



**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, April 4, 2024

9:00 A.M.

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (24-1386)

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
Gabiroleño 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. (24-1172)

Chairperson Raymond Regalado called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Followed by the reading of the LA County Land Acknowledgement. A quorum of in-person members was confirmed.

Present: 5 - Chairperson Raymond Regalado, Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, Commissioner Haley Broder, Commissioner Wynter Daggs and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Ingrid Archie, Commissioner Norma Cumpian, Commissioner Bob Frutos and Commissioner Mary Veral

I. REPORTS

1. Commissioners Reports on Detention Facilities. (24-1173)

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller

- Pitchess Detention Center North (PDCN), 29340 The Old Rd, Castaic, CA 91384, March 28, 2024

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller and Commissioner Bob Frutos

- Twin Towers Correctional Facility (TTCF), 450 Bauchet St, Los Angeles, CA 90012, April 30, 2024

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller reported that the focus of the Pitchess Inspection was due to reports on the inmate populations dealing with significant mental health issues. September 2023, he visited dorms/modules 1, 2, and 3 which were converting to medium observation housing for inmates with a “P2” rating - inmates that are dealing with current episodes of mood instability, psychotic symptoms maintained by medication and frequent reliance on crisis stabilization services and require safety checks every 30 minutes. He noted that the dorm capacity is 80 but title 24 says the maximum is 64, and each dorm he visited had an excess of 70-79. Module 2 had a capacity of 8, where 3 of the 8 inmates were designated high observation (HOH) and should be transported back to Twin Towers where HOH inmates are housed.

In the September 2023 visit the major complaint from inmates was that medication wasn’t being distributed properly. Module 2 deputies discussed severe staffing problems and the challenges of converting a general population unit to one with severely mentally ill inmates. They felt unprepared with the change in population and were calling out sick to avoid dealing it.

In his March 2024 visit, there was an increased stress on transportation because the mentally ill require more time and resources, including frequent clinic and medical visits. And was stressful to nursing as well, according to deputies. Transportation vehicles were old and lack working AC and ventilation, where some rides take upwards of an hour.

Due to staff shortages deputies y are doing double the number of moderate observation security checks, which by consent decree is every 30 minutes. Inmates stated there is no clock, to keep track of time, water quality was cloudy, phones were in disrepair, and morale amongst deputies and inmates was low. Access to medical treatment was the biggest frustration. And the new Mental health professional is not available 24 hours and less available on weekends. He also reported that the Pitches had unexpectedly worsened and has put more stress on the jail system going forward.

Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller gave a summary of the CRDF visit to give the SBC time to read it before the next meeting. And that he and Commissioner Frutos visited the Forensic inpatient (stepdown) unit and high observation dorm (Module 162) to compare. And noticed drastic differences such as Module 162 not having no “out of cell” time on weekends due to staffing, cells covered in graffiti, compared to Stepdown units that are clean, colorful, and themed areas with books to read. Mr. Craig Armstrong one of the “Stepdown” founders noted there are many changes in the “stepdown” unit including the untimely passing of Ms. Sarah Tong, Unit Director amongst other changes in leadership changes. He recognized the Board of Supervisors June 2023 motion requires and empowers Correctional Health Services a wider role that seems to have placed stress on the unit in giving mental health assistants less say over who is screened and placed on staff for the unit.

Vice Chairperson Miller requested for the next meeting to arrange for mental health assistants from Twin towers forensic inpatient stepdown units and century regional facilities to attend and give a report at the next commission meeting.

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

2. Civilian Oversight Commission, COC announcements and upcoming meetings. (24-1178)

Tracy Jordon, COC Principal Staff Analyst reported that Mr. Bikila Ochoa, also present, was elected as the COCs a new Deputy Executive Officer, a First District appointee to the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and the Second District appointee to the Public Safety Realignment Team (PSRT). At their March 13, 2024 meeting they had a presentation on the Family Assistance Program available on COC and LASD websites. Also, that they adopted their staff report on the Sheriff's Department 2024-2025 fiscal year budget, created two new Ad hoc committees - Rules and Procedures, and an Interview Panel. Their next meeting is April 18, 2024 at 9am and will be held at St. Anne's conference center and will discuss the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and have a presentation from Dignity and Power Now (DPN), and an update from the LASD on new laws including AB2773 and SB 400.

Vice Chairperson Miller responded to a COC commissioner being dissatisfied with reports availability on the SBC website and encouraged the COC to reach out to SBC directly on any concerns, issues, or updates. He added that calls to terminate the SBC should be resisted. Chairperson Regalado stated he will also be present at the upcoming COC meeting, and it is Important to work in concert with the COC to develop a broader line of communication.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on Correspondence received. (24-1182)

Chairperson Regalado received the Education Based Incarceration Program list from Commander Macias that will be discussed during item 4.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS

4. Discussion, Update, and Appropriate Action on Education Based Incarceration (EBI) Programming New Classes, Enrollment, and demographics (Los Angeles Sheriff Department, LASD (Commander Hugo Macias and Lt. Jose E. Gonzalez). (24-1183)
- LASD Roll Call
 - Programs added, removed
 - Enrollment Demographics
 - Enrollment Stats
 - Success rates

Commander Macias introduced Lt. Alan Liu, Lt. Rafael E. Rodriguez and Dr. Yael Hellman. A discussion ensued regarding the programs that included clarification on Jail Guitar Doors, Therapy dogs, Fire Camp, Post covid staffing and expansion of programs, re-entry programs, and programs that have not come back post covid.

