



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



**ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE AND EVENT CENTER
155 NORTH OCCIDENTAL BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90026**

poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, MARCH 09, 2023, 12:00 P.M.

AUDIO/VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Vice-Chair Kakani called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed our new Commissioners Terry and Mundo who shared brief backgrounds about themselves.

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

Present: Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the February 23, 2023, regular meeting minutes and the February 28, 2023, special meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, unanimously carried (Chair Jackson being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the February 23, 2023, regular meeting minutes and the February 28, 2023, special meeting minutes:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: 1 – Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [Approved February 23, 2023, Minutes](#)
[Approved February 28, 2023, Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on updates from the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) on Youth Justice Re-imagined (YJR) including legislative priorities, diversion, step-downs, and re-entry.
 - David Carroll, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Chair Jackson being absent), the POC tabled this agenda item to a future meeting.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
Public Comment/Correspondence

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on contraband in the juvenile facilities, and how it contributes to drug use among youth, actions the Probation Department has taken to address contraband, and the accessibility of Narcan to prevent harm.
 - Karen Fletcher, Interim Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Ms. Julien provided an overview of the findings from the POC's 2022 annual inspections related to the prevalence of substance use and contraband in the facilities.

Ms. Fletcher shared that the ability to conduct regular searches has been impacted by low staffing levels, but staff have been deployed to conduct consistent searches and the department is looking for ways to enhance security. She reported two fentanyl overdoses at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) where NARCAN was administered and reported that both youth recovered well after the intervention. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that staff are still being trained on how to use NARCAN, but there are approximately 600 doses of Narcan available at each facility.

Mr. Adam Bettino, Chief Deputy for the Los Angeles Probation Department, discussed the Probation Department's next steps for security enhancements within the facilities. He added that security guards have been deployed for the perimeters, but additional enhancements such as the installation of wall guards, CCTV, improved cameras, vapor tracker machines, and conducting increased searches on a consistent basis are also being considered also to make the facilities as safe as possible.

Edward Enriquez, Thomas Bell, Stacy Ford, Jose Osuna, Heather Moore, Angela Noboa, and one additional public commenter addressed the POC.

Commissioner Meredith mentioned that contraband in the facilities is not a new issue, but a universal issue that must be addressed, tracked by external law enforcement agencies, and prevented with increased security.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about how contraband is defined and shared his observations during a recent site visit. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that contraband can be a wide variety of things, that an identifying list of contraband items would be helpful but ultimately appropriate security levels at the front is key. In response to Commissioner Carrillo's statement about problem-solving to address contraband issues, Ms. Fletcher mentioned that there are internal contractual discussions happening and that she would like to include the POC, Probation Unions, and the Probation Department to make a robust plan for moving forward.

Commissioner Canales inquired about Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings being held in the camps and halls.

Commissioner Canales shared her personal experiences and emphasized the need to identify reasons why the youth are using substances. She stressed the importance of reminding youth that they are human, they matter, and they are loved.

Commissioner Meredith recommended that the POC's Facilities Ad Hoc Committee lead the efforts to collaborate with the Probation Department and the Probation Unions to identify a reasonable fix for contraband and substance use from a collective perspective.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the accessibility and cultural relevance of the of the AA and NA classes to youth when they need them. Ms. Fletcher mentioned that there is a need for more programming overall, but the youth have access to the regularly scheduled AA and NA classes.

In response to Commissioner Terry's inquiry about culturally responsive and evidence-based programs being offered, Mr. Bettino mentioned that Probation offers an array of programs and services but would like to have clear evidence to support outcomes for programs since the department has historically struggled in this area.

Mr. Bettino stated that the Probation Department is implementing a clear bag policy for its visitors and staff as an added security measure.

Commissioner Lewis expressed gratitude for the deployment of over 100 field officers supporting the halls and shared his sentiments on integrating dogs for searches for all staff and visitors.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys elaborated on his outlook on contraband, searches, and the need to prevent contraband from entering the facilities without violating people's dignity with advanced technology given the serious concerns related to fentanyl.

