



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 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. Ms. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Donald D. Meredith and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and unanimously carried (Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes as amended:

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

Absent: **3 –** Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Cyn Yamashiro, and Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [Approved October 13, 2022 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

Agenda item 3 was discussed next, followed by agenda items 5, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

3. 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.
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- Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Bettino stated that the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council-Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) Subcommittee has been evaluating ways to allocate state funds which will include streamlining and expanding programs and services. He mentioned that recommendations for funding will be discussed at the next meeting on November 9th.

Ms. Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, added that she sent a response to the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) on October 14, 2022 regarding Title 24 outstanding issues at Camp Kilpatrick. She added that the next cohort of youth has been identified but are pending movement to Camp Kilpatrick based on the BSCC's response. Ms. Fletcher verbally listed some of the security enhancements expected to be installed by November 30, 2022. She will discuss with counsel the option to provide the POC with a copy of the exhaustive list of outstanding items.

Aditi Sherikar, Damon Ayala, and Thomas Bell addressed the POC.

Chair Carrillo inquired about how many youths are ready to move to Camp Kilpatrick. Ms. Fletcher responded that many are ready to go, emphasizing the need to move the youth in small cohorts.

Commissioner Canales shared her sentiments from her interactions with youth at Camp Kilpatrick and emphasized the need to prioritize the voices of the detained youth. She conveyed the youth's concerns of a mass movement, rushing the movements, and what would happen to their programming as the movements are taking place.

To clarify Commissioner Dupuy's inquiry about readiness criteria for moving all the youth that are supposed to go to Camp Kilpatrick, Ms. Fletcher explained that the readiness criteria are being used a general guideline to prepare youth for moving to Camp Kilpatrick, not an incentive. She reiterated that additional youth cannot be moved to Camp Kilpatrick due to the BSC-approved capacity of six with one-on-one supervision. Ms. Fletcher explained that if someone assigned to a cohort to move to Camp Kilpatrick goes home prior to being transferred, another youth deemed ready will fill that spot to ensure approved capacity.

Commissioner Lewis gave accolades to Probation Staff for engaging with youth at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH). He shared that the number of logged fights at BJNJH have decreased, youth are participating in the behavior management program, and line staff were encouraged to continue to send messages up through the chain of command so resources can be provided.

Commissioner Nong requested that POC receive a copy of the BSCC's response and clarification about whether Probation intends to wait until they hear from the BSCC before moving additional youth to Camp Kilpatrick. She inquired about the overall capacity of Kilpatrick with the 1:1 staffing ratio and asked for confirmation that the goal is to move away from the one-to-one ratio. Commissioner Nong asked about how Probation is determining readiness of youth to move and asked if young people are involved in the discussions about their readiness or able to invite a caring adult. Ms. Fletcher confirmed that youth are involved as well as their attorneys through the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) process.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys requested clarification on when the next cohort will be going over to Camp Kilpatrick. Ms. Fletcher stated that an additional cohort can be moved pending completion of repairs at Camp Kilpatrick, which is expected to be completed on November 30, 2022, but did not provide a date. She added that the one-to-one ratios are a mitigating factor to the security issues while security enhancement items were installed.

Commissioner Lewis emphasized how valuable it is to have encouraging conversations with the youth, so they understand the reasonings behind certain decisions.

Chair Carrillo expressed gratitude to Probation's leadership team for their work in making progressive strides in the right direction.

Agenda item 5 was discussed next.

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Community Detention Program and electronic monitoring (EM) of youth within the Los Angeles County Probation Department.
 - Julia Vest, Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Kate Weisburd, Associate Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School

Ms. Vest presented on how the Community Detention Program works within the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Commissioner Nong inquired about how referrals are made to the Community Detention Program. Ms. Vest explained the referrals categories and the process for referring youth at intake and home on probation. Ms. Vest stated that Probation Officers sometimes recommend EM to encourage youth to comply with a court order.

Commissioner Nong asked for clarification on what happens when a young person violates the terms of EM. Ms. Vest emphasized that violations depend on the court order and that many juvenile courts have an "arrest on first violation" policy. Youth are sometimes given exceptions especially on minimal violations. She further explained how electronic failures are handled and verified.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about the process for detention on a violation and what exceptions were allowed. Ms. Vest shared that although exceptions differ between youth and adults, known exceptions are usually discussed and negotiated with the commissioner and the judge to the court. She further explained that in LA county, ankle monitors used on youth do not have GPS tracking, highlighting that the GPS is more invasive for youth and has been deemed unnecessary.

Commissioner Dupuy inquired about the biggest challenges with completing a Community Detention Program without being detained again. Ms. Vest mentioned that this type of program is the most challenging for those who suffer from substance abuse, those who have struggled with school attendance prior to being placed in a Community Detention Program, and encouraging the whole family to be involved in the youth's success.

