



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



[poc.lacounty.gov](http://poc.lacounty.gov)

**THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2022, 12:00 P.M.**

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment:    [Video](#)

**I.     ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

**Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:01 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, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent:            Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy and Chair Franky Carrillo

2. Approval of the July 14, 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, and Chair Franky Carrillo being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the July 14, 2022 meeting minutes:**

**Ayes:**            **6 –**    Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

**Absent:**          **3 –**    Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Attachments:    [Approved July 14, 2022 Minutes](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

**II.     DISCUSSIONS**

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update on the California Board of State and Community Corrections' (BSCC) findings and corrective actions at Central Juvenile Hall (CJH).
  - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

**Ms. Julien presented a summary of the BSCC's suitability timeline for juvenile facilities in**

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Los Angeles County.

Angela James, Milinda Kakani, Travion Chamberlain, Mariana Garcia-Godoy, and Mel Bailey addressed the POC.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about how Probation is addressing the challenges with staffing. Mr. Bettino stated that Probation is undergoing a two-pronged process with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to lift the hiring freeze so Probation can fill some vacancies resulting from attrition (resignations, retirements, promotions, and transfers) and the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to address the personnel issues (leaves, performance management, etc.). He added that mitigating these challenges will decrease field deployments and improve Probation's morale.

Commissioner Meredith stated concerns about staff refusing to work, how that jeopardizes health and safety for youth and adults, and that retired Probation staff should be considered to immediately fill the staffing gaps resulting from the significant number of callouts to preserve the morale of the Probation Department.

Commissioner Nong inquired about the reassignment of field staff and potential obstacles that may arise. Mr. Bettino explained that the CEO is conducting an analysis for rightsizing (consolidating caseloads) to create a sustainable staffing strategy, but Probation is examining its background process to expedite the hiring processes.

In response to Commissioner Nong's inquiries about BSCC compliance, Mr. Bettino shared that Probation has a progressive discipline process (depending on prior discipline) where an employee's action (misconduct) would dictate the type of apprehension. He mentioned that there are field managers and staff specifically assigned to ensuring Probation remains compliant with BSCC regulations.

Mr. Bettino responded to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about "As Needed" staffing. He explained that the Department has historically relied on "As Needed" staff, but issues around insufficient time-off and long working hours became apparent. Although there is currently not a budget item for temporary positions, Mr. Bettino highlighted that the hiring time frame for permanent and temporary employees are the same.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys asked about the Detention Services Officer (DSO) and the Deputy Probation Officer (DPOs) positions. Mr. Bettino clarified that Probation is collaborating with the CEO to obtain DSO and the Group Supervisor (Nights) positions, which are incentivized positions for internal promotions within the facilities. He mentioned that if staffing to youth ratios are met, then Probation turns away youth that are transported to their facilities by law enforcement. However, Mr. Bettino emphasized that field services are deployed to aid with meeting these staffing ratios.

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

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the use of electronic monitoring by the Los Angeles County Probation Department.
  - Richard Giron, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

**Mr. Giron gave a presentation on Electronic Monitoring (EM).**

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Commissioner Samuel Lewis joined the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

Jose Osuna addressed the POC.

Mr. Giron clarified that participants no longer are charged fees for being on EM as of 2019. In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about EM reducing the overall incarceration population, Mr. Giron mentioned he will gather the data for the POC.

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update from the Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made towards compliance with the Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement.

- Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General

Mr. Bates highlighted contents of the OIG's First Report on the Los Angeles County Probation Department. He expressed that the report is late due to staffing shortage, but OIG does not anticipate any further reporting delays.

Milinda Kakani and Mel Bailey addressed the POC.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about major areas of concern from OIG's perspective, Mr. Bates stated that the main area would be a lack of programming information from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH). Mr. Bettino added that cameras at BJNJH will be incrementally installed as the Board of Supervisors approves the purchases. Mr. Bates and Mr. Bettino concurred that OIG and Probation are working together to examine and analyze processes for handling discrepancies and will consult with County Counsel to aid with how this information can be publicly shared.

Commissioner Nong asked for clarity on some details in the report including program activities at CJH, FIRST Teams, and lack of BJNJH's programming in the report. Based on documentation, Mr. Bates mentioned that 40% of youth were denied programming due to safety concerns and the remaining 60% were allowed outside to participate in programming. Mr. Bettino confirmed that programming at BJNJH is being tracked as required, but he will report back to the POC on this area of concern.

Mr. Bettino agreed with Commissioner Jackson by stating that Probation's management has vowed to prioritize and improve communication to the POC and its stakeholders.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about differentiating "arguing" and "fighting", Mr. Bates clarified that definitions were not included in the report to distinguish an argument from a physical altercation (fight). He added that the de-escalation in OIG's report were based on visual observations because the cameras that were reviewed did not contain audio.

Commissioner Meredith expressed the importance of having timely notifications directly from Probation when major incidents occur.

Ms. Julien shared that Dr. Reynoso has incorporated programming as quality assurance into the POC's annual facility inspections, which includes viewing the program calendar,

observing the programs that are taking place and notating the number of youths that attend those programs.

Attachments: [OIG's First Report on the Probation Department](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

### III. 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.

**(Not on agenda)**

- Probation and OIG will provide a public report on August 11, 2022 on the investigation into the recent tragic killings of two El Monte police officers.

#### 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](mailto: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.

#### **Mel Bailey and Thomas Bell addressed the POC.**

**Commissioner Lewis shared that the POC has spoken with staff who have been injured and stressed that the POC wants everyone to be safe.**

**Commissioner Nong inquired about staff reviewing camera footage before submitting their report. Mr. Bettino stated that staff are allowed to review camera footage with a supervisor if there are discrepancies or to clarify details in the report. He emphasized that that the current policy specifically clarifies that this footage review is not to be used to coach or coerce report.**

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

8. Adjournment for the regular meeting of July 28, 2022.

**Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 2:12 p.m.**