



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



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 28, 2016

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, room 140A, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. President Gardner called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

1st Vice President Levine
2nd Vice President Hollopeter
3rd Vice President Seaver.
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Holt
Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Hoover
Commissioner Butler

The following Commissioners were excused:

Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Shutan

The following staff and guests were present:

Calvin Remington, Interim Chief, Probation Department
Cynthia Hernandez, OIM, Probation Department
Veronica Pawlowski, County Counsel
Monica Garcia, Probation Department
Dominic Gonzalez, Probation Department
Scott Sanders, Probation Department
Amalia Lopez, Probation Department
Pamela Villanueva, Police Department
Andrew L. Hurley, County Counsel
Luis Dominguez, Probation Department
Edward Hsu, County Counsel
Abby Byers, County Counsel
Carlos Leon, AFSC Local 685
Patricia Rodriguez, Secretary, Probation Department

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, Elizabeth (Betsy) Butler

II. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Chief Remington reported on the clothing and disposable items. He stated based on County products for the youths they have to buy the least expensive products. There are changes being made in the products that are provided to the youth, but some of the changes have not occurred at this time. Several camps have been issued the Polo shirts. There is currently a backlog and not all camps have received the new items. The Department is committed to have youth dressing and have the feel of a campus setting. The Department is making progress and committed to make all the necessary changes.

Chief Remington reported on the oversight committee and the re-organization of the Department. The result of the study is currently being conducted. The statement of work is very comprehensive and will impact the organization. Initially there was a motion to split the Department between juvenile and adult, splitting the Department will be very expensive. There will be dramatic impact on how organized the Department is. In addition to the large study, the Department is expanding the evaluation on JJCPA program. By law the Department has to provide an Annual outcome study of certain factors. The Department will be viewing how money is being awarded and where the money is going. Most importantly these studies need to come together and look into systematic issues in Los Angeles County. Chief Remington stated domestic violence cases are currently not being supervised by Probation and the Department should be supervising these type of cases as they are serious. The Department is looking into the matter.

Chief Remington mentioned discussing with Dorothy Chin and Anna Hung Wong, from the CEO's office as they are looking into the study and proposals from the CEO's office.

Chief Remington reported on the Chief Probation position is still open, the Department is currently receiving applications. There are nine (9) applicants and will be conducting interviews in May 2016.

Commissioner Kaplan inquire on culture change from the Department. Chief Remington will be inviting Bureau Chief Dave Mitchell as he will be the new Bureau Chief handling the camps. Chief Remington stated culture change is not easy and takes consistency and training. Training is not enough for only classroom lectures, therefore the Department has scheduled the trauma informed training. The Department also has coaching where a trainer will come and do on the job training on how to respond when youths are acting up.

President Gardner mentioned when conducting camp visits staff have voiced for not being acknowledged for the good work they do and would like to be acknowledged. Commissioner Gardner stated it is very important for those employees to be recognized.

Chief Remington reported on Solitary Confinement, the Board of Supervisors will be having a motion next Tuesday. The Department is currently working with a federally funded technical systems group to assist the Department. The Department will be piloting the program starting with Central Juvenile Hall, Camp McNair, Challenger, and Camp Scott. The pilot will go through September 30th. The changes on the program are working at several of the camps as they have low populations.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE (cont.)

Chief Remington mentioned CEO is currently conducting the cost of incarcerating youth in the county which requires a lot of money. This is a statewide issue.

Commissioner Seaver inquired on resources for parents on the county's website. He stated several information on the site is no longer existent and would like the Department to update the information.

Commissioner Seaver acknowledged Bureau Chief Dominguez on the changes of the SHU report. Commissioner Seaver inquired on a change on the SHU report, there are two (2) new categories.

Chief Remington would like the Commission to know the Department is starting management changes related to the camps. Bureau Chief Dominguez has been involved through Department of Justice (DOJ), works hard and is always very dedicated to the Department. He hopes the Commission appreciates all the work and dedication he has provided to the Commission.

