



**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, February 29, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

Video for the entire meeting. (24-0889)

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

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (24-0721)

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, and Commissioner Clarissa Peña 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 Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner Martine Jones and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

2. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of January 25, 2024. (24-0722)

**On motion of Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of January 25, 2024 were approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 12 - 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 Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Martine Jones and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

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

## **II. REPORT**

### **3. Leadership Report. (24-0723)**

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

- **A survey to select a name for the shout out space was distributed and the name "CU Working" was selected by the majority. Chair Hernandez suggested using "YCU Working" as an alternative.**
- **The Regional Youth Summit sponsored by the Civic Youth Leadership Academy will be held on March 16, 2024. Commissioners who would like to attend were reminded to register.**
- **Registration is also required for those who want to attend the International Youth Conference to be held May 30 to June 2, 2024. Staff will provide the links for registration.**
- **Co Chair Hernandez, along with Commissioner Smiley, recently worked with the Internal Services Department (ISD) Tech Unit on the development of the Delete the Divide Organization App. Commissioners recommended that the app be made available to all County departments who engage with youth, as well as community- based organizations.**
- **Commissioners were asked to review the following tentative scheduled and submit questions beforehand to staff, so that there is a fruitful discussion:**
  - **March and June - DCFS to discuss Foster Youth Independent (FYI) Vouchers and other focus areas.**
  - **April and July - Department of Youth Development (DYD) and the Probation Department to discuss collaboration between the two Departments in serving youth in the community.**
  - **May - Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to provide an update on educational services to youth in facilities.**

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**Executive Director, Tiara Summers, informed that the months of August and September are currently open so there will be time available to invite additional departments/agencies.**

**Commissioner Peña suggested inviting Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) for the discussion regarding FYI Vouchers as they are the entity that distributes vouchers. Commissioner Smiley reiterated her experience with applying for a voucher, and Commissioner Cooper suggested that case managers involved with assessing voucher recipients also be invited to the meeting to discuss the process.**

### **III. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- 4. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (24-0725)**

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

- Christopher Espino was appointed to the Youth Commission by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, he will officially onboard in March.**
- The next Operations meeting will be held March 18, 2024, where the discussion regarding onboarding and recruitment videos for the Youth Commission website will continue.**
- In response to an inquiry as to the disposition of candidates who previously applied; Commissioner Elizondo informed that those who ranked within the top four from each interview cycle, will be contacted to determine if they are still interested when a vacancy occurs.**

- 5. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (24-0726)**

**Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) reported the following:**

- The concept of playing a brief video of an advocacy topic prior to each Youth Commission meeting to enhance public awareness was discussed at the YEC meeting. The YEC will take the matter into greater consideration, including a time limit for the videos.**
- The End Year Event will take place in October for the purpose of synthesizing data, experiences, and lessons learned from the Listening Sessions. After discussion, it was collectively agreed that a recommendation will be placed on the next Youth Commission agenda to discuss how many meetings will be held in October and the format of each.**

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**Co-Chair Ortega Martinez, Jr. added that the Listening Session for the Fifth Supervisorial District will take place in Lancaster on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Cedar Hall at the Antelope Valley Community College, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will also be a Resource Fair and scheduled attendees including the Mayor and Assemblymember for the District, and Supervisor Kathryn Barger. There are two additional spots available for Commissioners who wish to attend. Commissioner Elizondo requested an updated event calendar be distributed to all Commissioners.**

6. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, update by Committee Chair Amanda Hernandez. (24-0727)

**Amanda Hernandez, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, provided the following update:**

- **The Report Card for each Department will be a two-part survey, administrative and youth engagement.**
- **The survey will question if youth were informed about ILP programs (Independent Living Program), with a follow up with youth in order to have a true comparison. Wendy Wiegmann, Project Director, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, UC Berkeley, has been assisting with the survey, and will be attending the next Ad Hoc Committee meeting. There has been a positive response from DCFS thus far.**
- **The next Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

#### **IV. PRESENTATION**

7. Presentation on the County's legislative advocacy by the Chief Executive Office (CEO), Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR)
- Amanda Meere, Special Services Assistant IV, CEO, LAIR (24-0728)

**Amanda Meere, Special Services Assistant, IV, CEO, Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR), shared a presentation on the County legislative process and highlighted the following:**

- **The LAIR website serves as a one stop shop. It contains information on legislative policy development, Washington D.C. Advocacy, government relations, and state and federal agendas.**
- **She then reviewed the federal legislative process and highlighted the similarities and differences to the state process, and the federal legislative terms.**
- **She discussed the Board of Supervisors' priorities, County departments' priorities, and emergent issues. Legislative advocacy must be:**
  - o **Coordinated through LAIR.**
  - o **Consistent with Board approved policies.**
  - o **Commissioners and County staff are not allowed to independently advocate on legislation.**

- o Elected officials (Board of Supervisors) can advocate on their own behalf.
- The County takes a position on bills that are operational or budget related.

**Ms. Meere clarified the following for the Commissioners:**

- Commissioners can advocate as an individual, not as a commissioner in representation of the County. She encouraged Commissioners to contact the LAIR if there is an issue of concern, also, Commissioners can contact their representative as a constituent. She offered her assistance to the Commissioners in navigating the process.
- LAIR prepares a high-level summary and analysis on the state budget and how it will impact the County and County departments every year. LAIR will also work with the CEO budget division and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the various impacts. She clarified that any budget cuts would be realized for the next fiscal year that begins in July.

**Co-Chair Hernandez clarified that any issue that Commissioners are concerned with ought to be voiced during a Youth Commission meeting, voted on, then sent to the LAIR from the Commission as a whole. Discussion then ensued regarding the process and timeline. Ms. Meere stressed that the CEO budget analyst can work with the Commission regarding concerns and budget issues. She also clarified that analysts are dedicated to specific issues, such as housing, probation, public works, etc.**

**Discussion concluded with Ms. Meere requesting suggestions on how the LAIR website can improve interfacing with the public and be more user friendly. Executive Director Summers informed the Commissioners that the Board of Supervisors recently passed a motion officially opposing the state cuts to funding for housing.**

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

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

8. 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. (24-0729)

**Member of the public, Kate, California Youth Connection addressed the Commission.**

9. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (24-0730)

**The Commissioners suggested the following matters be placed on the agenda at a future meeting:**

- **Trauma Informed Training regarding mental health, to include youth with lived experience and department and facility staff.**
- **A response from the Department of Probation regarding unsuitable housing for youth.**
- **Schedule a special meeting regarding training on how to maneuver the financial responsibilities as a County Commissioner, such as reporting 1099 income and tax preparation. Commissioner Young provided information on a resource she is working with regarding tax preparation.**
- **A presentation regarding the motion sponsored by the Board of Supervisors taking a stance against the Governor's budget cuts.**
- **Include in the upcoming DCFS presentation an outline of how the budget cuts will affect the Department and youth.**

**Executive Director Tiara Summers encouraged the Commissioners to do their research on the topics so that questions can be submitted to the presenters for appropriate response. She also indicated that the upcoming Retreat would address specific issues, in depth, as submitted by the Commissioners.**

10. Adjournment. (24-0731)

**On motion of Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.**