



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY – CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2016

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, June 23, 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 10:05 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:

2nd Vice President Hollopeter
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Yamashiro

3rd Vice President Seaver
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Hoover

The following Commissioners were excused:

1st Vice President Levine
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Kaplan

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Holt
Commissioner Martinez

The following staff and guests were present:

Dave Mitchell, Bureau Chief, RTSB
Diane Murua, Probation Department
Monica Garcia, Probation Department
Alex Espinoza, County Counsel
Natasha Kamashian, Public Defender's Office
Cookie Lommel, Local 685 Representative
Cynthia Hernandez, OIM, Probation Department
Abby Sewell, LA Times

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. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 14, 2016 were available for review. President Gardner stated they will be considered for approval at the meeting of July 14, 2016.

III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Bureau Chief Dave Mitchell inquired about the process to be advised about items on the agenda. Commissioner Gardner advised that Monica Garcia was designated by the Department to coordinate requests from Commissioners, responses from staff and communication in preparation for Commission meetings. Any clarifying questions can be directed to Monica Garcia for follow up.

Commissioner Yamishiro expressed a desire for the Department Update standing item to be a placeholder for any updates from the Department that are noteworthy. The Commission prefers to be informed by the Department about any current events, projects, incidents that may be made public or are known to be emerging in the media.

Commissioner Seaver encouraged Department leadership to reach out to the Commission President with recommendation on items that could be added to the agenda.

Update from Bureau Chief Mitchell began with **Capital Projects**. He informed the Commission that the Kilpatrick modernization is on schedule and expectations are high that it will be finished on time. He shared that the concept is to move to a "center v. camp." Bureau Chief Mitchell explained that the facility will no longer be called a "Camp" to signify a break with the past. It is not known yet what the new title will be. Commissioner Caster inquired if all the other camps will have their titles changed too as they are converted to the LA Model facilities. Bureau Chief Mitchell shared there was no decision made at this time. NCCD staff Angie Wolf is leading the steering committee. Lots of time is being spent on training, recruitment and research as the project moves to implementation. Staffing will be different. And all staff will be trained on the new model.

The hope is to replicate the LA Model at other facilities. An architect has been hired to begin to prepare a modernization for Afflerbaugh and Scott. This plan is expected in 3 months with a bid for Board consideration. The concept is to build "cottage style living units" where the new treatment model can thrive. The capacity of modernized facilities would be 64 youth, 6-8 person living units. One idea is to ensure that partner agencies LACOE, DMH experience training in addition to Probation staff.

Bureau Chief Mitchell also shared that he is exploring if space allows teams to close camps while staff are in training. A re-opening can be the catalyst for a re-naming to a center. This desire supports the concept that youth must be able to go anywhere & experience comparable services.

There is a proposal to close Camp Miller. A board letter has been prepared to authorize temporary closure on July 11, 2016. The Department and Supervisor Kuehl want to close Camp Miller permanently. It will be important to demolish the site as soon as

possible to begin to re purpose the site. There are not set plans on what will be the next use for that land.

With respect to the population to be served at the Kilpatrick campus, Bureau Chief Mitchell expressed a commitment to "randomized" selection and not to establish exclusionary criteria to determine which youth will go to Kilpatrick . There are concerns about gender equity already which is one reason Scot was selected to receive one of the first upgrade efforts. All youth in camps are considered "high risk/high need" and it is the goal of the Residential Treatment Services Bureau to offer comparable treatment services throughout bureau.

Commissioner Yamishiro inquired if any stakeholder has intimated concerns of disparate treatment; whether the Department has a position on randomized v discriminatory selection of placement. He suggested that there may be some conditions would allow for discrimination, i.e. psychotropic medication. Commissioner Yamishiro reminded all that the Department already discriminates in the selection process of today.

Bureau Chief Mitchell stated that an algorithm is used to determine where to assign a youth to camp.

Commissioner Seaver noted that a lawsuit should be expected with regards to gender discrimination. He also wanted to know who is doing the training for the staff.

Bureau Chief Mitchell informed that Dialectic Behavior Therapy is the foundation for the training. It will include: trauma, case work, assessment, positive intention with youth. Discussions are beginning with universities to do trainings.

