



**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, JUNE 22, 2023, 12:00 P.M.

AUDIO/VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. 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, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the May 25, 2023, meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Canales being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) approved the May 25, 2023, regular meeting minutes:

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Dolores Canales

Attachments: [Approved May 25, 2023, Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on changing the meeting frequency of the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) to a once-a-month meeting on the second Thursday of the month from 9am-1pm.

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

Chair Jackson explained that the POC is discussing the frequency of meetings to encourage attendance, save resources, and address staff capacity issues.

Chair Jackson proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, to amend the bylaws of the POC to reflect a change in the schedule of regular meetings to once-per-month, occurring from 9am to 1pm PST on the second Thursday of the month.

Commissioner Carrillo made a friendly amendment to include a fifteen-minute break with the revised schedule.

Chair Jackson accepted the amendment.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Canales being absent) the POC agreed to change the frequency of the regular POC meetings to once-per-month:

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Dolores Canales

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

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on changes the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made to reduce contraband in juvenile facilities, to provide effective substance use disorder treatment, and to increase the availability and accessibility of Narcan to Probation staff.

Chair Jackson inquired about youth being hospitalized due to substance use, questioned how the substances are entering the facilities, and encouraged everyone to view the agenda attachments.

Mr. Kevin Woods, Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, reported that 100% of all active staff are scheduled to attend an ongoing Narcan training, and of active-duty staff, 93% of Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) staff and 42% of Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) staff have completed the Narcan training.

He added that Narcan training has been planned, scheduled, but repeatedly cancelled due to Probation's significant staffing shortages. Mr. Woods explained that there have been several times where staff were scheduled to attend Narcan training (approximately three to four per scheduled training day) but had to be reallocated out of training, field offices, and from other operations to get youth to school, medical appointments, recreation activities,

and to provide adequate supervision to youth in juvenile halls and camps. He expressed that staffing shortages are resulting in a lack of supervision, which has led to an increase of youth ingesting unknown substances.

Regarding substance use disorder programming, Mr. Woods stated that the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control division are using their resources to provide ongoing programming (individual and group treatment and counseling) to the youth at both BJNJH and CJH.

Mr. Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General for the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General, reported that a formal report covering the last two months will be disseminated in July 2023. He highlighted that there has been a drastic decrease in the amount of fentanyl at BJNJH, which is a marked improvement. Although data is still being compiled for CJH, Mr. Bates shared that recovered contraband was not being properly stored and documented.

Mr. Scott Sanders, Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, explained his new role and vision for the Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) Bureau. He shared that the Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) unit has been assisting with frequent unit searches to reduce contraband, and additional Probation staff will be retrained internally on how to conduct searches. Mr. Sanders mentioned that a new housing unit may be created to provide specialized treatment from DMH and community-based organizations (CBOs) for youth who have issues with substance usage.

Dr. Sarah Gongora, Project Director for the POC, provided insight on how the POC can support the Probation Department in reducing contraband from entering the facilities. She explained next steps the POC will take including fully cataloging the programming that is already taking place in the camps and halls, capturing youth's attendance, bringing back a qualitative assessment to identify the impacts each program has on the youth, and formulating data-based recommendations for improving youth's engagement with Probation's programming.

Commissioner Canales joined the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Mr. Woods provided an overview of Probation's clear bag policy for all agency partners, personnel, and visitors, and explained that the Probation Department has restricted all food deliveries to the facilities. He added that there has been increased security screenings at building front entrances (with AB 109 staff co-located) to pre-screen all staff, visitors, and CBOs, SEO pre-entry searches at BJNJH, eliminated electronic devices from entering facilities, and occasional perimeter searches.

Kent Mendoza, Julio (ARC), and one additional public commenter addressed the POC.

In response to Chair Jackson's inquiry about the quality of supervision as it relates to the most recent events, Mr. Woods mentioned that questionable supervision is something that is seen in the facilities, but the Probation Department is trying to eradicate that.

Chair Jackson inquired about the youth hospitalizations. Mr. Sanders mentioned that the Probation Department is aware of the number of hospitalizations as well as Mr. Woods and that these issues are under investigation. He reiterated the importance of retraining staff, getting back to basic supervision and safety, addressing the substance abuse issue, and

preventing youth from having idle minds. Mr. Sanders emphasized the need to fix the staffing problem first, but he is working on addressing the immediate needs simultaneously in his new role.

Commissioner Lewis inquired about the possibility of airport-style scanners being installed and canine searches being conducted of everyone who enters the facilities including staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors. Mr. Bates shared his observations after reviewing several videos where staff are continuously putting their lunches on top of the metal detectors, therefore, not being screened or checked.

Commissioner Meredith explained that 35 reserve officers were recently trained on conducting searches and should be leveraged to increase security, especially around the perimeters. He suggested that a team of trained investigators be created to search, seize, make arrests on the spot, and prosecute cases.

