



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION**
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY – CALIFORNIA 90242
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, June 9, 2016, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, room 743, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. President Gardner called the meeting to order at 10: 20 a.m. He informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting was being recorded for purposes of increasing accuracy of the minutes. He asked that all identify themselves prior to any statements,

The following Commissioners were present:

1st Vice President Levine
2nd Vice President Hollopeter
3rd Vice President Seaver
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Kaplan

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Holt
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Hoover

The following staff and guests were present:

Dennis Carroll, Bureau Chief, DSB
Michelle Soto, Special Assistant, DSB
Dominic Gonzalez, Probation
Diane Murua, Probation
Vicki Kozikoujekian, County Counsel
Michelle Newell, BOS, Second District
Natasha Kamashian, Public Defender's Office

Scott Saunders, Consultant, DSB
Aaron Broom, Probation
Patricia Rodriguez, Probation
Monica Garcia, Probation
Edwin Lewis, County Counsel

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,

Jan Levine-1st Vice President, Clayton Hollopeter-2nd Vice President, Daniel Seaver-3rd Vice President,
Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq.,
Fitzgerald Jones, Gabriella Holt, R.N. E.J.D. Jacqueline Caster, Esq, Jo Kaplan Esq,
Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan, Zachary Hoover, Betsy Butler

II. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARMENT UPDATE

Bureau Chief Dennis Carroll shares update on Board Motion on Solitary Confinement. As directed, at Central Juvenile Hall the **Special Handling Unit** was eliminated as of May 30, 2016. The Hope Center now exists if any youth is experiencing challenges in their living areas. Wellness Centers have been staffed by Dept. of Mental Health. LSL or- Life Skill Lessons are offered to the youth. These are one hour sessions. They rely on the principles of Restorative Justice. Commissioner Martinez has visited with Justice Deputy Sherry Gold, Third District. These changes have been good for staff too, as they are invested in the success of the unit. "Mini Hope Centers" are envisioned for all units. Once a youth arrives at the Hope Center, it is possible that a youth may be invited back for subsequent appointments.

Bureau Chief Carroll is optimistic that these changes are long lasting and invites commissioners to give suggestions and help create the new culture.

Commissioner Kaplan validated Bureau Chief Carroll comments that Hall leadership and staff think the changes are good. She asked how Dept. of Mental Health was involved and how will staff be on boarded? BC responded that before a youth is housed at the Hope Center, there is consultation with Dept. of Mental Health staff. Mental health is housed in the Hope Center. George Martinez is the Mental Health lead.

Staff will be interviewed and selection is happening. All staff and students have visited Hope Center as an orientation. Centinela Youth Services are training on Restorative Justice; Aggression Replacement Training started; Dialectical Behavior Therapy training by Brad Beach is also continuing.

Commissioner Kaplan asks for an update from Residential Treatment Services Bureau regarding the Hope Center.

Commissioner Seaver requested the schedule for all training as he feels urgency and wonders about how the Department assesses what is effective.

Bureau Chief Carroll shared that a complete change is needed among staff. The Hope Center and trainings will be accelerated to reach all juvenile halls. The intention is to help youth think about their actions and the impact of same. He even wants to create a "Hope Mobile Team" – that will go to every unit to assist the change in culture. He also informed that Restorative Justice Practices are being learned and developing.

Commissioner Caster was pleased that Centinela Youth Services was included in this work. She wanted to know 1) If the victim & offender were included in the intervention 2) Who is collecting the data on restorative justice. 3) Who is the person responsible for data management? 4) can the commission see the data collection and tracking at a future meeting? 5) Are parents being involved and are they learning about the work at the Hope Center?

Bureau Chief Carol advised that yes the victim and offender were both involved in the restorative justice efforts. He shared that staff was collecting data and would be analyzing. Since May 30, 11 youth have gone to Hope Center.

Commissioner Seaver commended Bureau Chief Carroll and the changes that he is undertaking. He wondered what the limitations of the Hope Center were and under what conditions would staff feel they would need to do something else. Bureau Chief Carroll acknowledged that staff had the same question. Example, if ten youth engaged in a fight. Youth would need to be put in a room, or sent to a different unit until the staff has collected the information to determine what actually occurred. Then youth will be supported through the Hope Center if they are ready for that.

Commissioner Seaver inquired about the response to a youth acting out in a violent way. Bureau Chief Carroll responds that if a youth is attacking staff then a locked room is necessary for some period but the intention is not to have the youth isolated for hours. There may be a case where door is open or where a staff is outside the door. The youth may need to go to another unit. Then the youth would go to the Hope Center to give that child something to deal with.

Bureau Chief Carroll reiterated that there has been a change in mindset and there has been no incident that was beyond capacity of Hope Center staff to handle a situation. His policy is that Bureau Chief Carroll needs to be informed if there is a need to use an individual locked room at the hall.