Commission Seaver requested that all staff be part of the trainings including grounds keepers and cafeteria personnel. He also expressed need for trainings to be on-going. He requested a schedule of the trainings.

Bureau Chief Mitchell agreed that all staff is expected to receive training on the new treatment model and that he is reviewing resources to determine how much training is available.

Commissioner Caster wanted to know if the LA Model Training was being taught in the probation academy. Commissioner Meredith reminded all that the curriculum of the Academy can be extended to include additional courses but the STC CORE class cannot be changed as it is established by Board of State Community Corrections regulations.

Bureau Chief Mitchell described the **LA Model** at the request of Commissioner Caster who has been involved in its development and wanted to make sure that the other Commissioners were familiar with the approach. The LA Model is a new way of dealing with youth. It is a model that relies on all staff to share the same philosophy and speak the same language. It relies on the cottage as a unit where youth experience treatment together and they grow together. This is a heavy program structure. The facility is state of the art medical and gym areas. It is an expensive model to staff with 120 youth

capacity. Miller staff will be used to staff at Kilpatrick. Collaboration is needed from all and he stated hopes that the Commission would help support these significant efforts.

Commissioner Hollopeter inquired as to status of Munz & Mendenhall. Will they to move back on July 30, 2016? Why can't Mendenhall and Munz work as one unit?

Commissioner Mitchell reminds all that Career and Technical Education is very important to the youth's preparation for workforce. She wants to stress that career pathways and connections to industry are especially important to Probation youth. Whatever program is created, it is imperative that they are building skills that can be applied in the workforce and relationships that can lead to securing a job.

Bureau Chief Mitchell shares that he is contemplating if that facility could be the sports program since they have the space & field.

Bureau Chief Mitchell informs that there are 45 Hs graduates in the Residential Treatment Services Bureau now and with the continued implementation of Assembly Bill 216, there will be more.

Commissioner Butler inquired about who was conducting the evaluation for the LA Model and suggested if involving the research team early in the process can help establish the framework for the evaluation.

Bureau Chief Mitchell affirms that some research representatives have been involved from the beginning such as Dr. Jacqueline McCroskey of USC and Denise Herz of Cal State LA. However, since the Program Committee's work was taken on by the Steering Committee and has not been finalized, the items for the evaluation and the evaluation team are pending. Commissioner Seaver expresses support for Chief Remington's interest in establishing a probation research unit.

Bureau Chief Mitchell shares the kitchen at the Dorothy Kirby Center is being modernized. There is 4-6 million dollars in deferred maintenance that is being analyzed.

As requested by the Commission and identified on the Pending Items, Bureau Chief Mitchell shared a report about use of **Special Handling Unit (Hope Center)**. A handout was distributed that documented the use in the first 6 months of the year and provided a comparison from last year. Overall the chart shows downward trends. The SSP (Special Supervision Program) numbers skews the overall picture. There are less youth held for 4 hours and less for 2 hours or less. Hope Centers have been developed at Scot, Scudder, Rockey and Challenger. Some areas have already been opened, with living areas & couches. Mental Health staff will see every child with cognitive intervention as part of the Hope Center. It is clear that there will be some "locked" rooms at every facility for the occasional filing of new charges on a youth, for SSP needs, for youth that are decomposing mentally or those who have been victimized and need to feel additional safety in order to sleep. The bottom line is that 70% of the use of the Special Handling Unit is for less than 4 hours and we have seen a reduction of 40% from the previous year.

Commissioner Seaver expresses desire for more data of this kind and would like to know an explanation of the Special Handling Unit report.

Bureau Chief Mitchell shares that one of his efforts is to have all the camps painted, especially Challenger which is in very bad shape. Some Commissioners suggested they make personal donation to make this happen. Commissioner Caster stated that she specifically wanted to go on the record, once again, that collecting personal donations from Commissioners for basic maintenance and necessities would be entirely ridiculous given the department's \$900 million budget.

Commission Yamashiro raised the issue of the **video from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall** that has been covered by social media and the newspaper before Bureau Chief Mitchell has to leave the meeting. Bureau Chief Mitchell responded that he was not at liberty to discuss the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall incident because it is not his Bureau and there is an ongoing investigation. Commissioners Yamishiro & Seaver expressed very strong feelings about the Commission having an obligation & responsibility to "do something."

