



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 W. TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 864
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**



Thursday, July 25, 2019

10:00 AM

Present: Commission President Gardner, 1st Vice President Levine, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Seaver, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Yamashiro, Commissioner Shutan, Commissioner Swartz, Commissioner Butler, Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell, Deputy Director Luis Dominguez, Deputy Director Dalila Alcantara, Bureau Chief Mark Garcia,

Attachment: [Audio Transcript](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting was being recorded and asked that all identify themselves prior to making any statements.

1. Excused Absences: Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Martinez
2. Roll Call

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. Motion to approve March 28, 2019 meeting minutes was accepted.

III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT

4. **Detailed presentation by the Probation Department to the Commission on youth-on youth and youth-on-staff assaults and incident reports for Camps and Halls**

The Probation Department (Probation or Department) reported the following statistics from the first quarter to the second quarter of 2019 in the halls:

- An 8% increase in population,
- Data on gender
- Data on Ethnicity
- Distribution data
- 36% increase of youth-on-youth assaults
- 45% increase of youth-on-staff assaults.

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,

Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), – 2nd Vice President, Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms, Daniel Seaver, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq., Jacqueline Caster, Esq, Jo Kaplan Esq, Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan, Rev. Zachary Hoover, Randy Herbon, Gale Swartz

- A 74% increase in safe crisis management with the lowest level usage of physical intervention to resolve issues.
- Use of force statistics reflected the following: first quarter - 86% physical and 14% chemical and second quarter – 79% physical and 21% chemical.

Barry J Nidorf is reported to be the biggest contributor of assaults in the halls. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchel reported that additional staff reassigned (from Los Padrinos) to Barry J has contributed to a decrease in assaults in the month of July and hopes the trend continues. Probation is working with an evaluator to track/measure future use of force outcomes.

The Department reported the following statistics from the first quarter to the second quarter of 2019 in the camps:

- Data on population,
- Data on gender
- Data on Ethnicity
- Distribution data
- 12% increase of youth-on-youth assaults
- 75% increase of youth-on-staff assaults
- A 35% increase in safe crisis management with the lowest level usage of physical intervention to resolve issues.
- Use of force statistics reflected the following: first quarter - 76% physical and 3% chemical and second quarter – 78% physical and 2% chemical.

Deputy Director Dalila Alcantara reported that the Department is actively hosting townhall meetings and ramping up engagement with staff and youth.

The Commission expressed concern about the use of force statistics and how training to a draft policy could negatively impact the operations. The Department committed to only train staff once policy is finalized.

The Commission discussed the negative impact of consolidating both staff and youth into Barry J Nidorf.

Speaker(s): Sheila Mitchell, Probation Chief Deputy
Luis Dominguez, Probation Deputy Director
Mark Garcia, Probation Bureau Chief
Dalila Alcantara, Probation Deputy Director

Action Item(s): Probation to email Commission a copy of the Probation Department to the Commission on youth-on youth and youth-on-staff assaults and incident reports for Camps and Halls PowerPoint presentation.

Probation to provide Commission with updated use of force training policy and training materials once approved.

Probation to provide Commission with the Departments definition of assault.

5. Presentation from Probation Department regarding disaster preparedness at Camps and Halls.

Probation reported that all halls and camps update emergency plans annually in accordance with Title 15 and collaborate with the Fire Department to conduct inspections of all facilities.

The Department works in collaboration with the Countywide Emergency Management unit to enhance Building Emergency Coordinator trainings (active shooter, earthquake, fire, etc.). Probation is improving communication by participating in quarterly agency meetings and publishing quarterly newsletters. The Department intends to create a centralized full-time emergency response unit and is adding two positions to assist in its efforts.

The Commission expressed concerns about lengthy implementation times to its emergency response plans and address shortcomings. Probation acknowledges that the Department has areas of improvement but has learned from experiences from previous emergency response situations and has taken corrective action steps to improve.

Speaker(s): Sheila Mitchell, Probation Chief Deputy
Dalila Alcantara, Probation Deputy Director
Tom Faust, Probation Chief of Staff
James Johnson, Probation Management Services Bureau Manager

Action Item(s): Carrie Clark to inquire about distributing Woolsey Fire corrective action plan to the Commission.

Commission ad-hoc committee to write a resolution addressed to the Board of Supervisors to conduct a public hearing regarding emergency response situations.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information and conduct discussion relevant to Items #4 and #5

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

6. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest within the subject matter of the Commission. Three (3) minutes are allowed, per person, on each agenda and non-agenda item with a total of 15 minutes for public comments unless the Commission sets alternative limits or other allocations of time.**

Stacey Ford, Local 685 Board member, stated that the union will not sign off on the draft use of force policy as is stands. Mr. Ford specifically addressed the lack of consequences for youth when staff assaults occur. Mr. Ford suggested the Commission refer to San Diego County's use of force policy for guidance.

Speaker(s): Stacey Ford Local 685 Board member

Action Item(s): Stacey Ford to provide the Commission with contact information for San Diego Probation Department.

V. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

7. **Update from sub-committee regarding list of top seven priorities for the Probation Oversight Commission.**

No update available. Item tabled.

Action Item(s): James Johnson to provide the Commission with electronic copies of all hall/camp BCC requirement inspections (environmental, fire, public health, etc.) for each facility.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

8. **Discussion regarding impact of the closure of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Superior Court.**

Commission expressed concerns regarding the presiding judges of juvenile failure to respond to the request for rationale for the court closure, not complying to the government code, and not providing public comment period for stakeholders and the community. The Commission suggested that a resident in the geographical area sue the courts.

Action Item(s): No action items requested.

9. **Survey on completed Hall and Camp inspections**

The Commission discussed inspection assignments. Commissioner President reminded the Commission to document their visits and submit reports.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information and conduct discussion relevant to Items 8 and 9

VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES

The Commission discussed the removal of signs stating "No Physical Contact Zones" to avoid influx of contraband. The Commission is concerned with the message it sends to clients and their families.

Action Item(s): The Commission suggested providing visitors with trauma informed training to include the negative impact of bringing in contraband.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

RTSA 2019 Celebration of Learning on Aug 2, 2019 – LACOE – L.A. Mission. Graduation announcements will be emailed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.