

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE **February 8, 2023** MEETING
Meeting Conducted Via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chair Pro Tem: Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer,
Vice Chair of CCJCC

Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender

Kyla Coates for Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District and Chair of the County Board
of Supervisors

David Cons for Martin Estrada, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California

*Sean Coyle for Chris Margaris, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol

Beatriz Dieringer, California League of Cities

*Justine Esack for Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender

Scott Fairfield, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association

Holly Francisco for Robert Luna, Sheriff

Edward McIntyre for Nichelle Henderson, Chair, County Quality & Productivity
Commission

Emilio Mendoza for Brandon Nichols, Director, County Department of Children and Family
Services

Irene Pelayo for Kelly LoBianco, Director, County Department of Economic Opportunity

Kris Pitcher for Michel Moore, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

Susan Sullivan Pithey for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General

Maricela Ramirez for Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of
Education

Karen Streich for Lisa Wong, Acting Director, County Department of Mental Health

Connie Sullivan for Robert Cole, Chair, County Economy and Efficiency Commission

Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Commission on Human Relations

*David Turla for Fesia Davenport, County Chief Executive Officer

Odey Ukpo, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner

Guillermo Viera Rosa for Jeff Macomber, Secretary, California Department of
Corrections and Rehabilitation

Andrea Welsing for Barbara Ferrer, Director, County Department of Public Health

Sharon L. Woo for George Gascón, District Attorney

*Not a designated alternate

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief
Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem.

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), informed the committee that there will be a return to in-person meetings beginning next month. The exact site of the meeting room has not yet been decided, but several sites are being considered. Details will be provided via email prior to the CCJCC meeting on March 8th.

In addition, as a follow-up to the presentation that was made at last month's meeting on Alternate Crisis Response (ACR), a survey link was recently sent to CCJCC members to gauge interest in attending a site visit to a mental health urgent care clinic and/or assisting in the distribution of 9-8-8 telephone line information to clients and the public.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting. Beatriz Dieringer of the California League of Cities made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Susan Sullivan Pithey, designated alternate for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2023 meeting was approved without objection.

III. GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Assistant Sheriff Holly Francisco, Sheriff's Department – Countywide Operations
Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher, LAPD – Detective Bureau
Andrea Welsing, Director, Office of Violence Prevention, Department of Public Health

Chief Gonzales reminded the committee that Supervisor Hahn had stated in her opening remarks to CCJCC last month that one of her priorities with public safety is to address gun violence. He also referenced the recent mass shooting in Monterey Park, which makes this a timely presentation.

He introduced Assistant Sheriff Holly Francisco of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to provide an overview of law enforcement operations to limit access to firearms and reduce gun violence.

Sheriff's Department

Most of the 23 Sheriff's stations conduct community town halls or neighborhood watch meetings where gun safety is periodically taught. LASD also uses social media outlets to educate the public on proper gun storage and proper procedures on purchasing and/or selling firearms through federal firearms licenses.

With regard to removing firearms from communities, LASD conducted several gun buy-back events in 2022 that collected almost 500 firearms. More events are planned in 2023.

In addition, patrol deputies and detectives recovered about 6,900 firearms during routine patrol and search warrant operations in 2022. This represents an almost 7% increase.

An Armed Prohibited Persons (APP) team works with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to retrieve firearms from individuals that are prohibited from having them. This team recovered over 200 firearms in 2022.

Assistant Sheriff Francisco introduced Lieutenant Delicia Hernandez from the Major Crimes Bureau to provide additional information about the work of the team.

The APP team recently received a grant of funding to assist with efforts to retrieve firearms from individuals that are identified in the armed prohibited persons system. The team seeks to obtain voluntary relinquishment of the firearms through door knocks at the homes of the identified individuals.

Last year, 63% of the cases that they made contact in or had planned to make contact in were closed through either voluntary relinquishment of the firearm, or during contact at the time of the visit. The remaining 37% of active cases haven't been closed.

DOJ has recently provided an ability for the team to access to the armed prohibited persons system without going through DOJ, which is expected to increase visits to the residences.

The team is also working with the Superior Court to enforce a new law, Senate Bill 320 (SB 320), which requires mandated notification to law enforcement regarding restraining orders and those identified as prohibited from owning firearms.

