



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



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022, 12:00 P.M.

VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Vice Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Ms. 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,
 Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Vice Chair Esché
 L. Jackson

Absent: Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo

2. Approval of the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes and the September 26, 2022 special meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the September 8, 2022 meeting minutes and September 26, 2022 special meeting minutes:

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

Absent: **2 –** Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo

Attachments: [Approved September 8, 2022 Minutes](#)
 [Approved September 26, 2022 Minutes](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Special Enforcement Operations Unit (SEO) new taser usage policy and training plans.
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- Howard Wong, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Ms. Julien summarized the Board of Supervisors' motion and emphasized that the review process with Probation was collaborative. She highlighted the POC's role in the motion, which was to review and provide feedback to the Probation Department on the drafted Taser Policy and training plans. Ms. Julien stated that numerous recommendations shared by the POC to Probation were implemented into revised policy.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys summarized the feedback outlined in the POC's attached memorandum and explained how it was suggested based on a researched comparable taser policy model and conversations with the Probation Department.

Mr. Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General for the Los Angeles County Office of the Inspector General (OIG), highlighted OIG's recommendations which include the intention of the tasers, clear definition of the class of personnel that can seek authorization of use, ongoing inspection of the Tasers' operations with corresponding documentation, quarterly training log, documentation of taser incidents including actions taken by medical personnel, and language prohibiting huddling before reports are made.

Mr. Wong mentioned that the taser is listed as a high-risk tool that is a less lethal force than a firearm.

No members of the public addressed the POC.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about why verbiage was not included prohibiting taser use on children.

Commissioner Meredith expressed that the taser policy should not place stipulations on age for the safety of Probation Officers, youth, and the community. In response to Commissioner Meredith's inquiry, Mr. Wong confirmed that Probation reviewed taser policies referenced by other probation agencies.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared results of his research about the physical development of adolescent youth, specifically their chest walls. He emphasized that the safety of the child being tased should also be considered in addition to the obvious age of the child.

Commissioner Dupuy expressed the importance of having more guidance in the policy around taser use on children due to the diversified biological genetic make-up of children and associated risks tasing may cause. She mentioned that more detailed clarification with distinguishing emergent situations from life-threatening situations is needed.

Ms. Julien reiterated that the purpose of this agenda item was to collectively approve the feedback in the attached memorandum to complete the request in the Board motion.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Dupuy, carried by the following vote (Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo being absent), the POC agreed to approve the POC's feedback as presented in the attached memorandum:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Noes: 2 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith and Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo

Ms. Julien, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Ms. Alex Zuiderweg from County Counsel clarified that the POC does not have a role in approving the taser policy or the purchase of the tasers.

Commissioner Nong proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Yamashiro, to recommend that the Board not approve the purchase of the Tasers by the Probation Department until the recommendations from the POC and OIG are adopted.

Commissioner Meredith shared that delaying the purchase of tasers would be a disservice to the field officers because tasers is a tool that might keep them and the public safe.

Commissioner Nong clarified that her motion would be to delay the purchase of the tasers while further consideration is sought on Probation’s Taser Policy and training plan.

Mr. Wong clarified that the purchase of the tasers was already authorized by the Board of Supervisors, but the purchase order cannot be submitted until 30 days after the taser policy and training plan were reviewed by the POC and OIG with their perspective feedback to the Probation Department.

Commissioner Jackson recommended that the feedback of the POC and OIG be considered, if not incorporated, into Probation’s taser policy prior to field Probation Officers being equipped with the tasers.

In response to Commissioner Dupuy’s inquiry about barriers to developing more specific language around taser usage for children, Mr. Wong stated that doing so is prescriptive. He also explained how assaultive high-risk scenarios can lead to life-threatening situations because age does not prevent an individual from inflicting harm on others.

Commissioner Yamashiro proposed amendments in the terminology within the motion being discussed.

Commissioner Meredith emphasized the purpose of targeting use of force tactics opposed to imposing age limitations, which becomes very problematic when trying to take operational responsibility for what the policy instructs authorized users to do.

