



**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, January 25, 2024**



**6:30 PM**

Video for the entire meeting. (24-0356)

**Attachments:** [VIDEO](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (24-0313)

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, and Commissioner Florencia "Flo" Valenzuela read the County Land Acknowledgement.**

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 Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

2. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of November 30, 2023. (24-0314)

**On motion of Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of November 30, 2023, 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 Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Myriah Smiley and Commissioner Angela Young

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. REPORTS**

### **3. Leadership Report. (24-0315)**

**Co-Chair Hernandez reported the following:**

- **Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District, submitted a Board Motion that was approved on December 19th, to create more oversight over LA County School law enforcement by the Sheriff's Department. The motion requires a draft ordinance and report back in 150 days by the Probation Oversight Committee (POC) and County Counsel.**
- **Commissioners were asked to narrow down the subcategories of the focus areas of the Youth Commission's 2024 Strategic Plan. Commissioners highlighted the following focus areas and subcategories:**
  - **System Impacted Youth (Foster Youth)**
    - o **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)**
    - o **Housing**
    - o **Youth Empowerment and Recognition**
  - **Transitional Age Youth (TAY)**
    - o **Housing**
    - o **The development of holistic approaches throughout County departments**
  - **Juvenile Justice**
    - o **Continue discussions with Department of Youth Development and other involved County departments and community agencies**
    - o **Mental Health and Wellbeing Support**

**Commissioners also highlighted:**

- **Recognition, awareness and advocacy.**
- **Focusing on youth outside the system and engaging in programs and**

organizations that are already creating pathways and prevention services.

- Understanding systems first then move to the development of a strategy for prevention.
- Work with various departments to help stabilize youth already in housing; help them develop their own personal strengths and enhance resources and services.
- The Youth Commission is developing a recognition and awareness program that will recognize one youth at every meeting. A survey to select a name for the recognition will be distributed to all Commissioners.

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

- An International Youth Conference, in collaboration with the United Nations, and others, will be hosting an event in Los Angeles titled, "Youth Lead the Future". The conference will take place at UCLA from May 30 to June 2, 2024 and includes multiple activities including a hack-a-thon. The focus will be on Foster Care, Juvenile Justice and CSEC.
- There will be a satellite event at Cal-State Long Beach that will focus solely on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Presentations will be provided by national and international participants and will include workshops and a Hack-a-thon. Commissioners interested in participating in the conference or simply attending should contact the Leadership Team. Additional details to follow.

4. Executive Director Report. (24-0316)

This item was tabled and called later in the meeting, after Agenda Item No. 8.

Tiara Summers, Executive Director, reported the following:

- Commissioner Brittianna Robinson was commended for the presentation on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) her, dedication, her passion on this subject and for the work she does in the community.
- Introduced new Senior Staff Analyst, Daniel Wheeler, to the Commission.
- The Youth Commission (YC) has been mentioned in two Board Motions within the 2023-24 Fiscal Year.
- The YC will have the opportunity to collaborate with the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) as it develops the process for complaints of the Sheriff's Department's School Resource Deputy (SRD) Program. Also, the POC will be hosting a Town Hall meeting regarding SRDPs that the YC may participate in.

**III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo and Recommendation to Approve the Nomination of At-Large Youth Commission Candidates. (24-0355)

**Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee (OPS), reported the following:**

- **The OPS conducted a review of the new commissioner interview questions. It was determined that additional questions will be added to ascertain familiarity with Supervisorial Districts resided in or interacting with such as school, employment, family, etc. Additional questions are being developed to measure personal outlook, such as what success looks like.**
- **A script for informational videos is being developed that will inform applicants on various topics such as the purpose of the YC and how-to videos.**
- **Due to Commissioner term expirations, vacancies will begin in September 2024. The evaluation process of exiting Commissioners will begin in August. The name of the process will be changed to define the procedure more aptly and will set the tone for new terms and obtain feedback.**
- **A candidate was selected by the OPS last week, Chris Espino. He shared Mr. Espino's extensive qualifications and requested approval for his nomination from the Commission.**

**On motion of Commissioner Bradford, seconded by Commissioner Smiley, and duly carried, the nomination of Chris Espino, to the position of at-large Commissioner, and submission to the Board of Supervisors for final appointment, 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 Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

6. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper and Recommendation to Approve standard survey questions for district listening sessions. (24-0347)

**Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), provided an update on the standard survey questions for District listening sessions. She reported that a change was made to the question regarding gender to read: male, female, non-binary. She encouraged Commissioners to begin planning the listening sessions for their Districts, and to reach out to their Supervisorial Deputies to align dates.**

**On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr., and duly carried, the recommendation to approve standard survey questions for district listening sessions 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 Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

#### **IV. COMMITTEE UPDATE**

7. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, update by Committee Chair Amanda Hernandez. (24-0357)

**Co-Chair Hernandez, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, reported that developing a report card that served as an overview of each Department became unrealistic due to the number of programs within each Department. Therefore, the approach will be to do a "program" type report card, that can be utilized for each program within the respective Departments. The program template, over time, can then be used to develop a full report card of each Department.**

**The Committee will ideally meet the first Wednesday of each month commencing in February to begin developing the program template.**

## **V. PRESENTATION**

8. Presentation on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), followed by a panel discussion with community partners, moderated by Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Youth Commission. (24-0348)

**Commissioner Brittianna Robinson provided a presentation on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). She stressed that there is no such thing as a child prostitute, and many times children are being exploited sexually for food, shelter, and clothes. She concluded her presentation by reviewing how the Youth Commission can become community engaged and active in advocacy.**

**Mae Ackerman Brimberg, Senior Attorney on the National Center for Youth Law's Collaborative Responses to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation Initiative, shared information on Los Angeles County's Five-Year Strategic Plan regarding awareness and mitigation of CSEC. She reported that there will be various listening sessions in February and March. The first listening session will take place on February 22, 2024, and she will provide the Commission with further details.**

**Discussion ensued on the possibility of the Youth Commission developing a strategy for holding hotels accountable for posting CSEC information. Also, there ought to be a strategy for addressing the youth being exploited from the North County and sent to Los Angeles to work.**

**Member of the public Alain Datcher, former Executive Director, Youth Commission, addressed the Commission.**

**Ms. Ackerman Brimberg clarified the difference between child sex trafficking and adult (18 or older) sex trafficking.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

9. 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. (24-0349)

**Members of the Public, Kate, California Youth Connection, and Tamara Hunter, Interim Director, Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Council, addressed the Commission.**

10. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (24-0350)

**The following matters were presented:**

- **Governor Newsom's proposed \$38 Billion budget cuts that will affect foster youth, housing, child welfare, and education, along with a strategy for taking a position against the budget cuts.**
- **Discussion on housing vouchers and process**

11. Adjournment. (24-0351)

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

**On motion of Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**