Assistant Sheriff Francisco noted that 24 assault rifles and 16 ghost guns have been recovered by the APP team through the door knocks.

LAPD

Deputy Chief Kris Pitcher of the LAPD reported that patrol officers are proactively using what are known as temporary civil gun violence restraining orders (GVRO's), which permits them to remove guns from individuals that a GVRO applies to.

In addition, officers may also remove guns from an individual under the Welfare and Institutions Code if the individual is considered to be a danger to themselves or others. The LAPD works with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, which may present the matter in Court, where the firearm(s) can be removed from the individual from one to five years.

Similar to the LASD, the LAPD also works with the DOJ to remove firearms from individuals that are identified in the armed prohibited persons system.

A program was implemented in conjunction with L.A. Crime Stoppers in December 2022 that allows for confidential tips to be provided online, including information related to illegal gun trafficking and manufacturing of firearms such as ghost guns. Successful tips may result in monetary payments to the individuals that provide the information.

The LAPD also hosts gun buyback events at citywide locations where \$100 may be paid for handguns and \$200 for rifles and assault-type weapons. Over 470 guns were collected last year, and an event is scheduled to be held on March 4th in San Pedro in partnership with Supervisor Hahn's Office. Since 2009, the gun buyback program has taken nearly 19,000 firearms off the streets. This includes 728 assault weapons.

The LAPD participates in multiple agency task force operations that work with federal law enforcement partners to interdict firearms and narcotics trafficking, which has resulted in the seizure of thousands of firearms in addition to tons of narcotics.

Deputy Chief Pitcher stated that, as with LASD, the LAPD has implemented SB 320, which calls for the recovery of outstanding firearms associated with individuals named on restraining orders. When the restraining orders are received, cases are assigned to detectives in each of the 21 geographic areas to determine if there are potential violations. If a weapon is not turned in, they will recover it and appropriate enforcement action is taken after an investigation.

Within the LAPD, all gun recovery and enforcement efforts are tracked on a monthly basis, which serves to show where the guns are coming from. The LAPD also follows-up with National Interagency Ballistics Information Network leads that come from casings or the weapons themselves that link shootings in different areas.

Office of Violence Prevention

Chief Gonzales next introduced Andrea Welsing, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) in the Department of Public Health, to provide an update on the OVP Public Health Platform to Prevent Gun Violence.

As background, OVP was established in February 2019 by the Board of Supervisors and is housed in the Department of Public Health. OVP strengthens collaboration, capacity, and partnerships to prevent multiple forms of violence, and promotes healing across communities in Los Angeles County.

The OVP governance structure includes a County Leadership Committee and Community Partnership Council. The core, ongoing funding is \$12 million, and one-time funding (for 24 months) from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is \$25 million.

The OVP strategic plan includes the following: Support for children, youth, and families; Foster safe neighborhoods; Create a culture of peace; and Build infrastructure for healing informed policies and systems. Ms. Welsing added that a fifth category centers around data and evaluation.

Ms. Welsing listed the following OVP early implementation priorities:

- Establish Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions
- Create Community Accessible Open Data Portal
- Expand Trauma Prevention Initiative
- Implement Crisis Response Pilot in South L.A.
- Advance Healing Centered and Trauma Informed System Change
- Shift The Narrative about Violence and Trauma

Ms. Welsing next discussed trends in firearm deaths by injury intent (such as homicides and suicides) among Los Angeles County residents from 2012-2021. While 2020 and 2021 data are provisional, the trend in firearm homicides shows an increase of 64% from 2019 to 2021 (380 firearm homicides in 2019 and 625 firearm homicides in 2021).

Data was also shown for rates of firearm homicides and suicides by demographic group among County residents from 2016 through 2020. Firearm violence affects all communities and peoples in Los Angeles County. However, men and particularly young men of color are disproportionately impacted.

Ms. Welsing noted that the firearm suicide rate for older adults is twice as high as the County rate. In addition, the firearm homicide rate for Black individuals is three times as high as the County rate.

Data for gun involvement in violent deaths from 2017 to 2019 shows that guns were involved in 31% of all suicides in the County and 73% of all homicides.

Gun violence is pervasive. The effects and impacts are not only felt by the direct victims of firearm violence, but also by their friends, families, and communities. In 2020, the direct costs of firearm violence (healthcare, law enforcement, etc.) is estimated to be more than \$547 million.

