



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov>**

Thursday, July 27, 2023



6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (23-2847)

Attachments: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (23-2660)

Co-Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, and Commissioner Nishiyama read the County Land Acknowledgement Statement.

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

Absent: Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Martine Jones and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

2. Approval of minutes from the June 29, 2023 meeting. (23-2661)

On motion of Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried (Commissioner Elizondo abstaining and Commissioners Flores Urrutia, Jackson, Jones, Peña, Robinson and Smiley being absent), the minutes from the June 29, 2023, meeting were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. Leadership Report. (23-2662)

Co-Chair Hernandez reported that the Leadership Team is looking to partner with other youth committees in Los Angeles to see if there are areas where collaboration will be beneficial. She also reported that the Leadership Team is connecting with the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development to offer assistance with their various projects.

4. Executive Director's Report. (23-2663)

Tiara Summers, Executive Director, provided the following updates:

- **Executive Director Summers recently met with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Office of Child Protection (OCP) regarding the recent graduation celebrations for youth in the Independent Living Program (ILP). She stated that the Departments are open to meeting with the Youth Commission to discuss the celebrations and possible future collaboration.**
- **Co-Chair Hernandez and Commissioner Smiley will attend the Paths to the Future event sponsored by Youth Voices Rising on Saturday, July 29, 2023. The purpose of the event is to provide school supplies to high school and college bound youth.**

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES

5. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (23-2664)

The last Operations Committee (OPS) meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. However, OPS Chair Elizondo provided the following update:

- **The Youth Commission Website has been updated with a new commissioner application. Many of the questions are now more relevant to the work that the Commission does. It also eliminates the need to ask follow-up questions.**
- **Applications received within six months of a vacancy will remain open and available for review. Those who have applied prior to the six-month cut off will be notified to reapply.**
- **Due to an employment opportunity, Commissioner Nishiyama is leaving the Youth Commission. His leaving provides the opportunity to**

review the new commissioner on-boarding process as well as the newly instituted exit interview that will include an evaluation process. There are also various Commissioners that are up for reappointment to the Youth Commission.

6. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, update by Committee Chair Florencia Valenzuela. (23-2665)

Ad Hoc Committee Chair Valenzuela reported that she is adjusting to her new role as Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the DCFS and Probation Department Report Card. She encouraged other Commissioners to join her in this process. She indicated that she would like to start the Committee meetings in August. Commissioner Rodriguez volunteered to join the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Co-Chair Hernandez encouraged other Commissioners to join the Committee, and to consider appointing a Co-Chair familiar with Probation issues so that the Committee can develop a two-prong approach to the assessments.

7. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (23-2666)

Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) Chair La'Toya Cooper reported on the recent community Listening Session conducted in the Fourth Supervisorial District. She commended the Women and Girls Initiative and the Public Library for their participation. She thanked Commissioner Robinson for her leadership, as well as all Fourth District Commissioners for their support.

She reported that the Committee is looking at the timing of all listening sessions. Currently, the Third Supervisorial District will conduct their Listening Session on October 7, 2023, with the First Supervisorial District to follow in November.

YEC Chair Cooper reported that the YEC will develop a guidebook so that there is an action plan to conduct future listening sessions. She cautioned against the event turning into an un-actionable story telling event rather than an educational event that it is meant to be.

Commissioner Elizondo reported that currently Supervisor Horvath is scheduled to attend the Third Supervisorial District Listening Session.

Executive Director Summers informed that the Pomona Youth Commission is requesting to host the First Supervisorial District's Listening Session.

IV. PRESENTATION

8. Presentation by the LA County Auditor-Controller Ombudsperson for Youth in STRTPs.

- Michelle Lucarelli-Beltran, Ombudsperson for Youth in STRTPs. (23-2667)

Michelle Lucarelli-Beltran, Interim Ombudsperson for Youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), Zany'a Holland, Career Development Intern, and Ivory Bragg, Assistant Ombudsperson, introduced themselves and shared a presentation.

After the presentation, discussion ensued, and the following suggestions and comments were made:

- **Ombudsperson staff was encouraged to collaborate with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to obtain vital documents for youth and the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs to interact with their Center for Financial Environment to assist with bank accounts.**
- **STRTPs post the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, along with various flyers.**
- **Conversations are youth led, whether in private or in a small group at their preference. Most conversations are usually conducted one-on-one.**
- **These particular Ombudsperson staff only engage with youth at the two school districts of Pasadena and Bonita. Currently Charter Schools are not involved.**
- **Various STRTPs, such as Penny Lane, have closed and it has become an issue for providers to find sites and to receive approval to establish an STRTP. However, it has not been an issue mentioned by youth at this time.**
- **Visits to STRTPs are usually coordinated with the Department of Probation when there are youth that cross over both systems.**
- **Placement at STRTPs is not determined by level of care. However, there are two facilities, Vista del Mar and Starview, that provide community treatment facilities; youth are enrolled either on a volunteer basis or are court ordered.**
- **The Ombudsperson Office is not involved with placement, acceptance or denial of youth at an STRTP. Their work begins after a youth is placed.**

- The Ombudsperson Office reviews youth rights and if the issue of mental health comes up, the youth will be referred to the Department of Mental health for proper treatment.
- When personal issues are discussed with the youth, they are counseled and advised of the steps needed to resolve the matter. At times, STRTP staff is also counseled regarding their actions toward the youth. The Ombudsperson Office interfaces with DCFS staff toward issue resolution. The relationships between the various Departments are maximized for the betterment of the youth.
- Ombudsperson staff does not necessarily work with Transition Age Youth, but rather, those that are or will continue to be housed at an STRTP. However, they will assist any youth no matter where they are. Service does not end once they leave the STRTP.
- The youth's social worker and attorney will be contacted if a youth wants to change their educational rights holder.
- Five Acres, Sycamore, Vista del Mar, and McKinley are the largest STRTPs in terms of number of beds. The location of each STRTPs by Supervisorial District was provided to the Commission. Discussion ensued regarding licensed foster homes and STRTPs, what the category of "other" entails, and the set up and logistics of the community treatment facilities.
- The Public Inquiries Office housed in DCFS is the entity that visits resource family homes.
- Approximately 1/3 of youth in STRTPs are approaching ILP eligibility.

Co-Chair Hernandez thanked the panelists for their insightful presentation.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

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. (23-2670)

No members of the public 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. (23-2671)

The following topics were requested to be presented at future meetings:

- **Conduct a discussion regarding a Youth Ombudsperson and invite the various entities that would house that position, e.g., Department of Youth Development, DCFS, etc.**
 - **Invite Breathe L.A. to present an update on the Guaranteed Income Program (GIP).**
 - **Invite the Ombudsperson from the Department of Probation to conduct a presentation.**
11. Adjournment. (23-2672)

On motion of Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.