

Weekly Update: February 06, 2026

Court Hearings

At the February 6th hearing before Judge Michael Espinoza in Inglewood, the Los Angeles County Probation Department provided an update on its court-approved depopulation plan, including the current population and staffing status at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Chief Viera Rosa said that progress has been made, but also emphasized additional work remains. He also stated the Department continues to work on the depopulation plan as well as collaborate with the Board of State and Community Corrections on facility suitability challenges.

During the hearing, the Court ordered Probation to continue to regularly confer with county and community partners to ensure compliance with the Individualized Treatment (IT) settlement. The Court also directed Probation to remain in close collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and other partners to continue building a robust system of mental health services for youth, including through the development of secure and suitable placement options.

Judge Espinoza emphasized that Probation is expected to continue implementing its depopulation plan and to provide updated timelines and benchmarks.

The Department remains fully committed to addressing the issues outlined by the Court, including access, transportation to parents for visiting purposes, and the expansion of mental health resources. This includes continued collaboration with County departments and community-based partners to strengthen wraparound services both within facilities and in the community, with the goal of supporting youth, families, and long-term positive outcomes.

A return court date will be set following the submission of required reports.

Probation is scheduled to appear before the court for the continuance of the receivership hearing on Feb. 19, 2026.

CHIEF VIERA-ROSA AND COMMUNITY PARTNER PRESENT AT THIS WEEK'S LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MEETING

This week, Probation Chief Viera-Rosa appeared before the LA County Board of Supervisors to give an update on the Los Padrinos depopulation plan and where things currently stand.

On the day of the meeting, Los Padrinos housed 225 youth, all males. Chief Viera-Rosa explained how youth are now being distributed across facilities. Barry J. Nidorf is housing male pre-disposition youth and those in the long-term Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Dorothy Kirby Center is serving males with higher needs. All female and gender expansive youth have been moved to Campus Kilpatrick, and the Chief shared the timeline for those transitions.

Supervisors Horvath and Solis acknowledged the department's progress, specifically recognizing the completion of these moves and the focus on diverting female youth to more appropriate housing options.

Supervisor Horvath also raised questions about a recent disturbance at Campus Kilpatrick where OC spray was used. She asked whether staffing levels may have contributed to the incident. Chief Viera-Rosa responded that the use of OC spray at Campus Kilpatrick does not align with department policy. He confirmed that the employee involved is currently under investigation and not working. He emphasized that when staff actions fall outside policy, accountability and discipline follow. He also clarified that Campus Kilpatrick exceeds required staffing levels and that staff assigned there volunteered for those positions.

Looking ahead, Chief Viera-Rosa shared his vision for the future. He hopes the department can replicate Campus Kilpatrick's model at other facilities, creating smaller, family-like settings that better support youth both inside the facility and once they return to the community. He also noted that the final transition of developmentally disabled male youth to Dorothy Kirby Center is expected soon, which will further reduce the population at Los Padrinos.

The Chief reminded the Board that the depopulation plan does not change Probation's legal authority regarding youth release, nor does the department control arrests that occur in the community. Even so, he stressed that the department's focus remains on lowering youth populations and strengthening prevention efforts in partnership with other agencies.

Director Carroll from the Department of Youth Development addressed questions related to community-based housing options. He explained that while there are organizations ready to help divert youth from juvenile hall, funding remains a major challenge. He shared that judges have been using the RAY program as an alternative to detention, with three female youth currently placed in supportive housing. He also noted the department's long-term goal of opening its own safe healing center.

When it comes to programming, Chief Viera-Rosa said the department is prioritizing impact over volume. The goal is to ensure youth have access to programs that truly make a

difference. Supervisor Hahn echoed that point, saying she would like to see additional programming focused on violence prevention.

Supervisors Solis and Mitchell also commended the department's progress. Supervisor Solis specifically recognized staff for their work to keep pregnant youth out of detention facilities. Supervisor Mitchell expressed her hope that the department continues moving in this direction.

Chief Viera-Rosa closed by saying his aim is to create lasting, institutional change, not reforms that depend on who happens to be in leadership at the time.

[Click here](#) to watch Chief Viera-Rosa's presentation.

Ongoing Communication

Parents and guardians can continue to email Los Padrinos Facility Family Liaisons at LPFamilyLiaison@probation.lacounty.gov. For general questions, you can also email LPTransition@probation.lacounty.gov. Parents can also email the Ombudsman at PROB-Ombudsman@probation.lacounty.gov. Families are also encouraged to sign up for probation updates on our website or by scanning the provided QR code.



PROBATION MOBILE RESOURCE CENTER (MRC)

Effective October 1, the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Santa Monica and Valencia Area Offices are permanently closed. Clients who previously reported to these locations will be contacted directly with updated reporting instructions. For assistance, please call (866) 931-2222.

The MRC offers information and resources for clients and Los Angeles County residents.

