



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov>**

Thursday, November 30, 2023

6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (23-4344)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (23-4228)

Co-Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call and Commissioner Peña read the County Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Present: Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner Martine Jones

AB 2449 Request (23-4351)

Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez reported that Commissioner Clarissa Peña requested to attend the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances. Commissioner Peña confirmed that the request is due to emergency circumstance and that there were no persons over the age of 18 present at the location.

On motion of Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and duly carried, Commissioner Peña's remote

attendance due to emergency circumstance was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Flo Valenzuela

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Myriah Smiley and Commissioner Angela Young

2. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of October 26, 2023. (23-4229)

On motion of Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of October 26, 2023 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Flo Valenzuela

Abstentions: 1 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Myriah Smiley and Commissioner Angela Young

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the 2023 End-Year Retreat Special Meeting on November 4, 2023. (23-4230)

This item was tabled to allow Commissioners to review the minutes.

Later in the meeting on motion of Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and duly carried, the minutes from the 2023 Year-end Retreat Special Meeting were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Abstentions: 2 - Commissioner Clarissa Peña and Commissioner Brittianna Robinson

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Joshua Elizondo and Commissioner Martine Jones

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Presentation of the 2024 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers. (23-4253)

Election Chair Florencia Valenzuela introduced the slate of nominees for the position of Co-Chair for the 2023-24 Term; Co-Chairs Hernandez and Ortega Martinez, Jr., for reelection, and Commissioners Cooper and Peña for election. She opened nominations for additional candidates. Commissioner Elizondo nominated himself for Co-Chair. No additional nominations were made.

Election Chair Valenzuela closed the nominations and invited the nominees to make remarks on their qualifications. Commissioners Peña, Cooper, Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., Co-Chair Hernandez, and Commissioner Elizondo made statements in support of their election.

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried, the Nomination Slate for 2023-24 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 13 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Martine Jones

Commissioners were asked to complete their ballots and the item was tabled to allow time for the tabulation of ballots.

Later in the meeting, after the tabulation of ballots, on motion of Commissioner Bradford, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and duly carried, the Commission approved Co-Chairs Amanda Hernandez and Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., as Co-Chairs for the 2023-24 Election of Officers by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Joshua Elizondo and Commissioner Martine Jones

II. REPORTS

5. Executive Director Report. (23-4231)

Executive Director Tiara Summers reported that the Senior Staff Analyst position has been filled by Daniel Wheeler, formerly with the Department of Public Social Services. His start date is Monday, December 4, 2023.

6. Leadership Report. (23-4232)

Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., reported on the following:

- The Department of Youth Development (DYD) will be host a Youth Summit on Friday, December 1, 2023. Commissioner Cooper will serve as a panelist at the event and Commissioners Gudiel, Rodriguez and Smiley will be in attendance representing the Youth Commission.**
- The 2024 Regional Youth Summit (formerly Youth Civic Leadership Academy) will be held on March 16, 2024. One more volunteer is needed for the planning committee. Partners for this event include the LA Youth Council, Long Beach, Metro, YDD, and the L.A. Zoo. Advise if you are interested in attending, less than a quorum is permitted.**
- There is a potential to partner with Dr. Reynoso and the Department of**

Mental Health (DMH), Prevention and Wellbeing Division, to develop a workshop on issues and challenges of Transitional Age Youth.

- **A 2024 Mental Health and Wellness Symposium will be held on April 20, 2024. Let staff know if you are interested in attending. Co-Chair Hernandez informed that some of these opportunities noted may be stipend however, some may not. Contact staff for more information.**
- **On November 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisor Horvath, to create a community resource app for youth by youth. The app is intended to centralize all available community resources in LA County. The motion calls for a collaboration between the Youth Commission, DCFS, and any other county dept or community stakeholder. The motion was shared with all Commissioners via email.**
- **Reminded all of the three focus areas discussed and voted on at the Youth Commission Retreat: Transitional Age Youth, System Impacted Youth Empowerment and Community Involvement, and Juvenile Justice. These areas should be considered when planning the 2024 Listening Sessions.**

Commissioners added the following:

- **Commissioner Valenzuela offered to join to 2024 Regional Youth Summit Planning Committee**
- **Commissioner Gudiel informed he will be in attendance of the Youth Summit and offered his support.**
- **Commissioner Bradford offered her expertise in the development of the Community Resource Application.**

III. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 7. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (23-4233)**

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee reported the following:

- **The Operations Committee met on November 20, 2023, and discussed the current vacancy on the Commission.**
- **A social media notice will be posted the first week of December announcing the vacancy and will continue through December 27th.**
- **Applications will be reviewed the first week of January through January 7, 2024, with the assistance of Commissioner Peña, and Commissioner Jones will assist with the interviewing process.**

- **A nominee will be selected by January 18, 2024, with the intention to place on the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) agenda for approval prior to the end of January.**
- **The Committee reviewed and approved the application questions, and finalized the concepts for the following videos: General Information on the Youth Commission, the Commissioner Application Process, the Onboarding Process.**
- **Commissioner Rodriguez will work on a production schedule and script for the videos.**

8. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (23-4234)

Commissioner LaToya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee, reported that the survey questions for the listening session will be provided to Commissioners for their response. The next YEC meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024.

9. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, update by Committee Chair Florencia Valenzuela. (23-4252)

Commissioner Florencia Valenzuela, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, announced that she is stepping down as Chair of the Committee to concentrate on her academic studies. Co-Chair, Amanda Hernandez, has volunteered to take on the responsibility.

Chair Valenzuela was thanked by the Commissioners for her work on the Committee and Co-Chair Hernandez spoke on the importance of the work continuing.

IV. DISCUSSIONS

10. General overview of LA County Juvenile Probation and a Roundtable discussion with Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department. (23-4288)

Interim Chief Deputy, Felicia Cotton, Probation Department, presented an overview on L.A. County's Probation Delinquency process.

Co-Chair Hernandez requested additional information on the intervention process and on the unit that is providing information to the District Attorney for youth to be charged.

Ms. Cotton responded to questions posed by the Commission and provided the following:

- College courses are available for those who wish to continue their education, and there are organizations in the community that assist youth with the completion of their courses.
- The Arts and Culture Department provides art and music programs to youth, and there is also a dog training program for youth who train dogs to be used as service animals for the disabled and handicapped.
- The Departments of Mental Health and Health Services are on premise 24 hours a day. The Los Angeles County Office of Education provides educational resources. Partnerships and resources come in from various departments. She suggested that staff at the facilities provide a presentation to the Commission at a future meeting to discuss all the available programs.
- The family is one of the core focus areas regarding the social history and the process in servicing families. Also, the Arts and Culture Department provides programming for the creative economy initiative. Commissioner Young added that the Arts and Culture Department has information posted on their website on all their activities.
- There are internships available to youth also, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council develops internships during the summer to help youth learn a skill with the L.A. County Library, Department of Parks and Recreation, and other departments to ensure that youth have opportunities to learn and enhance their skills. Classes include barbering and hair braiding. Quarterly focus groups are conducted with the youth to ensure that certified programs in desired areas are available.
- There are wrap around services in the community for youth who are released to ensure that they have continued access to health and mental health services. For those that are in a facility longer than 20 days, Planning Meetings are conducted to determine supportive services for the family and youth upon their release.
- There are 2,206 youth who are under active supervision, they are not residing in a camp or halls, they are in their homes or with a caretaker. Executive Director Summers suggested that the Youth Commission should coordinate with these youth to have them attend the listening

in the various Supervisorial Districts. Ms. Cotton agreed to the coordination.

- Youth in probation must be under the supervision of a caregiver or parent unless it is not beneficial in which case an alternative is considered such as a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), until they can transition out to independent living.
- Juvenile Reporting Centers transport youth from home to school and back. There are also assessments regarding learning disabilities that are conducted to assist the youth in their educational endeavors. Commissioner Robinson requested a list of Juvenile Reporting Centers. Ms. Cotton indicated that she would provide the information.
- Probation Officers are pulled from the field and deployed to institutions two days a week for an eight-hour shift to support the shortage of staff at the facilities. Also, employment standards are assessed to ensure that the best candidates are hired. Caseloads are no longer running high, so they are being appropriately handled.
- A new sports organization is currently being considered to develop a sports program for the youth, as well as music programs, exercise programs and yoga classes.
- There is an educational team in the Probation Department that provides an assessment for curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of all age groups in the classes. The team is currently focusing on youth who are college enrolled, and those who need direction for furthering their education. She added that the Probation Department and LACOE work together to ensure that the youth are getting the best education possible.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

11. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (23-4238)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

12. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (23-4239)

Commissioners provided the following topics to be discussed at a future meeting:

- **The Department of Probation to discuss intake and treatment, Diversion**

programs, developing a possible partnership in the conduct of listening sessions, and additional information on data and the process on site visits.

- Developing a possible partnership with the Juvenile Justice Committee to conduct listening sessions.
- Department of Youth Development to learn about their intervention programs.
- Arts and Culture Department to learn about their programs for Probation youth.

13. Adjournment. (23-4240)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commission Smiley, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.