



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING**
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov/>

Thursday, January 19, 2023

6:00 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (23-0389)

Attachments: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. (23-0131)

Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and County Staff conducted Roll call.

Present: Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Ezekiel Nishiyama, Commissioner Clarissa Pena, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- December 8, 2022 Regular Meeting
- December 13, 2022 Training Meeting (23-0132)

On motion of Commissioner Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from meetings of December 8, 2022 and December 13, 2022 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Ezekiel Nishiyama, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Abstentions: 2 - Commissioner Joshua Elizondo and Commissioner Clarissa Pena

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Myriah Smiley

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DECEMBER 8, 2022](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DECEMBER 13, 2022](#)

II. REPORTS

3. Leadership Report by the Co-Chairs. (23-0224)

Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez reported that he had the opportunity to meet with newly appointed Executive Director, Tiara Summers. He and Co-Chair Hernandez will work with her regarding the Commission's priorities. He also met with Dr. Reynoso in December to discuss future trainings and workshops. He encouraged Commissioners to continue to be involved in their respective districts and to bring public awareness of the Youth Commission. He stressed the importance of having all 15 youth commissioner positions filled.

Co-Chair Hernandez commented on the focus of the Commission for the new year, and the Commissioners thanked Dr. Reynoso for her guidance and leadership while serving as Interim Executive Director.

4. Report by newly appointed Executive Director. (23-0225)

Tiara Summers, Executive Director, shared her background and experience. She updated the Commission on staffing and indicated that a Management Analyst has been hired and will onboard within the next two weeks. The position for a Career Development Intern is pending. She stated that she looks forward to working with the Leadership Team in streamlining priorities and personally meeting each Commissioner. She offered her support and advocacy for the youth voice in all aspects of the County and community.

III. PRESENTATION

5. Presentation on the Guaranteed Income Program by Dr. Carrie Miller, Executive Director, Poverty Alleviation Initiative and Regina Adkins-Williams, Department of Public Social Services. (23-0222)

Dr. Carrie Miller, Executive Director, Poverty Alleviation Initiative, shared a presentation on the Guaranteed Income Program and shared information on the following topics:

- **The Application Process**

- **Program Partners**
- **Application and Enrollment Data**
- **Geography of Program Participants**
- **Expected Participant Outcomes and Next Steps**
- **L.A. County Driven Guaranteed Income Programs**

Regina Adkins Williams, DPSS, shared information on TAYportunity as follows:

- **The DPSS TAYportunity Program is offered to 300 Transition Age Youth (TAY) ages 18 - 24, who receive GR benefits and participate in the GROW Program.**
- **The program offers a monthly guaranteed income payment of \$1,000 for 36 months and includes an employment program with a three-prong approach: employment, entrepreneurship, and apprenticeship.**
- **Benefits counseling and financial literacy are also offered.**
- **There are currently 272 individuals receiving payments, with efforts being made to onboard the remaining 28.**

In response to questions posed by commissioners, the panelists responded as follows:

- **Ms. Adkins-Williams indicated that payments are disseminated through EBT cards. There is a campaign being conducted to alleviate skimming issues that recipients have reported. There are also measures being taken on a federal level. Those whose cards have been skimmed are having their funds replaced.**
- **Ms. Miller responded that the Breathe Program does not provide additional wrap around services. The purpose of the Program (essentially a research study) is to determine if funds are enough or if other services are required. Also, there are several other programs that offer wrap around services in addition to funds.**
- **Ms. Miller indicated that the Breathe Program will collect data at six-month intervals over the three-year period. The first report will be released at the one-year interval. The age range of the recipients is 18 to 91 with the medium age of 40. The complete demographic data is posted on the website.**
- **Ms. Miller shared that the most difficult challenge of initiating the program has been the communication and onboarding. Many people do not understand the difference between the Breathe Program (research study) and other entitlement programs.**

