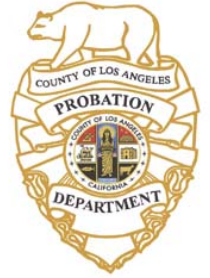




**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION  
HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, Room 830  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, 90012**



**Thursday, January 9, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Seaver, Commissioner Levine 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Butler 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Shutan, Commissioner Swartz, Chief Terri McDonald, Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell, Chief Deputy Brandon Nichols

**Attachment:** [Audio Transcript](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order. President Gardner 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:
2. Roll Call

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3. The following meeting minutes were approved:

- April 25, 2019
- July 25, 2019
- November 14, 2019
- December 12, 2019

4. **Annual election of Commission Officers.**

County Counsel described the duties of each officer within the Probation Commission bylaws. The Commission voted unanimously to elect the following Commission officers:

- President: Joe Gardner
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Jan Levine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Gale Swartz

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**Commissioners**

Joe Gardner-President,

Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take vote and action relevant to Items 3 and 4.**

### **III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

5. Continuation of the Department's November 14, 2019 presentation regarding the Transformative Career Institute to be opened at the former site of Camp Gonzales to answer the following:
- Will Probation be the County Department responsible for overseeing this new multi-million-dollar program?
  - Will this program involve young adults not subject to Probation jurisdiction?
  - What will be the cost per participant?
  - How much of that will come from Probation funds?
  - What accounts will those funds come from?
  - What are the committed sources of funding and in what amounts?
  - What are the criteria for enrollment?
  - What is the background, expertise, and track record of the CBO in charge running this residential treatment program? (Is there a CBO identified to run the facility day to day? Who is it?)
  - What will the staffing levels be for 30 adults per 6-month session?
  - What are the identified outcomes? How will data be tracked?

The Commission expressed concerns about the Board of Supervisors (Board) voiding the outstanding contract with New Earth on January 7, 2020. The Department is actively looking for a new service provider but will continue to with the program.

Chief Probation Officer Terri McDonald introduced Ray Leyva, Interim Chief and provided an overview of Camp Gonzales. Chief McDonald explained that camp consolidation was based on client population and staff location. The Board of Supervisors (SD 1 and 3) directed the Probation Department (Probation or Department) to repurpose unused facilities due to the downward trajectory of young people in detention.

Camp Gonzales is being transformed into a transitional residential vocational training center that will provide opportunity for at risk males ages of 18-25 non-detention.

LA Trade technical institute, a non-profit, and junior colleges to provide services which will be funded by AB 109, Office of Diversion and Re-entry, Department of Mental Health, Department of Children and Family Services, and Workforce Development, Aging, Community Services.

The program will provide a wraparound service center to 60 participants at a time. Internal Services Department, Department of Human Resources, Public Works are also partnering to provide living wage job opportunities to graduates of the six-month program. The Ahmanson foundation donated 900 thousand to pay for construction renovations.

Chief McDonald presented a slideshow with projected plans for Camp Gonzales and discussed plans to roll out a similar program at Challenger. Brandon Nichols, Probation Chief Deputy will oversee these projects going forward.

The Commission expressed concerns about these programs creating a distraction from focusing on youth in custody and its mission. Chief McDonald stated that the wellness of the County's citizens is the priority of both the Board and Probation. These facilities are intended to find alternate pathways; the solution is not a singular approach.

**Speaker(s):** Terri McDonald, Chief Probation Officer

**Action Item(s):** Probation to provide Commission with Camp Gonzales overview PowerPoint presentation.

Commission to add agenda item regarding the restructuring our juvenile justice system to a health focused model.

**6. Status or update regarding a search for a new chief.**

Item tabled.

**7. Status of the Board of Supervisors Motion passed on August 13th about restructuring our juvenile justice system to a health focused model.**

Item tabled for Ms. Mitchell to present.

**8. Response from the Probation Department regarding inspection of Camp Afflerbaugh on September 24, 2019.**

The Commission is concerned with the dwindling of programming (fire training and culinary certifications). The Department provided an overview of various educational programs provided at Camp Afflerbaugh. Successful programs include urban strategies, conflict resolution, sports/tournaments, religious services.

Probation is creating an action plan based on the foundation of the youth in custody practice model to provide treatment while in custody and re-entry to be implemented within 2-3 months. Programs include Department of Public Health substance abuse prevention, gang reduction, credible messengers, behavioral cognition, and library STEM projects.

The Commission expressed concerns about staffing shortages after closures. The Department stated that an FMLA/Return to Work task force committee have been established to find staffing shortage solutions.

**Speaker(s):** Dalila Alcantara, Probation Deputy Director  
Jennifer Kaufman, Probation Bureau Chief  
Bertha Mendez, Probation Director

**Action Item(s):** Probation to provide the Commission with written response by end of business on January 9, 2020.

Probation to provide progress report regarding programing in three-months.

Commission to agendize overtime report and FMLA issues.

Probation to provide the Commission with a copy of quarterly newsletter.

**9. Response from the Probation Department regarding inspection of Camp Rockey on November 11, 2019.**

Item tabled until Probation provides a written response. To be discussed at February 13, 2020 meeting.

**10. Update from the Probation Department on evacuation and emergency transportation plans.**

Item tabled until Probation provides a written response.

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Items 5 through 10**

**IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

**11 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**

Eduardo Mundo, retired Probation employee spoke to the positive changes taking place in the field due to the new leadership and commended the Department for their improvement efforts.

**Speaker(s):** Eduardo Mundo, member of the public.

**V. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**12. Status on overdue inspection reports.**

Missing reports: Nidorf, Central, and Kirby

**Action Item(s):** Commissioners with pending reports to submit to Commissioner President Joe Gardner ASAP.

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Item 12**

**VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES**

13. **Board of Supervisors Motion, January 7, 2020 titled “Next Steps to Create the Probation Oversight Commission.”**

Informational item only.

14. **Board of Supervisors Motion, January 7, 2020 titled “Next Steps to Strengthen and Modify the Role of the Inspector General.”**

Informational item only.

15. **Board of Supervisors appointment of interim Chief Probation Officer.**

Informational item only.

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Items 13, 14, and 15**

16. **Discussion regarding proposed topics for next meeting, scheduled for January 23, 2020.**

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

17. **January 23rd Meetings will be held at L.A. Co. Probation Training Center, Classroom 6, 3300 Sandoval Ave, Pico Rivera, CA 90660**

Everychild Foundation donated their 20<sup>th</sup> grant to Homeboy Industries for a new youth re-entry center in Boyle Heights. Grand opening dedication to take place on March 18, 2020. More details to follow.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.