Jackson's inquiry and confirmed that Commissioners can attend the upcoming training sessions held by the Probation Department.

Commissioner Saltzman acknowledged that progress has been made in establishing an OC Spray phase out plan with an expected completion date. He concurred that a monthly report should be provided on progress.

Commissioner Saltzman proposed a motion to request that the monthly reports from the Probation Department be augmented to include: (1) Data indicating the actual use of the spray (including the type of incident, and the facility and unit or location); (2) Historical data on use of spray to allow for context and evaluation of the current uses; (3) An indication by unit or location to identify the phase out plan that each unit or location is in; and (4) Whether the overall timeline can be shortened.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Dupuy, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC ensued discussion regarding the proposed motion.

Commissioner Nong made friendly amendments to the motion, and Ms. Julien highlighted additions on behalf of Commissioner Meredith.

On motion by Commissioner Saltzman, seconded by Chair Carrillo, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Dupuy, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved to instruct the Probation Department to include the following information in the monthly reports on implementation of the elimination of the use of OC spray: (1) Data indicating the incidence of the actual use of OC spray, including the type of incident, a description of the incident, the facility and location, the number of staff and youth involved, the results of the review

of the incident, indication of whether the same staff are involved in multiple uses of OC spray overtime, and the incidence of assaults on staff or youth during the time period of the report; (2) Historical data on the incidence of uses of OC spray and assaults on youth and staff to allow for context in the evaluation of the current data and comparison with historical data; (3) Indication by unit or location which of the four phases of implementation each unit or location has achieved (to show progress toward elimination short of full elimination); and (4) Updated information about the ability to shorten the timeframe of the implementation including specifics and details about opportunities to shorten the timeframe and obstacles to doing so:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Chairman Franky Carrillo

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

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

6. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update from the Probation Department and members of the JJCC-RBG subcommittee on the progress towards selecting a permanent site for placement of youth who would otherwise have been transferred to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the scorecard being used for DJJ facility evaluations, and progress in identifying the staffing and programming model for the facility

Mr. Nichols explained how the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee was formed, and its plans to create programming tailored services (such as diversion and after-care placement) for the youth being transferred from the jurisdiction of the California Department of Juvenile Justice to the counties. He stated that the latest Board Motion requests the Probation Department to canvass the conditions of all its juvenile halls and camps and rank them in order of suitability for permanently housing DJJ populations, with a report back on September 10, 2021. To engage with the community and incorporate their input into its recommendations to the Board, the Probation Department has opened its JJCC subcommittee meetings to the public in accordance with the Brown Act. He shared that a scorecard is being developed to standardize the ranking criteria when comparing the facilities to one another. The Probation Department has provided the drafted scorecard to the expert project advisor for suggestions and recommended improvements, which is expected to be finalized by next week, September 3, 2021.

Mr. Clinton Lacey, Founder of the Credible Messenger Movement, presented on how the Credible Messenger operates, highlighting key training areas and the roles and responsibilities of credible messengers.

Wendy Wang, Alexia Cina, Kruti Parekh, Gloria Gonzalez, James Maddox, Mel Bailey, Kent Mendoza, Ronnie Martinez, Zoe Rawson, and Ezekiel Nishiyama addressed the POC.

Vice Chair Jackson mentioned that she is a certified Credible Messenger who would like to include credible messengers in the work that the POC does from a preventive, intervention, and ongoing support standpoint. She added that their level of engagement determines if and how the POC's goals are reached.

Chair Carrillo stated that Mr. Lacey provided a great framework for the Credible Messenger Program and looks forward to working closely with the Credible Messenger Program.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Dupuy, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC accepted Mr. Nichols' and Mr. Lacey's presentations.

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

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

7. 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.

(Not on agenda)

Wende announced that the Probation Department's Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council's (JJCC) meeting began at 2:00 p.m. and invited commissioners and the public to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8. 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.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of August 12, 2021.

Chairman Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.