



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2022, 12:00 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Carrillo called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

2. Approval of the August 11, 2022 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the August 11, 2022 meeting minutes:

Ayes: **7 –** Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: **2 –** Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Attachments: [Approved August 11, 2022 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Probation Oversight Commission conducting hearings on the sexual assault and misconduct allegations.

Chair Carrillo shared background information on this topic and explained the POC is obligated to investigate critical matters that are brought to the commission's attention.

Alex Zuiderweg from County Counsel shared that there are privacy protections for victims of sexual misconduct and related to peace officers' personnel records, and restrictions on the public discussion of certain information regarding juveniles. She added that there are no restrictions for the advocates and victims who are willing to publicly address commission on topics that are related to pending litigation against the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Zuiderweg stated that members of the public can address the commission o anonymously.

Chair Carrillo recommended that the POC consider the general logistics of the special hearings including the purpose, location, time, and type of meeting. Ms. Zuiderweg explained that an ad hoc committee can be created to perform research on the allegations and report back to the POC in a public meeting. She clarified that allocating time for public comment at a special meeting is required, however, general public comment is not required.

Commissioner Yamashiro joined the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Commissioner Lewis joined the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Melvin Ashley, Genevieve, and Jack MacCarthy addressed the POC.

Chair Carrillo shared his sentiments in addressing what has already happened and emphasizing the need to ensure this never happens again. He encouraged the POC to uphold accountability and make sure that individuals who want to talk about this have a safe and respectful space to be heard.

Commissioner Dupuy expressed condolences and inquired about the powers that the POC have beyond collecting information. She embraced the creation of an ad hoc committee to provide a closed-door forum for victims to share their stories and find out what accountability look like for them.

Commissioner Jackson shared her sentiments on how traumatizing these experiences are to girls. She emphasized the importance of creating an open and candid space for victims to talk about their experiences, hear what justice looks like to them right now, empower them, and humanize their experiences while facilitating healing. Commissioner Jackson mentioned that the POC should consider hearing from victims with pending litigations, parties in cases resulting in convictions, advocates, and Probation employees.

Commissioner Meredith expressed the importance of reporting by all Probation staff, County employees, and inquired about ensuring that reporting is not being discouraged or intercepted moving forwards.

Commissioner Nong questioned the Probation Department's response to the misconduct allegations. She stated that hearing from individuals who have experienced the misconduct, young people who have been incarcerated at Camp Scott, their family members, and Probation staff will ensure that specific recommendations are put forward.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys expressed openness for closed and open sessions as well as the creation of an ad hoc committee to speak with victims based on their personal preferences. He emphasized that the POC take a stand on ending institutional incarceration of young women due to the inherently unacceptable facilities that women are vulnerable to while incarcerated. Commissioner Garcia-Leys mentioned that reported

investigations and sustained findings of sexual misconduct by law enforcement officers are not publicly available due to changes in the law, specifically Senate Bill 823. He stated that the POC can be a conduit for making available public information that may require litigation.

Commissioner Canales concurred that an ad hoc committee should be created to get answers to develop solutions. She emphasized the need to decarcerate young women, girls, transgender, and gender-expansive youth as instructed by the Board of Supervisors' motion as soon as possible.

Chair Carrillo shared that the POC can provide a platform for victims, advocates, field experts, lawyers, and Probation staff. He shared the benefits of holding the hearings in a facility such as Loyola Law School where the Civilian Oversight Commission held their hearings.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about Probation's reaction to the discussion, Chief Deputy Karen Fletcher shared that she is aware of the magnitude of the situation and would like to address the concerns, but the Department is still gathering information, which limits Probation's ability to respond publicly. Chief Deputy Adam Bettino expressed his sentiments on how terrible the allegations of misconducts are, adding that the Department is working closely with County Counsel to gather additional information, and that the Department is willing to participate as much as possible in the hearings.

