



**ADOLFO GONZALES**  
Chief Probation Officer


# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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March 25, 2022

TO: Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair  
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Adolfo Gonzales   
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **ELIMINATION OF THE USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY: STAFF TRAINING ROLL OUT (SET ITEM NO. 1, AGENDA OF JUNE 25, 2019) TENTH QUARTERLY REPORT**

At the June 25, 2019 Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting, following the Probation Department's report on Elimination of the Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray, the Board took various actions, including instructing the Chief Probation Officer to provide quarterly updates on the roll out of staff training; and on conducting exit interviews with staff after the training sessions to determine if the provided training was sufficient. This is our tenth quarterly report.

## **TRAINING PLAN**

As reported in the ninth report, the Probation Department resumed in-person cohort training for Detention Services Bureau (DSB) staff designed to gain a better understanding of the youth in our care; the secondary trauma that staff may experience; to help staff with practical skills in de-escalation and to create a trauma-informed environment with care in both juvenile halls.

The Probation Department has been conducting block week, in-person trainings for DSB staff at our Training Center. However, the Department placed a temporary halt in training from December 2021 through late January 2022, due to staffing shortages in the detention facilities and the high increase of COVID-19 positive cases.

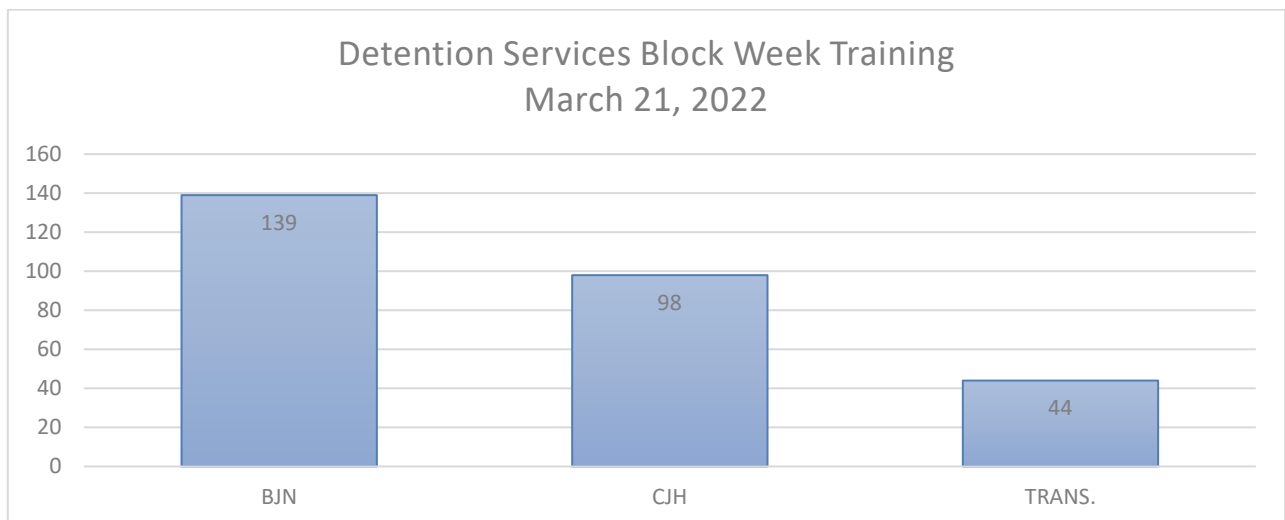
On January 31, 2022, training resumed with Cohort 8 and the Department continued block week trainings for the 80-hour curriculum. In late February, the Probation Department was faced with the challenging decision to split the 80-hour curriculum to service additional DSB staff to meet the Board of State and Community Corrections' annual training mandates through June 30, 2022.