Chair Jackson inquired about the quality of oversight and assessments that should be done to continually improve the internal surveillance processes. Mr. Bates stated that surveillance observations will be shared in OIG's July report. He highlighted that the SEO unit is doing a great job dealing with contraband at BJNJH, but CJH security needs to be improved.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about of the 42% who are trained in using Narcan, what percentage are carrying Narcan. Mr. Woods clarified that not all of the of the staff trained to deploy Narcan are carrying Narcan. He added that staff at CJH are equipped with Narcan but staff at BJNJH are not due to lack of follow through on the management side. Mr. Woods committed to following up on the raised concerns and that distribution of Narcan was happening quickly. Mr. Woods explained that the goal is to have all trained staff carrying Narcan by June 26, 2023.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about consequences for Probation staff, Mr. Woods articulated that more stringent actions must occur to make sure the processes and security measures are consistent.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the percentage of callouts occurring at BJNJH and CJH, Mr. Woods estimated that the staff callout rate ranges from 20-25% based on the daily staffing sheets he receives.

Commissioner Kakani shared her sentiments on the quality of SEO searches being dehumanizing, intrusive, triggering, disruptive, and terrorizing. Mr. Woods acknowledged the comments, and shared he has heard similar comments from youth.

Commissioner Terry inquired about how entities measure program effectiveness for the youth's substance abuse services, what changes for the youth after participating in these programs, what other types of programming is available for substance use, and what data can be collected for review. Mr. Sanders mentioned that in prior years there was a teen council in place to get input from the youth, and there are hopes to bring this back in the future. He also stated that the Probation Department relies on DMH to determine what is most effective for each youth to treat whatever addiction that individual may have.

Commissioner Carrillo shared his sentiments on how youth are groomed by adults, resulting in numerous policies being violated, and trusts in adults being diminished.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on expediting the purchase and installation of airport-style scanners and implementing the use of canines. Mr. Sanders mentioned that the Probation Department had discussions in the morning around canines and a purchase order is already in place. He added that the Probation Department must work with vendor to determine the number of canines that will be purchased for the approved purchase order amount.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry about how the POC can support the implementation of the scanners, Mr. Woods encouraged full support from the POC to ask the Board to expedite the process.

Chair Jackson emphasized the importance of looking at security enhancements in a well-rounded way, with a focus on the human supervision aspect. Mr. Woods explained that the procurement of anything should also include a maintenance contract to ensure items remain functional 24/7, but the human supervision component is just as critical.

Commissioner Meredith shared his sentiments on comparing the security measures employed by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to that of the Probation Department to make an informed recommendation to the Board.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the increase in contraband being found at BJNJH. In response, Mr. Sanders explained that the contraband being found is a result of more searches being conducted by Probation staff and the SEO unit. In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about the increased safety of staff and policy effectiveness, Mr. Sanders stated that staff are safer because contraband is being found.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about what happens to the individuals who have weapons or contraband. Mr. Sanders explained that consequences vary based on what is found, but the Probation Department remains actively in contact with the courts. He stated that the recovery of contraband can lead to additional searches of unit and other places youth has been (such as school), youth removal from unit for endangering other youths, and potentially additional charges depending on the weapon.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about a directive detailing what happens at each step of recovering contraband, Mr. Sanders stated that finding weapons is part of basic supervision.

Commissioner Carrillo left the meeting at 1:45pm.

Raldo (ARC), Tamaje, and Reese addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)
[DYD's Board Memo](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on updates on the movement of all pre-adjudication youth from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP) by July 23, 2023, and the implementation of programs and policies at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to ensure compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 standards to protect the well-being of youth and staff in the facilities.

Mr. Woods reported that the Probation Department is in the planning process of developing an operational and transportation plan to transfer pre-disposition youth from

both facilities (BJNJH and CJH) to LP. He added that the goal is to have all pre-disposition youth transferred in phases or groups to LP by July 18, 2023, and have programs and services readily available for participation.

Mary Lou Vachet addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared his sentiments and optimism about educational programs and services with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) being available to youth at new site.

Commissioner Kakani shared her concern around youth being able to get to school beginning July 23, 2023. Mr. Woods assured that youth will be able to get to school daily based on the current projected staffing numbers.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the discrepancies with Probation being expected to meet the minimum standards of getting youth to class every day, but the attorneys being informed that youth are not going to school. Mr. Woods reiterated that the projected staffing numbers for LP do not include staff who fail to come to work, but the expectation remains that youth will be taken to and from school every day.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about law enforcement personnel in the City of Downey being notified. Mr. Woods confirmed that the City of Downey has been informed. Ms. Julien added that officials from the City of Downey were in attendance at a reopening event for LP and were supportive and collaborative.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the construction at LP and if it has passed the inspection processes on the local and state levels. Mr. Woods confirmed that LP has passed the inspection that occurred earlier in the day and are cleared to proceed with housing youth at LP, but a follow-up inspection will be scheduled soon.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about the written plans, Mr. Woods reiterated the developments of the detailed transportation and operational plans. He added that the Probation Department is ensuring compliance with the BSCC's Title 15 and Title 24 standards at LP prior to youth being there, but Ms. Felicia Cotton is handling those formalized plans.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the expected staffing ratios at LP. Mr. Woods reported that there are 662 staff who will be transitioning to LP, but 50% of them have medical restrictions (able to work only in certain capacities and generally not in supervision), which results in about 312 being able to report to work for supervision duties. He also mentioned that 175 staff will be transitioning to BJNJH, but 25% of them are either on leave or have some type of restrictions. Overall, Mr. Woods reported that the ideal staffing ratio per shift would be six staff per unit.