Bureau Chief Dominguez stated this will be his last day attending the meeting. He reported due to the Auditor's Controllers Office counts CMY (SHU) as an actual operation when conducting their audits they the department decided to separate (SHU).

Commissioner Martinez mentioned the motion regarding the (SHU). He will be forwarding the document to all Commissioners. The motion will be heard on May 3, 2016. The motion will be from Supervisor Hilda Solis and Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Commissioner Martinez would like the Commission to write a letter or have the President attend and present the letter.

Commissioner Hoover mentioned additional conversations with the Justice Deputies as well as the letter from the Commission, a visit to Washington D.C .and a visit to the White House assisted with the motion. He stated the Commission will be very pleased with the motion.

Commissioner Martinez requested a date to visit a camp with Chief Remington and the Commission to provide the youth with board games and recreational equipment.

Chief Remington reported on a new person to replace Ms. Rodriguez. The Department is currently working on the finding the new replacement to assist the Commission not only with taking the minutes but to assist in keeping track of all of the issues with the Commission.

Commissioner Jones reported on his visit to Challenger with Commissioner Hollopeter. He provided an inspection report that was a follow up visit from last September. He mentioned culture change and commended Bureau Chief Dominguez for providing a change with staff and youth at that camp.

Chief Remington mentioned there has been a lot of discussions with the consultant assisting the Department. The consultant will be with the Department until November.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE (cont.)

This is why the pilot will start May 30th. Unless they have any problems September 30th will be the kick off date for all the facilities.

Chief Remington stated he will try to attend the 2nd meeting of the month if his schedule permits.

III.OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT MONITOR UPDATE

Cynthia Hernandez reported on the OIM annual report and provided a copy of the report. Ms. Hernandez mentioned the annual stats for 2015 had changed the 2016 did not change as much. In 2011 OIM first started with the Department and was the first time reviewing the incident cases. In 2011, the number of arrest were 69 for the entire year, from the 69 cases 29, were DUI cases. In 2012 there were 64 arrest, 25 were DUI cases.

Ms. Hernandez mentioned OIM adopted a similar approach as the Sherriff's Department to address the issue. In the past, a 3 day suspension was given for a DUI in the Department. In 2012, after the deposition the number of suspension days were raised to 15 days of suspension.

The following was the result of the change;

- 2013- Arrest; 39, DUI 15.
- 2014- Arrest; 42; DUI 15
- 2015-Arrest; 42; DUI 17
- 2016-DUI-9 for the beginning of the year

The majority of arrest are sworn officers. In 2015, two of the arrest were sworn offices. In the past there was a problem when employees where not reporting the incidents to the Department.

Ms. Hernandez stated that there are currently others reporting the DUI arrest to the Department. The Department is notified by the California Justice Department of any arrest that happens with staff. Ms. Hernandez also mentioned staff are not reporting traffic violations as well.

Ms. Hernandez mentioned two repeated DUI offender cases, one was non-sworn individuals. Ms. Hernandez stated that aggravators received more than a 15 day suspension. Ms. Hernandez provided a chart with all the narratives of the arrest for 2015, what happened with the cases and the action or recommendation. The chart is available on the Probation Department's website. Ms. Hernandez stated domestic violence cases are harder to find and criminally and administratively they are harder to prove. OIM does investigate the cases. Ms. Hernandez mentioned in addition to misconduct cases there are also policy report of cases included in the report.

PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

President Gardner shared the proposal and reported making additions regarding the opinion of the State legislative Counsel and other language. President Gardner made a motion to approve the document as it is being presented and Commissioners to submit to all Justice Deputies and members of the Oversight Committee. Commissioner Jones moved to approve the letter, Commissioner Butler seconded the motion. Commissioners Holt and Meredith sustained the motion. Motion was approved.

