



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



[poc.lacounty.gov](http://poc.lacounty.gov)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2021, 12:00 P.M.**

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment:    [Video](#)

**I.     ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

**Chair Franky Carrillo called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:**

Present:            Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys,  
                         Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary  
                         Dolores Canales, Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent:            Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

2. Approval of the October 14, 2021 meeting minutes.

**No members of the public commented on this item.**

**On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, and unanimously carried (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the October 14, 2021 minutes:**

**Ayes:**            6 –    Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean  
                         Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith,  
                         Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores  
                         Canales, Chair Franky Carrillo

**Absent:**          2 –    Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

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

**II.     DISCUSSION**

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on a presentation on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Citation Diversion Program.

- Leah Gasser-Ordaz, Esq., University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law
- Sarah Clifton, Esq., Alliance for Children's Rights

**Ms. Gasser-Ordaz presented the findings and recommendations detailed in the attached report, *A Closer Look at LA County's Citation Diversion Program*.**

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Ms. Clifton presented a verbal report on concerns with the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Citation Diversion Program. She explained that youth are not properly notified of hearings and updates, they lack assistance from advocates in resolving citations, and lack due process given severe collateral consequences that arise from what are often minor offenses. These issues disparately impact youth of color and youth who are already struggling. She concluded by explaining how this program results from over policing and criminalization of normal adolescent behavior that leads to significant negative impacts.

Mr. Oswaldo Lira shared his personal experience with the Citation Diversion Program. He was cited when he was 16 years old and did not know what had become of the ticket until he was 19 years old and seeking his driver's license. He learned that his case was unresolved. Mr. Lira stressed how his citation adversely affected his life including impacting his ability to drive, get a job, and support his family. He is thankful to have obtained assistance now in to get the issues resolved and currently has steady employment, but he is still facing consequences related to the citations years later.

Ms. Zoe Rawson, attorney with the Arts for Healing and Justice Network, shared how the Citation Diversion Program is a collaboration between law enforcement and schools to police youth, specifically youth of color. Ms. Rawson mentioned that there is no legal representation in most cases because of the nature of the cases and because many of the youth targeted for these citations are unhoused or in the foster care system. She highlighted some obstacles youth face when attempting to secure a remedy. Ms. Rawson emphasized that there are an indefinite number of driver's license holds that needs to be cleared, and the Citation Diversion Program be ceased.

Ms. Gasser-Ordaz described several actions the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) could take to urge the Board of Supervisors to end the Citation Diversion Program. She emphasized the need for ongoing review by the POC. The recommend actions include requesting dismissal of all citations filed by the Probation Department through the Citation Diversion Program, lifting all driver's license suspensions for youth that are currently referred to the program, and requesting updates from the Probation Department on the number of cases that have been referred to the Citation Diversion Program as well as other numerical data on failure to appear and license suspensions.

Meredith Gallen and Olivia Shields addressed the POC by submitting written public comment.

Mainor Xuncax, Milinda Kakani, Olivia Shields, James Maddox, Miguel Casar, Kruti Parekh, Edith Macias, and Natasha Khamashta addressed the POC.

Chair Carrillo shared that law enforcement has a gray area when engaging with the youth. He stressed how important it is for law enforcement to not misuse accessible data and information to build a database.

Commissioner Meredith raised some concerns regarding the Citation Diversion Program and agreed that obtaining data has been an ongoing problem. Specifically, he asked what the alternatives to the Citation Diversion Program are, what the best methods are for handling those citations, and inquired about the Probation Department's approach in addressing these problems.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared his insights on the recommendations outlined in the A

**Closer Look** report. Ms. Gasser-Ordaz clarified the recommendations and added that the Informal Juvenile and Traffic Courts (IJTC) no longer exists in Los Angeles County, therefore, the Probation Department is operating the Citation Diversion Program using the terminology in the Welfare and Institutions Code for the IJTCs, but the Youth Diversion and Development (YDD) division would have legal authority to handle the caseloads.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquiry about involving the court in this process, Ms. Gasser-Ordaz stated that the Board of Supervisors passed a motion where the courts and the Probation Department had to work together to reduce the population of incarcerated youth. Ms. Rawson provided historical context about how IJTCs contributed to the creation of the Citation Diversion Program, highlighting that this started as a traffic court for youth and has transcended into a traffic version of a criminal court. She emphasized the need to decriminalize infractions and reimagine youth justice.

Commissioner Canales reiterated that 50% of the cases in the Citation Diversion Program consist of loitering, truancy, and trespassing incidents, which would have been previously handled by the IJTCs.