President Gardner agreed to include this item on the agenda for discussion at the meeting of 7/14/16 for a Report Back from the Department. There were also discussions re limitations of public commentary during an active investigation and personnel matters in general. Commissioner Meredith pointed out that the specific case cannot be discussed pursuant to the government code, and that the law does not allow the Commission access to personnel matters. Commissioner Meredith then asked that County Counsel who was present for an opinion. County Counsel responded that Commissioner Meredith was correct.

Natasha Khamashta, representing the Public Defender's Office suggested there were two cases reported by her office. Commissioner Meredith requested that in general any report include the number and types of cases/complaints made to the public defender in the last 6 months.

Commissioner Yamishiro asked the following questions: Is there an ongoing criminal investigation? Did the Dept. follow its policies in this case? Did the Dept. report this incident to internal or external authorities/agencies? Did a child abuse report get filed? What information is available that can be share with the commission with respect to this case? Is there a public filing? Who is doing an investigation? Commissioner Meredith pointed out that the Public Information Officer for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office acknowledged receipt of a report on the incident from the Probation Department and was reviewing it for appropriate action.

FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Is the commission satisfied or not with the Dept.'s handling of this case

Commissioner Caster inquired as to whether the Commission would be privy to learning if this youth had ever filed any grievances or contracted the Ombudsman about mistreatment by any of the particular employees involved prior to the alleged incident. She also wanted to know if the Commission could learn if the particular employees had ever been disciplined by the Civil Service Commission in the past and what was the

outcome. She stated that she understands their names need not be known to the Probation Commission given Civil Service confidentiality procedures.

Commissioner Mitchell was interested in what can the Dept. do to advise the Commissioners of these items before the media gets them? What complaints/ issues exist at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall regarding violence between staff & youth? If this video was put on Facebook by a commissioner, what feedback on this may be available?

Commissioner Meredith expressed a view that the Chief as head of the department was the only person who can present an answer on this issue. Others disagreed.

Regarding **Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act**, Monica Garcia provided follow up information from the June 9, 2016 meeting. The Commission received via email the spreadsheets with the amounts allocated to the various community based organizations from this fund as well as the budget for the New Directions Program. A Commissioner requested the most recent evaluation available by Rand for 2013-14 and the online link information is provided here: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1023.html

A Commissioner asked staff: When is the next Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee meeting? That date has not been set as of 6/22/16. We expect the date to be set next week and will circulate that information to you via email.

A Commissioner asked staff: How much is the allocation for 2015-16? We are receiving \$28.1 million base funding & \$4.1 growth for a total \$32.2.

Additional questions were raised by Commissioner Butler when the decisions are made with respect to funding. Commissioner Caster wanted to know how much money has actually be received by the community based organizations listed as having been "allocated" funds. She added that it is her understanding that none of the allocated dollars have actually been received by any of the agencies to date, but that she would like a confirmation. These responses will be provided via email.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hoover asked for the Probation Commission to act on a resolution at the next meeting in support of the **Fair Chance Ordinance** before the LA City Council. As part of the items listed under Pending Items, Commissioners received background information on the initiative dating back to the Obama Administration Challenge in November 2015 and the effort before the City Council.

Commissioner Caster recommended that the Commission hear a presentation by the Executive Director of Centinela Youth Services. President Gardner agreed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners were reminded to send Commissioner Gardner any participation or representation as members of the Commission for documentation.

VI. COMMISSON INSPECTION REPORTS

No inspection reports.

VII. COMMITTEE PROGRES REPORTS

Commissioner Meredith shared that the Oversight Commission heard a report from the Sybil Brand Commission regarding their inspection protocols. He recommended that they be invited to make a presentation to the Probation Commission as there may be opportunity for collaboration and learning.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ Public Comment

- Probation Housekeeping inspection and Meetings is scheduled and need to confirm time.
- Fair Chance Initiative Resolution will be on Agenda for action July 14, 2016
- Fire Camp 17 Graduation July 1, 2016 at 1 at Camp Paige.
- Commission presentation to Oversight Work Group, August 17, 1PM to 3PM

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no comment by the public.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Seaver moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.