As reflected in the attachment, there are a total of 13 courses being tracked by the Staff Training Office to support full compliance for DSB staff. As indicated above, staff are currently receiving a 40-hour curriculum (Week Two) on the following:

- Use of Force Policy
- De-escalation for Institution Staff
- 16 hours of Defensive Tactics
- Physical Intervention Report Writing

On March 21, 2022, Cohort 14 began training. As of March 22, 2022, we have had 281 staff report to training. The Department expects to train Cohorts 15 through 23 by May 31, 2022. We anticipate a total of 450 staff will be trained through May 31, 2022, provided staffing patterns can be supported to ensure staff are removed from line supervision to attend the off-site training in cohorts. The cohorts will begin receiving the remaining 40-hours (Week One) of the 80-hour training curriculum starting on July 11, 2022.

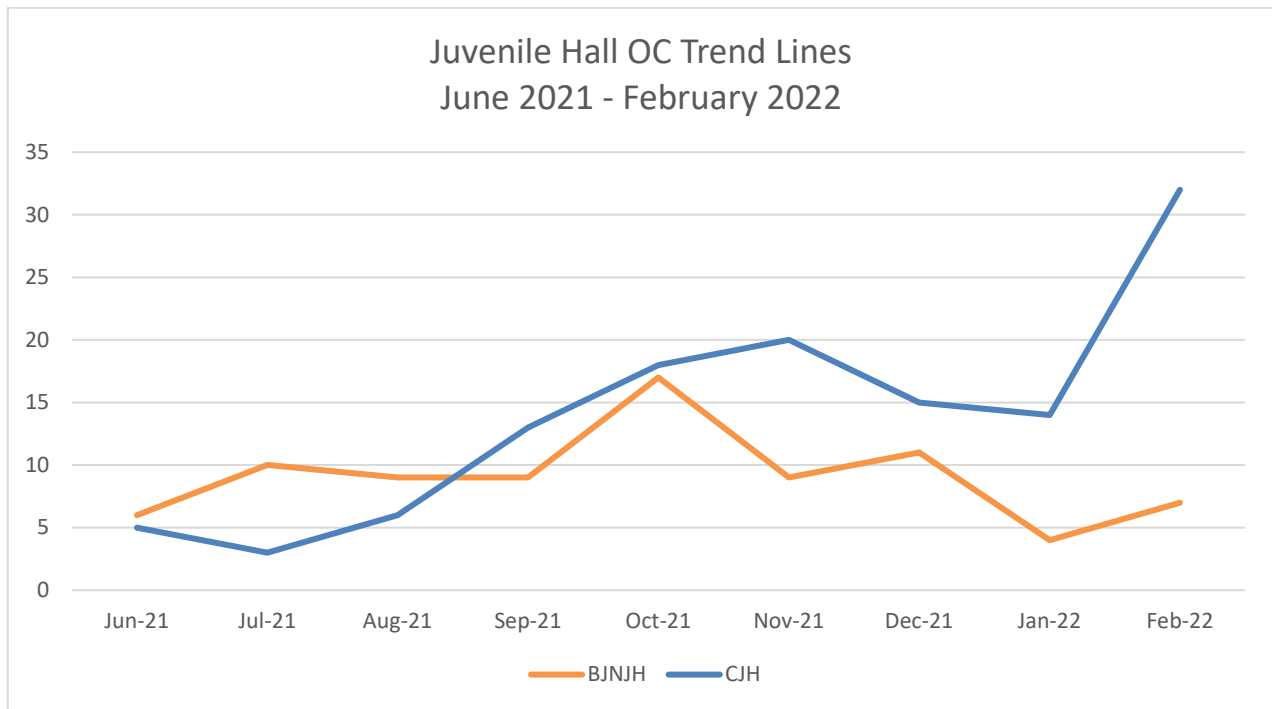
The chart below illustrates the total number of DSB staff that reported to block week training by facility.



