



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



**ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE AND EVENT CENTER
155 NORTH OCCIDENTAL BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90026**

poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024, 9:00 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 9:07 a.m. Wende Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Secretary Diane Terry, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Vice Chair Dolores Canales

2. Approval of the February 8, 2024 meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Carrillo, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Garcia-Leys, Meredith, and Canales being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the February 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Secretary Diane Terry, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Vice Chair Dolores Canales

Attachments: [Approved February 8, 2024 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Create an ad hoc committee to address new juvenile and adults charges youth in Probation's juvenile facilities have been charged with for incidents occurring inside the facilities, specifically at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) as referenced in these [new youth charges reported by Chief Deputy Kimberly Epps on February 8, 2024](#).

- Eduardo Mundo, Chair, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Chair Mundo clarified Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the purpose of this ad hoc committee including purview over new charges at the camps and the halls. Commissioner Jackson requested that the number of times Probation and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (DA) submits a petition be tracked.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

Commissioner Lewis inquired about the measures that are being taken to prevent staff from perpetuating fights amongst youth. Eric Bates, Assistant Inspector General for the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General, will investigate this case and report back.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry about Probation walking off eight employees for allowing youth on youth fights to happen, Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that the cases are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and actions are taken against youth and staff based on those case reviews. Assistant Inspector General Bates and Chief Deputy Epps confirmed that there were zero criminal charges filed in relation to that incident.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about new criminal charges for youth and filing consideration at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH). Chief Deputy Epps stated that if there is a behavior that results in a new crime, petitions are filed with the DA, but filing consideration at LPJH is a standalone process.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about criminal charges for sexual misconduct against youth. Chief Deputy Epps emphasized that sexual misconduct against youth is investigated under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Garcia-Leys, Meredith, and Canales being absent), the POC agreed to create a new ad hoc committee to address new youth charges:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Secretary Diane Terry, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Vice Chair Dolores Canales

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

III. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Board of State and Community Correction's (BSCC) findings regarding compliance with Title 15 at Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility

(BJN SYTF) and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH). Discussion will include alternative plans to reduce the population at LPJH and plan for a possible evacuation of both facilities.

Felicia Cotton, Deputy Director of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, gave a verbal overview of the attached report.

Chief Deputy Epps reported that the Probation Department is in the process of realigning their minimum policy requirements such as Departmental Orders and Directives with the BSCC requirements. Chief Deputy Epps highlighted components within the attached strategic compliance plan for both facilities and mentioned that there are currently no plans to relocated youth because the Probation Department is planning to come into full compliance.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the members of the strategic compliance team. Chief Deputy Epps named all members including Probation Staff, the court-appointed DOJ monitor, consultants, and technical support representatives. Chief Deputy Epps shared that once Probation comes into compliance, the Compliance Unit provides weekly reports on what they're doing internally for quality assurance and compliance consistency. Commissioner Jackson emphasized the importance of sharing the compliance reviews with the POC.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about families being notified of suitable placements, Deputy Director Cotton mentioned that family finding process occurs after a placement order was made or once Probation is aware that the youth no longer had family available.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the subpoena requesting staffing updates. Assistant Inspector General Eric Bates confirmed that the OIG has received several documents and is in the process of redacting those documents.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about suitable placements. Deputy Director Cotton shared that there are two sets of youth (youth who are pre-screened or pre-dispositioned and youth recommended by Probation for suitable placement), while the other group of youth are ordered by the courts for suitable placement. She added that the suitable placements are funded through the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Sixteen public commenters addressed the POC.

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

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the Probation Department's strategically new leadership vision, and strategies for relocation. Chief Deputy Epps explained the vision in detail.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments about the Probation Department taking accountability.

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)
[POC LPJH Supplemental Inspection Report](#)
[BSCC Notice of Unsuitability – LPJH & BJN SYTF](#)
[Probation's BSCC Update](#)
[Internal Corrective Action Plans \(LPJH & BJN SYTF\)](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

5. Discuss and take appropriate action on an overview of the adult services that are provided within the Los Angeles County Probation Department including the Pre-Trial Program, AB109, Special Enforcement Officers (SEOs), and community needs for housing and reentry services.
 - Howard Wong, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - Jose Osuna, Director of External Affairs, Brilliant Corners
 - Richard Giron, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Deputy Director Wong gave a presentation on Adult Field Services and Deputy Director Giron gave a presentation on Pre-Trial Services. Both presentations are attached to the agenda.

Director Jose Osuna gave a verbal presentation on the role of Brilliant Corners, its partnerships, and the impact it is making in the community.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry about low rates of SEOs finding fentanyl in the field, Deputy Director Wong mentioned fentanyl may be mixed with other things, but pure fentanyl is not regularly found in the field during compliance checks.

Commissioner Terry inquired about Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) caseloads, training, and overall staffing challenges. Deputy Director Wong mentioned that there were an average of 43 cases per deployed DPO field officer per week, which resulted in shorter interactions with clients. Deputy Director Wong will report back on the caseloads of deployed DPOs once the next deployment cycle has been completed.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about how the impacts of the deployments will be shared with the POC. Deputy Director Wong stated the report back will include case contact, court reports, and the services being provided.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about flash incarceration, Deputy Director Wong explained that flash incarceration is taking a person into custody for ten days without going to court as an intermediate sanction. Deputy Director Wong will send the AB109 violation matrix to the POC.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the number of adults currently on electronic monitoring including demographics and the frequency of violations. Deputy Director Giron agreed to provide updated electronic monitoring and violation data to the POC.

Commissioner Carrillo inquired about restructuring the pre-trial program and the immediate impact of high deployments. Deputy Director Giron stated that the Probation Department does not contract with any pre-trial vendors, 66 staff were transferred due to the reduction in work requirements under the zero-bail policy.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the training needs of deployed staff. Deputy Director Wong reiterated that deployed DPOs participate in decentralized SEO training in addition to receiving use of force, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray deployment, and site-specific training.

Seven public commenters addressed the POC.

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

6. 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

Dr. Gongora gave a verbal presentation highlighting that the POC has been monitoring the programming calendar for substance use disorder programming for several months noting that eleven different sessions were scheduled, but only five sessions were held.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about how the parents are being educated on the treatment options available to the young people. Dr. Gongora stated that the providers and clinicians have not responded to the POC about engaging participants' families and any follow-ups post release.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about who administered programming, Dr. Gongora stated that the Tarzana Treatment Center has held one session, and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has held four sessions.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. REPORTS

7. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission.

- Dawnnesha Smith, Project Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Project Director Smith gave an overview of the attached Demographics report, explained the limitations with the research, and the POC's recommendations.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[Demographics Report](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports](#)
[Population Statistics](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

V. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

8. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

9. 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.

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.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

VI. ADJOURNMENT

10. Adjournment for the regular meeting of March 14, 2024.

The meeting ended at 1:24 p.m.