



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION  
STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



**LIBERTY COMMUNITY PLAZA  
14181 TELEGRAPH ROAD  
WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA 90604**

[poc.lacounty.gov](http://poc.lacounty.gov)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024, 9:30 A.M.**

AUDIO/VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

**Attachment:** [Video](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

**Chair Mundo called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Wende Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

2. Approval of the January 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

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

**On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Jackson being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the January 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes:**

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

**Absent:** 1 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

**Attachments:** [Approved January 11, 2024 Minutes](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

**By Common Consent, there being no objection, the order of the remaining agenda items was changed to 4, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11.**

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**II. DISCUSSIONS**

3. Discuss and take appropriate action on the roles, responsibilities, and limitations of Safety and Security Officers (SSOs), Special Enforcement Officers (SEOs), and “School Teams” who provide security around the perimeter and inside Los Angeles County Probation’s juvenile facilities. The POC has asked the Department to provide policies, law, and data related to the performance of these units including an update of the report on contraband found on the units and action on this item might include a motion to request additional information and/or a motion directing staff to work with the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG) to issue a subpoena on behalf of the POC for the requested information.
  - Eric Strong, Chief Safety and Security Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department

**This agenda item was discussed after agenda item 4.**

**Chief SSO Strong gave a verbal presentation about the technology and resources being used for security and confirmed that the SSOs are permanent county employees of the Probation Department who have been stationed at BJN and LP only since early November 2023.**

**In response to Commissioner Garcia-Leys’ inquiry about room, unit, and perimeter searches, Chief SSO Strong clarified that the SSOs are responsible for perimeter patrol only, not rooms and units.**

**Commissioner Canales inquired about when armed SSOs are allowed to shoot their gun at someone. Chief SSO Strong emphasized that there is law that dictates when officers can use deadly force as well as Probation’s policies and training. He added that the duties of security guards are to observe and report, but it is within their scope of duties to use lethal force only when defending their life.**

**Commissioner Meredith inquired about what happens to the person from whom contraband was taken and what happens with the recovered contraband. Chief SSO Strong stated that the evidence is confiscated, booked, and logged, and ongoing investigations are performed if a person is identified.**

**In response to Commissioner Lewis’ inquiry about the timeline for the installation of body scanners at BJN and LP, Chief SSO Strong stated that there is no timeline at this time.**

**Commissioner Kakani requested policy and training manuals that exist for the SSOs from Chief SSO Strong.**

**Commissioner Kakani inquired about the cost of the airport scanners. Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, will gather that information and report back to the POC.**

**Two public commenters addressed the POC.**

**In response to Commissioner Mundo’s inquiries about the SSOs responsibilities at LPJH, Chief SSO Strong explained their roles and their security purviews while emphasizing that SSOs do not have direct contact with the youth.**

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

**Attachments:** [Supporting Documents](#)  
[Motion](#)

4. Discuss and take appropriate action which may include a motion directing staff to work with OIG to issue a subpoena on behalf of the POC requesting information regarding how many youth in Probation's juvenile facilities have been charged with juvenile or adult and juvenile charges for incidents occurring inside the facilities, and specifically those at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) and an update on how many petitions have been filed to transfer youth out of Probation's custody into the custody of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

- Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

**Chief Deputy Epps verbally reported that there have been a total of 39 new charges (3 at BJJ and 36 at LPJH) filed on youth since July 2023.**

**In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiries about new criminal charges and a comparison of the data, Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that there were eight adult court filings (BJJ and LPJH). She will research and report back to the POC about the data comparison to previous years.**

**Commissioner Lewis inquired about the number of cases where youth were set-up to fight, but Chief Deputy Epps was unable to comment on this allegation.**

**In response to Commissioner Terry's inquiry about options involving youth and controlled substances, Chief Deputy Epps explained that the charges are based on the individual's age at the time of the offense.**

**Commissioners Meredith and Garcia-Leys shared their sentiments about court filings.**

**Chair Mundo inquired about the process of presenting petitions to the District Attorney's Office. Chief Deputy Epps explained that each application to consider new charges presented to the District Attorney's Office has to have sufficient evidence and substance before filings are made, but general behavior is not considered.**

**Chief Deputy Epps confirmed Commissioner Meredith's inquiry that youth are not rebooked once they are in custody, their cases are just submitted to the District Attorney's Office for review.**

**Chair Mundo inquired about the person responsible for determining when new charges are filed on youth. Chief Deputy Epps explained that actual filing is determined through the District Attorney's Office based on the application for filing, whereas the detention report is maintained by the Probation Department and includes victim statements and injuries sustained by victim.**

**Sixteen public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Commissioner Mundo inquired about charges for distribution of controlled substances versus possession and about the age range of the individuals facing new charges. Chief Deputy Epps will gather this information and will report back to the POC.**

**Commissioner Lewis inquired about the procurement of body scanners at Probation facilities. Chief Deputy Epps deferred this question to Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa and Chief Safety and Security Officer Eric Strong.**

**Commissioners Kakani and Meredith shared their sentiments on new charges on youth who are in custody.**

Commissioner Terry inquired about Probation's crisis intervention protocols. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that there are mental health intervention and prevention programs in place including Credible Messengers, but will report back to the POC on if they are notified immediately when an incident occurs.