In response to Chair Carrillo's inquiry about the Probation Department responding in a reactionary manner, Mr. Bettino explained that the Department has been looking into this for a few months now and emphasized that the current management team is working closely with County Counsel to conduct investigations on how sexual misconduct allegations were previously handled as well as distinguish cases that require immediate action or ongoing litigation processes. Mr. Bettino echoed Chief Adolfo Gonzales' words by stating that people engaging in sexual misconduct not only do not get to work at the Probation Department but will also be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Commissioner Meredith suggested that the Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General (OIG) also be involved as a fact gathering body.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys expressed the importance of talking with the young women and seeking their counsel's advice about how to proceed with the hearings.

Ms. Julien explained that reaching out to counsel, determining the level of interest, identifying possible questions, and making some of those decisions can be discussed with the ad hoc committee.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about what is happening right now to the incarcerated girls, and asked how the POC hold governmental institutions accountable. She encouraged the POC to move to the full extent of its power to get the girls home or to a safe place.

Chair Carrillo recommended that the POC create the ad hoc committee and determine what the ad hoc committee would focus on later.

Commissioners Jackson, Dupuy, Meredith, and Carrillo volunteered to be members of this ad hoc committee.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed a motion to direct POC staff to request the Probation Department make publicly available any investigative documents related to sustained findings of sexual assault by a law enforcement officer against the member of the public. He added that the motion includes a directive for Probation staff to prioritize findings of sexual assault and immediately provide the POC with all the records of sustained findings related to sexual assault. Lastly, direct staff to provide the POC with all other related documents (under Senate Bill 1421 and Senate Bill 16) as they become available.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys clarified Commissioner Jackson's inquiry by confirming that the intent was to include all records that are in the possession of the Probation Department (probation officers and law enforcement officers).

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, the POC agreed to direct staff to request all records from the Probation Department, made publicly available under Senate Bill 1421 and Senate Bill 16, prioritize those for findings of sexual assault, and provide those immediately to the POC with all other related documents being shared as they are made available:

Ayes: 9 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Chair Carrillo proposed a motion to create an ad hoc committee on sexual assault and misconduct.

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried, the POC agreed to create an ad hoc committee to address the issues of sexual assault and misconduct within the Los Angeles Probation Department:

Ayes: 9 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Commissioner Nong encouraged the inclusion of system transgender young women, transgender young men, and gender-expansive youth.

Attachments: [Board Motion](#)
 [Los Angeles Times Article](#)
 [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made moving youth dispositioned to the secure track to Campus Kilpatrick and future plans for additional Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) sites.

- Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Ms. Julien stated that conversations around the facilities are ongoing, but there has been

broad agreement on moving youth to Campus Kilpatrick in the quickest, most effective way possible. She emphasized that investing in home-like environments at all the facilities is important for SYTF, pre-disposition, and camp populations. Ms. Julien reiterated that the combined capacities of Campus Kilpatrick and Camp Scott are not enough to accommodate the total number of SYTF youth.

Ms. Fletcher mentioned that six youth on the secure track will move to Campus Kilpatrick next week and assessments and evaluations are occurring to ensure they are adapting to the dorm setting. She stated that the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings are ongoing and the staffing plan for supervising the SYTF youth in the cottage has been confirmed.

Raymon Olvera, Zoe Rawson, Stephanie Johnson, Anonymous Caller, Christopher Wedel, Mainor Xuncax, Aditi Sherikar, Lily Brainard, Gloria Gonzalez, Ezekiel Nishiyama, Sonnie, Marcella Rosen, Thomas Bell, Tedese Ross, Travion Chamberlain, Akeila Jefferson, Milinda Kakani, and Miguel Casar addressed the POC.

Commissioner Lewis emphasized the importance of Credible Messengers.

