

Weekly Update: February 20, 2026

Court Hearings

On February 18th and 19th, Chief Viera-Rosa appeared at the receivership hearing. He testified to regarding the department's disability management, Internal Affairs, employee attendance, facility scheduling systems, employee discipline, Los Padrinos depopulation plan, and programming.

Hearing continued to February 27th.

PROBATION MANAGERS PRESENT AT PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

On Feb. 18, Probation managers presented at a special meeting of the Probation Oversight Commission.

Probation Directors Lyles and Cuevas, alongside the Public Defender's Office, provided an overview of the Department's role in the transfer of youth from the juvenile system to the adult system. The presentation covered the use of transfer petitions to adult court, the process for filing new petitions in adult court for youth over age 18, transfers to adult custody under Welfare and Institutions Code 208.5, the average length of stay for youth facing transfer motions, and policies regarding new charges.

Probation Senior Director and the Los Angeles County Office of Education presented on two recent Board of Supervisors motions focused on reducing suspensions and expanding post-secondary education services in juvenile court schools located within Probation facilities.

Acting Probation Director Esparza, Senior Director Corral, representatives from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, and Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services outlined collaborative efforts to prevent drugs from entering detention facilities. The group discussed harm reduction strategies, including Narcan and Medically Assisted Treatment, education and programming related to substance use, and policies governing Narcan access for officers, partner agencies, and community-based organizations.

Presenters also addressed why some facilities currently do not have Narcan, plans to remedy those gaps, data on suspected intoxication incidents compared to prior years, trends in contraband interdiction, and the impact of K9 units, airport style screening

technology, CCTV, and other security measures. The presentation concluded with an overview of contracted service providers and how program outcomes are measured.

[Click here](#) to watch the 2-18-26 Probation Oversight Commission meeting.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION PARTNERS WITH “MOBILE TATTOO REMOVAL EXPERTS” AT LOS PADRINOS AND BARRY J. NIDORF

The Los Angeles County Probation Department is partnering with “Mobile Tattoo Removal Experts” to offer free laser tattoo removal for youth at Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf. Launching February 19 and held weekly, the program supports youth with court-ordered removal and volunteers. Sessions last 5–10 minutes, with full removal typically completed in 7–12 treatments.

More than 50 youth joined the first session, taking meaningful steps toward a fresh start. “Having my tattoos removed will open more doors for me,” shared a youth. “It means a lot to me.”



PROBATION ROUNDUPS

On February 10, 2026, the Los Angeles County Probation Department’s North County Specialized Enforcement Operations team, along with the K9 Unit, conducted a compliance check at a residence in Palmdale.

During a search of the probationer's bedroom, officers recovered a loaded 9mm Sig Sauer handgun, approximately 270 grams of suspected methamphetamine, about three pounds of suspected marijuana, a folding knife, and a handcuff key. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Palmdale Station assisted with evidence collection.

On February 17, 2026, probation officers and LASD deputies conducted a follow up operation and took the probationer into custody without incident.



On 2/19/26, Los Angeles County Probation Dept. Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) conducted a Probation Search in Long Beach, the probationer is on AB109 for possession of a firearm and is an active gang member. During the Probation Search, a stolen firearm and multiple rounds of ammunition were recovered from the residence. The probationer was arrested for 29800(a)(1) PC- Felon in possession of a firearm and for violation of Probation (PRCS).



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. Follow us on all social media platforms @LACProbation to find out the location where the MRC will be parked in LA County.

