



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



poc.lacounty.gov

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022, 2:00 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 2:02 p.m. and expressed condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Deputy Probation Officer II Paula Lind. 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, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Discuss and take possible 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.

Commissioners Lewis, Garcia-Leys, and Meredith shared their experiences visiting Campus Kilpatrick and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJN) to observe youth in SYTF. They noted staffing shortages and inconsistencies, a lack of programming, and the importance of building relationships (human interactions) for a sustainable culture.

Commissioner Dupuy joined the meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Mr. Luis Rodriguez, Public Defender of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, and member of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) emphasized the recurring requests from Public Defender clients for more programming and more time to get fresh air. As a member of the JJCC-JJRBG, he shared that the priority is pushing for a permanent placement for youth on the secure track. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that the JJCC-JJRBG is considering a step-down facility with programs for the SYTF youth who are almost done with their term and will be paroling out of the system.

Mr. Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, provided remarks and updates on changing Probation's culture. He mentioned that ongoing collaboration is happening with Probation and the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) to align with goals of Youth Justice Reimagined.

Commissioner Lewis complimented how staff engage with youth at Campus Kilpatrick.

In response to Chair Carrillo's inquiry about types of programming that would be recommended, Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that programming discussions have happened broadly, and no decision has been made on exactly which type of programming because the permanent locations have yet to be determined.

Commissioner Yamashiro left the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about Probation's consideration of contracting with more community-based organizations (CBOs) and Credible Messenger Programs to immediately alleviate the capacity issues of Probation staff providing supervision and programming. Mr. Gonzales shared one of his interactions of youth being receptive to CBOs' programming efforts.

Ms. Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy Probation Officer for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, added that Probation is composing a list of programs that will be offered to all the youth under Probation's supervision.

Ms. Mary Ann Smiley, Probation Director for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, mentioned that most of the servicers for youth in SYTF are CBOs and other partner agencies such as the Department of Mental Health, with some ran by Probation Officer case workers.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about no programming going on in facilities during the site visits. Ms. Smiley explained that regular programming is happening at Campus Kilpatrick, but there have been delays in programming at other facilities due to youth movements and CBO staffing shortages.

In response to Commissioner Dupuy's inquiry about the typical number of hours programming is offered during the day, Ms. Smiley shared that it varies throughout the day depending on hours youth spend in school and the availability of the CBOs.

Commissioner Meredith asked for clarification on when programming is being offered because he has not seen it at all on both planned visits and surprise visits. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that Probation can provide the POC with a schedule of programming while actively trying to build the programming within the facilities.

Commissioner Lewis recommended other programs to model and research for community security and emphasized the importance of Credible Messengers running the programs.

Chair Carrillo shared the importance of referencing youth collectively (and not separating youth on the secure track) since all the youth are affected by movement within the secured facilities.

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

3. Discuss and take possible action on the hiring freeze placed on juvenile supervision positions within the Los Angeles County Probation Department by the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office (CEO).

Mr. Gonzales clarified that the hiring freeze refers to the Juvenile Institutions Services (JIS) budget item, which ultimately affects both sworn, professional, and clinical staff. He emphasized that changing Probation's culture begins with recruitment and selection, as well as ongoing training and development, and changing the way Probation interacts with youth and adults (clients).

Ms. Nicole Brown, Policy Manager at the Urban Peace Institute and Coordinating Member of the Los Angeles Youth Uprising Coalition, delivered a presentation highlighting key facts and figures of the JIS hiring freeze.

Ms. Julien explained the agenda attachments and how they all relate to Probation's request to lift its hiring freeze. She emphasized that the 56-hour work week study was included to uplift the importance of staffing diversification as it relates to the LA Model.

Commissioner Dupuy left the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Chair Carrillo inquired about the salary for a person who is not reporting to work. Based on a report back in July 2021, Ms. Brown estimated that the approximate salary and benefit costs for employees in juvenile institutions is \$189,063, estimate for field services employees is \$157,000, and those working in special services earn approximately \$173,000. She clarified that the total spent on employee salaries and benefits for JIS equated to \$314,941,000.

