



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
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**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE VIRTUAL
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON**

Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

AUDIO FILE FOR ENTIRE MEETING (21-1433)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order. (21-1300)

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call. (21-1307)

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Excused: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy

3. Approval of the March 11, 2021 meeting minutes. (21-1308)

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Saltzman, seconded by Commissioner Yamashiro, and duly carried by the following vote, the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the March 11, 2021 minutes as amended:

Ayes: 8 - Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. Presentation of the Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers:
(Continued from the meeting of 3/11/21)

A. Chair

- a. Commissioner Franky Carrillo
- b. Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

B. Vice Chair

- a. Commissioner Franky Carrillo
- b. Commissioner Esché L. Jackson
- c. Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro (21-0858)

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

Due to not all nine members being present, the election for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair is continued to the next meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Yamashiro, seconded by Commissioner Saltzman, and duly carried by the following vote, the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission continued this item to Thursday, April 8, 2021:

Ayes: 8 - Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

5. Discussion and take appropriate action on the closure of the State of California Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ): Transition Plan.

- Patricia Soung, Consultant
- Kent Mendoza, Anti-Recidivism Coalition
- Tshaka Barrows, Haywood Burns Institute
- Laura Ridolfo, Haywood Burns Institute
- Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer
- Brandon Nichols, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Compliance and Strategic Planning
- Tom Faust, Acting Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Services (21-1338)

The Los Angeles County DJJ Transition Team (DJJTT) presented an overview of their developmental milestones, recommendations and core values as it pertains to Youth Justice Reimagined, which also included a timeline of the work that the subcommittee achieved in collaboration with other stakeholders. There was a strong emphasis in the subcommittee's findings that there should be a reduction or closure of youth halls and camps and shift to a 'Safe and Secure Healing Centers' instead.

Following the DJJTT's presentation, Mr. Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer and Tom Faust, Acting Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Juvenile Services provided an overview on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Committee (JJCC) realignment subcommittee, which was established by State legislation and charged with laying out a plan for youth and young adults transitioning from DJJ. This subcommittee has held various meetings, gathered information, and had site visits to determine what existing sites are viable and to what extent they meet the values as addressed by the DJJTT. The findings and recommendations will be presented in a report to the County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors (BOS) in June 2021.

Kruti Parekh, Zoe Rawson, Thomas Bell, and Milinda Kakani addressed the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC).

In response to questions posed by Commissioner Yamashiro regarding the effects of rehabilitation facilities resembling prisons, residential treatment facilities, and cost-benefit analysis of housing DJJ alternatives, Ms. Laura Ridolfo provided the annual costs of camps and halls in Los Angeles County for the most recent year. She added that the DJJTT had looked at a model out of Pennsylvania called the "Alternative Rehabilitation Communities," which serves young people who have been accused of serious offenses and studied an alternative approach of rehabilitation over systems of punishment. The study showed that staff at facilities in Pennsylvania often had personal experience within the justice system and noted that the facilities resembled and felt like being at home.

Commissioner Yamashiro posed follow-up questions to representatives of the Probation Department asking if they could provide their model or goal for DJJ alternative facilities. Mr. Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer, replied that at this time the Probation Department is following the recommendations of the Haywood Burn's Institute, as was recommended by the BOS.

Commissioner Saltzman asked the DJJTT representatives if they had studied the current activity at existing facilities, for example, Camp Kilpatrick, and considered how changes would affect youth currently placed at those facilities. Mr. Faust, Acting Chief Deputy Probation Officer, responded that no matter what, there will be disruption to programs on some level. Ms. Patricia Soung added that the JJCC subcommittee agreed that all young people deserve something better than the current Los Angeles County facilities. Camp Kilpatrick was designated as a model because it is part of an overall five-year plan to close all camps and replace them with home-like settings called 'Safe and Secure Healing Centers.'

Regarding the upcoming facility site visits, Commissioner Jackson asked if there was a standardized evaluation tool kit that can be used when sites are visited. Ms. Ridolfo and Mr. Barrows responded that there is no checklist or toolkit, mostly because the recommendation is not to replicate or fix a model that exists, but rather to assess sites by imagining and envisioning what could be.

Commissioner Nong posed questions to representatives of the Probation Department about how decisions for specific facilities or compounds were chosen to house DJJ youth and asked how they define "security."

In response to the security question, Mr. Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer, responded that security is not just a physical structure, but is all encompassing - it can include cameras, working better with youth, and medical training. It involves the training of newly hired employees on behavior, youth interaction and whether young people feel safe on the premises. Mr. Faust added that security comes more with asking what is the culture of the facility, who is the staff interacting with the youth, what are the services being provided, and is there a therapeutic environment? Felicia Cotton, Deputy Director, Field Services of the Probation Department added that they have conducted security assessments with the Sheriff but solutions will depend on the JJCC subcommittee and other stakeholders recommendations to create a more home-like, rehabilitative, healing, care-first model.

Commissioner Nong requested clarification on whether or not Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall in Sylmar, known as “the compound,” will be used for DJJ youth. Mr. Gonzales expressed that the BOS is opposed to using the Sylmar facility as the alternative.

Noting the importance of this issue and due to time constraints, Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, recommended that discussion on these issues be continued to the April 8, 2021 meeting.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to Thursday, April 8, 2021:

Ayes: 8 - Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

6. Discussion and take appropriate action to establish a regular meeting schedule. (Continued from the meeting of 3/11/21) (21-1185)

No members of the public requested to comment on this item.

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, reported that the options for regular meetings of the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) were either the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., or the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, and duly carried by the following vote, the POC approved the meetings to be held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.:

Ayes: 8 - Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

7. Discussion and take appropriate action on setting short- and long-term goals for the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission through a strategic planning retreat, establishing standing and Ad hoc subcommittees, and delegating duties to staff. (Continued from the meeting of 3/11/21) (21-1163)

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, shared a Power Point presentation that outlined the Goals, Recommendations, and Duties of the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC).

Greg Baumann addressed the POC.

Commissioner Jackson suggested that a meeting be scheduled specifically for strategic planning.

On motion of Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and duly carried by the following vote, the POC approved to hold a Special Meeting solely for the purpose of strategic planning at a future date:

Ayes: 8 - Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy

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III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (21-1309)

There were no matters to be placed on a future agenda.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the POC.

You may submit public comment by e-mail to CommServ@bos.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting. Please include the Agenda Item and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received shall become part of the official record. (21-1310)

Ezequiel Nishiyama, Jose Martinez, Ella Dennen, Sterling Cox, and Thomas Bell addressed the POC.

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, announced that Alain Datcher, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Youth Commission is actively seeking youth interested in joining the commission. If any youth is interested, they may contact her by email: info@poc.lacounty.gov.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

Adjournment

10. Adjournment of the regular meeting of Thursday, March 25, 2021. (21-1311)

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.