Commissioner Seaver stated that he had an outstanding request for information about use of Special Handling Unit comparable to what Residential Treatment Services Bureau has and therefore there is no way to compare before and after impact of the Hope Center. Bureau Chief Carroll asked that Mr. Sanders provide 3 to 6 months of past records. Bureau Chief Carroll also requested that daily reports be shared w commission members. He also agreed to provide an update on the Hope Center work on July 14, 2016 to share update.

Commissioner Caster asks that new training be offered through the academy. Bureau Chief Carroll embraced the ideas as a valuable one. In addition, he informs that the current new training cohort will receive additional training before going into halls. Eventually, they will get the Hope Center training in the academy and in the hall.

Commissioner Seaver had questions regarding funding allocated for training and where the source was. Bureau Chief Carroll establishes that there are adequate resources for training and it is renewed every year.

Commissioner Kaplan commended the changes and expressed great optimism regarding this work. She identified the need to look for trends and incidents on weekends with respect to using Special Handling Unit. Bureau Chief Carroll agrees that patterns are training issues which takes him to the supervisor which he is doing. We need to look at every staff person's strength and areas of growth and talk about how to support them. He plans to do this level of staff review with superintendents at staff meetings. He also shared that the bargaining units are on board with the new direction.

With respect to the sign changes, Mr. Sanders confirmed that signs were upgraded.

With respect to **the grievance incidents** and process the Commission was informed that Ms. Gama was scheduled to present on July 28, 2016. Commissioner Kaplan

acknowledged that the specific incidents that were referenced were so long ago. Mr. Sanders reported that both cases with minors were recalled and identified. One youth did not have any outstanding grievances and that was confirmed with the Director that oversees the process. . With respect to second case which was a transgender child as identified by Commission Caster. Mr. Sanders reported that indeed in a short period of time 5 or 6 grievances were filed by said youth. Mr. Sanders consulted with Superintendent McCovey who addressed issues directly with the child. From the Department lens these concerns were updated and resolved. The concerns included nutritional needs and calorie limits as well as the closer of the CARE Unit. Mr. Sanders recalled those issues were updated at the Commission previously. One issue is that grievances were addressed but not documented. Now there is better follow up.

Commissioner Caster recalled making a request for a comprehensive study of the Grievance study to JDAI Standards/ best practice and welcomes discussion at a future meeting. She would like to know about the how they are tracking and responding to hang ups and missed calls on the ombudsman's phone line and whether or not the signs in the halls and camps have been changed to the "helpline" from "the ombudsman line" as she understood had been agreed upon at a prior meeting. This item was tabled until July 28 when Ms. Gama will be before the commission.

Commissioner Meredith suggested that Commissioners provide questions in advance of presentations from staff in order to maximize effectiveness of the conversation and purpose of the discussion. Commissioner Gardner suggests sending all question regarding agenda topics to Monica Garcia before the meeting to allow staff to prepare.

Central Juvenile Hall Conditions with Commissioner Martinez reported on his visit with Denise Carroll. He recommends visiting all the Hope Centers. At Central Juvenile Hall, there are high risk minors, will some youth get more time in Hope Center than others. Bureau Chief Carroll repeats that those assessments will be on a case by case basis, sometimes one hour is not enough and will need more time. On July 2, 2016 Commissioner Martinez will be visiting Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Commissioner Kaplan recommends more unannounced visits.

Commissioner Kaplan re-iterated the request that Probation Commissioners would like to be informed of notice of significant incidents, much like the management level information, prior to learning about them in the media. Bureau Chief Carroll will explore what is available and possible for distribution to Commission. He will discuss with Chief Remington.

A discussion of incidents in the news have prompted the Commissioners to desire greater appropriate levels of information. There was an incident in April at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall that came to light in May. Commissioner Kaplan requested a "broad brush" report back regarding the investigation re employees being placed on administrative leave as soon as possible. She reports allegations around the incident points to more training needed.

Commissioner Seaver requests to table issues around the Capital Program Investments for the Department. The issue is related to whether or not camps will close.

Following up on a concern of Commissioner Levin regarding **Aftercare in the Halls**, Bureau Chief Carroll informed all that Aftercare in Halls is mostly organized through the Family Resource Centers (FRC) service where youth and family can be addressed as they leave. He wants the FRC to engage youth and families and their services for youth while they are in the Hall. He invited the Commissioners to provide him suggestions about creating a “warm handoff” in order to have the family speak to a “case worker” type person. Even though stays are shorter, Commissioner Levine would like to see dedicated Detention Services Officer or case worker to support the process. Again, Bureau Chief Carroll invites the Commissioners to assist and support in developing a creative process to connect the field officer and the experience in hall. Commissioner Levine will lead effort with Bureau Chief Carroll to create an improved process. There were no additional questions received and this matter is considered completed

Commissioner Jones expressed a desire to have been able to provide feedback on the Aftercare Manual developed for Residential Treatment Services Bureau in August 2014. He strongly supports a comprehensive approach to support success in school by increasing tutoring and other services. He understands interest in going to comprehensive schools but recognizes some kids need alternatives and smaller settings. He expresses great concern that reading levels are not on grade level and recommends tutoring be part of re-entry. He supports re-entry youth being supported with check in every 2 weeks instead of 30, 60 and 90 days. He also surfaces need to have summer programming when youth are released at the beginning of summer. Jesus Corral, Director of Education Services is scheduled to present to the Commission on July 28.

