



**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](http://poc.lacounty.gov)

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023, 9:00 A.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 9:08 a.m. Wende Julien, Executive Director, shared Commissioner Meredith's sentiments about Reserve Deputy Probation Officers and conducted the roll call:**

Present:        Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Absent:         Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, and Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

2. Approval of the July 13, 2023, meeting minutes.

**No members of the public commented on this item.**

**On motion of Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Terry, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Jackson being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to table approval of the July 13, 2023, regular meeting minutes to the September 14, 2023 meeting:**

**Ayes:**            6 –    Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

**Absent:**          3 –    Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

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

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## **II. DISCUSSIONS**

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on issues related to Electronic Monitoring (EM) on adults and youth within the Los Angeles County Probation Department.
  - Ambrose Brooks, Organizer and Policy Analyst, Dignity and Power Now
  - Richard Giron, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Julia Vest, Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

**A video highlighting portions of the POC's Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Electronic Monitoring was shown (link to full video is attached).**

**Ambrose Brooks gave a verbal presentation on electronic monitoring which summarized the collaborative research between Dignity and Power NOW, the UCLA Law – Criminal Justice Program, and people who have been impacted by EM and cycles of mass incarceration.**

**Mr. Giron gave a presentation on Adult Electronic Monitoring, attached.**

**Ms. Vest gave a presentation on the Community Detention Program (CDP), attached.**

**Ten public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Ms. Vest explained what “detain on first” orders are, requiring Probation to detain youth the first time a violation of the CDP occurs.**

**Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about detain on first recommendations being added to the minute order. Ms. Vest mentioned that CDP Officers can make recommendations to add detain on first to the courts' order, but the recommendations are ultimately made by the bench officer.**

**Commissioner Mundo shared his sentiments about intake increasing by 20% since 2014, and bench officers' decisions attributing to this intake increase.**

**Commissioner Kakani inquired about the Probation tracking client demographics, offenses, and recommendations for adults on probation. Mr. Giron stated that demographic data is pulled from the case reports and not tracked by Probation. He added that the Probation Department can create a data sheet and report back on specific data being requested by the POC.**

**Ms. Vest responded to Commissioner Kakani's inquiries about CDP and pre-trial recommendations, availability of manuals and training guides, statistical data on youth, and conditions within the engagement section. She stated that approximately 6% of referrals to the CDP are made at intake by Probation Officers, but most referrals come from the courts. Ms. Vest mentioned that responses to the information requests can be reported back to the POC.**

**In response to Commissioner Canales' question about the jurisdictional areas of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, Ms. Vest noted that the location the crime was committed would determine jurisdiction.**

**Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared his sentiments on identifying when EM is the best alternative to incarceration for pre-trial and post-conviction. He also shed light on state-wide pre-trial detention changes and the importance of measuring net-widening and**

recidivism.

Chair Jackson proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, to request the EM data that has been listed in the attached document.

Mr. Steven Edwards from County Counsel read the attached motion verbatim.

Commissioner Kakani added that an update on data around the percentage of recommendations made by Probation, the length of time youth spend on CDP, the detain on first data, demographic data, manual or training guide for the CDP program, and the number of pre-dispositioned youth who have had their cases dismissed.

Commissioner Mundo shared his sentiments on colleagues being thoughtful about the number of outstanding data requests and not overloading the Probation Department with data requests.

In response to Chair Jackson's inquiry about the turnaround time to respond to EM data requests, Mr. Giron and Ms. Vest stated that they can report back on the data points that are being collected as soon as possible.

Commissioner Kakani shared her sentiments on the amount of data and information being requested from the Probation Department.

Commissioner Mundo shared his sentiments on net-widening and inviting bench officers to explain their role in recommending EM.

In response to Chair Jackson's inquiry about the number of outstanding data requests, Ms. Julien reported that most are fulfilled.

On motion of Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, carried by the following vote, (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the said motion failed to carry by the following vote:

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>2 –</b>	Commissioner Dolores Canales, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani
<b>Noes:</b>	<b>4 –</b>	Commissioner Diane Terry, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Chair Esché L. Jackson
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>3 –</b>	Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed a motion, seconded by Chair Jackson, to create an ad hoc committee to analyze data requests with the goal of rethinking the POC's approach to collecting data.

Commissioner Canales shared her sentiments on progress the Probation Department has made in receiving and responding to the POC's data requests.

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Chair Jackson, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the POC agreed to create a Data Analysis Ad Hoc Committee:

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>6 –</b>	Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-
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Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

**Absent:** 3 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Commissioner Terry shared her sentiments on the importance of requesting, receiving, and analyzing data as it relates to outcomes such as what works, individual success stories, and reasons why programs did not work for others.