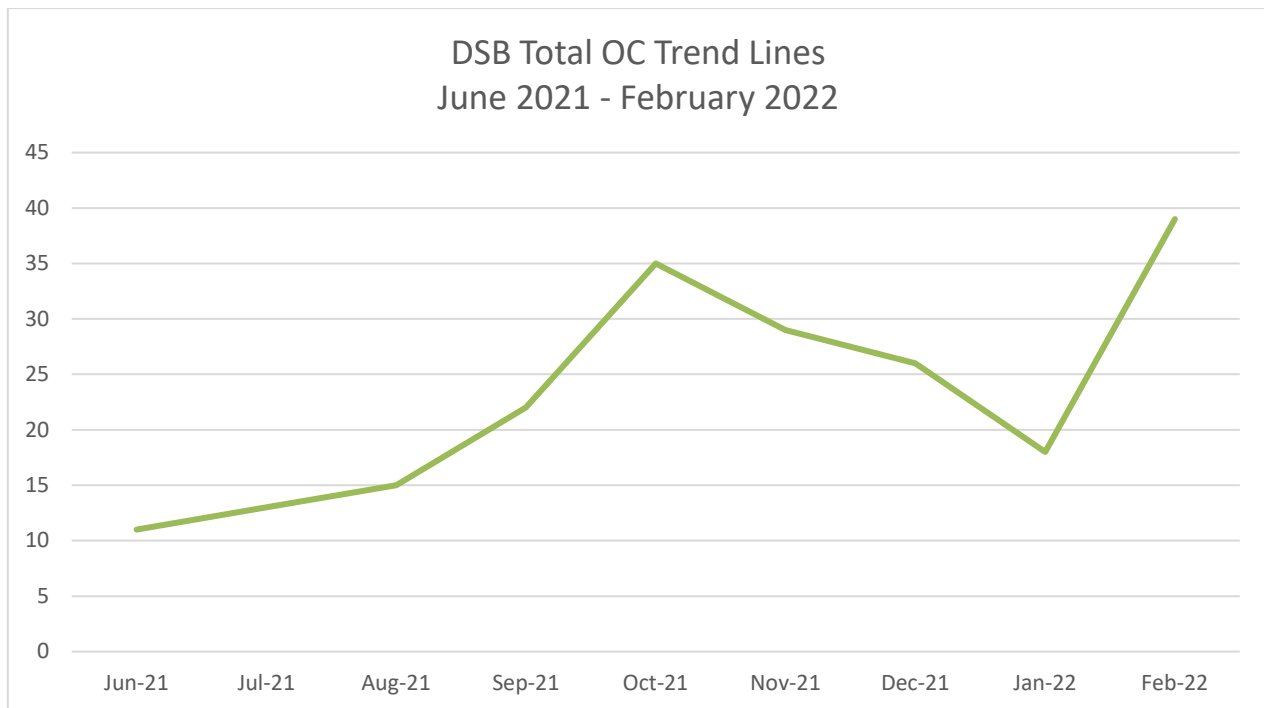
The chart below illustrates the DSB OC Spray Incident totals, by month, from June 2021 through February 2022.

| 2021 DSB OC INCIDENT TOTALS<br>JUNE 2021 - FEBRUARY 2022 |           |            |            |
|--|-----------|------------|------------|
| MONTH  | BJNJH     | CJH        | DSB TOTAL  |
| Jun-21   | 6         | 5          | 11         |
| Jul-21   | 10        | 3          | 13         |
| Aug-21   | 9         | 6          | 15         |
| Sep-21   | 9         | 13         | 22         |
| Oct-21   | 17        | 18         | 35         |
| Nov-21   | 9         | 20         | 29         |
| Dec-21   | 11        | 15         | 26         |
| Jan-22   | 4         | 14         | 18         |
| Feb-22   | 7         | 32         | 39         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>82</b> | <b>126</b> | <b>208</b> |

The chart below illustrates the OC spray trend lines for both Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) since June 2021.



The chart below illustrates the DSB combined total OC Spray trends for both juvenile halls since June 2021.



In the last couple of months, the use of OC spray has decreased significantly at BJNJH, however, has increased at CJH. The Department is currently assessing why CJH is not progressing as well as BJNJH in reducing reliance on OC spray.

