



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION
ON INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, RM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA. 90012**

[HTTPS://SBC.LACOUNTY.GOV](https://sbc.lacounty.gov)

Thursday, March 7, 2024

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (24-1030)

Attachments: [AUDIO LINK](#)

Call to Order.

Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment

The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants past, present, and emerging as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website www.lanaic.lacounty.gov.

Roll Call. (24-0873)

Chairperson Raymond Regalado called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m. Followed by the reading of the LA County Land Acknowledgement. A quorum of in-person members was confirmed. And today was newly appointed Commissioner Wynter Daggs first meeting.

Present: 6 - Raymond Regalado, Commissioner Eric Miller, Commissioner Haley Broder, Commissioner Norma Cumpian, Commissioner Wynter Daggs, and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Ingrid Archie, Commissioner Bob Frutos and Commissioner Mary Veral

I. REPORTS

1. Commissioners Reports on Detention Facilities.

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller and Commissioner Mary Veral

· Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF), 11705 S Alameda St., Lynwood, CA. 90262, February 25, 2024. (24-0874)

Vice Chairperson Eric Miller reported his observation of he and Commissioner Veral's recent inspection at CRDF. They inspected Module 2300, Pods 3 and 4. The primary reason of the visit was regarding report received of a woman who gave birth while in custody in which neither the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, LASD nor Correctional Health Services, CHS were aware of until a baby appeared in the cell. He raised that staff are supposed to perform checks every 15 minutes. And that after repeated contact with psychiatric care professionals, it was discovered the woman refused to take a pregnancy, urine, and blood test. Also, that she was handcuffed while pregnant, which is against policy. He then noted that the High Observation Housing Unit, was roughly half occupied which should be less stressful than when full. Also, there were broken sinks in the cells, and two women reported overflowing toilets that spread the smell of feces. And used towels and blankets to mop up the soiled water. The LASD's remedy is to shift cells while a work order is in motion. Despite their observations the women reported being happy.

In Module 1300, the Forensic In-Patient Step-Down Program three women training as Mental Health Assistants raised multiple concerns on the relationship between Mental Health Assistants and CHS. And that there are two stages of Mental Health Assistant training, they passed the first but struggled to access the second. And struggled to get Education Based Incarceration Programming, EBI. He then noted that Measure 1 is being pushed, which will recalibrate mental health services in LA County and put jails farther from the center of care. And advised the expansion of EBI and

Assistants with training. And to coordinate with CHS and LASD. He then shared that Mental Health Assistants are concerned of training higher level Sheriffs. And the importance to manage programming to ensure women in Observation Housing aren't programmed at the same time as others. Refer to the Audio and Report for full details.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

- 2. Office of the Inspector General, OIG. (24-0875)**
 - Overview of the recent OIG Report: Reform and Oversight Efforts: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department October through December 2023 Issued February 20, 2024

Ms. Dara Williams, Chief Deputy of the OIG went over the OIG quarterly report and focused on custody aspects. Key takeaways were the LASDs lack of following policy, and procedure, and review accountability related to in-custody births. As well as the handcuffing of pregnant women which is of great concern as everyone should be trained on handcuffing individuals. She emphasized the importance of "See something, say something". Other focuses were rodent infestation in which the OIG suggested solutions. She then reported that the Board of State and Community Corrections, BSCC rating and concerns of facilities repeatedly rated above including Men's Central Jail (MCJ) which has bad site lines and are unable to maintain cleanliness. And provided solutions including depopulation to address the cleanliness and staffing issues. She also noted that the Board of Supervisors, BOS asked the OIG to focus on in custody deaths related to overdoses. Which were a part of the OIGs recommendation in a CEO report on drugs entering facilities and overdose deaths in facilities.

A discussion ensued in which the OIG reported that the in-patient stepdown 20 pod expansion had not happened. And that neither Mental Health Assistants, nor Community Health Services have received additional training or support. And noted that the OIG expects a higher level of collaboration between CHS and LASD to ensure that the people in custody receive the best care. And that Mental Health Assistants hope for more pay or workarounds for hot meals. Regarding the 5150 A jailing process of individuals with mental illnesses, she explained that individuals not convicted of crimes are taken to psychiatric care facilities. She then noted that the OIG was alerted of how in-custody deaths are represented and described in reports, and that the OIG reports what CHS tells them as the OIG is not qualified to discuss medical opinions or report on medical conditions.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

-
3. Los Angeles Sheriff Department, LASD (Commander Hugo Macias). (24-0877)
- LASD Roll Call
 - Update on transportation
 - Update on free phone calls
 - Update on Education Based Incarceration (EBI) Programming - New Classes, Enrollment, and demographics