Chair Jackson inquired about the Probation Department tracking outcomes. Mr. Giron confirmed that these outcomes are not currently being tracked, but he is open to more discussion on ways to track those outcomes.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the POC recessed at 11:05 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

**Attachments:** [Supporting Document](#)  
[2021 Pretrial Electronic Monitoring Report](#)  
[Video Recording of Virtual Town Hall Meeting](#)  
[POC Motion](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on a report from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the movement of youth from Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH).
  - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
  - Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General
  - Felicia Cotton, Acting Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Eric Strong, Chief Safety and Security Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Albert Banuelos, Senior Director and Superintendent of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Mr. Bates shared highlights from the attached report regarding the transfer of youth to LPJH.

Mr. Banuelos and Mr. Strong introduced themselves and their roles within the Probation Department.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about Probation's failure to send notifications when moving youth, Mr. Bates mentioned that he is looking forward to hearing updates from the Interim Probation Chief on the notification and reporting procedures.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the lack of screening of staff and staff belongings. Mr. Bates added that the findings related to security screening in the attached report were related to historical observations. He stated that facility security since the LPJH incident has been improved at LPJH, remains as an area for improvement at BJNJH, and is unknown at CJH due to youth not being currently housed there. Mr. Strong explained the many ways Probation has and will be enhancing security at all facilities using internal and external sources to adhere to industry standards and best practices.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about additional staff being present at the entrances of facilities, Mr. Strong clarified that there is a supervisor and/or a Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) officer present during shift changes. He stated that SEO

officers are present through the various shifts, but additional staffing is present on weekends when there is visiting.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the programming schedule and when programming would resume. Mr. Banuelos mentioned that unit programming with community-based organizations (CBOs) is low with only about six CBOs coming in, but he will share the program calendar with the POC.

Commissioner Canales inquired about the discrepancies with the reporting of the major disturbance. Mr. Banuelos clarified that internally, the incident was referred to as a major disturbance with several assaults, but the Probation Department does not control over the terminology used by the media.

Commissioner Canales proposed the attached motion, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, requesting an investigation by OIG of the incident that took place at LPJH on July 28, 2023.

Mr. Bates stated that the OIG is understaffed and unable to investigate independent requests at this time.

Commissioner Canales noted that the POC should also recommend that the Board of Supervisors (Board) approve OIG's budget to fill the remaining staffing positions so OIG can respond to independent investigative requests.

Ms. Julien highlighted that this is the first time the POC has requested the OIG to step in and perform a specific investigation due to the POC's limitations on receiving confidential information. She also confirmed that the OIG is the investigatory body of the POC, and that the ability of the POC to investigate is compromised when OIG does not have staffing capacity to investigate.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about the depth of the OIG's investigation for specific cases involving youth such as their emotional state in their formal report. Mr. Bates mentioned that that level of parameters has not been previously included in reports but would be included if the information was required to complete an investigation.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about whether an internal investigation is being done by the Probation Department, and if the findings will be shared with the POC. Mr. Strong clarified that this was not a riot, but a major disturbance. He stated that Probation does not have a built-in intelligence gathering investigative unit, which may be related staffing shortages. He shared that he is looking to implement an after-action reporting process to capture lessons learned, draw conclusions, take corrective actions, and make recommendations.

Mr. Banuelos stated that the Probation Department currently uses an internal critical incident reporting process as its internal investigation process, which is reported out to the Executives within the Probation Department. Mr. Bates confirmed that the OIG is invited to the critical incident report meetings to determine if further investigation is required.

Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys expressed his opposition for recommending the Board to approve positions for the OIG.

Ten public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys made a friendly amendment to redirect the motion to POC staff with the support of OIG to step in if necessary.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the POC agreed to direct the motion to POC staff as amended:

- Ayes:**           6 –     Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson
- Absent:**         3 –     Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Commissioner Terry inquired about LPJH visitations and the services and supports that are offered to staff who are assaulted. Mr. Banuelos emphasized that weapons of any kind are not allowed on the premises and authorized weapons are locked away in lockers in the intake area prior to authorized carriers entering the facility. He added that they are in the process of streamlining and improving the visitation process and have implemented many changes already. Mr. Banuelos shared the various types of supports and county services that are available to Probation employees.

Commissioner Mundo shared his observations from a recent site visit to LPJH and inquired about programming being tailored to the current population, specifically for those who are over 17 years old and weekend programming. Mr. Banuelos reiterated the improvements that have been to facilitate more visitations and expressed an understanding of the need for age-appropriate programming at LPJH.