- Ms. Adkins-Williams indicated that qualitative and quantitative reviews will be conducted by the research team. The research will determine if the program is viable as-is, or if public policy should be changed. The report can be shared with the Commission at its conclusion. In addition, the perspective of the youth participants is being sought during the process and will be taken into consideration in the final results.
- Ms. Adkins-Williams confirmed the guaranteed income funding stream consists of County funds with a portion of private funds. Participants are geographically located throughout L.A. County including North County (Lancaster and Apple Valley). This is a targeted program whereby participants must be on GR and enrolled in the GROW Program. The GROW caseload consists of approximately 7,000 of participants, ages 18 to 24.
- Regarding the collection of data for the TAYportunity Program, Ms. Adkins Williams indicated that the JAIN Family Institute is collecting data in six-month intervals.

Discussion among the presenters and commissioners ensued regarding program qualifications, application outreach and the onboarding process. During discussion, Ms. Adkins Williams spoke about the CalFresh exemption.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. UPDATES

6. Operations Committee update by Angela Young, Chair, Operations Committee. (23-0228)

Commissioner Angela Young, Chair, Operations Committee, provided the following update:

- The Committee is working with Commission Services in the creation of a talent database to assist with future recruitment, as well as the current recruitment of Commissioners to fill vacant seats.
- The Committee is also working on revising the outreach Information Session Deck on the Youth Commission website for the purpose of providing information to those who wish to learn more about the Youth Commission and may be interested in joining.
- The next Operations meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

7. Youth Engagement Committee update by La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee. (23-0229)

Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee reported that the Committee's last meeting was held January 9, 2023, whereby an overview was provided on the Second Supervisorial District's Listening Session held November 19, 2022, along with the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Resource Fair that was held January 5, 2023.

Max Weltz, Public Information Assistant, was invited to assist Commissioner Cooper with her report by providing an update on social media engagement. Mr. Weltz reported the following:

- **A schedule is being developed for the website to highlight Supervisorial Districts each month on a rotational basis.**
 - **The goal is to post key areas of concern within those Districts, solutions, and opportunities for youth to become involved in their communities.**
 - **Encouraged all Commissioners to become involved with social media to increase the Commission's presence and asked Commissioners to continue providing ideas for posting.**
8. Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming update by Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., Chair, Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming. (23-0230)
Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., Chair, Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming, provided the following update:
- **The last Committee meeting was held December 20, 2022. The contract with Castillo Consulting has ended, and Commission Services is now assisting the Ad-Hoc Committee with their work.**
 - **Dr. Wendy Wiegmann, Project Director, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, UC Berkeley, met with the Committee and reviewed qualitative data research and analysis and suggested possible questions to be included in the scorecard for the Department of Children and Families and the Probation Department.**
 - **Commissioner Valenzuela will now serve as Co-Chair on the Policy and Programming Committee.**

V. MISCELLANEOUS

9. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (23-0134)

Members of the public, Daisy Garcia, Eric Fong, Jeremyah Cleveland, Christian Flagg, Alejandro Juarez, De'Ontay Everett, and Jackie Contreras, Interim Director, Department of Public Social Services, addressed the Commission.

10. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (23-0231)

The following items were requested to be placed on a future agenda:

- **An update on the Youth Commission's letter dated October 20, 2022, sent to the Board of Supervisors.**
- **Extend an invitation to Sheriff Robert G. Luna, Jackie Contreras, Interim Director of Public Social Services, and Lisa H. Wong, Interim Director of Mental Health, to provide reports on how the Youth Commission can support youth programs or initiatives within their departments.**
- **Extend an invitation for a presentation on the status on L.A. County's homeless crisis.**
- **Extend an invitation to the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition for a presentation on the Youth Bill of Rights.**
- **Extend an invitation to a representative from the Department of Youth Development to learn about their work.**

Daisy Garcia, member of the public, addressed the Commission.

11. Adjournment. (23-0135)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Smiley, there being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.