



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022, 9:00 A.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Franky Carrillo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys

2. Approval of the January 5, 2022 and January 13, 2022 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the January 5, 2022 and January 13, 2022 meeting minutes:

Ayes: **8 –** Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: **1 –** Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
January 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

By Common Consent (Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys being absent), the order of the remaining agenda items was changed. Agenda item 8 was moved up to be discussed first, following by agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11.

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made towards implementing the *L.A. Model* at Campus Kilpatrick pursuant to the September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisors' motion regarding reaffirming and expanding the *L.A. Model* and plans to move the 14 youth designated as Secure Track Youth to Campus Kilpatrick as the interim facility.
 - Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission Staff
 - Representatives from Labor Union 685

Ms. Julien shared that after recently visiting Campus Kilpatrick and participating in the CVK Council of Community Stakeholders with the Youth Commission's Executive Director Alain Datcher, the hope for this motion is to be able to implement the L.A. Model at all facilities within Los Angeles County in practice, not just at Campus Kilpatrick. She mentioned that segments of the L.A. Model have already been implemented at Barry J. Nidorf with some of the youth on the secure track, but increased COVID-19 outbreaks within the facilities have posed additional challenges operationally by limiting programming opportunities. Ms. Julien highlighted the capacity issues at Campus Kilpatrick due to classroom space, the use of cottages, and the availability of sleeping quarters to accommodate staff who work 56 hours during the week.

Mr. Bettino expressed that staffing at Campus Kilpatrick for youth on the secure track will be problematic, but the Probation Department is recruiting qualified staff willing to work with the secure track youth on eight-hour shifts to alleviate the need for sleeping quarters. He added that accelerated conversations with labor and other constituents are underway to mitigate the staffing challenges.

Tim Hepburn, Damon Ayala, Milinda Kakani, Jennifer Simison, Danita Beauchamp, Krista Newble, Thomas Bell, Kent Mendoza, and Stephen Wiard addressed the POC.

Commissioner Nong inquired about progress that has been made within the past two months on matter. Mr. Bettino responded that Probation is being strategic in staff recruitment and addressing the security and safety concerns. He added that the official bargaining period has begun, so the labor unions are actively engaging in negotiations with the Probation Department, but this does not preclude the Probation Department from moving forward.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about the appropriate next steps the POC can take to compel Probation employees of Labor Union 685 to answer questions and shed light on some of the issues that the Probation Department is facing, and the impactful challenges those issues are having on the youth and adults.

Commissioner Meredith stated that union representatives are not compelled to speak or have discussions in a public forum while ongoing negotiations are taking place, but Probation employees can be compelled to appear. He requested that the POC be provided with the documented history of the 56-hour work week that can be referenced in the interim.

Commissioner Yamashiro proposed a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Lewis to compel representatives of Local 685 to attend the next POC meeting to discuss their position on Commissioners' questions related to issues within the Probation Department. Discussion regarding the proposed motion ensued.

County Counsel and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provided insights into alternate ways (such as a motion or subpoena) to gather information to make an informed recommendation to the Board balancing the interests of an employee versus the youth.

Commissioner Canales clarified that youth need more programming, not solely an expansion of classes being offered.

Commissioner Nong made a friendly amendment to the motion to include that the POC compels employees of the Probation Department who are part of union to attend and participate in the next POC meeting.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired on how a general question unrelated to topics under negotiations may interfere with the unions bargaining and negotiations with the County. Ms. Julien agreed that there is potentially no interference if the people compelled to attend are employees of the Probation Department being asked questions about the Probation Department and its policies.

Commissioner Meredith requested the Probation Department provide the POC with a historical analysis of the 56-hour work week and the language outlined in the contract. Ms. Julien responded that the POC is working on a report about the 56-hour work week and has conducted many interviews. Mr. Bettino alluded to balancing researched best practices and client-centered services when inviting labor into the POC public forums. Mr. Bettino and Ms. Julien confirmed that there have been no other obstacles to gathering information from the Probation Department except for the meeting declination by Labor 685 representatives.

