



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



**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 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 12:12 p.m. and expressed condolences on behalf of the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) for the young person who passed away on Tuesday morning at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH).

Ms. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, encouraged everyone to read Chair Jackson’s written statement about the tragedy and conducted the roll call:

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

Absent: Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair
 Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the April 27, 2023, regular meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, unanimously carried (Commissioners Lewis, Terry, and Jackson being absent), the POC approved the April 27, 2023, regular meeting minutes:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Diane Terry and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [Approved April 27, 2023, Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's progress on reaching compliance for areas of noncompliance with Title 15 and Title 24 according to recent California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspections.
 - Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Strategist, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Mr. Viera Rosa introduced himself and stated that the Los Angeles County Probation Department has solidified a plan that will meet the BSCC requirements, provide direction on the best strategy to take care of the youth, and is consolidating facilities to offer meaningful rehabilitation for youth based on a behavioral health model. He stated that the Department Operations Center (DOC) is active 24 hours.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Commissioner Meredith commended Mr. Viera Rosa on his positive focus and refreshing approach. Mr. Viera Rosa emphasized the importance of creating an environment that empowers staff, provides sufficient resources, and encourages positive interactions.

Commissioner Canales shared her sentiments about positive interactions she had with Probation staff who have since been moved from their positions. Mr. Viera Rosa highlighted that too much staff movement can be destabilizing to the workforce, the youth, and those who form relationships with staff. He stated that the Probation Department will follow all Civil Service procedures to ensure the best people are selected for the positions.

Commissioner Carrillo raised a question to Mr. Viera Rosa on how the POC can support his new ideas and Probation's new plan. Mr. Viera Rosa mentioned that the POC's attentiveness, open lines of communication, continued feedback, and diverse perspectives, and accountability helps eliminate any blind spots within the Probation Department.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's comment about changing the cultural dynamics to be more rehabilitative for youth, Mr. Viera Rosa emphasized that staff must support the growth and development of the youth and highlighted the reason for Probation's existence.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about how physical structural changes will create meaningful rehabilitation. Mr. Viera Rosa explained that physical environments are one component of rehabilitation because environmental structures inform individuals and affect the delivery of services.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about how the \$28 million allocated to facilities will be spent, Mr. Viera Rosa shared that Probation is working on a spending plan to outline how Probation uses its money.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about what the current model at Probation is and how that differs from the behavioral health model Mr. Viera Rosa mentioned. She also

inquired about the implementation timeline. In response, Mr. Viera Rosa described the behavioral health model, emphasizing that its focus is on policy, training, and environments that enhance the current model. He shared that the implementation plan for the behavioral health model is not finite at this point.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the DOC's purpose, Mr. Viera Rosa stated that the DOC has broad discretion so the facilities themselves can make requests for resources, including requests for programming, but it is not public facing at this time.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's question, Mr. Viera Rosa mentioned that he has visited several sites that are insufficient since he joined the Probation Department, wants to make sure that he communicates the new plan with each staff member, and provide inclusivity for staff to be heard.

Commissioner Meredith shared one of the biggest concerns is the isolation of management and filtering information that is communicated to leadership.

Commissioner Canales shared her sentiments on including floor staff and the POC in the development of the spending plan. Mr. Viera Rosa reiterated that the initial monies have been allocated to directly fulfilling requirements set forth by the BSCC and Department of Juvenile Justice settlement.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the last day that Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and BJNJH can be operated as juvenile halls. Mr. Viera Rosa stated that the BSCC has yet to make that determination, but the Probation Department is working on a phasing plan that is least disruptive to youth and families.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about the capacity for housing youth at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP) by July 23, 2023, Mr. Viera Rosa shared that the Probation Department is preparing for the possibility of 60 youth, but the plan is to house all pre-dispositioned youth at LP.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the plan in case updates take longer than ten weeks to reopen LP. Mr. Viera Rosa emphasized that the updates and allocation of county resources are happening now as quickly as possible, while considering every option in the best interest of the youth.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about staff being permitted to use OC Spray, Mr. Viera Rosa clarified that there is nothing in the plans where OC Spray will be distributed to staff.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed the attached motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Mundo.

Stacy Ford, Thomas Bell, Roy, David Carroll, Sabra, James Maddox, Ron, Maria Skelton, Aditi Sherikar, two virtual attendees, and one live public commenter addressed the POC.

Commissioner Canales asked for clarification about the elimination of OC Spray being state-wide if youth from Los Angeles County are transferred to other county

facilities and imposing a limitation on the radius between other county location and Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys made an amendment, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, to include a plan for maintaining safety for staff and youth.

Commissioner Canales made a friendly amendment to eliminate the sentence about the possibility of moving youth to other counties.

Commissioner Meredith and Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared their sentiments in relation to time, emphasizing that Mr. Viera Rosa has been with the Probation Department for four weeks and needs to create a feasible timeline.

Commissioner Carrillo expressed concerns with the motion being dense and components being unachievable.