Commissioner Nong inquired about how “readiness” to move to Kilpatrick is determined and reasons for holding youth at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJN). Ms. Fletcher responded by stating that there over 50 youth adjudicated to the secure youth track, and that number is expected to increase over time. She explained that readiness is determined using several factors such as mental health, program participation, and housing preferences for youth, and contractual negotiations, training, skill sets, and preparedness to care for SYTF youth for Probation staff.

Mr. Bettino reminded everyone that Campus Kilpatrick is still deemed as a temporary site due to ongoing research into the environmental impacts.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared his sentiments on the movement of SYTF happening and highlighted the importance of Probation making sure the young people feel comfortable and safe around each other by moving youth slowly and steadily.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys’ inquiry about Probation’s position on remodeling BJN, Ms. Fletcher shared that the remodeling began on September 19, 2022 to create a more home-like environment. She explained the challenges at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP), Camp Scott, and Campus Kilpatrick, and emphasized that the youth need a continuum of service. Mr. Bettino added that Probation is trying to create home-like and therapeutic environments within the antiquated facilities for all the populations.

In response to Commissioner Dupuy’s inquiry about how six youth were chosen for the initial move, Ms. Fletcher explained that there are two units within each cottage and one cottage ready to house youth. She stated that housing three youth in each unit within the cottage would give the youth ample space to adjust, allow for appropriate staffing, and stabilize this group as evaluations continue for additional SYTF movements.

Commissioner Dupuy requested that written plans and timelines for moving the remaining SYTF youth be shared. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that this is happening in real time and MDT meetings are being conducted. She stated that the Department can outline what has taken place and identify lessons learned from this experience.

Commissioner Lewis emphasized that Probation cannot drastically shift populations at one time, the transition must be done gradually so youth can adjust to being in the new setting. He stated that the staffing patterns should be correct, and programming already in place for SYTF youth arriving at a facility.

In response to Commissioner Canales' inquiry about notifying young women currently housed at LP prior to entering the facility, Mr. Bettino explained that there is communication with the program administrators and Probation is notified when it is appropriate to enter the facility.

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the 2022 inspections of Dorothy Kirby Center and Camp Scott.

- Dr. Erica Reynoso, Project Director, Probation Oversight Commission

On motion of Chair Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, the POC agreed to table this item to a future meeting.

Ayes: **9 –** Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

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

III. REPORTS

6. Executive Director report, discussion, and possible action on the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission's progress towards completing its 2022 strategic goals. The report this month will include updates on data sharing, strategic planning for 2023, and girls/gender expansive youth decarceration.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien reported that most of the benchmarks in the POC's 2022 strategic operating goals have been completed but that many of the overall goals are far from complete and have shown, in some cases, steps backwards. She stated that the POC will take a different approach for its 2023 strategic plan to ensure the strategic goals closely align with the 93 reform goals and make measurable difference for the youth and adults served by Probation.

Sabra Williams, Travion Chamberlain, Gloria Gonzalez address the POC.

Attachments: [Daily Population Stats](#)
[ProbStat Data](#)
[OC Deployment Reports](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

7. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on general departmental updates.
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- Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Bettino reported that there are 130-140 individuals in the background phase of the hiring process, that are preparing to participate in the new training academies by the end of this month. He mentioned that many people are medically retiring and resigning, which increases attrition rates. Mr. Bettino stated that the Probation Department is working with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to discuss disability management policies and focus on performance management.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

8. 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.

(Not on agenda)

- Commissioner Yamashiro requested that a report back be made to the POC on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made with California's Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement.
- Dr. Erica Reynoso announced that the Youth Commission in partnership the POC and the Commission for Children and Families will host a community youth engagement resource fair for transition age youth on Saturday, September 17th at the Hall of Administration.

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 info@poc.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. one business day before the scheduled meeting to be included on the agenda. Please include the Agenda Item(s) and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received by 5:00 p.m. the same day of the meeting shall become part of the official record.

Krista Newble addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. ADJOURNMENT

10. Adjournment for the regular meeting of September 8, 2022.

Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.
