COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

DATE: **Thursday, April 14, 2016**

TIME: **10:00 a.m. – Regular Meeting**
12:00 p.m. – Adjournment

WHERE: **Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**
500 West Temple Street
1st Floor, Room 140A
Los Angeles, California 90012

The meetings of the Commission are open to the public. Members of the public may address the Commission on any agenda item or on its item of interest, which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission by submitting a written request to the Probation Department prior to the meeting. Three (3) minutes are allowed, per person, on each agenda and non-agenda item, with a total of 15 minutes for public comments on each agenda and non-agenda item, unless the Commission sets alternative limits or other allocations of time.

1. Call to order and Roll Call of Commissioners

2. Approval of minutes for January 28, 2016 and February 25, 2016

3. Los Angeles County Probation Department Update

4. Discuss Letter to Board of Supervisors, Working Group

5. Juvenile Solitary Confinement Resolution Letter

8. Future Agenda Items or Presentations

9. Announcements

10. Commission/Committee Inspection Reports

11. Follow-Up Inspection Reports – 30 Days

12 Public Comments

13. Adjourn

Next Meeting:
Thursday, April 28, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
1st Floor, Room 140A
Los Angeles, California 90012

COMMISSIONERS

Joe Gardner – President, Jan Levine – First Vice President
Clay Hollopeter – Second Vice President, Dan Seaver – Third Vice President
Lt. Don Meredith, Cyn Yamashiro, Fitzgerald Jones, Gabriella Holt, R.N., E.J.D.,
Jo Kaplan, Esq., Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan, Azael Martinez Sonoqui,
Zachary Hoover, Jacqueline Caster, Esq., Elizabeth (Betsy) Butler

Attention: Any person, who seeks support or endorsement from the Commission of any official action, may be subject to the provisions of Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.160, relating to lobbyists. Violation of the Lobbyist Ordinance may result in a fine and other penalties. For information, call
(213) 974-1093.

Accommodations: American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters or assisted listening devices are available with at least 3-business days' notice before the meeting date. Agendas in Braille and/or alternate formats are available upon request. Please telephone (562) 940-2531 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Para información en español: Por favor de llamar al número (562) 940-2531 entre 8:00 de la mañana y 5:00 de la tarde, de Lunes a Viernes.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

	Recommendation	Recommendation Date	Update	Date Finalized	Probation Dept. Contact
1.	Evaluation of Grievance Process study	08/26/15	Commissioner Caster		
2.	Language for future employment listings (Rehabilitation)	08/11/15			
3.	Follow-up on the two (2) grievances from Central Juvenile hall (Kaplan)	09/09/15			
4.	Furniture for the day rooms at Camp Rockey	07/22/15			
5.	Capital Improvement Projects (needs vote)	08/26/15			
6.	Nutritional guidelines	09/09/15	March 24, 2016		
7.	Probstat Document Updates	10/14/15	2016		Felicia Cotton Jennifer Donnell
8.	Board Briefing 3rd Quarter	11/18/15			
9.	Strategic Planning- Chief Powers vision	11/18/15			
10.	Change the way reports are created. (SHU) reports and Population Reports	11/18/15			

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2016

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, Room 140-A, 1st Floor, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

I. President Gardner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present:

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

The following Commissioners were excused:

Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Mitchell

The following staff and guests were present:

Cal Remington, Interim Probation Chief
Reaver Bingham, Deputy Chief, Field Services
Dennis Carroll, Bureau Chief, District 2
Ed Sykes, Department of Juvenile Justice, Probation Department
Sharon Harada, Bureau Chief, Detention Services Bureau
Scott Sanders, Probation Department
Dominic Gonzalez, Detention Services Bureau, Probation Department
Stanley Ricketts, Superintendent, Detention Services Bureau
Melissa Soto, Special Assistant, District 2
Luis Dominguez, Bureau Chief, Residential Treatment Services Bureau
Natasha Khamashta, Public Defender
Deanna Gerald, Public Defender
Pamela Villanueva, Public Defender's Office
Tamara Hunter, Commissioner for Children & Family Services
Efrain Munoz, Administrative Deputy III, Probation Department
Alex Nieto, Probation
Carol Mayer, Probation Department
Cynthia Hernandez, Chief Attorney, Office of the Independent Monitor, Probation Department
Veronica Pawlowski, Deputy County Counsel, Probation Department
Diane Murua, Probation Department
Patricia Rodriguez, Secretary, Probation Department