Commissioner Mundo shared his personal experiences and explained that the best technology is relationship-building, casework, and giving staff and youth the proper tools, they need.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) being offered in the halls, Ms. Fletcher mentioned that although DBT training for all staff is a long-term goal for the department, the current focus is ensuring that the L.A. Model is being implemented at all the facilities.

Commissioner Kakani shared her experiences from visiting the juvenile facilities. She inquired about the protocol for notifying Executive Management of disturbances and maintenance requests. Ms. Fletcher explained that the Probation Department is collaborating with other agencies to identify ways to enhance and increase security at the facilities. She shared that internal investigations are taking place to address this widespread problem.

Commissioner Kakani requested clarification on the current programming that is being offered to the youth. Ms. Fletcher explained that programming can be scheduled, but canceled for a variety of reasons including quarantine, behavior, and provider cancellations.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, to address the following:

1. Express support for the [motion](#) by Supervisor Solis and Supervisor Hahn on March 7, 2023 to address contraband issues and request swift action by the Probation Department to protect youth inside the facilities by improving security, immediately training Probation staff to allow for the distribution of Narcan, and most importantly providing an immediate implementation plan for programs centered on reducing the use of substances by youth.
2. Instruct the POC staff to assess Probation's implementation plan on contraband as it relates to access, regularity, cultural relevance of programming and collaborating with the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) where necessary to analyze work the Probation is doing to review footage of staff potentially permitting drug use and facilitating access to contraband. This evaluation/assessment of Probation's implementation plan on contraband should explain:
 - a. What programming is available and the availability of culturally relevant programming.
 - b. How often programming is made available.
 - c. Who is providing the programming.
 - d. How many young people attend.
 - e. Why young people choose or choose not to attend.
 - f. Why programming is sometimes not offered.
3. Request a report from the Probation Department on contraband ceased at BJJNH and Central Juvenile Hall (CJH), for March 1, 2023 through April 15, 2023 and January 1, 2019 through February 15, 2019 for comparative purposes. Although contraband reports for January 1, 2023 to February 15, 2023 have already been received by the POC, the Probation Department will subsequently provide an ongoing monthly contraband report to the POC and the Board as required.

In response to Commissioners Meredith and Canales requests for clarification of the motion, Commissioner Kakani summarized the contents of the motion.

Commissioner Canales made a friendly amendment to include a timeline or due date in the motion.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry about identifying ways to determine if a youth is participating in programming, Commissioner Kakani shared that the purpose is to obtain youth's feedback to directly engage with the youth.

Commissioner Carrillo made a friendly amendment to include a report on what happens with the contraband once it is collected and a photograph of what has been collected.

Commissioner Terry made a friendly amendment to include a general report back from the Probation Department on factors that are interfering with regular, uniform, and consistent security searches including x-ray machines.

Ms. Julien summarized the directives of the motion.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry about the youth's feedback about programming in general, Commissioner Kakani confirmed that the motion's directives is for substance-use related programming.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, unanimously carried (Chair Jackson being absent), the POC agreed to accept the motion as amended.

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: 1 – Chair Esché L. Jackson

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on snacks being brought into the facilities and passing through the x-ray. He emphasized that if the x-ray machine is not functioning, nothing should be able to go in. Commissioner Lewis raised concerns about the texture of the windows at BJNJH being a security risk to staff and youth and shared that full-time credible messengers will be deployed to support Probation staff beginning March 13, 2023.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared two suggestions for the inventory which included describing the contraband in greater detail (being more specific) and testing the contraband to identify the type(s) of drugs (if any) are being used.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about a contraband inventory being available for the camps, Mr. Bettino mentioned that the Probation Department will look into it.

