



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



poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023, 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. and thanked Commissioner Nong for her tenure as Commissioner. Ms. Janae Perkins conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani,
 Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith,
 Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice
 Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

2. Approval of the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and unanimously carried, the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner
 Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis,
 Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner
 Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales,
 Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky
 Carrillo

Attachments: [Approved January 12, 2023 Minutes](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

3. Election for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission.
 - a. Chair
 - i. Commissioner Esché Jackson
 - b. Vice Chair
 - i. Commissioner Milinda Kakani
 - c. Secretary
 - i. Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys
-

On behalf of Supervisor Hilda Solis and the First District, Justice Deputy Esther Lim presented a scroll of commendation to Chair Franky Carrillo in gratitude for his service as the inaugural chair of the POC.

Ms. Julien expressed gratitude to Chair Carrillo and facilitated the elections.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Chair Carrillo, and unanimously carried, the POC elected Commissioner Esché Jackson as the Chair of the POC:

Ayes: **8 –** Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Nong, and unanimously carried, the POC elected Commissioner Milinda Kakani as the Vice Chair of the POC:

Ayes: **8 –** Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, and unanimously carried, the POC elected Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys as the Secretary of the POC:

Ayes: **8 –** Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Commissioners Jackson, Kakani, Garcia-Leys, and Canales shared their gratitude and plans for the upcoming year.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
 Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General on case involving El Monte case.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
 - Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Ms. Julien explained that this item was inadvertently included on the agenda and will be included on a future agenda.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, and unanimously carried, the POC agreed to table this item to a future meeting:

Ayes: **8 –** Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Dominique D. Nong, Secretary Dolores Canales, Vice Chair Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Franky Carrillo

Attachments: Supporting Document
 Public Comment/Correspondence

III. REPORTS

5. Report from the Chief Probation Officer on updates to the 2022 priorities and sharing any new priorities for 2023.
 - Adolfo Gonzales, Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Chief Gonzales provided a recap of his 2022 priorities, emphasizing that the Probation Department is continuing to improve the continuum of care for youth coming into the facilities. He shared his 2023 priorities including hiring employees to serve as coaches and mentors to youth while aligning the recruitment, selection, hiring, and training with Youth Justice Re-imagined (YJR). On the adult side, Chief Gonzales highlighted that the Probation Department is continuing to collaborate with community partners to ensure comprehensive services and resources are provided to their clients and plans on how an additional budget of \$43 million will be allocated for those programs and services under Assembly Bill (AB) 109. Chief Gonzales shared the following items as 2023 goals for the Probation Department:

- **Elimination of OC spray in units housing developmentally disabled as well as girls and gender expansive (GGE) youth by February 27, 2023, and implementation of a total phase out using the plan submitted in response to the Board’s 2019 motion as a blueprint.**
- **Increase meaningful programming in the juvenile hall institutions, which is a BSCC requirement and part of the DOJ settlement agreement.**
- **Create step-down housing options and pathways for youth to transition back into the community.**
- **Improve employee wellness including counseling, peer support, and mental health services.**
- **Increase professional development opportunities for growth.**
- **Investigate the auction of the firearms and ammunition and report back on findings.**

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about the weapons collected by the Probation Department during searches. Chief Gonzales explained that those weapons are returned to the law enforcement agency in the area where the gun is collected.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry about how the guns in question will be disposed of, Ms. Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy of the Probation Department, stated that the Probation Department will work with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to determine the timeline and process for destruction of the weapons.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about church services at the facilities, and Chief Gonzales mentioned that services should be taking place. Ms. Fletcher clarified that visiting have been cancelled due to staffing shortages but not church services.

Commissioner Meredith expressed the need for an effective public information officer for the Probation Department to highlight the good things the Probation Department is doing and eliminate misinformation.

Commissioner Kakani reminded Chief Gonzales that compliance with the OC spray decontamination protocols recommended by the OIG was followed 47% of the time at CJH and 57% of the time at BJNJH.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the Probation Department's ability to ensure compliance with the Use of Force Policy, Ms. Fletcher explained that staff now have access to the Probation Case Management System (PCMS) to allow for accurate and timely documentation of use of force incidents. Ms. Fletcher agreed to provide the POC with a timeline of the plan to clear the backlog of cases.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the delays in granting Probation staff access to PCMS. Ms. Fletcher explained that it was a process to get everyone granted access and trained.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about barriers to bringing additional programming into the facilities, Ms. Fletcher mentioned challenges with the county's contracting process. She stated that the Probation Department has been partnering with Board Offices to bring in programming using their delegated authority.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about how much of the Probation's \$409 million juvenile institution's budget will be used for programs and services. Mr. Bettino agreed to provide a line-item budget for services and supplies at to camps and halls.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the Probation Department's plans for tracking priorities and outcomes, Mr. Bettino explained that Probation is engaging a consultant to consolidate data from surveys and staff town halls to build a strategic plan. Commissioner Jackson emphasized the importance of having a permanent resource to monitor the implementation of the strategic plan.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared that goals in the POC and the Probation Department's strategic plans should align so there is more collaboration for the overarching goals and increased accountability. He highlighted two priorities not