Commissioner Dupuy sought clarification to ensure there were not any unintended consequences. Ms. Gasser-Ordaz confirmed that there are no legal limitations preventing YDD from handling tickets currently being filed with the current Citation Diversion Program. Commissioner Dupuy asked if YDD is prepared to handle the new cases and the backlog of pending cases if the Citation Diversion Program ended today. Ms. Gasser-Ordaz stated that YDD has the capacity for this and has hired staff to particularly work on creating the diversion pipeline from the Probation Department. She emphasized that it would be extremely helpful to know an accurate number of pending cases in the Citation Diversion Program so that YDD can work with youth and the courts to dismiss the tickets.

Ms. Julien recommended that the Programs and Services Subcommittee meet with Refugio Valle to discuss this topic further. She clarified that the YDD division is currently diverting youth through a community-based organization but is optimistic about the YDD's capacity to directly handle the increased number of referrals from the Probation Department.

Commissioner Nong inquired about a detailed plan for closing the Citation Diversion Program being made public. Ms. Gasser-Ordaz, Ms. Julien, and Mr. Bettino concurred that County Counsel is working on this, and Ms. Julien will inquire further about an expected timeline for dissemination of the plan.

Commissioner Nong proposed a motion to adopt all the recommendations included in the Report: *A Closer Look* and urge the Board of Supervisors to take action to:

- a. End the Citation Diversion Program.
- b. Dismiss pending citation referrals to the Citation Diversion Program.
- c. Transfer responsibility and funding for the Citation Diversion Program to YDD.
- d. Encourage law enforcement to counsel and release youth when possible.
- e. Cease the suspension of driver's licenses immediately.
- f. Until the end of the Citation Diversion Program, that ability to pay determinations be made at hearings and community service options provided.

An amendment was proposed to address the resolution to the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Office, and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

On motion of Commissioner Nong, seconded by Commissioner Dupuy, and duly carried by the following vote (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission approved the amended motion to submit a resolution to the Board of Supervisors, Chief Executive Office, and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court:

- Ayes:** 5 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Chair Franky Carrillo
- Noes:** 1 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith
- Absent:** 2 – Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Commissioner Nong proposed a motion instructing the POC to request specific data from the Probation Department including:

- a. The total number of youth and the total number of tickets currently filed with the Citation Diversion Program (CDP) and pending. Pending means the total number of tickets that are (1) pre-arraignment; (2) pre-trial; and (3) post-disposition, but the case is not closed.
- b. The total number of youth CDP has reported to DMV and (1) who have a current charge of failing to appear (FTA) and (2) who currently have license suspensions associated with that charge.
  - i. The total number of youth who have dealt with license suspensions as a consequence since the inception of CDP in 2012.
  - ii. The number of youth who have appeared at CDP but still currently have a license suspension (this number should be disaggregated between those who have appeared at arraignment and whose licenses are still suspended and those who have not appeared at arraignment yet).
- c. The total number of youth that currently have their licenses suspended by CDP as part of a disposition for an offense and a list of those offenses.
  - i. The total number of youth who have received a license suspension as part of a CDP disposition since 2019.
- d. A breakdown of all of CDP's currently pending violations.

On motion of Commissioner Nong, seconded by Commissioner Canales, and unanimously carried (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC approved the data request for a report back from the Probation Department within 60 days.

- Ayes:** 6 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Chair Franky Carrillo
- Absent:** 2 – Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC accepted Ms. Gasser-Ordaz, Ms. Clifton, Mr. Lira, and Ms. Rawson's presentations.

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

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made to remediate the identified health and safety violations towards suitability compliance with the California Board of State Community Corrections (BSCC).
  - Adolfo Gonzales, Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

**Ms. Julien shared that the POC made a motion to include this as a standing item on the POC agenda up until the suitability findings were determined. She stated that the BSCC review period was complete, but the findings would be voted on at the BSCC meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., making it inappropriate for Probation to comment during this meeting of the POC. Ms. Julien read the BSCC report, which states “Staff recommends that the Board make a determination of suitability within the meeting of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 209 Subdivision 84 for the following facilities: Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Hall.”**

**Olivia Shields addressed the POC by submitting written public comment.**

**Milinda Kakani addressed the POC.**

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

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC recessed at 1:38 p.m.**

**The meeting reconvened at 1:51 p.m.**

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on a presentation on the Probation Oversight Commission’s Strategic Operations Plan.
  - Strategic Planning Consultants Dr. Jorja Leap and Dr. Susana Bonis

**Dr. Leap stressed that this Strategic Operations Plan will be a set of straightforward operating instructions for 2022 that the POC could use as a tracking tool to stay on track towards achieving its goals. Dr. Bonis shared the basic outline with everyone and engaged the Commissioners and POC staff in discussion about the identifiable goals.**

**Olivia Shields addressed the POC by submitting written public comment.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC accepted Dr. Leap and Dr. Bonis’ verbal presentation.**

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

### III. REPORT

6. Report on the progress of the Probation Oversight Commission's Programs and Services ad hoc subcommittee's work reviewing the status of education programs in Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls and Camps.