Commissioner Yamashiro joined the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Ms. Weisburd gave a verbal presentation on her research regarding concerns with the use of EM in the juvenile courts, how EM operates in both the adult and juvenile systems, and proposed several recommendations to consider to reduce the negative impacts of EM on youth.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the options to use EM in lieu of detention for 707B and other serious offenses. Ms. Vest stated many current clients on EM have been charged with 707B and other serious offenses and that the recommendation can be made through intake, prior to initial court appearance.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the recommendations the County can consider to measure the overall effectiveness of EM to ensure it is being used as an alternative to incarceration. Ms. Weisburd encouraged everyone to think about ways to articulate the purpose and goal of EM so the progress towards achieving that goal can be measured.

Ms. Julien inquired about how EM is used for youth who are in placement (STRTPs) and Ms. Vest explained that youth can participate in Community Detention Programs at their placement sites without being detained.

Ms. Vest explained that the County is examining the use of an improved intake tool that will eliminate guess work with an expected roll out early next year. She added that the tool, currently used in Alameda County, would use different calculations that should reduce net widening and reduce detention numbers.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys emphasized the need to keep prioritizing public safety, and spending time in juvenile hall does not make the community safer. He requested a follow-up on the roll out and that the data be tracked.

Ms. Weisburd suggested that the Commission look at incarceration and Community Detention Program rates over a six-month period to ensure that incarceration is declining while EM rates remain the same or increase, in order to determine the effectiveness of a new program.

Chair Carrillo confirmed with Ms. Vest that youth are not charged for EM, even if they cut off monitors. She agreed, stating that youth are placed on a bench warrant in that case.

Agenda item 6 was discussed next.

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on a preliminary report and questions for the Los Angeles County Probation Department regarding progress towards eliminating the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray in juvenile camps and halls.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission
 - Dr. Sarah Gongora, Psy.D., Project Director, Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien explained that the decision to eliminate the use of OC Spray was already determined by the Board, and the POC has been monitoring the progress toward phasing it out. The POC has receives regular OC Spray deployment reports will soon be sharing a

report about concerning trends with OC deployment rates.

No members of the public addressed the POC.

Commissioner Nong inquired about OC Spray issuance to staff who are deployed to the juvenile halls from the field. Ms. Fletcher stated that due to staffing shortages, deployed staff who were previously trained on OC Spray usage or were assigned OC Spray as part of their job assignments were granted OC Spray if deployment was to a juvenile hall.

In response to Commissioner Nong's inquiry about refresher training requirements and allowances for staff to bring their own field-issued OC Spray, Mr. Bettino mentioned that staff receive OC Spray training during academy, OC Spray use policies, and are offered refresher training on a consistent basis. He stated that he will check on the refresher training statuses for the new group of staff that are being deployed due to staffing shortages.

Commissioner Nong inquired about updates to the Early Intervention System, which would be able to identify deployed staff and staffing patterns. Mr. Bettino explained that there are still revisions going by the Accountability Systems Bureau, but he will report back to the POC once it has been finalized.

Agenda item 4 was discussed next.

Attachments: Supporting Document
 [OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

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 an update on the Employee Town Hall.

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

Ms. Julien thanked attendees (staff, probation employees, and commissioners) at the recent employee town hall and shared key takeaways which included: Employees are dedicated and genuinely worried about their safety in the facilities, concerned about the future of their jobs and the Department. She shared the attendees' thoughts about the cause of the staffing crisis, noting that safety, morale, a lack of training, and a lack of tools/resources contribute to the problem. Ms. Julien mentioned that the attendees agreed that the site selection, staffing, and programming for SYTF are the key issues facing the Probation Department right now and understand and agree with the POC's focus on juvenile. Concerning feedback included an overall lack of hope/feelings of resignation related to morale in general and all the oversight that leads to staff feeling constantly criticized.

Chair Carrillo echoed the thanks and expressed feeling impressed with the respect, candor and grateful for the help broadening perspective of POC. Commissioner Canales echoed staff's report of needs for more successful programs for youth. Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared that he heard that people feel that the level of violence in the halls has reached a crisis point and that they are putting their lives on the line to perform this work, while being criticized for doing their job, without an organized way to share concerns and get them to supervisors. Given this fear and concern about exposure to violence, he expressed how hard it is to imagine how youth are feeling.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Commissioner Dupuy shared that there are efforts going on and options being explored amongst stakeholders to find solutions on how people, specifically Probation employees, can successfully transition to other work areas.

Attachments: [PROBSTAT Data](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

III. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

7. 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)

Commissioner Yamashiro announced that he will be vacating his Commission position effective immediately. Commissioners Nong and Dupuy announced that they both will be vacating their Commission positions in December 2022.

Ms. Julien shared how grateful she is for their service and contribution to the POC's work. She explained the two ways that Commissioners are appointed: district appointees are selected by the Supervisors of each supervisorial district and the at-large appointees are selected and recommended by the POC and sent to be appointed by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8. 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](#)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of October 27, 2022.

Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.