Commissioner Seaver thanked President Gardner for working on the document. He requested clarification on how the document needs to be distributed. He inquired if each Commissioner will be sharing the document individually with their Justice Deputy? Commissioner Seaver would like the document to be distributed to the Justice Deputies on behalf of the President of the Commission. President Gardner stated he chose this procedure so that each Commissioner would have more communication with their Justice Deputy. President Gardner will be sending a copy to all Justice Deputies and Board of Supervisors via email.

NEW BUSSINESS

FURTHER STUDY OF IMPROVED TRANSIT AND ACCESS FOR FAMILIES NEEDING TO VISIT PROBATION FACILITIES

Commissioner Seaver reported on the study to improve transportation access for families to visit Probation facilities. He stated Carlos Leon mentioned the issue and has been working with his consensus Union 685 to provide more access to the parents and families with their incarcerated youth. Commissioner Seaver would like the Commission to be able to provide assistance and discuss with their Supervisors and Justice Deputies to see how they can assist in the matter.

Mr. Leon provided the bus lines information that are surrounding the juvenile halls. He stated most all parents are transit dependents that utilize the Metro services. Mr. Leon would like to assist the parents as they are facing these barriers when they are attending court and visiting their youths. Parents make an effort to arrive on time to visitations but due to the lack of transportation they are there for less than 5 minutes on their days of visitation.

Commissioner Kaplan mentioned she is in connection with a young man just hired from Washington D.C. to Los Angeles County through "THINK TANK" he is new with the MTA. He is being called the Master of Innovation. Commissioner Kaplan will be scheduling a meeting with him and Mr. Leon to discuss the issue.

Commissioner Seaver will be circulating the following motion to be placed for the next agenda; Commissioner Seaver motion to encourage and promote the County to take the leadership roles on improving access through the County agencies and transportation agencies to provide services.

Commissioner Levine mentioned the JJCPA funds can possibly be used to fund private organizations that can rent vans and meet at a central location and provide transportation to camp and juvenile halls.

Director Sanders mentioned transportation is available on a limited bases on the weekends and has provide transportation for parents attending Barry J. Juvenile hall and Central Juvenile hall.

Commissioner Levine motion to have on the next agenda to request the Department to explore with MTA to improve and modify bus routes that parents can take to the juvenile halls and the camps. In addition, to explore with community based organizations the idea of supporting a van to service the families. Commissioner Yamashiro seconds the motion. Motion was approved.

Formalizing and expanding document assistance for youth as they prepare to leave incarceration facilities, after long-term confinement.

Commissioner Seaver would like to have a better process at having youths receiving their documents for example their California ID, Birth Certificate, transcripts etc.. He suggested the process can be handled by the youths Probation Officer while in the camps. Commissioner Seaver would like to explore this possibility. He would like to mandate this as a service provided to youths while in detention.

Mr. Leon provided a handout that shows a list of items that the youths need. Most of the youths are foster youth, or youths that do not have anywhere to go once they are released. Mr. Leon stated they are trying to empower the youths with these resources. President Gardner stated his concern on not having an exit plan or track program to provide all the resources to the youths in the camps. Mr. Leon stated the average youths reading level is the 4th grade and stated some of the documents can be intimidated trying to complete them.

Bureau Chief Dominguez stated all the items that were suggested today are part of the multi-disciplinary team which documents are requested and provided to the youth. There is a program for requesting birth certificates, all this is handled at all camps and the county pays for all the documents.

Director Sanders stated the documents are part of their discharged plan where school records and other documents are also requested. The family resource centers works with the families before the youths are released to assist them with obtaining the documents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Gardner reported on the following announcements;

- Graduation for field Probation Officers will be held today April 28, 2016 1:00p.m., Probation Department training center.
- The Juvenile court academy will be on May 12, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Probation Department training center.
- Camp Rockey's family Resource Fair, Saturday, April 30th at 11:30 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

President Gardner mentioned for the next meeting there will be a brief presentation from County Counsel Brian Johnson on the Brown Act.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Levine moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Seaver the motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

DRAFT