



**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, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023, 9:00 A.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 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Carrillo shared sentiments about Senior Detention Probation Officer Stanley Guyness and Executive Director Wende Julien conducted the roll call:**

Present: Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: Chair Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, and Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

2. Approval of the July 13, 2023, and August 10, 2023 meeting minutes.

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

**On motion of Commissioner Carrillo, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Garcia-Leys, Jackson, Lewis, and Meredith being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the July 13, 2023, and August 10, 2023 regular meeting minutes:**

**Ayes:** 5 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Vice-Chair Milinda Kakani

**Absent:** 4 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Chair Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [Approved July 13, 2023 Minutes](#)  
[Approved August 10, 2023 Minutes](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

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**II. DISCUSSIONS**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Jackson, Lewis, and Meredith being absent), the order of the remaining agenda items was changed. Agenda item 6 was discussed first, followed by agenda items 7, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11.**

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on updates from the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) on unspent funds and unidentifiable data issues.
  - Sharon Harada, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Josh Green, Member of JJCC

**Ms. Julien highlighted that the POC has been discussing how the JJCC allocates and spends down funds allotted by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and how the data on the funds is collected.**

**Mr. Green explained how the JJCC Subcommittee prioritizes and allocates JJCPA dollars, and the Probation Department puts the approved plan into effect. He emphasized that the challenge has been determining which data needs to be collected and measuring the effectiveness of the programming.**

**Ms. Harada shared that in order to address the concerns about the collection of identifiable data on youth in certain programs, the Probation Department has agreed that going forward, the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) will handle the collection of data for JJCPA-funded programs that serve youth who are not systems involved.**

**Twelve public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Mr. Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, responded to inquiries raised by public commenters and commissioners. He emphasized the Department's willingness to listen to the community's concerns about the collection of data and the importance of the JJCPA funds being used to fund programs that are effective and positively impacting the youth.**

**In response to Ms. Julien's inquiry about spending down the JJCPA money, Ms. Harada clarified that the JJCC will be meeting on October 4, 2023, to define a reporting process for the funds and finalize the spending plan for adoption (which is discussed in December 2023 and voted on for adoption in January 2024).**

**Mr. Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, explained that there are a variety of funding sources that come from the state that must be spent in certain ways. Mr. Smythe highlighted that of the 46 million dollars in the current budget, over 10 million of those dollars are five years old or older.**

**Commissioner Terry inquired about who was tasked with looking at the types of data that needs to be collected. Ms. Harada and Mr. Viera Rosa confirmed that DYD has been tasked with making decisions on what to do with the funds for the non-systems involved youth.**

**Commissioner Terry and Mr. Green acknowledged that determining which programs will have their data managed by DYD remains to be determined.**

**Commissioner Carrillo acknowledged and admired the voices of the youth formerly in Probation's care. Mr. Viera Rosa expressed a need to hear the voices of the community,**

admired the courage of those who vocalize their views, and hoped for more people to show up and challenge the system by sharing perspectives, recommendations, improvements moving forwards.

Commissioner Carrillo left the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

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

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on a report from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement Agreement and the backlog of review of use of force incidents.
  - 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

**Mr. Bates gave highlights on the use of force incidents and reported that there has been a no improvement over Probation's zero percent compliance with the DOJ Settlement Agreement.**

**Ms. Donnell provided an overview of how the use of force cases are handled, explaining that the Probation Department has hired four attorneys who are supervising 18 investigators who are experts and former law enforcement with backgrounds in investigations at CDCR and the former Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). She reported that about 200 cases have been referred to the law firm, Hurrell Cantrall. She shared that the current backlog is 70 cases at BJNJH (down from 289) and 800 from CJH (down from 938). Ms. Donnell provided an update on the video retention system, which captured surveillance from January 2022 and beyond, but the bulk of the backlog is from Spring 2022 to mid-July 2023.**

**Four public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about oversight from the OIG. Mr. Bates assured that the OIG will continuously be involved despite its ongoing staffing issue and will provide a detailed report in the future.**

**In response to Commissioner Canales' inquiry about the oversight of the expert contractors, Ms. Donnell confirmed that they are all hired by Hurrell Cantrall.**

**Ms. Donnell confirmed that families are notified when a use of force event happens, per policy, and tracking is happening on the backend.**

**Commissioner Kakani inquired about the outcomes for staff when an action is deemed excessive or inappropriate. Ms. Donnell clarified that this is determined by Internal Affairs.**

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on an update from the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General on El Monte case.
  - Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General
  - Shadi Kardan, Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General

Ms. Kardan provided a thorough report on OIG's investigation which included vital supervision steps that were not followed, inaccurate documentation, several inconsistencies, and failure to conduct warrant checks.

Two public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about an invitation to the El Monte Police Department and the families of the victims in the case. Ms. Julien shared regret at not having invited them and asked Commissioner Mundo to reach out to invite them to attend a future meeting.

Commissioners Canales and Garcia-Leys shared sentiments about how this incident could have been prevented.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about next steps and further investigations, Ms. Kardan mentioned that recommendations were outlined in the attached report.

Attachments: [Report on El Monte Case](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Discuss and take possible action on collaboration with the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission on School Resource Deputies and the connection to Probation and the school-to-prison pipeline.
  - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien explained how the issues regarding school resource deputies overlap with the work of the POC. She requested the POC to support the collaboration with the Sheriff's Civilian Oversight Commission and the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) on this issue.