Commissioners

Joe Gardner - President, Jan Levine - First Vice President, Clay Hollopeter - Second Vice President, Daniel Seaver -Third Vice President, Lt. Don Meredith, Cyn Yamashiro, Fitzgerald Jones, Gabriella Holt, R.N., E.J.D., Jo K. Kaplan, Esq., , Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan, Azael Martinez Sonoqui, Zachary Hoover, Jacqueline Caster, Esq., Elizabeth Betsy Butler

II. WELCOME – INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Elizabeth Betsey Butler is the new Commissioner recently appointed to represent the First Supervisorial District by Supervisor Hilda Solis. Commissioner Butler currently works for the California Women's Law Center, their focus is on Domestic violence, Women Veteran's issues, Equal pay, and Economic stability, and prior to that she was in Legislature. Commissioner Butler stated she voted for AB109, and SB-9. Commissioner Butler mentioned she is familiar with some of the disappointments with AB109, and would like to help change a few of the resources that have been allocated.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 14, 2016 and January 28, 2016 were not approved and are tabled until the next meeting.

IV. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Interim Chief Remington discussed the motion regarding the oversight committee the Board of Supervisors are currently working on. Chief Remington mentioned there are (2) two Commissioners out of the (5) five appointees that are from the Probation Commission who will be a part of the oversight committee, those Commissioners are Commissioner Holt and Commissioner Meredith.

Chief Remington discussed the grant the Probation Department currently received from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). Chief Remington stated Solitary Confinement time is something the Probation Department will eventually do away with but the Department has to have protocol, there has to be procedures that are tested. Chief Remington stated L.A. County wants to be a leader and this grant will help the Department do so. Chief Remington mentioned Solitary confinement is an ongoing issue, he would like to return to another meeting and discuss with the Commission of its progress as it is a topic the Commission is interested in and wants to be kept informed with.

Chief Remington expressed concern regarding an inspection report that had been emailed with a youth's name on it. He stressed to the Commission that it is highly important to edit all reports before sending them out.

Chief Remington stated if there are any concerns or issues the Commission comes across when conducting inspections he would like to be advised of right away. He believes if there is an issue; the Probation Department can best resolve and fix things if everyone communicates and works together to resolve the problem which will result in better outcomes.

Chief Remington recommends to Commissioners when conducting inspections if they come across any concerns or issues the Department needs to be aware of, before leaving the facility he wants them to speak to the Director. Some issues may be able to be resolved at that moment.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE (cont.)

President Gardner mentioned the Department and the Commission share the same interest. He stated Chief Dominguez has been very cooperative when responding to Camp Issues, and the overall way the Department has collaborated with the Commission to resolve some of the issues have been done very well.

Chief Remington stated he will return to a Commission Meeting in March. He would like to get to the point where the Commission and the Probation Department are all as productive as possible and believes it can be done by working together.

Commissioner Shutan raised concern as to how Commissioners go to the press prior to allowing the Commission to discuss and vote on certain issues so that when speaking to the press it is done in an appropriate manner. Commissioner Shutan stated he read (2) two articles where a Commissioner was quoted as a Commission and thought it was inappropriate.

Commissioner Shutan believes the Commission needs to be more circumspect about how they approach the press, when they go to the press, and if they go to the press. Commissioner Shutan stated the Commission's job is not to blindside the Probation Department but to assist the Department.

Commissioner Seaver stated he would like for Chief Remington as part of his attendance to the Commission meetings to present to the Commission initiatives and issues that go on within the Department. Commissioner Seaver is highly interested on what will be done in L.A. County that would make the Probation Department first in the state as a leader regarding Solitary Confinement.

Chief Remington reported Monica Garcia will be the contact for the Probation Department regarding any responses or reports to the Commission.

V. DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE RE-ENTRY

Deputy Chief Bingham briefly discussed the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) re-entry program. He stated with the exception of realignment or youth returning to the community the DJJ unit has developed a very robust program for the youth. The program continues to emerge and there are some things that are still in the process.

Chief Bingham stated the DJJ unit has developed many relationships within the community that will provide services to develop protocols and will allow the Department to work closely with the Division of Juvenile Justice in providing orientations, prepare a re-entry process for the youth once they are released, and prepare and develop a case plan where the Probation Department can help the youth successfully re-enter the community.

Bureau Chief Dennis Carroll provided the Commission with a few highlights of the DJJ unit; currently there are 80 youth, 79 young men, and 1 young lady, there are 4 Deputy Probation Officer's, 1 Supervisor, and 1 Director.

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE RE-ENTRY (cont.)

Chief Carroll stated the DJJ unit is a very proactive unit. They are one of the first in the State that have gone to Ventura Correctional Facility to conduct orientations for youth who are coming back to L.A. County. In these Orientations they discuss expectations, and the types of resources that will be available for the youth.

The Probation Department is very fortunate to have an excellent collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Public Social Services. There are several other organizations the Department has collaborated with that assist with housing, education, and employment.

Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Ed Sykes briefly discussed the day to day perspective and provided the Commission with additional information regarding the program.

SDPO Sykes indicated DJJ was formerly known as the California Youth Authority. SDPO Sykes reported that some of the youth who are incarcerated are doing time for murder, rape, and other serious offenses. The DJJ unit attempt's to identify the areas or resources that each client needs understanding that this is a state entity that the DJJ unit is working with therefore the logistics can be a struggle.

SDPO Sykes indicated the DJJ unit connects with the youth and the staff in the institutions prior to release. L.A. County is the first County to do that, and now other Counties are starting to follow. The DJJ unit coordinates the orientation, they allow the youth to sit and ask questions. The DJJ unit will go over what's expected from the youth, and at the end of the orientation the youth get a chance to meet with their assigned Probation Officer who will be supervising them prior to their release.

SDPO Sykes indicated that the DJJ unit is aware that the resources the youth need are critical within the first 30 days. The DJJ unit is responsible for identifying those resources as soon as possible. SDPO Sykes indicated the County agencies that the DJJ unit collaborated with are part of the Los Angeles County Strategic Plan; Department of Social Services, Department of mental health, Public Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Probation Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

SDPO Sykes indicated once the client is released they have 24 – 48 hours to meet with their Probation Officer to discuss their case plan and identify the resources that are needed. Probation Officers cover Cases County wide. They meet with their clients at least (2) two to (3) three times per month, sometimes more if it is necessary. Once the resources that the client needs are identified the DJJ unit engages with the agencies frequently to ensure the client is on track whether it is for housing, substance abuse, or mental health. The Department of Children and Family services has been able to provide the DJJ unit with annual tap cards for each client at no cost. Another resource that is used is called Access the client can be picked up from their home and taken to their appointment.

DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE RE-ENTRY (cont.)

SDPO Sykes indicated his unit has had good success with several of their clients throughout the years. He speaks specifically of a young man that recently was part of a non-profit program that teach youth how to sell boats. The young man had the opportunity to go sell in other parts of the County. He's off probation but is still very much involved with the unit. He comes back as a guest speaker for events to encourage other youth.

SDPO Sykes indicated there have been individuals who have been terminated within (6) six to (8) months because they haven't tested positive, they have been employed, they have not had any new arrest, and they have strong family ties.

Pamela Villanueva; attorney for the Public Defender's Office represents DJJ youth who are sent to DJJ and are returning to L.A. County under re-entry supervision. Ms. Villanueva stated she works closely with SDPO Sykes. Ms. Villanueva is pleased with some of the changes that have happened in the last (2) two years, regarding problems with re-entry with the DJJ youth. Ms. Villanueva first started representing these youth in June 2013. The youth were getting minimal supervision and very few resources and that has changed dramatically during the time. Ms. Villanueva commends SDPO Ed Sykes for that change, however she believes there are still unmet needs that are out there.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Caster discussed the Diversion Program that is run by Centinela Youth Services (CYS). She stated that she was quoted in some of the press articles to which Commissioner Shutan referred. Commissioner Caster was interviewed in her capacity as the Founder and President of the Everychild Foundation, not as a Probation Commissioner. The CYS program is called the Everychild Restorative Justice Center.