Commissioner Canales raised concerns with lifting the hiring freeze with almost 50% of employees off work with full pay already.

Chair Carrillo inquired about employee salaries from the Probation Department. Mr. Gonzales emphasized that salaries are paid based on an employees' job classification. Ms. Fletcher further explained the various leaves County employees and Probation Officers (referred to as Peace Officers in state law) can use. She further stated that doctor notes are required for an absence to be excused.

Commissioner Lewis reiterated that employee leaves, call outs, and vacations are County policies.

Attachments: [Supporting Document](#)
[09-13-22 Board Motion](#)
[BOS Report Backs](#)
[56-Hour Work Week Study](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. **MISCELLANEOUS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

4. 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 9:00

a.m. the day after the public town hall meeting shall become part of the official record.

Ezekiel Nishiyama, Frank Paredes, Jaki, Joseph P. Lopez, Zoe Rawson, Sabra Williams, Miguel Casar, Marsha McLean, Stacy Nunez, Maureen Pacheco, Leah Zeidler-Ordaz, and Krista Newble addressed the POC.

Commissioner Nong proposed a motion to submit a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors declining Probation's request of lifting the hiring freeze for the Probation Department's Juvenile Institutions Services budget unit.

Commissioner Meredith expressed his opposition to this motion due to ongoing staffing concerns at the juvenile camps and halls, which impact the safety of youth.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys emphasized that Probation currently has 135 approved positions that have not been fulfilled.

On motion of Commissioner Nong, seconded by Chair Carrillo, carried by the following vote (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the POC approved that a recommendation be sent to the Board of Supervisors declining the lift of Probation's hiring freeze:

Ayes:	5 –	Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Sean Garcia Leys, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo
Noes:	1 –	Commissioner Donald D. Meredith
Absent:	3 –	Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Commissioner Lewis shared that youth on the secure track are under different supervision and programming compared to the rest of the compound. He emphasized the importance of communication amongst staff despite the staffing inconsistencies so that youths' questions and concerns can be adequately answered.

In response to Commissioner Canales' inquiry about obtaining data on the costs associated with employee call outs and leaves for the Probation Department. Mr. Gonzales stated that this data can be obtained by submitting a formal request to the Probation Department.

Chair Carrillo inquired about obtaining a roster of the individuals who are programming at the juvenile facilities. Ms. Julien confirmed that the POC has an existing request to obtain programming calendars in advance of scheduled inspections, which is included in the Memorandum of Understanding between the POC and the Probation Department.

Commissioner Nong inquired about getting programming schedules in advance and a follow up scheduling confirming which programming took place. Ms. Julien stated the POC's Programs and Services ad hoc committee can follow up on this request.

Commissioner Meredith proposed a motion to request the Chief Probation Officer to provide his top five immediate priorities to address custodial management of youth, reduction of assaults on both youth and staff, getting staff to return to work and not

callout, management of the Secure Youth Track including locations and programming, and plan to address hiring, training, and resources available for new hires of custody management. This report back of priorities to the POC should include the intended purpose, how success will be measured, date of implementation, and expected completion.

Commissioner Lewis left the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Chair Carrillo, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent) the POC approved the request for a report back from the Chief Probation Officer on his top five juvenile priorities:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: 4 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Commissioner Meredith proposed a motion to request the Chief Probation Officer to provide his top five immediate priorities to address field supervision of adult probationers, PCRS, etc., safety of field personnel when making home checks, and retaining field staff on assignments in lieu of temporary assignments to halls and camps. This report back of priorities to the POC should include the intended purpose, how success will be measured, date of implementation, and expected completion.

On motion by Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Chair Carrillo, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent) the POC approved the request for a report back from the Chief Probation Officer on his top five adult services priorities:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Absent: 4 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

MATTERS NOT POSTED

5. 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.

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

III. ADJOURNMENT

6. Adjournment for the special meeting of September 26, 2022.

Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.