When looking at both direct and indirect costs, the broader costs of firearm deaths and injuries is larger. In 2020, in Los Angeles County, 524 homicides and 1,336 assaults through firearms resulted in costs of \$5.4 billion if counting out-of-pocket costs, work loss costs, and quality-of-life costs. Using this same criteria, 274 suicides and 20 suicide attempts through firearms resulted in costs of \$1.8 billion.

The Public Health approach to violence prevention includes the following points:

- Is comprehensive: includes strategies at multiple levels
- Reduces risk factors and increases protective factors

- Focuses on population health, not just on individual health
- Uses a 4-level Socio-Ecological Model to address violence
- Uses Data to understand violence and evaluate strategies
- Facilitates Multi-Sector Collaboration and Coordination
- Place-Based and engages those most impacted, survivors or perpetrators, in developing and implementing the solutions

In June 2022, OVP convened a meeting of community and faith-based partners, survivors, health care professionals, mental health experts, emergency room physicians, and Public Health staff to develop the Gun Violence Prevention Platform and identify four key priorities. Those priorities are as follows:

1. Advocate for robust gun safety legislation locally and nationally, including the federal ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
2. Increase violence prevention and healing programs and events to promote social connectedness and a culture of peace within neighborhoods, including healing circles and healing spaces.
3. Improve enforcement of Gun Violence Restraining Orders, in partnership with law enforcement, Courts and community, and a red flag system to prohibit abusers from owning guns and ensure these services and programs are culturally appropriate.
4. Increase access to comprehensive culturally relevant support services, and education and training for school-aged children (K-12), their parents, and school personnel.

Following the recent mass shooting in Monterey Park, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion that declares gun violence to be a public health crisis and directs OVP, in collaboration with County and community partners, to finalize and publicly release the Platform to Address Gun Violence.

Ms. Welsing reviewed trauma prevention initiative strategies built around intervention, capacity building, and prevention. This includes the following:

1. Hospital Violence Intervention Program (Intervention)
2. Street Outreach and Intervention Services (Intervention)
3. Capacity-Building Training and Technical Assistance (Capacity Building)
4. Peer to Peer Violence Prevention Learning Academy (Capacity Building)
5. Community Engagement (Prevention)
6. Community-Identified Prevention Strategies (Prevention)

With the Hospital Violence Intervention Program (HVIP), CBOs partner with trauma hospitals to engage victims of violence. Aspects of this program include:

- 24/7 response bedside in the hospital
- Case management services post hospital discharge

- Referrals to needed services: victim benefits, counseling, employment, housing, substance use treatment, others
- HVIP Consortium to establish protocols and best practices

In 2017 there was one hospital in the program, but as of 2022 there are four hospitals.

With Street Outreach and Community Violence Intervention, CBOs employ credible messengers with lived experience to de-escalate community tensions and promote peace. These messengers do the following:

- Respond to violent incidents to reduce retaliatory violence and promote peace
- Peace maintenance and rumor control
- Safe passages to parks and schools; protocol is in place with Parks and Recreation
- Case management, including peer mentoring and service referrals
- Community peace activation events
- Incident response protocols with the Sheriff's Department and local law enforcement

In 2018, this program was in place in four communities, but as of 2022 it is in place in nine communities.

The School Safety Services Board Motion seeks to do the following:

- Identify 2 to 3 school districts with the highest rates of violence both on campus and in nearby areas
- Collect input from students and parents on needed services and supports
- Identify and assess existing school safety/climate initiatives, models, and strategies
- Identify key implementation needs and challenges, including funding needs
- Develop recommendations on how the County can best support schools

Ms. Welsing listed the following opportunities for partnership:

- National Violent Death Reporting System/Data Sharing
- Gun Violence Prevention Workgroup
- Gun Violence Restraining Orders
- Crisis Response
- Gun Safe Storage
- Cross-Sector Training
- Community Outreach and Social Connection – youth, Parks After Dark

In response to a query from Chief Scott Fairfield, President of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, Ms. Welsing stated that she will contact him to determine if there are ways to help support gun buyback efforts in smaller cities of the County, as well as messaging and other opportunities to work together.

The OVP website can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/>

PowerPoint slides that were used for this presentation have been posted online under documents for this meeting at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

ACTION: For information only.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.