



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION TRAINING CENTER**



**WebEx On-line Session
Thursday, August 27, 2020**

10:00 AM

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Levine 1st Vice President, Commissioner Swartz 2nd Vice President, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Shutan, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Zia, Commissioner Butler, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Seaver, Tom Faust, Adam Bettino, Ronald Barrett, Anna Garcia, Jessica Ayala, and Ivon Garcia

Attachment: [Video Transcript](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commission President Joe Gardner gave the floor to Anna Garcia for a brief announcement. Anna introduced Probation Department (Probation or Department) employee from Communications and Public Relations, Ivon Garcia, as newly appointed administrative support for the Commission. The Commission thanked Anna Garcia for her service and welcomed Ivon.

Commission President Joe Gardner thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting, welcomed all and called the meeting to order. President Gardner announced that meetings are recorded and asked that everyone identify themselves prior to addressing the Commission.

1. Excused Absences: None
2. Roll Call

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. The following meeting minutes were approved:
 - July 23, 2020
 - August 13, 2020

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

III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT

4. Update from Department leadership regarding current conditions in juvenile halls and camps including brief overview of service kiosks accessible to youth in camps.

Tom Faust, Acting Chief Deputy, shared that executive managers are attending a wildland fire management training to prepare for fire season. Adam Bettino, Professional Accountability Bureau Chief, discussed training schedules, will add new trainings as they become available, and distribute an updated calendar on a monthly basis.

The Commission inquired about block training and expressed concerns about how the Probation Department will carry out state required training at the camps and field offices such as de-escalation and attempted suicide training. Probation responded that it is difficult to know how often training will be conducted in person versus virtually; there are no hall trainings currently scheduled.

There is an upcoming Department of Justice settlement agreement in draft form. The agreement details include training and policy specifically related to Detention Services Bureau (DSB) such as de-escalation, use of force, and adolescent development. Once the agreement is finalized the Department will develop an implementation schedule. It will take some time to implement and train 1000+ detention services workers.

The Commission expressed interest in trauma informed juvenile justice training being utilized as a priority to prevent use of force and inappropriate behavior that set off youth.

Probation is tasked with implementing state mandated training to 3600 sworn staff on an annual basis; some of which is dictated and some selected at the Department's discretion. Staff assigned to the field and institutions have received trauma informed care training (TIC) part A, but still need part B. Probation's vision is to embed TIC training in the Department as part of who the agency/organization is. The active rollout of this training will be done incrementally so that TIC training is at the forefront, threaded throughout all the curriculum and embedded in the Department's culture.

The Commission inquired if staff are provided training by supervisors. Probation stated that certified staff train on specific areas; a training academy for Senior Detention Service Officers (SDSO) is in development and will be implemented in the next couple weeks. The Commission was pleased about the departments approach to changing the current culture and manage expectations.

The Commission inquired how new recruits will handle resistance encountered by the old guard regarding implementation of TIC. The Department is communicating expectations of what the job actually entails early on and senior staff are to play more of a mentor role to incoming staff. Senior staff are also accountable for leaving the old way behind and adopting the TIC model.

The Commission recommended a channel or platform where staff can report opposition of the TIC model by senior staff. Probation is working towards a resolution.

Action Item(s): Adam Bettino to provide Commission with block week and the Juvenile Corrections Officer Core training schedules.

Commission requested quarterly training updates, SDSO academy execution plan, notification when training classes are conducted so Commissioners can partake.

5. Trailing agenda item continued from previous meeting to be addressed as the Probation Department obtains more information. These items will be in future agendas.
- Budgetary cuts by percentage
 - Where would cuts be made?
 - Freezing positions?
 - Freezing programs?
 - Delayed procurements?
 - The impacts of transition of DJJ custody services to the supervision of LA County.
 - a. Public Safety Concerns (DJJ ages goes to age 25)
 - b. Custody management (Need to increase training from current BCSC Juvenile Core Course?)
 - c. Field Supervision (Similar to how PCRS/AB109 is done or like currently done by Juvenile Field Services?)
 - d. Fiscal Impact (any state reimbursement? Cost to county? Revenue source?)
 - e. Facility needs (Upgrades for handling a higher risk population)
 - f. Anticipated numbers - 70+- as stated by Deputy Director Cotton on 6-11-2020
 - g. Types of offenses (Usually very serious felony crimes)
 - h. Mental Health issues
 - i. Alternatives to incarceration
 - SB 889 (Proposed legislation changing minors to youth)
 - a. Makes Juvenile prosecution and juvenile 19 and under
 - b. How to use facilities to keep 18+ separate from those 17 and under
 - c. Fiscal Impact due to adding 18 and 19-year-old the Juvenile System, (any state reimbursement? Cost to county? Revenue source?)
 - Education planning for new arrivals from DJJ - high school diplomas for those who have not gotten already; college courses for others.
 - Community service providers that they are working with to provide services both within the facilities, and once youth are released:
 - a. Job training/placement.
 - b. Mental health support.
 - c. Drug and alcohol support.
 - d. General re-entry preparation.
 - Family counseling

Trailing agenda item continued from previous meeting to be addressed as the Probation Department obtains more information; these items will be on future agendas.

Mr. Faust informed the Commission that staff are mandated and reminded to wear masks. Executive leadership have been very clear in communicating that failure to comply will result in disciplinary action. Weekly meetings (held every Tuesday) with the Unions focus around COVID issues.

The Commission inquired about the availability of masks for staff. The Department indicated that there are enough masks to distribute to both staff and youth.

Action Item(s): Commission to request facility inspections from DPH

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion, and take possible action 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 allocation of time.

No public comments were submitted.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to item 9.

BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES

7. President Gardner contacted the Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding COVID 19 testing and screening recommendations and protocols for institutions to clarify whether the Probation Department is following those protocols. More details from the DPH will be shared as they become available.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding proposed topics for September 10, 2020:

- Inconsistent field staff deployment, determining factors, approach, policies.
- Inquiry to interview staff at facilities/area offices regarding COVID protocols and enforcement.
- Labor union bulletin concerns and personal protective equipment.
- Request for vendor pricing cuts.

- Probation's plan for incoming DJJ clients.
- Discipline cases of employees who refuse to wear masks.
- Annual cost per youth.
- Sheila Mitchell to provide information regarding DJJ transfer.
- Inquiry about youth assaulted during fire not moved from facility. County Counsel advised that if there is a lawsuit/investigation pending, the Department cannot comment.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to NEW BUSINESS and proposed topics next meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Townhall for the search of the new Chief Probation Officer.
- September 10, 2020 meeting will be held virtually.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.