



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022, 12:00 P.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 12:05 p.m. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the June 23, 2022 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the June 23, 2022 meeting minutes:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: 4 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [Approved June 23, 2022 Minutes](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Special Enforcement Operations Unit (SEO) and the new taser usage policy and training plans.
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- Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Howard Wong, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Ms. Fletcher and Ms. Julien explained that the Board of Supervisors approved the Probation Department's plan to purchase tasers for the SEO after development of a Taser Policy and Training Plan was reviewed and approved by the POC.

Mr. Wong responded to questions raised by the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) regarding the Taser Policy and Training Plan.

Commissioner Samuel Lewis joined the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Aditi Sherikar, Ryondell Bourne, and Krista Newble addressed the POC.

Ms. Fletcher clarified that no weapons are allowed in the juvenile facilities and that would include tasers. She confirmed that when the SEO is deployed to juvenile facilities, their weapons (tasers included if approved to purchase) are checked before officers enter the facility.

Commissioner Meredith further clarified that the tasers would be used for the SEO officers in adult field deployment services only as a last resort before use of a deadly weapon.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiries, Mr. Wong mentioned that sworn Probation Officers are considered law enforcement and would be carrying the taser in addition to a firearm.

Mr. Wong shared that the last time a firearm was used by the SEO was approximately October 2019. Commissioner Garcia-Leys emphasized that the taser usages and deployments must be closely monitored. Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed a motion to request notice from the Los Angeles County Probation Department notice each time a taser is used.

Commissioner Meredith proposed an amendment to include a notification of taser deployment within 24 hours.

Commissioner Lewis stated his opposition to the Probation Department purchasing or deploying tasers.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Chair Carrillo, and unanimously carried by the following vote (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the POC approved the amended motion to request the Los Angeles County Probation Department to notify the POC within 24 hours of a taser being deployed:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

In response to Chair Carrillo's inquiry about SEO training, Mr. Wong stated that SEOs receive the same training regardless if the probationer is a juvenile or an adult.

Mr. Wong shared that SEOs do not wear body cameras. Commissioner Meredith suggested that body-worn body cameras be considered in the purchase or possibly purchasing tasers with the cameras on them.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys recommended that language prohibiting coaching and collaboration in preparation reports in advance be incorporated into the taser policy. Mr. Bettino emphasized that collaborating and coaching is strictly prohibited in the new Juvenile Use of Force policy with language that could be incorporated into this policy.

Commissioner Meredith proposed a motion to accept Probation's Taser Usage Policy and Training Plans with the recommended amendments.

Commissioner Nong expressed discomfort voting on the amended Taser Usage Policy due to the number of modifications.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Chair Carrillo, and duly carried by the following vote (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the motion to accept the Los Angeles County Probation Department's new Taser Usage Policy and Training Plans as amended did not pass:

Ayes:	3 –	Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Chair Franky Carrillo
Noes:	1 –	Commissioner Dominique D. Nong
Absent:	3 –	Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson
Abstain:	2 –	Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Secretary Dolores Canales

Mr. Wong confirmed that an amended policy will be submitted for discussion at a future meeting.

Chair Carrillo asked the Commissioners to suggest language for the Taser Usage Policy and the Training Plan.

Commissioner Meredith asked for clarification on how the reports are written and require that body-cameras be worn with a report back in a month.

Commissioner Nong asked that specific language be included regarding a ban on use of tasers on youth in juvenile facilities and in the field, inclusion of specific factors to be considered in the totality of circumstances that are very specific to the use of tasers as opposed to other uses of force, specific information on the training provided to supervisors, specifics on the process/timing afterwards including attributes of any debriefs (on-site and with supervisors), description of the supervisors' duties in those debriefs/reviews, and a tracking mechanism to determine how the taser usages will be tracked for trends and patterns.

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Nong, and unanimously carried by the following vote (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the POC approved the motion to table discussion and further action on approving the revised Taser Policy and Training Plan to September 8, 2022:

- Ayes:** 6 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo
- Absent:** 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Chair Carrillo proposed a motion to table discussion and possible action on Agenda Item 4 to August 11, 2022.

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, and duly carried by the following vote (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the motion to table discussion and further action on Agenda Item 4 to August 11, 2022 failed to pass:

- Ayes:** 2 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith and Chair Franky Carrillo
- Noes:** 4 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales
- Absent:** 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Chair Carrillo proposed a motion to table discussion and possible action on Agenda Item 5 to a future date.

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, and unanimously carried by the following vote (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the POC agreed to table discussion and further action on Agenda Item 5 to a future date:

- Ayes:** 6 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo
- Absent:** 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Commissioner Meredith left the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Discussion ensued on this item.

In response to Commissioner Nong’s inquiries about the deployment of SEOs to juvenile

facilities, Ms. Fletcher explained that the SEO were deployed to serve as transportation escorts in May 2022, Mr. Wong confirmed SEO deployments to CJH and BJNJH are still going on (30 in the morning shift and 30 in the afternoon shift) until staffing is stabilized but that deployment stations vary depending on staffing needs. Ms. Fletcher added that the SEO is deployed to support movement to and from school as back-up.