In response to Commissioner Terry’s inquiries about Probation’s preliminary discussions with youth and parents on programs and services that are desired, Mr. Banuelos mentioned that he can forward a presentation from his colleague. He added that LPJH received an influx of about 60 books and magazines requested by youth that are being reassembled by staff for dissemination to the units.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about visiting space for attorneys, reinstatement of OC Spray at LPJH and the phase out plan for that, and staffing. Mr. Banuelos stated that a large amount of space that is available for visitations are not secured, but he will report back on the status of redesigned the space for secured visiting. Although an OC Spray phase out plan is out of his purview, Mr. Banuelos confirmed that OC Spray deployments are being tracked and provided to the POC. Lastly, Mr. Banuelos explained that staffing levels are improving overall, and commended staff who have assisted with movements to ensure youth are consistently getting their outdoor recreational and school time.

Commissioner Canales inquired about lockers being placed at the facilities considering the enforcement of the no cell phone policies. Mr. Strong reiterated what the industry standards were for custodial and locked facilities and emphasized that the Probation Department is adjusting to the new standards, have full access to the departmental phones located in the facilities, and certain individuals (directors and above) can bring in cell phones to make calls expeditiously when things are happening.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared his sentiments on the trauma of youth being “packed out” by other youth. He also raised concerns around the proposed staffing ratios at LPJH in comparison to the actual staffing ratios, with majority of staff being new or SEO officers

who do not know the youth, which may contribute to BSCC non-compliance for LPJH.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about the replacement of communication radios, Mr. Banuelos mentioned that the purchase order for new radios has been approved, is awaiting delivery from vendor, and will be available to all staff and county partners for ease of internal communication while at LPJH.

Chair Jackson shared her sentiments about her recent site visit to LPJH.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, to table discussion and any possible action on agenda item 5 related to the Los Angeles County Probation Department's compliance with the DOJ Settlement Agreement and agenda item 6 related to an update from the OIG on El Monte case to the next regular POC meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the POC agreed to table the discussion and possible actions for agenda items 5 and 6 to the September 14, 2023 meeting:

**Ayes:**           6 –     Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

**Absent:**         3 –     Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

**Agenda item 7 was discussed after agenda item 4.**

**Attachments:**   [Report on Youth Transfers to LPJH](#)  
[POC Motion](#)  
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on a report from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's compliance with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
- Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General
- Luis Dominguez, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Jennifer Donnell, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

**This agenda item was tabled.**

**Attachments:**   [Report on DOJ Settlement Agreement](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General on El Monte case.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
- Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

**This agenda item was tabled.**

**Attachments:**   Supporting Document  
Public Comment/Correspondence

### III. REPORTS

7. Report and take possible action on a progress update from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission on strategic planning and operational goals, POC's Model of Change, and focus areas for the current fiscal year. Topics include:
  - i. Decreasing the Population: Structured Release and Girls' Decarceration
  - ii. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray and Use of Force Tracking
  - iii. Implementing and Staffing the L.A. Model
  - iv. Policy Review and Recommendations
  - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
  - Esche Jackson, Commission Chair, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

**Ms. Julien highlighted the POC's attached projects for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to focus on measurable outcomes using the attached Model of Change. She emphasized that the project list is not exhaustive, but includes tasks required by law, and actions/reports requested by the Board.**

**Chair Jackson proposed a motion to accept the attached documents for the POC's 2023-2024 projects and the POC's Model of Change as presented.**

**In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about including Youth Justice Re-Imagined, Ms. Julien stated that YJR fits into multiple projects such as reducing the number of incarcerated youth, programs and services, and part of the L.A. Model.**

**Two public commenters addressed the POC.**

**On motion of Chair Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the POC agreed to accept the POC's 2023-2024 projects, Model of Change, and staff's strategic goals as presented:**

- Ayes:**            6 –     Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani, and Chair Esché L. Jackson
- Absent:**           3 –     Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

**Attachments:**    [POC's 2023-2024 Projects](#)  
[POC's Model of Change](#)  
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)  
[Population Statistics](#)  
[POC Motion](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

### IV. MISCELLANEOUS

#### MATTERS NOT POSTED

8. 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.



**There were no items to be placed on a future agenda.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

9. 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](mailto: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.

**Two public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Attachments:** Public Comment/Correspondence

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

10. Adjournment for the regular meeting of August 10, 2023.

**On motion by Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, unanimously carried (Commissioners Carrillo, Lewis, and Meredith being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.**