Commander Hugo Macias reported that as of today, 29 of 82 fleet busses are in operation, and that all of them are not assigned to court services. And are streamlining efforts, including shutting down facilities and shift operational busses for court appearances. Also, that the Chief Executive Office, CEO is working on funding to purchase a new fleet of vehicles, including 20 busses, and 31 ADA compliant vans. 10 busses outfitted by late 2024 and the remaining 10 by 2025. Also, that free phone calls have been available as of December 1, 2023. And that Twin Towers, TTCF is collaborating with CHS on pod expansion. He walked the SBC through the CC.5150.A assessment evaluation and crisis intervention process. Explained three major criteria assessed: danger to themselves, danger to others, and/or unable to care for themselves. And that when deputies get welfare check calls, if no crime is determined, families are asked if they feel comfortable with psychiatric facility submission. Deputies then complete state forms and identify centers willing to commit the individual. If the family is not comfortable, facilities can hold individuals up to 72 hours to medicate and stabilize. If a crime is determined, the individual goes through a medical and mental health assessments with medical and mental health professionals to diagnose medical conditions in order to determine housing. As far as EBI he reported that their current infrastructure prevents demographic tracking. However, a new jail management system is being purchased and will capture more demographic data points. And that currently they track participation. They still operate Charter high schools, colleges, technical education, and book and library programs. He acknowledged that COVID affected programming but no longer operate in restrictive numbers and extend opportunities for outside providers to come in. And that the challenge is getting people to participate.

Chairperson Regalado thanked Commander Macias for their eye-opening conversation on challenges with the jail system. Commander Macias noted a limited staffing problem, asking current staff for a lot of overtime work.

Commander Macias to report back on the in-patient stepdown 20 pod expansion at the next meeting. And to provide a list of programs and locations with the SBC.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

4. Department of Correctional Health Services (Dr. Sean Henderson). (24-0878)
- Update on Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Initiative.
 - Update and follow ups on special diets/nutrition at the courts and lock up facilities
 - Update on medication during traveling, i.e., to and from courts, or due to housing transfer

Dr. Sean Henderson, CHS reported the obstacles affecting Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Initiative are funding. Budgets and implementation plans are being submitted and now up to the County and State to decide on program funding. Go Live is now likely to happen in the next two years depending on funding and hiring. CHS asked for 210 staff, to match the ramp up of Department of Mental Health, DMH. CHS has put forth small scale pilots that hopefully prove some sustainable processes prior to Go Live. And that the state has given money to Behavioral Health and Correctional Health Services. CHS asked for funding for their adult program. And that the mandate is to provide services only for an inclusive list of medically eligible people. A snapshot provided 10,000 out of 12,000 people are eligible. A discussion ensued on the focus in which CHS is acting on the hope that all efforts will be funded.

Dr. Henderson reported that special diets are provided but medications usually are not and will follow up with the Chiefs about the matter. And noted that CHS works with the Courts to have medication travel with the individual.

The SBC asked about the pregnant woman at CRDF in which Dr. Henderson noted that CHS offers a urine test, and a blood test, but in this case, the patient declined both tests. And that CHS cannot make patients take tests. Also, CHS has implemented an Artificial Intelligence, AI surveillance system and other methods to determine pregnancies but is dependent on patient cooperation. A discussion ensued on the oversight of the pregnancy and policy vs procedure, and methods to identify a pregnancy. Including tracking methods used to track individual who decline tests.

Dr. Henderson deferred to Ms. Joan Hubbell, Department of Mental Health, regarding Fit Step Down.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

5. Civilian Oversight Commission, COC announcements and upcoming meetings. (24-0879)

There was no report.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

6. Chairperson's Report on Correspondence received. (24-0880)
· Update and on the Letter to the LASD.

Chairperson Regalado reported that there was no correspondence received. And that the letter to the LASD will be discussed during item 7.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

7. Discussion and appropriate action regarding the feasibility of the Los Angeles County Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspection collaborating with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to improve the living condition for incarcerated people in the Los Angeles County penal system. (24-0881)

Chairperson Regalado noted that LASD did not attend the last meeting, which moved the SBC to send a letter to LASD. He then shared that he met Commander Macias who explained that oversight and scheduling conflicts caused the absence. A discussion ensued on concerns previously discussed such as: cleanliness and feces in cells. Chairperson Regalado noted he likely wasn't getting full updates, and that Commander Macias hinted at staffing as one of their challenge areas. Commander Macias apologized for not being at the meeting, and Chairperson Regalado noted Commander Macias' openness and intent to collaborate and find remedies. Chairperson Regalado then asked if there is a way to address repeating problems long-term and to work in partnership with the LASD? A discussion ensued and the SBC agreed to place an item on the next agenda to discuss the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to address the structural, cultural, and physical problems with the jail system.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

8. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of February 1, 2024. (24-0882)

On motion of Vice Chairperson Eric Miller, seconded by Commissioner Norma Cumpian, this item was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ayes: 4 - Commissioner Raymond Regalado, Commissioner Eric Miller, Commissioner Haley Broder, and Commissioner Norma Cumpian

Abstentions: 2 - Commissioner Wynter Daggs, and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Ingrid Archie, Commissioner Bob Frutos and Commissioner Mary Veral

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (24-0883)

There was no in-person, written, or virtual public comment.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the Meeting of March 7, 2024. (24-0884)

Chairperson Raymond Regalado adjourned the meeting of March 7, 2024, at 11:32 a.m.