



**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, NOVEMBER 9, 2023, 1:00 P.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 1:05 p.m. Wende 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, and Vice Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: Chair Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the September 28, 2023 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Jackson being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the September 28, 2023 regular meeting minutes:

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

Attachments: [Approved September 28, 2023 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

3. Family Impact Remarks

- Marlen Medina, Mother of Bryan Diaz

Marlen Medina, along with supporters from Healing Dialogue in Action and friends and family shared memories about Bryan Diaz and shared concerns about transparency, the investigation, and notification procedures for families.

Seven public commenters addressed the POC.

Ms. Julien and the POC Commissioners shared their sentiments with Marlen Medina and her family and friends.

Commissioner Meredith proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, requesting the Probation Department to provide the POC with an update on the in-custody death investigation, identify the primary agency conducting investigation and who Probations' liaisons are, inform the POC about Probation's policy/practice for how families are notified of death/injury, and inform the POC if an internal investigation was conducted and the what the results are of that internal investigation.

Commissioner Carrillo made a friendly amendment to add a report back from the Probation Department in one month.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys highlighted that the POC has the authority as an oversight body to inquire about what happened to Bryan Diaz and share updates with Marlen Medina.

Chair Kakani made a friendly amendment to include that an independent investigation be conducted by the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG).

Commissioner Meredith and Commissioner Carrillo accepted the amendments as presented.

Twelve public commenters addressed the POC.

The motion carried unanimously, Commissioner Jackson being absent.

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

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

By Common Consent, there being no objection, the POC recessed for five minutes.

II. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's progress on reaching compliance for areas of noncompliance with Title 15 and Title 24 according to recent California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) inspections. Discussion will include updates from Probation's Human Resources Division on current department-wide staffing/personnel information including rates of staff on leave, call outs, deployment of field staff, and utilization of Reserved Probation Officers to address staffing issues.

- Probation Representative, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Deanna Carlisle, Human Resources Manager, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Albert Banuelos, Senior Probation Director and Superintendent at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, provided an overview of the changes that have been implemented at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall towards compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 BSCC requirements.

HR Manager Carlisle highlighted data from the attached HR report.

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiries regarding leaves and staff callouts, HR Manager Carlisle distinguished intermittent leaves from continuous leaves. She mentioned that the call out percentages of staff assigned to juvenile halls and field staff deployed to juvenile halls are not being tracked, but that she will investigate it.

Commissioner Terry inquired about how and what happens once the HR data is tracked. HR Manager Carlisle stated that the Los Angeles County Department of Human Resources (DHR) is assisting Probation with leave management and reassignments.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about how leaves and callouts affect taxpayers. HR Manager Carlisle mentioned that incidents of fraud are reported to the Office of County of Investigations (OCI). Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, emphasized that there are no extra dollars involved when staff callout or are on leave.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about the retention statistics of the new recruits and their training in preparation for their work assignments. HR Manager Carlisle explained that there were 192 new recruits from the January 2023 academy, and approximately 132 are still employed with the Department, but exact data can be retrieved and reported back to the POC. Superintendent Banuelos added that he can report back on the actual onboarding process for new recruits once the process has been formalized and added into the policy.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the statistics of the staff assigned to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall reporting to work more frequently. Superintendent Banuelos reported that the average number of full duty staff reporting to work for September 2023 was about 105 and October 2023 was about 124. He can pull the daily individual statistics for the deployed field staff and the assigned staff and report back to the POC.

In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys' inquiry about tracking the programs being offered in the juvenile halls and camps, Superintendent Banuelos shared that there is a mobile app that has been approved by the County's Information Technology department. He added that it has been active for the past three months, and the Department can report back to the POC on progress with being granted access to the mobile application.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about training for managers and supervisors to ensure alignment with the progressives Corrective Action Plans (CAP) submitted to the BSCC. HR Manager Carlisle stated that ad hoc training for managers and supervisors are rolled out monthly and Superintendent Banuelos clarified that the facilities are always staffed at the minimum to be in compliance with the BSCC's staffing ratio requirements.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, to instruct the POC staff to communicate with the Probation Department to request weekly written updates about the Department's progress on the requirements for staffing described in the CAP.

Four public commenters addressed the POC.