Commissioner Mundo clarified that the intention of the motion was to give suggestions and guidelines that could be adjusted with the underlying premise of ensuring the safety of youth while being of service.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys clarified the point of reducing the juvenile hall population to zero based on legislation. He reiterated that the goal is reducing the incarcerated population in the juvenile halls to a number or capacity that LP can house.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Kakani left the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Lewis, Terry, and Jackson being absent), the order of the remaining agenda items was changed. Agenda item 5 was discussed first followed by agenda items 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

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

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on recommended communication and reporting processes the Los Angeles County Probation Department should implement when sharing information with the Board of Supervisors (Board), the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC).
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
 - Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Agenda item 4 was discussed after agenda item 5.

Ms. Julien highlighted that the needs for notification to the Board and the OIG differs from the POC in that OIG needs to be able to roll out in real time to begin an investigation when necessary. She emphasized that as an oversight body, it is critical that the POC be notified for accountability and transparency reasons.

Mr. Viera Rosa distinguished the importance for disseminating information quickly from a strategic perspective of vetting information that is disseminated. He acknowledged that there are technological gaps within the Probation Department, but he wants to make sure that the Probation staff have the proper technology to effectively do their jobs.

Ms. Julien shared how rare it is to have a civilian oversight body over the Probation Department, as the POC is the only similarly situated oversight body in the country. She stressed the importance of maintaining confidentiality of juvenile files and recognized OIG for stepping in to raise the importance of sharing appropriate information and not confidential or otherwise protected information.

James Maddox addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys expressed his gratitude for creating an efficient and more reliable communication and notification process where information is immediately received directly from the Probation Department.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried (Commissioners Kakani, Lewis, Terry, and Jackson being absent), the POC agreed to accept the motion as presented.

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, and Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys

Absent: 4 – Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Diane Terry, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Agenda item 4 was moved down and discussed after agenda item 5.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[Board Motion](#)
[OIG's Report Back](#)
[POC Motion](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update from the Los Angeles County Probation Department's use of force policies, plans to reform the policies, progress on addressing the backlog of incidents, and training on completing reports.
 - Los Angeles County Probation Department

Agenda item 5 was moved up and discussed after agenda item 3.

Ms. Cotton gave a verbal presentation and explained the purpose of the DOC.

Jackie and Daniel Lepore addressed the POC.

Commissioner Meredith expressed the importance of the use of force incidents being reviewed in a timeline manner, and the concerns of over 1,000 being backlogged from

over a year ago.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about the percentage of use of force incidents that include fights. Ms. Jennifer Donnell, Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, distinguished the terms controlled and uncontrolled. She added that there are under 1,000 use of force incidents, with 132 having been completed and 885 remaining for processing. Mr. Viera Rosa stated that the process of using the DOC has contributed to reducing that backlog number.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about what happens during controlled uses of force incidents and how far back do the cases go. Ms. Donnell explained that hypothetically, youth may still be upset and refuse to be interviewed, but supervisors are supposed to circle back to finish the incident report. She explained that most of the cases were filed between 2022 up until the end of February 2023.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry about incidents occurring, Ms. Donnell emphasized that grievances (which does not have a backlog) are not the same as use of force incidents, but the backlog is being addressed.

Mr. Viera Rosa shared that the nuance of the conversation is importance, and the Probation Department is using its resources to address incidents in chronological order while preventing new late cases.

Commissioner Meredith expressed concerns with use of force incidents being reviewed in a timely manner.

Attachments: Supporting Document
Public Comment/Correspondence

III. REPORTS

6. Report and possible action from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission on Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray updates, outstanding requests for information, and update on sexual misconduct ad hoc subcommittee recommendations.

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

Ms. Julien reported that there was another week of zero sprays at BJNJH and expressed concerns that OC Spray is not being phased as represented in Probation's plan. She shared reasons for why other requests for information have not been fulfilled. Ms. Julien reported that the sexual misconduct ad hoc committee determined that a path focused on healing and positive outcomes will allow those who experienced harm to share their stories.

No members of the public commented on this item.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about the PROBSTAT data, Ms. Julien explained that PROBSTAT data is received quarterly from the Probation Department and Ms. Cotton is available to answer specific questions about the PROBSTAT reports.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about obtaining data for the adults on probation. Ms. Cotton stated that the PROBSTAT data has been separated for effective and efficient reporting back to the POC. She mentioned that the report is divided into quarters, with juvenile probation one quarter, adult probation the next, and then administrative functions another quarterday.

Attachments: [PROBESTAT Data](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Population Statistics](#)
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.

(Not on agenda)

Commissioners Meredith and Garcia-Leys shared a consensus on adding an in-depth discussion on contraband in the facilities to a future agenda.

Mr. Steven Edwards from County Counsel clarified Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about the Brown Act Rules.

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, Thomas Bell, Frank Paredes, Miguel Casar and one virtual public commenter addressed the POC.

Commissioner Canales shared her sentiments on her purpose for serving as a POC Commissioner.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of May 11, 2023.

On motion by Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, the POC adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.