Dr. Hellman stated that bilingual teachers are available as well as interpreters. And that she had not seen the Board of Supervisors report stating otherwise and described a lack of resources for the Spanish speaking inmate population. She explained the Merit Master's program and that she along with the FIP stepdown chief are working on developing an education program for the mental health forensics unit inmates. Mr. Luis Pena, DMH added that they are developing certification for services provided to benefit the inmate population. Lt. Rodriguez will be look into using data on success rates after release.

The LASD EBI Team stated that they did not receive the Education-Based Incarceration Programming report that the SBC published which was a result of the EBI survey.

Commission Staff confirmed that the EBI Report and the SBC 2023 Report was forwarded to the LASD including Sheriff Luna and were made available at the SBC November 2, 2023 meeting in which Sheriff Luna and the EBI team were present and will recirculate them again to Dr. Hellman and Commander Macias.

The SBC requested the CRDF gender responsive services list for the next meeting.

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

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5. Discussion and Appropriate Action on “Developing a plan for Closing Men’s Central Jail as Los Angeles County Reduces its Reliance on Incarceration (Item #3 July 7, 2020 Board Meeting)” (Adam Bettino). (24-1185)

Adam Bettino, Jail Closure Implementation Team provided an update on closing Men’s Central Jail (MCJ). He stated that the population needs to decrease, and the outflow needs to increase in order to close MCJ. Also, that they need to ensure services and support are being provided to those being released. Critical components to closure plan are expediting criminal court processing, prevention and diversion services to stop inflow, secured and unsecured community beds, including single cell units for specialty populations without increasing footprint or building new facilities. And are gathering stakeholders work together.

Mr. Bettino stated that a five-year plan for close MCJ is difficult and is more of a modeling plan but that in a soon to be released June/2024 report specifics to closure will be discussed. And pointed out that State Level legislation with an increase in penalties for crimes like smash and grab may impact the closure increase the population. More analysis on inflow is needed to figure out exactly how many beds would be needed. And that the March 2024 report addressed the resources and capacities to closing MCJ. Mr. Bettino clarified several interim housing programs have been funded to help depopulate and help with jail system inflow. The new report will have the cost of future securing of beds, services and other programs as well as how long it will take to build. And confirmed that the Fit program will be on the planning and modeling list moving forward.

Commissioner Daggs added that community organization Essie Justice Group, Dignity and Power Now, and the California Black Power Network went out and door knocked in the Fifth District and spoke to over 800 residents of which 90% said they want to see MCJ close without the replacement of a lock up facility and see a reinvestment in 10,000, mental health beds, including permanent supportive housing.

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

6. Discussion and Appropriate Action on FIP Stepdown, Mental Health Assistants and training (Joan Hubbell, Director of the Department of Mental Health). (24-1186)

Mr. Luis Pena reported that the Department of Mental Health is working with the LASD and Mental Health Assistants to develop a program and curriculum beneficial for inmates upon release. And that they do not have a certificate but are vetting vendors who can assist with education.

The SBC inquired about Ms. Sarah Tongs replacement as a result of her passing, screening for mental health assistants, merit masters, the curriculum that was created by Mr. Berumen and Ms. Tong, FIP stepdown structure and housing composition, and administering of medication.

Mr. Pena stated there has been support provided with a new mental health supervisor, Ms. Melissa Hatanaka filling in, engaging with clinicians and assistants, and providing relief. And that Additional supervisors are there for support when needed. They are also actively recruiting. Regarding training and curriculum: Mental health assistants are key trainers for new staff. Curriculum is continued improvement. New changes expected for structure and housing composition are in two areas: one for high functioning individuals and one for vulnerable individual in need of restraint. Individuals that are high functioning can receive care then be moved. Clinicians, psychiatrists, and mental health supervisors are working with the population to educate and encourage taking medication. In the FIP step down group refusal is a lot lower than other areas. Court orders are sometimes issued for certain inmates, and injectables are also offered as part of treatment. Lastly that they are also actively recruiting for jobs at jail systems, with incentives, and bonuses to reduce turnover ratio.

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

III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of March 7, 2024. (24-1188)

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

There were no in person, virtual or written public comment.

Ayes: 5 - Chairperson Raymond Regalado, Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, Commissioner Haley Broder, Commissioner Wynter Daggs and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Ingrid Archie, Commissioner Norma Cumpian, Commissioner Bob Frutos and Commissioner Mary Veral

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

8. Approval of the Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to address the LASD Structural, Cultural, and Physical problems with the jail system. The Ad hoc committee to include less than a quorum of SBC members and to expire once the task is complete and not to exceed one year. (24-1191)

On motion of Commissioner Haley Broder, seconded by Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, the SBC approved an Ad Hoc Committee to address the LASD Structural, Cultural, and Physical problems with the jail system consisting of Chairperson Regalado acknowledged that he, Vice Chairperson Miller, Commissioners Bob Frutos and Commissioner Wynter Daggs with the following roll call vote:

There were no in person, virtual or written public comment.

Ayes: 5 - Chairperson Raymond Regalado, Vice Chairperson Eric J. Miller, Commissioner Haley Broder, Commissioner Wynter Daggs and Commissioner Joahanna Terrones

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Ingrid Archie, Commissioner Norma Cumpian, Commissioner Bob Frutos and Commissioner Mary Veral

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

IV. 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. (24-1192)

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

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE](#)

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the Meeting of April 4, 2024. (24-1196)

Chairperson Raymond Regalado adjourned the meeting of April 4, 2024, at 12:04 p.m.