Commissioner Meredith emphasized the need to get Probation staff back to work safely, and ensure employees are not afraid of working at the camps and halls.

Chair Jackson inquired about the actual staffing ratios being based on the facilities' overall population to prevent overstaffing in the units. Mr. Sanders clarified that the ideal staffing numbers for BJNJH is one staff per eight youth in each unit (1:8), and one staff per six youth in each unit at CJH (1:6), but the populations are gradually decreasing.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about field staff being pulled to work at LP. Mr. Woods confirmed that field staff will still be pulled to work at LP until the staffing stabilizes at LP. Once it happens, he mentioned that the deployment of field staff to LP will cease.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about the inclusion of certain classifications from the old staffing model being considered for new assignments within the new staffing model. Mr. Woods explained that the new staffing model for the 622 staff will include Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs), Senior DPOs, DPO IIs, Deputy Security Officers (DSOs), and Supervising DSOs.

Chair Jackson gained clarity on the discussions that were had earlier in the day around the canines being approved to improve security, not security in general. Mr. Sanders stated that bringing in more dogs is already in the process based off the current security contract.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on the need for airport-style scanners using his personal experiences and expressed urgency to the Board. He stated that the recommendation to expedite the purchase of the scanners with an end date for purchasing needs to be recommended to the Board. Commissioner Lewis proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, to expedite the purchase and installation of airport-style scanners for the entrances of LP and BJNJH and to encourage fulfillment of the canine search contracts to see if dogs can be permanently available at all facilities.

Commissioner Meredith made a friendly amendment to have POC staff reach out to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the CDCR, inquire about their security measures, get the specifications, so the recommendation can be presented to the Board.

Commissioner Lewis accepted Commissioner Meredith's friendly amendment.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys expressed interest in revisiting the motion at a later time to request the same security implementations at the camps.

Rudy Hernandez and one additional public commenter addressed the POC.

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Carrillo being absent) the POC agreed to make a recommendation to the Board to expedite the purchasing, installation, and implementation of airport-style scanners based on the POC's research and encourage the fulfillment of permanent canine search contracts:

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo

Attachments: Supporting Document
[Media/Article](#)

[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. REPORTS

6. Report and possible action from the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission on oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray updates, structured release and girls decarceration updates, and the POC's outstanding requests for information.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien encouraged everyone to read the agenda attachments and reported that the Probation Department has provided a point in time data set in May, which contains lots of information that the POC previously requested including charging agency, gender, race, ethnicity, and detention screener scores. She added that the POC identified some issues with the data received during its preliminary analysis that must be remedied before being shared publicly.

Overall, the Probation Department has informed Ms. Julien that they are working on a more robust data sharing structure to alleviate some of the problems they have with data collection and reporting around intake with expected improvements completed by August 2023.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about how the point in time data the POC has received relates to the Probation Department's data intake log. Ms. Julien explained the intake log was requested to get an idea of the youth's demographics and what the population looks like monthly. She emphasized that the point in time data does not replace the intake log, but it provides pertinent requested information for analyses.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about structured release and decarceration updates, Ms. Julien mentioned that data related to the number of youths released pursuant to the March 21, 2023 Board motion, the number of youth who have been conferenced, and the number of youth who have participated in multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings, results of those MDTs, and the number of youth who have been released will be requested, compiled, and shared publicly.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about OC Spray being brought over to LP, and Mr. Woods confirmed that OC Spray will not be allowed at LP.

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

Commissioner Meredith recommended that a presentation by Probation's Human Resources Division be heard on the number of staff who are unable to come to work due to medical restrictions department-wide with a breakdown of juvenile facilities. He also suggested that a presentation on Probation's Reserve Officers be added for September.

Commissioner Kakani recommended that a presentation on Electronic Monitoring be presented at the August meeting.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys suggested adding an update on the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office's right-sizing report for the Probation Department.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about an attack that occurred in one of the units and the security of the locked doors (unbreachable). Mr. Sanders mentioned that the Probation Department is investigating how doors are being breached, but the locks are being changed at BJNJH and LP to improvement the safety of the units.

Commissioner Kakani recommended that youth programming presentations be heard from the contracted CBOs, Credible Messengers, and other experts who connects with the youth.

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.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of June 22, 2023.

On motion by Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, unanimously carried (Commissioner Carrillo being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.