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)
 [Board Motion](#)
 [Motion](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Executive Director's investigation and report back into the Probation Department's involvement in auctioning service weapons.
 - Wende Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien provided an overview of the POC's report back on the Board's motion to investigate the auctioning of service weapons. She highlighted that it is common practice for law enforcement personnel to purchase service weapons assigned to them when the department is replacing weapons. However, Ms. Julien explained that the Probation Department is prohibited from doing that, which is why they must use an external vendor who restricts the auctioning and purchasing of service weapons to active law enforcement personnel only. She reported that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is helping with the process of clearing and removing serial numbers once weapons have been shredded (or destroyed). Ms. Julien concluded that the County of Los Angeles is collaborating to enter into a master service agreement to help with the destruction of weapons for all county agencies including Probation.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Mundo shared his sentiments about learning in greater detail about how service weapons are destroyed.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, unanimously carried (Chair Jackson being absent), the POC agreed to accept the Executive Director's report back on the gun auction investigations as written:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: 1 – Chair Esché L. Jackson

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

III. REPORTS

6. Discuss and take possible action on the Executive Director's report on attending the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) April 13, 2023, Board meeting and the Probation Oversight Commission's progress towards completing the strategic goals outlined in the 2022 Strategic Operating Plan and plans for 2023. This month's report will include updates on outstanding information requests, strategic planning, and the launching of the POC's data dashboard.

Ms. Julien shared that the POC is tracking BSCC items and will be attending the BSCC Board Meeting in Sacramento on April 13, 2023 to hear about the Probation Department's Corrective Action Plan.

As far as the outstanding requests from the Probation Department, Ms. Julien explained the importance of having an accurate and updated calendar of programs and services for each facility so that the POC can assess and audit the quality of programming and ensure accountability for the youth, Probation Department, and community-based organizations. She also shared that the POC is working with the

Probation Department to obtain a redacted monthly intake log to see who is coming into the juvenile halls demographically including their race, gender, ethnicity, charge, and handling law enforcement agency.

Ms. Julien reported that the POC's data dashboard is almost ready to be launched and will include user-friendly comparative data.

She explained that the POC's leadership team is working on reworking the POC's strategic plan and ad hoc committees to encompass specific POC focus areas.

Ms. Julien shared information on the POC's Virtual Town Hall on oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Lewis left the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Mundo explained that the calendar of programs and services was previously shared with old Probation Commission and the intake log can easily be redacted.

Ms. Julien clarified that a consistent calendar is missing across the facilities that would allow any who walks into the facility to know what is supposed to be happening that day.

Ms. Karen Fletcher, Interim Chief of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, added that the Probation Department is reporting the BJNJH and CJH programming to the Board on a weekly basis. She stated that the Probation Department is in the process of refining the program tracking so it includes the camp calendars and eventually an internal application that Probation Staff can use to electronically track scheduled programming.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the POC receiving the same documents that are being provided to the Board, Ms. Fletcher confirmed that she will provide those calendars to the POC as well.

Commissioner Kakani requested on clarification on the monthly calendar and the inventory. Ms. Julien distinguished the two, stating that the calendar lists the provider, and the date/time services is scheduled to be provided whereas the inventory is a list of programming and includes contact information for each provider.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the inventory being in existence, Ms. Fletcher mentioned that there is an existing inventory, but it needs to be revamped and the Probation Department is working on that.

Ms. Julien added that this request has been made over a year ago, and OIG is involved in ensuring the request is fulfilled.

Ms. Julien explained that some of the calendars are being received, but not in a timely manner or in advance of scheduled inspections.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys made a comment about the Probation Department delaying or denying Public Records Act requests, and Mr. Bettino responded that the Probation Department would review.

Commissioner Meredith emphasized the importance of having an effective Public Information Officer for the Probation Department (PIO). Mr. Bettino provided updates on the hiring process for their PIO, explained that the Probation Department has declined comments in the media in the past, and added that the department is looking to hire a communications person to assist with media comment requests moving forwards.

Attachments: [Final POC & OIG Report Backs](#)
[Daily Population Stats](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. 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.

Ms. Julien welcomed feedback on how to improve the hybrid meeting and expressed gratitude to the POC staff for herculean efforts to create a hybrid meeting engaging both virtual and live attendees.

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.

Commissioner Meredith left the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Thomas Bell, Stacy Ford, Edward Enriquez, Mel Bailey, James Maddox, Heather Moore, Danita Beauchamp, and Angela Noboa and addition three additional public commenters addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of March 9, 2023.

Vice-Chair Kakani adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.