Commissioner Yamashiro emphasized that the intent of compelling the Labor 685 representatives to the meeting to speak is to efficiently gather information and solicit responses to an array of questions beyond the 56-hour work week. Mr. Max Huntsman, Inspector General of the OIG, stated that the labor unions are the best barometer of the larger issues because they represent the voices of the employees.

Ms. Julien requested that the letter from the Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers' Union AFSCME Local 685 be attached to the official record.

Commissioner Lewis expressed urgency in obtaining answers to the POC's questions because the deadline for the closure of DJJ facilities is quickly approaching but exercising subpoena power of the POC may prolong the process for obtaining those required responses.

Commissioner Dupuy suggested that the POC take the most efficient process to get the requested information, by going straight to the source for information. Ms. Julien confirmed that interviews with Probation employees are centered around working the 56-hour schedule, and a report back will be delivered as soon as the research is compiled.

Commissioner Jackson recommended that the POC partner with the OIG and County Counsel to compose a list of questions to ask representatives from Local 685.

Commissioner Canales reiterated the need to move forward with the motion due to the lapse of time since the initial request was made.

Commissioner Meredith asked the POC what the exact questions are that were submitted. Ms. Julien explained the questions that were outlined in the letter to Local 685.

Commissioner Yamashiro explained that the motion will not be predicated or circumscribed to the questions originally submitted to Local 685 nor the request of someone to be present at the POC meeting to respond to Commissioners' questions.

On motion of Commissioner Yamashiro, seconded by Chair Carrillo, duly carried by the following vote (Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the motion to get the assistance of OIG, County Counsel, and the Probation Department to compel individuals to appear at the next POC Meeting:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Chair Franky Carrillo

Noes: 1 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys

Attachments: [Letter from AFSSCME Local 685, Bargaining Unit #701 Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update on the site selection for youth on the secure track related to the closure of the State of California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).
 - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Members of the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee

Ms. Patricia Soung, JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee member, elaborated on the progress the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee has made, summarized their recommendations, and proposed that POC continue to mitigate the barriers in moving youth out of Barry J. Nidorf, which was not designed to be a long-term facility. Although the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee has not reconvened since December 2021, she requested that individual assessments be conducted to determine a timeline, feasibility to accommodate the youth, and interim programming that can be offered by current staff while youth designated as secure track youth are awaiting permanent placement.

Ms. Tapau Osborne, JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee member, emphasized the need for intense programming planning with credible messengers, which consists of determining what the program should entail and which support systems will be incorporated into those programming efforts.

Mr. Luis Rodriguez, JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee member, highlighted that the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee cannot move forward until a location or site has been designated for the youth on the secure track. He emphasized that Barry J. Nidorf is not a location conducive to the goals of YJR.

Mr. Bettino shared that programming and services have been expanded to secure track youth such as mental and public health. He also mentioned that long-term placement

should be strongly weighed when considering permanent site selection for secure track youth because each facility requires significant renovation to accommodate a growing population of secure track youth. Mr. Bettino acknowledged that these renovations will be a significant capital investment, but the Probation Department does not want to increase its footprint by opening several facilities for this population considering the capacity of Campus Kilpatrick and the housing duration of up to seven years for secure track youth.

Jennifer Simison, A Gilbert Ivey, Marsha McLean, Terry Prentice, Stephen Wiard, Tim Ory, Joy Ory, Jeanette Sohn, Damon Ayala, Lily Brainard, Dina Sale, Zoe Rawson, Linda Desrosiers, Call in User_4, Ezekiel Nishiyama, Milinda Kakani, Pam Berry, Call in User_55, Masis Hagobian, and Sue Fisher addressed the POC.

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

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys being absent), the POC recessed at 11:30 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update on the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission's 2022 plan for conducting inspections of Juvenile Camps and Halls.

- Erica Reynoso, Project Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Dr. Reynoso provided highlights from the 2021 annual inspection report that influenced the POC's 2022 three-point goal for conducting inspections. She emphasized that the POC is coordinating with the BSCC to avoid overlapping efforts, streamline the inspection procedures to include more interview time with youth and staff, and collaborate with Chief Deputy Karen Fletcher to index current programs and services offered at each facility.

Dr. Reynoso explained that the BSCC is a regulatory agency that mandates certain rules and regulations be adhered to, whereas the POC is an oversight civilian body that provides observations from a layperson's perspective on facilities.