CYS is located in Inglewood and they conduct nationally-renowned diversion programs for youth who are arrested by giving them the opportunity to participate in a (6) month therapeutic program. The charges are not filed and instead are put in abeyance while the child is in the program. Upon successful completion of the program, the charges are never filed. The Everychild Foundation gave CYS $1,000,000 to fund the program with court diversion at the Inglewood Courthouse. The program evolved into arrest diversion and school diversion from such sources, such as Torrance School Police, Inglewood School Police, the City of Hawthorne, and other various police departments.

Commissioner Caster mentioned that CYS received a second million dollars from the State Department of Justice. While CYS was trying to figure out what to do with the money, Commissioner Caster suggested to them, that they try to set up a program with the Los Angeles Police Department.

Commissioner Caster stated there was not a robust or successful diversion program in Los Angeles involving the Los Angeles Police Department. She mentioned that she met with Police Chief Charlie Beck, and he said the obstacle has been the fact that as the LAPD is part of the city, and the Probation Department is part of the County, it can become complicated. However, he said he would be willing to try a pilot.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

Commissioner Caster mentioned a pilot was started about 3 ½ years ago.at the 77th and Southeast Police Districts it involves all types of therapeutic programs as well as victim offender mediation (VORS) which they found is one of the most effective parts of their program. Commissioner Caster reported their findings have between 8 and 11 percent recidivism, and 1,200 youth have gone through the program. CYS' VORS program is considered a national best practices in juvenile justice circles.

Commissioner Caster mentioned their meetings started with (4) four people around the table and now they have about 50 to 60 people which include Compton police, the Sheriff's Department, Inglewood police.

She also mentioned the pilot money is running out and they now need access to the recently discovered $21 million in JJCPA funds that the Probation Department has in its possession that is supposed to be given to Community-Based Organizations such as CYS. The failure of the JJCC to distribute this money to CBOs such as CYS is what is delaying the expansion of the program. $5,000,000 of those dollars were approved by the Board of Supervisors to be distributed; $1,000,000 to each Supervisor. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas has committed his full million to expanding in the South Bureau, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl has allocated half of her million to expand the program into the Valley.

Commissioner Caster wanted to bring this to the Commission's attention. She believes that if the Department wants to cut down the cost by sending youth to the camps or halls this is the most effective way, by keeping youth out in the first place and by making sure the Community Based Organization's get the funding and services they need.

Commissioner Caster commends the Board of Supervisors by passing a motion to expedite the contract signings that will authorize the distribution of the $5 million of BOS funds. She commends Chief Remington for taking the steps to make this happen. She will be presenting reports about the success on how the youth are doing in the program once the expansion takes place. President Gardner would like to agenized this topic for a future meeting discussion.

President Gardner mentioned to the Commission that it is important for all Commissioners to continue to send him their monthly activities. At the end of February he will submit a recap of the month's activities so that each Commissioner can share with their Justice Deputies.

President Gardner mentioned the reorganization of the Commission, he stated the Commission is in need of two dedicated staff who will be able to manage the Commission's monthly activities, minutes and other duties that need to get done, especially the annual report, or other items that have to be submitted to the Board of Supervisor's. President Gardner stated it is critical that all Commissioners speak with their Justice Deputies and try for the resources the Commission is in need of.

President Gardner would like to have a 15-20 minute training at the next meeting that will cover the basics of preparing a report, and key things to identify when entering a facility.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Meredith announced the next Graduation for the new Probation Officer's. He stated everyone should have received an invitation. He will be attending and encourages his fellow Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Martinez announced on March 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Boyle Heights District 1 and District 3 will be conducting an aftercare training. Everyone is invited. It will be an opportunity to meet and greet the CCTP Officers, other members present will be Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB), Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Seaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Shutan, the motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.