On a motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent) the Los Angeles POC agreed to direct the POC to request information from the Probation Department on CAPs:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the costs related to staff not coming into work and overtime. HR Manager Carlisle clarified that the Department is not impacted financially when an employee does not report to work, but it does cost the Department additional funds to pay another employee overtime. She added that overtime billing can be obtained and backdated to June 2023 for Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and provided to the POC.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about documenting reasons programming is not occurring, Superintendent Banuelos stated that the mobile app was intentionally not as robust due to security reasons.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the timing of the mobile app being launched and the availability of further details. Superintendent Banuelos explained that he will work with the County's Information Technology department to share a one-pager about the mobile application publicly at the next POC meeting.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Los Angeles County Probation Department's continuing efforts to address contraband and substance use in juvenile facilities.
 - Eric Strong, Chief Safety and Security Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department

CSSO Strong provided an overview of how the Probation Department is improving safety and security measures at the facilities including expanding canine services and re-evaluating policies.

In response to Commissioners Terry, Canales, Carrillo, and Meredith's inquiries, CSSO Strong clarified the roles of the new Safety and Security Officers (SSO), explained that policies will be developed regarding the scope of work for SSOs, confirmed that SSOs are employees of the Probation Department, they will be armed outside the facility only, and will be supervised by a facility manger within the Campus Security Office.

Commissioners Meredith, Garcia-Leys, and Kakani inquired about the use of canines, prevalence of drones, concerns about money transfers between youth and adults, and how drugs are confiscated. CSSO Strong stated that internal and external security has been improved, and explained further his role within the Probation Department.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Canales, to request a monthly report on the contraband that is recovered from searches including where it is found per facility per unit.

Eight public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Kakani made a friendly amendment to include the type of support that is provided to the individual whom contraband was recovered from.

Commissioner Meredith made a friendly amendment to categorize and quantify whether contraband was found on a vendor, staff, or organization.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys recommended the information omit any healthcare and personable identifiable information.

Commissioner Kakani and Commissioner Canales accepted the friendly amendments as presented.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent) the POC agreed to direct the POC to request monthly contraband data from the Probation Department:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, Secretary Sean Garcia-Leys, and Vice Chair Milinda Kakani

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

Attachments: [10/10/23 Approved CAP for BJNJH](#)
[10/17/23 Approved CAP for LPJH](#)
[HR Leave Data Update](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

6. Discuss and take appropriate action on continued efforts to reduce overcrowding at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and other Los Angeles County Probation facilities through [Ensuring Least Restrictive Placements](#) and [Girls' Decarceration](#). The POC will present a report on a demographic "snapshot data" of the youth who are incarcerated.

- Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
- Dawnnesha Smith, Project Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
- Elizabeth Lopez, Youth Development Specialist, Los Angeles County Department of Youth

Development

- Luis Rodriguez, Division Chief, Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office
- Samuel Abrahamian, Division Chief, Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office
- Erik Rodstrom, Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles County Independent Defense Counsel's Office
- Sharon Harada, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent), this agenda item was tabled to the December 14, 2023 POC meeting.

Attachments: [POC Infographic](#)
[3rd Board Status Report – Ensuring Least Restrictive Placements](#)
[2nd Board Status Report – Ending Girls' Incarceration](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

7. Discuss and take appropriate action on updates from the Executive Director.

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

Ms. Julien shared that OC spray was reinstated at LPJH after an incident that occurred in late July, which is being investigated by the POC. She reported that the POC will share the results publicly and follow up with the Department's issuance of a complete phase out of OC spray at the meeting in January 2024.

In response to the Probation Department's swift responses to the POC's information requests, Ms. Julien complimented the department's transparency and accountability in providing the requested information in its entirety to the POC. She explained that demographic data including race, ethnicity, geography, arresting agency, and charges will be shared as the POC focuses on reducing the population within juvenile facilities.

Ms. Julien reported that the POC has been conducting program audits at each juvenile facility to address the need for more robust programming for the youth and will include these observations in the inspection reports.

She announced that the POC's Annual Report was published and highlights the value of having Commissioners with lived experience with the POC. Ms. Julien shared Commissioner Lewis' victory in his expungement hearing today as a testament to the justice system's culture moving towards rehabilitation, restoration, and healing.

No public commenters addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Population Statistics \(September\)](#)
[Population Statistics \(October\)](#)
[OC Spray Elimination Progress Report](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Additional OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Probation's DSB 1000 Policy](#)
[POC Inspection Reports](#)
[POC Annual Report for 2022-2023](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

III. 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.

(Not on agenda)

Chair Kakani requested that the death/injury notification protocol be discussed at a future meeting.

Ms. Julien shared that the POC is taking nominations for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary at the December 14th meeting and voting in January 2024.

Commissioner Canales requested that the Probation Department report back on its data collection systems.

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.

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.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys provided updates on the attached public comment and stated that an in-person meeting with the Civil Litigation Unit needs to be scheduled.

Commissioner Mundo expressed his disappointment with the Department's lack of response to the request related to the attached public comment.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

10. Adjournment for the regular meeting of November 9, 2023.

On motion by Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.