Jeanette Sohn, Danita Beauchamp, Damon Ayala, Lily Brainard, and Call in User_55 addressed the POC.

Commissioner Meredith expressed that the Commissioners should inspect for areas identified in Title 15 and report their observations. He stressed that there is a lot of communication that takes place during the inspections because Commissioners talk to staff and youth to gain insights about their experiences being in the facilities.

Commissioner Jackson reiterated the importance of interviewing youth and staff to gauge what happens in the facilities based on their perspectives. In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about next steps, Ms. Julien confirmed that Chief Probation Officer Adolfo Gonzales will be responding to some of the concerns in the POC's 2021 Inspection Report. Mr. Bettino added that the report back will include progress the Probation Department has made since the 2021 inspections concluded to resolve the identified issues within the 2021 Inspection Report.

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

III. REPORTS

6. Executive Director report on the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission's progress towards completing its 2022 strategic goals. The report this month will include updates on the grievance and complaint procedures, research into the 56-hour work week, training updates, and progress on developing a data dashboard.
 - Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission Staff

Ms. Julien announced that the POC officially launched in February 2021 and is celebrating a year of work towards reform for the youth and adults served by the Probation Department while fostering successful community engagement efforts. She reported that the POC has, during that year, developed a detailed strategic operating plan, published a detailed inventory of the grievance and complaint practices and procedures, followed and recommended several training and policy improvements, and served as a liaison to and with the Board of Supervisors on many topics. The recommendations for changes to the grievances and complaint procedures will be shared with the Probation Department and then with the public.

She encouraged Probation Department employees and people who have been impacted by the 56-hour work week to email info@poc.lacounty.gov if they would like to share those experiences with the POC.

Ms. Julien shared that the POC has been coordinating internal training efforts for staff and Commissioners. She stated that the Probation Department has welcomed the POC staff and Commissioners to their departmental training opportunities on various topics to gain an understanding of who the Probation staff are, and the educational practices being taught. Since the POC is looking into personnel management challenges at the Probation Department, Ms. Julien reported that Monday's town hall had over 100 Probation employees in attendance.

With transparency being a priority of the POC, Ms. Julien expressed that the Probation Department has started to share data with the POC and publicly and agreed to continue these efforts. She stated that the POC will quarterly share population statistics on the website at <https://poc.lacounty.gov/>.

Mel Bailey and Lily Brainard addressed the POC.

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

7. Report on updates from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on the implementation of the plan to phase out the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray.
 - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Bettino reported that many facilities have been on quarantine due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. He added that training has slowed due to the rise in staff testing positive for COVID-19. Mr. Bettino expressed optimism that training will resume in the next few weeks and stated that graduates from the Juvenile Corrections Officer Core Academy are not being issued OC Spray in the Probation Department. He confirmed that the fifteen

students in the current class will not be issued OC Spray. Mr. Bettino and Ms. Julien clarified that the OC Spray reports will now be shared on a bi-monthly basis, but other data requests can be addressed at any time.

Danita Beauchamp, Stephen Wiard addressed the POC.

Mr. Bettino mentioned that the Probation Department is recommitting to utilizing alternate de-escalation techniques, building rapport with the youth, training staff on trauma-informed care, and modifying the staff-to-youth ratios so that staff are available to lead programming efforts to align with restorative justice practices. He stated that the initial planned timeline to phase out OC Spray must be reassessed to gain a clarification on how the Probation Department will implement each phase and establish a realistic target date to have an elimination of OC Spray in the juvenile halls. Lastly, Mr. Bettino concluded with the need to have ongoing refresher training to ensure that staff are confident with performing their job duties without needing to deploy OC Spray.

Commissioner Nong asked that the identified reasons for the increase in OC Spray usage at Central Juvenile Hall be accompanied with responsive actions that the Probation Department took in the report back to the POC. In response to Commissioner Nong's inquiry about aggregating the data, Mr. Bettino stated that Probation staff can provide a more detailed report including a breakdown of location, type of incidents, and units like the September 2021 OC Spray report back.

Agenda item 8 was moved up and discussed. Thereafter, agenda item 9 was discussed.