As previously reported, on March 12, 2022 and March 13, 2022, youth and personnel were moved from CJH to BJNJH due to a temporary closure. Future use of force incidents will be reported as one facility for BJNJH. The Probation Department will continue to account for trainings by initial work location.

## CONCLUSION

The Probation Department continues to remain committed to partnering with our stakeholders to promote a safe culture that supports employees and youth in a secure, stable, and healthy environment. In addition, the Department will continue to provide updates that highlight the overall progress of the training cohorts and the elimination of OC spray. All cohort training is conducted with continued support for COVID-19 safety and precautions.

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We will continue to inform your Board of our training status and anticipate providing an update of any significant changes on a quarterly basis.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Administrative Services and Operational Support, at (562) 940-3760.

AG:AB:LD:lg

#### Attachment

c: Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court  
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer  
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel  
Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health  
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health  
Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission  
Sheila Williams, Senior Manager, CEO  
Justice Deputies

**Detention Services Bureau  
Training Block (80-hours)**

| Training Plan  | Course Description  | Course Hours              |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <p><b>Week One</b><br/><b>Day 1 (Monday)</b></p> <p>Probation Core Values and Restorative Justice</p> <p>STC # 04613593</p>                        | <p>This course will be presented to Probation department staff to reinforce the Vision, Mission, and Core values of the department. Additionally, the course will highlight the importance of applying department core values in everyday functions of staff. Lastly, the course will outline how the department's vision, mission and core values align with the restorative justice paradigm.</p>   | <p>2 hours</p>            |
| <p>California Code of Regulations Title 15 Module 1</p> <p>STC # 00123438</p>  | <p>This course explains how regulations under CCR Title 15 are created. In addition, it provides an overview and details specific sections that govern minimum standards for Juvenile Institutions.</p>   | <p>6 hours</p>            |
| <p><b>Day 2 (Tuesday)</b></p> <p>Suicide Prevention Revisited - 4 Hours</p> <p>STC # 15-8518</p>   | <p>The purpose of this course is to serve as an annual refresher course. This course will reinforce established knowledge in subject matter as well as update trainees in current changes (if any) in Title 15 - Minimum Standards for Detained Youth and Departmental Policies. This course will aid officers on the indicators and risk factors associated with suicide. Officers will also be refreshed on the appearances and behaviors consistent with youth who have made a choice to engage in self-harming and/or suicidal behaviors. Lastly, the course will highlight the department's suicide prevention program, including the ability to assess a youth's risk of suicide.</p>   | <p>4 hours</p>            |
| <p>Trauma and Resilience Foundations for Detention Settings - UCLA</p>   | <p>Trauma-and resilience-informed care is the foundation to sustainable work with adolescents in the juvenile justice system. This training is designed to encourage rich conversation and collaboration with individuals working in helping professions who are often exposed to events that have an impact on their wellbeing, including productivity, physical and emotional health.</p>   | <p>4 hours</p>            |
| <p><b>Day 3 (Wednesday)</b></p> <p>Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ)</p> <p>Recap and review mid-week</p> <p>STC # 09624752</p> | <p>The Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ) is designed to provide juvenile justice staff with basic information about adolescent development, the effects of experiencing child trauma, and behavioral health conditions commonly seen among youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. MHT-JJ training reviews effective interventions and services and highlights the important role of the family. In addition, the MHT-JJ seeks to provide participants with practical strategies for better interacting and communicating with youth in their care who are experiencing a mental or substance use disorder. This training is provided by and certified through the National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice.</p> | <p>7 hours<br/>1 hour</p> |