Commissioner Lewis expressed his concerns about the hiring freeze and its impact on staffing and safety in the facilities.

Commissioner Lewis proposed a motion to recommend that the Chief Executive Office lift the hiring freeze for juvenile facilities so that consistent programming can take place inside facilities for the benefit of youth that are currently incarcerated in those facilities.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys recommended that the best solution be that existing staff come to work opposed to lifting the hiring freeze.

Commissioner Canales expressed concerns about hiring new staff without addressing the call-out issues.

Motion failed for lack of second.

Chair Carrillo inquired about plans underway to address the staffing concerns. Ms. Fletcher explained that Probation has been in contact with the Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources as well as the CEO's Office for remedies and options to address the staff concerns.

Mr. Bettino clarified that a request to lift the hiring freeze was submitted to the Chief Executive Office so the Probation Department can keep up with employee attrition while working diligently to have current staff return to work.

Chair Carrillo inquired about the status of the Credible Messenger Program. Mr. Bettino explained that the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) is working on a formal presentation and proposal for the Credible Messenger Program and how it can complement the Probation Department.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about replacing employee attrition, Mr. Bettino confirmed that a motion with language around reducing employee attrition would be helpful.

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

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made moving youth dispositioned to the secure track to Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott.
 - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Bettino mentioned that conversations are ongoing with labor and employee relations on next steps. He shared that Probation is working with County Counsel about sharing plans on potential renovations including consideration of more private living units at Camp Scott.

Mr. Bettino shared that the 112 young people currently under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will start transitioning into Probation's care between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2023. Mr. Bettino and Ms. Fletcher expressed that approximately 20% of the 112 youth will have a parole hearing by June 30, 2023, but the remaining 80% are likely to be returned to Los Angeles County in need of a secure facility placement.

Ms. Julien stated that a resolution was sent to the Board of Supervisors recommending that Probation move a number of youth dispositioned to the secure track to Campus Kilpatrick by July 1, 2022 but that obstacles including labor opposition have prevented the move from happening.

Ryondell Bourne, James, Kent Mendoza, and Cookie Lommel addressed the POC.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on Challenger, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH), and Los Padrinos.

In response to Chair Carrillo's inquiries, Mr. Bettino reiterated that conversations are being conducted behind the scenes, but the Probation Department will be working closely with the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) for ongoing technical assistance and support.

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made towards reaffirming and expanding the *L.A. Model* pursuant to the September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisors' motion across all facilities.
 - Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

This item was tabled to a future meeting date.

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

III. REPORTS

6. Executive Director report, discussion, and possible action on the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission's progress towards completing its 2022 strategic goals. The report this month will include updates on facility inspections, programs and services, girls' decarceration, and the department's responsiveness to data requests.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien reported that pre-inspections at Central Juvenile Hall and Campus Kilpatrick were completed and that the regular 2022 inspections have started. She added that the inspection at Camp Rockey was postponed due to quarantine, but that it will be rescheduled and conducted along with four other facility inspections in August.

Ms. Julien shared that the POC has been working closely with Probation to learn more about the programs and services currently being offered in facilities and in field services.

She stated that ongoing conversations are underway about contracting with community-based organizations to provide services to youth in the facilities as well as youth and adults on field probation.

Ms. Julien explained that recent meetings about electronic monitoring and pre-trial services with Commissioners, Probation, and community advocates have been productive in learning about the population and ensuring that electronic monitoring is being used as an alternative to incarceration.

In partnership with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office and the Youth Justice Work Group on Gender Responsiveness, Ms. Julien reported that the transition multi-disciplinary team (TMDT) meetings have begun and the POC is continuing to work on the Board's initiatives related to maintaining the low population of all youth.

Ms. Julien highlighted that there has been a significant uptick in the juvenile hall population, specifically among the predisposition youth and that the POC is investigating and will report on the causes.

She emphasized the importance of supporting and collaborating with the Probation Department to share data and analytical trends. Ms. Julien stated the Memorandum of Understanding is still being reviewed by the Probation Department, but a long-term goal is to have the Probation Department share data directly with the public so the POC can perform research, analyze the data, identify trends, and provide Probation with best practices while upholding transparency and accountability.

Lastly, Ms. Julien shared that the POC agreed to extend Probation's OC Spray Elimination report dates to the 20th of each month instead of the 15th.

No members of the public commented on this item.

No Commissioners commented on this item.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
[PROBSTAT Data](#)
[Daily Population Stats](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[OC Spray Elimination Progress Report](#)
[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)

- Request the Probation Department to address questions on Probationer Justin Flores

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. one business day before the scheduled meeting to be included on the agenda. Please include the Agenda Item(s) and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received by 5:00 p.m. the same day of the meeting shall become part of the official record.

Emily Wood, Mel Bailey, and James addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

V. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of July 14, 2022.

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