Commissioner Canales inquired about use of force in life-threatening situations including serious bodily injuries. Mr. Wong responded by confirming that currently, if a situation escalates to assaultive high-risk, then an impact weapon such as a baton is used. He added that if the baton strike does not prevent escalation, the situation becomes life-threatening, which is when a lethal force such as a firearm is used.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired if tasers will be used as an alternative to firearms or an alternative to batons because Mr. Wong’s description and the policy indicate they are an alternative to batons in assaultive high-risk situations.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about research and supporting data to justify the

authorization of tasers or changes in Probation's current Use of Force Policy. Mr. Wong explained that tasers were part of the Department's Corrective Action Plan for an occurrence where there is a fatality and compared low incidences of OC Spray deployment data in the field to potential taser usages.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys clarified that there are no statistics presented to support the authorization to purchase tasers.

Commissioner Nong clarified her motion, re-seconded by Commissioner Yamashiro, for the commission to adopt a resolution recommending to the Board of Supervisors that the taser policy, as currently written, shall not take effect, and tasers shall not be purchased or issued to personnel, until the policy is updated to satisfactorily incorporate the feedback of the POC and the OIG.

On motion by Commissioner Nong, seconded by Commissioner Yamashiro, carried by the following vote (Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo being absent), the POC did not pass a resolution recommendation to the Board of Supervisors:

Ayes: 3 – Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Abstain: 3 – Commissioner Danielle M. Dupuy, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, and Secretary Dolores Canales

Noes: 1 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis and Chair Franky Carrillo

Attachments: [Board Motion](#)
[Probation's Drafted Taser Policy](#)
[POC's Feedback](#)
[OIG's Feedback](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Chief's top priorities for the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

- Adolfo Gonzales, Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Chief Gonzales discussed his top priorities for the Probation Department.

On the juvenile side, he highlighted several priorities including the well-being of staff and clients, adequately staffing facilities and enhancing training practices, effective collaboration, increased partnerships to provide optimal services to clients and their families, economic incentives for employees (re-evaluated every 60 days), and therapeutic youth development.

For the adult services, Mr. Gonzales discussed supervision and training enhancements, establishing partnerships so clients have ample employment, housing, and mental health options, providing adequate resources to staff to perform their jobs, and requiring face-to-face reporting with clients.

No members of the public addressed the POC.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about the policy for deploying Special Enforcement Operation (SEO) officers to detention facilities, the rationale for allowing SEO officers to conduct searches, and overtime being offered to SEO officers to conduct those searches at the halls. Mr. Gonzales explained how the economic incentive includes hours worked at the halls plus overtime pay, which would depend on the shifts and number of hours worked. He added that the rationale for deploying SEO officers is attributed to staffing shortages and contraband issues.

Ms. Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, stated that SEO deployments are necessary to provide support in the units because they have specialized training in conducting canine and strip searches with supervisor approval until contraband is recovered. She clarified that body cavity searches are only conducted by medical professionals, and Probation has not referred anyone to medical professionals for a cavity search. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that Probation can provide the policy on searches to the POC.

Commissioner Meredith explained that the POC was expecting priorities with implementation dates and expected completion dates. He added that some of the areas of concern were home checks, properly equipping staff with training and clients with programming, reducing staff and youth assaults, preventive plans to decrease assaults, and plans for youth on the secure track.

In response to Commissioner Dupuy's inquiry about a date when SEO will no longer be entering juvenile facilities, Mr. Gonzales stated that these deployments will cease once new staff are hired.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about additional staff being present so more programming can take place. Mr. Gonzales stressed the importance of adequate staffing levels so programming can take place where staff, youth, and community partners feel safe. Ms. Fletcher added that staff deployed from the field are rotated so services are not impacted. She shared that this rotation is being evaluated for 60 days as of October 1, 2022 and volunteer programs are being welcomed into the facilities.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about Probation's training for the new staff that are being hired, specifically if there is a there a situational training component to help them get acclimated to various work environments. Mr. Bettino, Chief Deputy for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, distinguished previous training practices to the current practice, which will include a mentorship component with line staff during the academy and debriefing opportunities. He added that the training curriculum is being vetted by the Department of Youth Development to include youth justice reimaged principles, with the first academy start date being October 28, 2022.

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the 2022 inspections of Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) and Camp Scott.
 - Dr. Erica Reynoso, Project Director, Probation Oversight Commission

Dr. Reynoso delivered a presentation on the POC's facility inspections.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Commissioner Canales left the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

Ms. Jennifer Kaufman, Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, responded to questions about staffing and the bifurcation of duties that happens when there are numerous absences at DKC. She added that the classrooms are under construction until December 2022 and the Management Services Bureau are ensuring the cottages look less institutionalized.