Commissioner Caster had questions related to an article in the media re appropriate expenditure of **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds** given a large balance. A report back was provided on JJCPA by Monica Garcia. A memorandum was provided by the Department with clarifying information regarding account balance, methodology used to determine balance and to reconcile & explain the figures. Important to know that all budgets are approved by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) which the Chief of Probation chairs.

Approximately \$21.4 million was accumulated from FY 2009-10 to FY 2014-15. The Dept. also provided a spending plan for allocation of those one- time only funds: In Jan. 2015, \$8 million was approved for the expansion of the New Directions Diversion Program. In Jan. 2016, \$5 million was allocated to the Board of Supervisors and \$300,000 was approved for the evaluation. In April 2016, \$8 million was allocated to the following: \$2 million for Direct to you (employment), \$4.5 million to CBO Contracts, \$1.3 million for governmental agencies and \$200,000 for evaluation. Additionally, a process has been developed to address surpluses immediately.

A spreadsheet identifying all groups that are part of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act was made available with a paragraph about the kinds of services offered. This document will be emailed to all Commissioners. Commissioner Butler requested the amount of the allocation for the FY 15-16 and amounts allocated to each organization. Commissioner Caster requested the budget for New Directions and the date of the next

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meeting. A Commissioner asked to be able to see the evaluation of the program. Commissioner Kaplan asked that that information be provided at the meeting of June 23, 2016.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Bureau Chief Carroll invites Commissioners to join the meeting with his superintendents and be part of projects. Probation Housekeeping Inspections and Meetings will be held and Commissioners are welcome to meet the leadership of halls and provide suggestions/ concerns. Emails will be sent to inform Commissioners of opportunities. Brainstorming occurs about how to follow Guidelines of the Brown Act. An AdHoc committee was formed comprised of Commissioners Gardner, Seaver, Mitchell, Levine and Hollopeter and they will report back to the group. Commissioner Seaver encourages all to engage to help develop policies. Commissioner Gardner states membership will alternate every quarter to allow all who want to, to participate.

Commissioner Gardner reminds all that the Monthly Recap is being sent to all Justice Deputies. He appreciated all Commissioners engaging in sending their activities.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Yamashiro requested a briefing by the traffic court or the superior court as to the impact of the absence of the informal traffic court and the impact on youth.

Commissioner Caster wants clarification about the timing of notices regarding incidents and if it will be prior to public notice of information. Monica Garcia will get clarification from BC Carroll.

V. COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORTS

There is a report from Camp Rockey that was sent via email. It will be discussed at a later meeting. Commissioner Gardner informs all that inspection reports will go to a special folder. Commissioner Levine and Commissioner Yamishiro made one report and Commissioner Gardner confirms receipt.

VI. COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

Commissioner Seaver asks that Michelle Newell, Justice Deputy of the Second District update the Commission on the Transportation Initiative. She shared that while the project is in the investigation stage, there has been a meeting with Probation regarding creating options for public transportation to juvenile halls. There is a desire to explore and request for analysis has been made of Metro. Assessments and next steps will be coming and will be shared with Commissioners. All is preliminary, Commissioner Seaver acknowledges that it was very helpful to have the Second District engage.

Commissioner Meredith shared the invitation from the oversight committee to hear a presentation from the Probation Commission: oversight, legal authorizes, roles and expectations. The date is August 17 at 1 pm for the presentation.

Commissioner Meredith reminds all that the Probation Commission is responsible for Adult and Juvenile issues although the Commission currently focuses a lot of time on Juvenile. All minutes are posted on their website. Commissioners are asked to advise. President Gardner is still working on an inspection template and a plan to review bylaw for updating.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fair Chance Initiative
- Fire Camp 17 Graduation at Camp Paige at 1 p.m. on June 29
- Probation Week is July 17-23
- Academic Bowl is at the Autry June 10 at 8:30 am
- Supervisor Corps Graduation will be held on June 16 at 1 p.m.

Commissioner Seaver has noted that the meeting began late and reminds all that if the meeting starts on time all can use time effectively.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – no public comment

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Seaver moved to adjourn the meeting. His motion was seconded by Commissioner Meredith the motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.