Two public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys arrived at 9:35 a.m.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about the research. Ms. Julien clarified that the OIG has conducted research, published a [report](#), and provided a [presentation](#) at the COC's April 20, 2023 meeting on the findings of their research and recommendations. She highlighted that the POC's role would be focused on outreach and communicating with families and youth.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry about the perimeters outside of the school campuses, Ms. Julien emphasized that the focus for now is only on-site school resource deputies.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry, Ms. Julien confirmed that school resource deputies and school-based probation are directly connected. Commissioner Kakani requested data on the number of youth who come in contact with school resource deputies including those who are on probation, not on probation, and those who were placed on probation after coming in contact with the school resource deputies.

Commissioner Canales inquired about the school resource deputies being armed. Ms. Julien explained that various agencies serve as school resource officers and school security on school campuses, and that this work is focused on LA County Sheriff School Resource Deputies. The POC can request a presentation on this topic from the Probation Department and LASD.

Commissioner Carrillo and Ms. Julien inquired about the level of training the school resource deputies receive. Mr. Bates recommended that everyone read [OIG's Report on Improving School Climate and Safety](#).

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

7. Discuss and take appropriate action on progress with the Board of State and Community Correction's (BSCC) Title 15 and Title 24 standards and BSCC required CAPs at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH).
  - Eric Strong, Chief Safety and Security Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Scott Sanders, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Albert Banuelos, Senior Director and Superintendent of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Mr. Sanders stated that the BSCC inspections of BJNJH and LPJH were conducted in August 2023, and the Corrective Action Plans (CAP) developed for both facilities were similar. He provided details related to each of the following categories: staffing, staff orientation and training, SYTF manual (BJNJH only), safety checks, youth orientation, use of force training, searches, educational programming, discipline, and other age-appropriate programming such as exercise and recreation. Mr. Sanders mentioned that the CAP was submitted to the BSCC on September 27, 2023, before the due date of October 10, 2023 in order to allow for feedback and corrections.

Nine public commenters addressed the POC.

Ms. Julien shared some of the questions that were raised during the meeting by public commenters. Mr. Sanders confirmed that the new orientation packets have been updated and include the Youth Bill of Rights, youth have been given surveys regarding age-appropriate programming, and the updates reported are continuously being implemented. In response to the attorney visits and phone call eligibility requirements, Mr. Sanders will investigate these issues and report back to the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the length of the drafted CAP report that was submitted to the BSCC. Mr. Sanders mentioned that the document is about six pages and has several attachments. Mr. Viera Rosa emphasized that a completed CAP document was submitted totaling about 250-300 pages.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about the staffing plan, Mr. Sanders mentioned that staff have been reassigned to the field and deployed to meet minimum staffing levels per shift. He also stated that a plan to reduce the juvenile population to match the number of available staff was not in this new corrective action plan.

Commissioner Terry inquired about what the search process looks like and the vision for the training the trainer program. Mr. Sanders clarified that there is a team dedicated to vetting and approving organizations and would like to report back to the POC at a future meeting about progress the existing programs have been making. He added that the most effective training strategy is to employ onsite hands-on training with ongoing surveys at the conclusion of the training.

Commissioner Carrillo shared his sentiments on behavior outlined in the pamphlets is not happening in real time in the juvenile units, specifically around mannerisms and interacting with adults. Mr. Sanders shared the same concerns and stated that the department is looking at readjusting staff to hold staff and youth accountable.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiries about a fire safety plan at LPJH, process for reducing room confinement, when youth should be disciplined, and the use of restraints between transportation and outside the facility, Mr. Sanders stated he can report back to the POC with responses.

In response to Commissioner Canales' inquiry about the youth survey, Mr. Sanders confirmed that every youth was anonymously surveyed.

Mr. Viera Rosa shared updates about what has taken place within the Probation Department, shared that he is committed to the values of approaching juvenile operations in a multi-disciplinary approach in a joint ownership model with campuses of 50 youth or fewer, separated by age and needs.

Four public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about who is being confined within the small communities and the youth to staff ratios. Mr. Viera Rosa expressed that the numbers matter, and the goal is to have a shareable vision and plan to ensure that less young people are in the juvenile halls. Commissioner Garcia-Leys reiterated that reducing the population is the best approach.

Commissioner Canales inquired about the plan to get youth back home and building out his management team. Mr. Viera Rosa emphasized that the focus is the moment that youth arrive in Probation care what they can do now. He also emphasized the importance of having the right people in the right positions to utilize those skills.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about staff reassignments, Mr. Viera Rosa mentioned that volunteers are reassigned first, but staff have been mandated to work various shifts in the absence of volunteers.

Commissioner Terry uplifted the wisdom of the community, and Mr. Viera Rosa agreed that the inclusion of the community is important to identify new models that should be explored.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about concerns about the opportunities youth and staff had to received support in the wake of the tragic death of a member of the staff at Los Padrinos. Mr. Viera Rosa expressed that the peer support and management team are available to support staff and youth when tragic events happen.

Commissioner shared her sentiments about youth experiences upon arrival at the facilities and inquired about a system for tracking staff deployments. Mr. Viera Rosa explained that there is currently not a system in place to track deployments to ensure staff can be reassigned to units they have been previously deployed to.

Agenda item 3 was discussed after agenda item 7.

Attachments: Supporting Document  
Public Comment/Correspondence

8. Discuss and take appropriate action on updates from the Executive Director and the POC's ad hoc committees.
  - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
  - Dawnnesha Smith, Project Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
  - Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

- Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Carrillo, Jackson, Lewis, and Meredith being absent), this agenda item was continued to the next regular POC meeting on October 12, 2023.**

**Agenda item 10 was discussed after agenda item 4.**

**Attachments:** Supporting Document  
[Population Statistics](#)  
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)  
[POC Inspection Reports](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **MATTERS NOT POSTED**

9. 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**

10. 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.

**Six public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Attachments:** Public Comment/Correspondence

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Vice Chair Kakani ended the meeting at 1:26 p.m.**