Commissioner Lewis shared that historically the Credible Messengers were called immediately to work alongside Probation staff to de-escalate and intervene, but that has not been the case in recent weeks.

Agenda item 3 was discussed next.

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

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Board of State and Community Correction's (BSCC) findings regarding compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 at Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN SYTF) and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) and the Probation Department's progress toward compliance.

Chief Deputy Epps reported on the findings, and Probation is still in the process of putting together a response to the BSCC on the findings at BJN SYTF and LPJH.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about not receiving the staffing analysis that was submitted to the BSCC. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that the Probation Department will be providing an update to the BSCC on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the next BSCC meeting.

Chief Deputy Epps, Commissioner Garcia-Leys, and Commissioner Kakani shared their sentiments about the distinction between reform and transformation.

Commissioner Kakani outlined the process, timelines, and extended periods of time that youth are being confined in facilities deemed unsuitable by the BSCC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys proposed the attached motion, seconded by Commissioner Canales, regarding inspecting the adequacy of staffing at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and issuing a subpoena for documents related to compliance with the BSCC Corrective Action Plan.

Commissioners Canales and Lewis shared their sentiments in support of the motion.

In response to Commissioner Carrillo's inquiry about the purpose of the ad hoc committee, Commissioner Garcia-Leys expressed that the goal is to conduct an immediate inspection of LPJH and provide a report on the findings of that inspection.

Chair Mundo inquired about the components that would be included in the subpoena. Commissioner Garcia-Leys mentioned that he is hopeful that a subpoena is not needed, and the Probation Department will provide the POC with the same information that Probation is providing to the BSCC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys left the meeting, Commissioner Kakani authored the motion.

Eleven members of the public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Canales recommended a body be created to oversee the community-based organizations that are providing programs and services.

**On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Jackson being absent) the POC agreed to accept the attached motion as presented:**

**Ayes:** 6 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Diane Terry, Vice Chair Dolores Canales, Chair Eduardo Mundo

**Absent:** 3 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Samuel Lewis

**Attachments:** [BSCC Notice of Suitability & BSCC CAP Follow-Up Letter – LPJH](#)  
[BSCC Notice of Suitability – BJN SYTF](#)  
[BSCC CAP Follow-Up Letter – BJN SYTF](#)  
[Motion](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Discuss and take appropriate action including passing a motion directing staff to work with the OIG to issue a subpoena on behalf of the POC requesting from the Probation Department the information included on the attached motion:

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

Since the January 11, 2024 POC meeting, the Probation Department has submitted nearly all of the requested items to the POC for review and analysis. They are attached below:

**Ms. Julien highlighted that the POC received numerous responses to information requests, which have all been attached to the agenda.**

**Chief Deputy Epps provided an update on the death investigation of Bryan Diaz which identified the Los Angeles Police Department as the investigatory agency and shared that Bryan Diaz’s personal belongings will be returned to his mother.**

**By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Garcia-Leys, Jackson, and Lewis being absent), the POC did not discuss or take any action on the attached motion.**

**No members of the public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Attachments:** [Current – DSB2000 Special Situations Policy \(Death Notification\)](#)  
[Old – DSB2000 Special Situations \(for reference\)](#)  
[Use of Force Report](#)  
[Exit Interview Questionnaire & Data](#)  
[Spring 2024 Offerings of College Courses in Probation Facilities](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

7. Discuss and take appropriate action including a motion to request information on an update from POC Staff and the Probation Department on efforts to increase programming focused on substance use disorder treatment and harm prevention efforts including NARCAN in Probation’s juvenile facilities.

- Dr. Sarah Gongora, Psy.D, Project Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

**By Common Consent, this agenda item was tabled for discussion at a future meeting.**

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

### III. **REPORTS**

8. 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 and Chair Mundo shared the POC's goals for this fiscal year, ways to measure POC outcomes, and the future release of POC reports on demographics and new youth charges.**

**No members of the public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Attachments:** Supporting Documents  
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)  
[Population Statistics](#)

### IV. **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.

**Four public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Attachments:** Public Comment/Correspondence

### V. **ADJOURNMENT**

11. Adjournment for the regular meeting of February 8, 2024.

**On motion by Commissioner Canales, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, unanimously carried (Commissioners Garcia-Leys, Jackson, and Lewis being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 1:02 p.m.**