mentioned in the Chief's report: (1) decarceration of girls; and (2) collection and dissemination of useful data in a routine way to POC and the public. Chief Gonzales acknowledged these, and expressed the need to move systems forward, specifically with gathering and collecting data.

Commissioner Lewis inquired about the caseloads for juvenile field staff and whether decreasing caseloads could allow field staff to be deployed to the institutions. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that the Chief Executive Office (CEO) is looking at current staffing for a report back to the Board by the end of February.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on general departmental updates including future plans for additional Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) sites.
 - Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Bettino explained that ongoing meetings have been taking place to develop recommendations for sites that can eventually be presented to the Board of Supervisors. He provided updates on Campus Kilpatrick and noted that the renovations were approved by the California State Public Works board.

Ms. Mary Ann Smiley, Director for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, shared that a total of 79 total youth and young adults have been dispositioned to SYTF. Eleven (11) are at Campus Kilpatrick, three are in transitional housing, two have been released, and one young adult has been transferred from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). The rest are being housed at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. She stated that some youth are eligible and interested in transitioning to Pine Grove, so a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting will be coordinated for the youth. Lastly, Ms. Smiley discussed the new programming options being offered to youth.

No members of the public commented on this item.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry about whether the Jail and Guitar Doors program could be offered to non-SYTF youth, Ms. Smiley stated that the program is currently for SYTF units only but may be expanded later to include non-SYTF youth. Commissioner Lewis shared that Credible Messengers will now be going into the facilities everyday to provide mentorships for the youth.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about the positive benefits of visits on youth. Ms. Smiley mentioned that the family connections and special visits are coordinated based on the youths and families' needs, which impacts the youths' behavior.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared that the compound has become the defacto home of SYTF youth because the Board has not made a recommendation or decision on the permanent site for SYTF youth.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the how the transition criteria are being used to decide where/how youth will transfer. Ms. Smiley explained the process is based on behavior, incidents, and engagement with programming followed by an MDT.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about education interruption due to staffing shortages, Ms. Smiley explained that there is a need for in-person participation instead of simply getting packets. During quarantine periods and holiday months, Ms. Smiley stated that youth had to participate in activities in their rooms for about a month and a half.

Commissioner Lewis encouraged everyone to consider the cases of youth who may be in Probation's custody for years, have significant issues that need to be addressed including complex trauma and other needs.

Commissioner Carrillo expressed the need to think holistically and get organizations in the facilities who can mentor and guide youth.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
Public Comment/Correspondence

7. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission on progress on the Commission's strategic goals including publishing of a public-facing data dashboard, outstanding requests for information, and a request for survey participation on POC performance and priorities.

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

Ms. Julien reported working closely with OIG to report back to Board on the Probation Department's progress with implementing training and staffing changes as well as phasing out OC Spray in the specified units at CJH. She shared that OIG and POC staff interviewed a number of youth about their experiences and concerns related to OC spray.

Ms. Julien mentioned that the 2023 inspection cycle will begin shortly and updates to the inspection template will be shared with the Probation Department.

She highlighted that the POC continues to collaborate with YJR to identify alternatives to incarceration for girls and gender expansive youth.

Ezekiel Nishiyama addressed the POC.

Attachments: [OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
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.

Commissioner Carrillo announced that candidates for the Commissioner position will be brought forth at the next meeting for a vote to recommend to the Board and

thanked all the candidates who applied.

Commissioner Carrillo requested that the Probation Departments involvement in the selling of weapons be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Jackson suggested adding a discussion for possible revision of the POC's Ordinance.

Commissioner Canales recommended that various community programs give presentations at the POC 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.

James Maddox and Ezekiel Nishiyama addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. ADJOURNMENT

10. Adjournment for the regular meeting of January 26, 2023.

Chair Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.