Dr. Reynoso inquired about educational and vocational services being offered. Ms. Kaufman mentioned that the educational programs are in partnership with Los Angeles Trade Tech College, one program is being funded by the Fourth Supervisorial District at various locations, and there is an array of online certification programs that will be available in addition to the vocational training, which will be offered to all populations at DKC and Camp Scott.

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

6. 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

Mr. Bettino shared that there are not a lot of updates related to conversations about specific sites with County Council to address SYTF staffing issues and recruitment efforts.

Commissioner Yamashiro left the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

No members of the public addressed the POC.

Commissioner Meredith left the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Commissioner Nong inquired about more details on when the next cohort of youth will be moved to Campus Kilpatrick and any anticipated challenges to moving additional youth. Ms. Fletcher explained that the SYTF youth are on a one-on-one ratio for supervision and have spent lots of time together as a cohort during meals, programming, recreation, and school and this ratio will be reevaluated in 30 days. She shared that one concern is the transition from individual rooms to an open dorm setting.

Commissioner Dupuy left the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Nong inquired about the California Board of State and Community Corrections' (BSCC) list of improvements being addressed prior to additional youth being transferred to Campus Kilpatrick. Ms. Fletcher stated that the one-to-one ratio of SYTF youth to staff was used to mitigate security concerns while the security measures were implemented and that she will be drafting a letter to the BSCC explaining the progress and offering an alternative.

Commissioner Nong requested copies of the BSCC's list of recommended changes for Campus Kilpatrick, Ms. Fletcher's 30-day written update to the BSCC on the one-to-one staffing ratios and any suggested plan for making any adjustments moving forward.

In response to Commissioner Nong's inquiry about cottage capacity at Campus Kilpatrick, Ms. Fletcher noted that the rated total capacity for Campus Kilpatrick is still 48, with the goal of keeping each unit's capacity at 12 with the flexibility to be adjusted as necessary.

Commissioner Nong inquired about how reclassification applies to the SYTF population. Ms. Fletcher explained that reclassification of SYTF is when an assessment is conducted to determine a youth's readiness to transfer, and the same criterion are being used.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared accolades to the Probation Department, and everyone involved for making the move to Campus Kilpatrick so great.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about plans to improve the physical conditions of the units at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. Ms. Fletcher explained that the goal is to make the facilities like a home-like environment, with a focus on programming. Mr. Bettino added that his team is outlining plans for the vision in the short-term, including upgrading the internal environment's furnishings, bringing in new staff, and training and retraining employees.

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

III. REPORTS

7. 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 and research, sexual misconduct ad hoc committee, and OC Spray.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien provided updates on the sexual misconduct ad hoc committee. She reported that conversations have taken place on how to proceed with this investigatory process. Vice Chair Jackson added that the ad hoc committee is also requesting the women to identify their desired outcomes to shape the process for the POC and the public.

Ms. Julien expressed concerns with increased deployments of OC Spray, particularly at Central Juvenile Hall, and that the POC is performing research and will be sharing a report at a future meeting.

Ms. Julien reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by the Probation Department regarding the regular sharing of data including demographic data that contributes to compliance with Board motions. Additionally, she shared that the MOU will provide more regular reports about the status of POC requests for information and give explanations about delays and rationales for the information requests.

No members of the public addressed the POC.

Attachments: [POC Data Definitions](#)
[Population Statistics – September 28, 2022](#)

[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Report on Elimination of OC Spray](#)
[Pending Data Requests](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. **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.

(Not on agenda)

- **Ms. Julien explained the POC's attached schedule for the remaining months of 2022 and encouraged Probation employees to register to attend the POC's town hall on October 24, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.**
- **Ms. Julien announced that the POC is hiring for the Community Services Coordinator I position and is seeking someone who is interested in and has a background in community engagement, community organizing, social justice, and community outreach.**

Attachments: [POC's 4th Quarter Meetings](#)

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.

Richard and Thomas Bell addressed the POC.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about obtaining an inventory list of the recovered contraband collected during searches. Ms. Fletcher confirmed that she will check with County Counsel to seek clearance on what can be shared.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

10. Adjournment for the regular meeting of October 13, 2022.

Vice Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.