**Commissioner Garcia-Leys stated that there have been changes and improvements as observations have been made, and that the subcommittee will be making connections between their observations and their recommendations in the final education report.**

**Miguel Casar addressed the POC.**

**The Commissioners expressed gratitude to Commissioner Garcia-Leys for leading this effort.**

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

7. Report on the progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made towards implementing the *L.A. Model* at Campus Kilpatrick.
  - Veronica Pawlowski, Senior Justice Deputy, Supervisorial District 3

**Ms. Pawlowski summarized the motion passed by the Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2021 regarding the implementation of the L.A. Model at Campus Kilpatrick. She emphasized that the main objective of the motion was to redefine the L.A. Model and ensure that the appropriate services and programs will be offered by Campus Kilpatrick. Ms. Pawlowski highlighted key concepts such using discretionary funding to expedite the integration of restorative justice programming, offering a Credible Messenger Mentorship Program at Barry J. Nidorf and Campus Kilpatrick, creating learning and educational opportunities for youth aged 18 to 25, and training all County employees assigned who work in Juvenile Halls and Camps on the L.A. Model and tailoring staff recruitment accordingly. Ms. Pawlowski stated that there are a series of initial report backs to the Board of Supervisors and that the Probation Department should report back to the POC regularly regarding its ongoing progress on this item.**

**Mr. Bettino mentioned that various factors have interfered with the Probation Department's progress on implementation of the L.A. Model, but is optimistic about providing updates on any progress that is made towards achieving this goal.**

**Milinda Kakani addressed the POC.**

**Wende invited attendees to the Town Hall on Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF), which was scheduled for November 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Ms. Pawlowski clarified Commissioner Nong's question by stating that the POC can discuss report backs as they are available and do not have to wait until final reports are received. Commissioner Nong inquired about the implementation delays with the Credible Messenger program at Campus Kilpatrick. Mr. Bettino answered that there are some barriers that the Probation Department is discussing such as recruiting staff who want to work at Campus Kilpatrick and dormitories for staff on the 56-hour work schedule. Ms. Pawlowski stressed the need to fill the Juvenile Camps and Halls with community-based**

organizations who can maintain a steady and consistent presence for youth.

Commissioner Dupuy raised a question about how the Board of Supervisors expects the POC to report to the Board on updates from the Probation Department. Ms. Pawlowski stated that these report backs can be made via conversations, formal actions, or Board Motions. Commissioner Dupuy inquired about how the Courts and other county departments are kept apprised and educated on the L.A. Model's intent. Ms. Pawlowski stated that she and her colleagues have been in constant contact with the Courts to understand how Individualized Rehabilitation Plans are created. Mr. Bettino confirmed that the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee is a diverse group with representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, and the Superior Courts to ensure transparency and consistency among the Los Angeles County departments in determining the most effective programming for the youth.

Mr. Bettino addressed Commissioner Dupuy's inquiry about staff recruitment by acknowledging that educational degree holders and those with lived experience are being considered in addition to candidates able to address the therapeutic needs of young people. Mr. Bettino mentioned that Clinicians and Credible Messengers would compliment the staffing model that the Probation Department adopts and would be engaged in integrated training as opposed to solely collocating with Probation staff.

Ms. Julien mentioned that she provides a monthly report to the Public Safety Cluster with the Justice Deputies. She also stated that the POC is preparing to engage in conversations with the Court regarding a number of issues in front of the POC.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner Yamashiro being absent), the POC accepted Ms. Pawlowski's report.

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

#### IV. MISCELLANEOUS

##### ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. Announcement of the resignation of Commissioner Robert M. Saltzman, appointed by Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third Supervisorial District, from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission.

Chair Carrillo shared that Commissioner Saltzman has retired from the POC due to health reasons. He added that Commissioner Saltzman's insight on the commission was greatly appreciated, and many Commissioners consider him a mentor and leader who is caring, thoughtful, and wise. His experience with the Los Angeles Police Department Commission was helpful to the POC, and the POC will miss his contributions on the team. The POC wished him the best.

Ms. Julien expressed thanks to Supervisor Kuehl and Ms. Pawlowski on nominating Commissioner Saltzman to the POC. She highlighted Commissioner Saltzman's active and vocal support of issues impacting the LGBTQ+ community, asking commissioners to ensure that those issues stay on the forefront given the disparate impact of the criminal justice system on the LGBTQ+ community.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Vice Chair Jackson and Commissioner

Yamashiro being absent), the POC reserved public comment on this item until item 10.

**MATTERS NOT POSTED**

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and 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.

**Ms. Julien reminded everyone of the POC Town Hall on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF). She also mentioned that the POC will return to the monthly Thursday POC meetings beginning in January 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., which may be in person.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

10. 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 [info@poc.lacounty.gov](mailto:info@poc.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.

**Olivia Shields addressed the POC by submitting written public comment.**

**Attachments:** [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

11. Adjournment for the regular meeting of November 15, 2021.

**Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.**