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

8. Report on the progress of the decarceration of girls in Los Angeles County as outlined in the December 1, 2021 motion by the Board of Supervisors.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission
 - Erica Reynoso, Project Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission
 - Luis Rodriguez, Division Chief, Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office

Ms. Julien explained that the POC's role in the decarceration of girls' motion by the Board is to collaborate with internal stakeholders and external advocates to address any obstacles to implementing the motion and report progress updates and obstacles to the Board. Specifically, she asked the Public Defender's Office to explain their role in designing and implementing the transitional multidisciplinary teams (T-MDTs) to ensure identification of placement and release options for each incarcerated girl.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that T-MDTs are a collaborative youth-centered approach to evaluating the needs of the girls so that they are given the necessary resources. He requested a list of the girls and young women who are currently detained from the Probation Department as well as contact information for department's liaison for these efforts.

Ms. Julien mentioned that the POC and its collaborative partners have been ensuring that the decarceration of girls align with the goals of Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR) and the Board motion beginning with a small group. She explained that the Probation Department makes the binary distinction between girls and boys, but they are aware that many

nonbinary youth and LGBTQ+ youth may not identify with that breakdown.

Kruti Parekh and Tonya Calais addressed the POC.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about who is involved in the needs assessment and how needs are determined. Mr. Rodriguez explained the phases of the T-MDT and stressed that each phase of the process is tailored around the needs and wants of the girls who are currently detained. He added that there are representatives from the Alternate Public Defender's Office, Public Defender's Office, Department of Mental Health, and the Probation Department. However, families, credible messengers, trusted representatives, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are integrated as well. Ms. Julien distinguished the roles of the community based YJR YES Teams, which is focused on community-based resources from the T-MDTs, which focuses on identifying the needs of the girls. Although the pilot program has not yet launched, Mr. Rodriguez is optimistic this pilot will become the best practices model employed for all in-custody youth.

Mr. Rodriguez responded to Commissioner Nong's inquiry and clarified that the Public Defender's Office would like the POC to strongly urge the Probation Department to provide a list of currently detained youth and a contact person so that the T-MDTs can convene.

Commissioner Lewis sought clarification on why youth in certain facilities were and were not participating in MDTs. Mr. Rodriguez explained that MDTs were only offered to youth in the juvenile halls, but the T-MDTs are led by the defense attorneys. Dr. Reynoso clarified that each camp has MDT Coordinators, but MDTs have not been done for the general population at the juvenile halls.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about girls on the secure track. Mr. Rodriguez confirmed that currently, there is only one young woman on the secure track, but the Public Defender's Office has been working with the Probation Department to determine the types of programs and services that can be offered to her independently, as well as in a group setting.

Ms. Julien emphasized that there have been policy discussions on how to move forward, with a focus on responding to each person's case based on the individual needs assessment. Mr. Bettino confirmed that there is a consensus between the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council-Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) Subcommittee and the Board that recommends that girls on the secure track be placed at Dorothy Kirby Center.

Commissioner Nong raised a question on when the Public Defender's Office can expect a list of girls currently in the system and a contact person. Mr. Bettino confirmed that the Probation Department will follow up on these requests and render a timely response to the Public Defender's Office.

Agenda item 8 was moved up and discussed. Thereafter, agenda item 3 was discussed.

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

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

9. 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)

Ms. Julien announced that the POC will be hosting a special meeting to discuss the POC's Education Report.

Commissioner Yamashiro requested that an overview of the services and programming offered to adults under direct and field supervision be provided. Ms. Julien expressed that Dr. Reynoso has been working on an inventory of programs and services offered within the juvenile facilities and a report back on the inventory of field services for juveniles and adults will be shared at a future meeting.

Commissioner Meredith requested that programs and services offered to adults on probation be discussed, specifically Assembly Bill (AB) 109.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10. 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. one business 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.

Tapau Osborne, Dana Beauchamp, Thomas Bell, Mel Bailey, and Lily Brainard addressed the POC.

Commissioner Nong clarified that the POC is not the body that makes any decisions regarding the DJJ site selection.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

11. Adjournment for the regular meeting of February 10, 2022.

Vice Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.