| Training Plan  | Course Description  | Course Hours   |
|--|---|----------------|
| <p><b>Day 4 (Thursday)</b></p> <p>Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting - 4 Hours</p> <p>STC # 15-44424</p>         | <p>The purpose of this course is to serve as an annual refresher course. This course will reinforce established knowledge in subject matter as well as update trainees in current changes in the state child abuse law (CANRA) and supporting departmental policies. This class will aid officers in determining the different types of reportable child abuse as well as identifying the various indicators of child abuse. This course will also cover mandated reporting procedures and highlight factors that potentially put a youth at a higher risk of child abuse.</p>  | <p>4 hours</p> |
| <p>Enhanced and Specialized Supervision Requirements for Juvenile Institutions - 4 Hours</p> <p>STC # 15-42064</p> | <p>The purpose of this course is to serve as an annual refresher course. This course will reinforce established knowledge in subject matter as well as update trainees in current changes (if any) in Title 15 - Minimum Standards for Detained Youth and Departmental Policies (DSB/ RTSB Manuals and Directives). This course will aid officers in distinguishing between the types of supervision provided by the department. It will also review supervision responsibilities for each level and type of care. Lastly, highlight important time constraints, documentation and procedures when supervising youth that require a higher level of care.</p> | <p>4 hours</p> |
| <p><b>Day 5 Friday</b></p> <p>HOPE Center Policy</p> <p>STC # 02743946</p>   | <p>This course is designed to review the revised HOPE Center policy. Students will be able to understand the policy and protocols of the HOPE center in the Detention Halls.</p>  | <p>4 hours</p> |
| <p>California Code of Regulations Title 15 Module 2</p> <p>STC # 05780368</p>                                      | <p>Title 15 Module Two explains policies and procedures relating to Grievances, Title 15 Programming, Discipline Process, and Behavior Management Program. In addition, completion of documentation related to each topic discussed will be reviewed.</p>   | <p>4 hours</p> |
| <p><b>Day 6 (Monday)</b></p> <p>Use of Force for Juvenile Institutions</p> <p>STC # 08159373</p>                   | <p>This course will review and discuss the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Use of Force Policy for the Institutions.</p>  | <p>8 hours</p> |

| Training Plan  | Course Description  | Course Hours   |
|--|---|----------------|
| <p><b>Day 7 (Tuesday)</b><br/>De-escalation for Institutional Settings<br/>STC # 05306458</p>        | <p>This course provides training on the use of force and considerations related to the use of force including legal standards, objectiveness, de-escalation, and the need to safeguard life, dignity, and liberty to all persons without prejudice to anyone.</p>   | <p>8 hours</p> |
| <p><b>Day 8 (Wednesday)</b><br/>Physical Intervention Training (Phase 1)<br/>STC # 05734938</p>      | <p>The purpose of this 16-hour STC Certified course is to introduce/review defensive tactic techniques. Day 1-Trainees will receive instructions on stance, movement and blocking techniques. In addition, trainees will learn control hold techniques with and without a partner to bring youth under control. Day 2-Trainees will return and refresh on day 1 techniques and lean personal weapon striking techniques. At the end of day 2, trainees will go through a scenario requiring them to make sound decisions and utilize learned techniques to bring situation under control.</p> | <p>8 hours</p> |
| <p><b>Day 9 (Thursday)</b><br/>Physical Intervention Training (Phase 1)<br/>STC # 05734938</p>       | <p>The purpose of this 16-hour STC Certified course is to introduce/review defensive tactic techniques. Day 1-Trainees will receive instructions on stance, movement and blocking techniques. In addition, trainees will learn control hold techniques with and without a partner to bring youth under control. Day 2-Trainees will return and refresh on day 1 techniques and lean personal weapon striking techniques. At the end of day 2, trainees will go through a scenario requiring them to make sound decisions and utilize learned techniques to bring situation under control.</p> | <p>8 hours</p> |
| <p><b>Day 10 (Friday)</b><br/>Physical Intervention Report Writing (P.I.R.W.)<br/>STC # 07376183</p> | <p>This course will provide a review of Los Angeles County Probation Department Mandatory Report Requirements guidelines related to the writing Physical/Supplemental Intervention Reports &amp; Special Incident Reports.</p>  | <p>8 Hours</p> |