



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, DECEMBER 14, 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 9:11 a.m. Wende Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: 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: Chair Esché L. Jackson and Commissioner Samuel Lewis

2. Approval of the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the November 9, 2023 regular meeting minutes:

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: [Approved November 9, 2023 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. 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 Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (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
- Michelle Newell, Reentry Advisor, Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD)
- Luis Rodriguez, Division Chief, Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office (PD)
- Samuel Abrahamian, Division Chief, Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office (APD)
- Erik Rodstrom, Regional Coordinating Attorney, Los Angeles County Independent Defense Counsel's Office (IDCO)
- Scott Sanders, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- Sharon Harada, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Ms. Julien provided background information related to this agenda item and the progress Probation has made with sending data with demographic information of the youth who are incarcerated. She shared highlights from the POC's demographic report, which will be shared publicly once reviewed by the Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors.

All panelists emphasized that housing and supportive resources are important elements youth need upon release.

Division Chief Rodriguez explained the Public Defender's role in the structured release program and participating in Transitional Multi-Disciplinary Team (TMDT) meetings.

Regional Coordinating Attorney Rodstrom mentioned that the IDCO is working towards implementing a more effective and efficient system for tracking and monitoring programs.

Division Chief Rodriguez, Division Chief Abrahamian, and Regional Coordinating Attorney Rodstrom stressed that the youth who are arrested and detained need to have access to their attorneys with minimal wait times. Probation informed that interview pods were being purchased to provide additional interview space for attorneys and their clients.

Reentry Advisor Newell stated that DYD is involved in TMDT meetings and adds value by connecting with attorneys in advance to ensure youth have access to appropriate community resources. DYD created an implementation plan in collaboration with Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR) workgroups in May 2023 to decarcerate youth, and strategies outlined for year one are now being implemented.

Division Chief Abrahamian emphasized the importance of being on the same page to make sure that those who are involved in the juvenile justice system have the same mindset regarding the need to decrease reliance on incarceration for youth.

Bureau Chief Sharon Harada reported that as of December 11, 2023, there have been 43 TMDT meetings and 40 youth released.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Mundo shared his sentiments on the progress Probation has made with providing the POC with some of its requested data.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the involvement of family members in the TMDTs. Division Chief Rodriguez explained that families are invited to the TMDTs based on the youth's preferences, but youth placements are restricted due to several reasons such as special mental health treatments, types of offenses, and the types of services needed for the youth.

In response to Commissioner Terry's inquiry about recidivism rates for released youth, Bureau Chief Harada mentioned that recidivism data will be included in the data sets.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about learning about successful decarceration models in other counties. Reentry Advisor Newell confirmed that Los Angeles County's structured release program and girls' decarceration model have been compared to other counties.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the success rates of these programs decreasing incarceration, the number of beds at the safe healing centers, and the number of youth placement sites to gauge acceptance/denial rates. Division Chief Rodriguez and Reentry Advisor Newell concurred that an exact number of beds cannot be provided at this time, but they will collaborate on an ongoing process to identify this information and report back to the POC on this project.

Ms. Julien emphasized that youth placements are based on the specific needs of the youth and their adaptability to the placement site in addition to the number of beds available at the placement sites.

Commissioner Canales shared her sentiments about community programs collecting data, evaluating placement requirements based on the youth's needs, having beds available to house youth, but not getting enough referrals from Los Angeles County.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry, each panelist shared how their organizations are assessing the issue of overpopulation within juvenile facilities and how departmental decisions are being made to address it.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the TMDT meeting participants. Division Chief Rodriguez mentioned that ten of the PD's clients participated in the TMDTs, but a list of eligible clients is received every two weeks. Reentry Advisor Newell shared that only DYD staff participate in the structured release meetings due to the notification period, but DYD will work closely with diversion providers who have existing relationships with youth. *Commissioner Lewis added that the Credible Messengers are also included in the TMDT meetings for the youth.*¹

In response to Commissioner Mundo's inquiry about the existence of YES teams, Reentry Advisor Newell confirmed that YES teams do not currently exist, but the DYD is aiming to pilot the program in high schools.

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

¹ Amendment by Commissioner Lewis accepted at 01/11/24 POC Meeting.

4. Administrative issues for the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC).
 - Discuss and take appropriate action on the meeting frequency of the POC.
 - Accept nominations from Commissioners for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary of the POC.
- Milinda Kakani, Commission Chair, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

On motion of Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent) the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve POC's 2024 calendar as presented:

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

By Common Consent, there being no objections (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent), the 2024 officer nominations are as follows:

- **Chair – Commissioner Mundo**
- **Vice Chair – Commissioner Canales**
- **Secretary – Commissioner Garcia-Leys and Commissioner Terry**

No members of the public commented on this item.

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

III. REPORTS

5. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on its progress towards compliance with the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) requirements.
 - Scott Sanders, Bureau Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Bureau Chief Sanders explained that the Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) completion dates are January 5, 2024 for Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and January 10, 2024 for Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH). He shared progress that has been made towards reaching BSCC compliance including the creation of a team dedicated to monitoring and daily tracking BSCC compliance for items outlined in the CAPs for BJNJH and LPJH.

Bureau Chief Valerie Van Kirk reported on the areas of compliance for the Camps.

Two public commenters addressed to the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys shared his sentiments about the staff to youth ratios at LPJH, and requested information about the compliance tracking logs, proofs of practice, and written practices. Bureau Chief Sanders mentioned that it is one of the Department's goals to have cohesive documentation, practices, and tracking logs for all the facilities.

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

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

6. Report from the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Ms. Julien gave accolades to Probation staff who are using alternate de-escalation methods other than OC Spray. She provided historical context for the phasing out of OC spray, with the full phase out expected by January 2024 according to Probation's plan. However, the POC and the public are still waiting on an updated phase out plan from the Probation Department or the DOJ monitor that was expected to be completed in November 2023.

Ms. Julien highlighted the positives from the inspections including staffing consistency, familiarity between youth and staff, improvements in tone and de-escalation techniques, and youth development approaches. She shared challenges which included access to programming for the older population and the need for a more rehabilitative environment due to the culture, tone, and heightened stress levels in some of the units at LPJH.

She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Inspections Town Hall in January 2024 and to read the [full report](#) for more information.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[Inspection Report – Central Juvenile Hall](#)
[Inspection Report – Camp Kilpatrick, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, Camp Rockey](#)
[Inspection Report – Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Population Statistics](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

7. 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)

The Commissioners requested that the following items be agendized at a future meeting:

- **A report back from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on contraband.**
- **Clarification on Probation's in-custody injury/death notification protocols.**
- **An update on Bryan Diaz's investigation and identifying the liaisons.**
- **Explanation of subpoena power and its process to request information from the Probation Department.**
- **An update on Probation's Use of Force policies, backlogs, and ramifications when harmful conduct is raised against staff (specifically after one year).**

- **An introduction of the Rising Scholars Program and the educational system within Probation facilities.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

8. 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.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of December 14, 2023.

On motion by Commissioner Garcia-Leys, seconded by Commissioner Mundo, unanimously carried (Commissioners Jackson and Lewis being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.