



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

**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**

AUDIO/VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

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

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

**Vice Chair Canales called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Wende Julien, Executive Director read a poem in remembrance of Bryan Diaz, and conducted the roll call:**

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson and Commissioner Eduardo Mundo

2. Approval of the April 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

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

**On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Garcia-Leys, Jackson, and Mundo being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the April 25, 2024, regular meeting minutes:**

**Ayes:** 5 – Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Diane Terry, and Vice Chair Dolores Canales

**Absent:** 4 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

**Attachments:** [Approved April 25, 2024 Minutes](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

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## II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Create two ad hoc committees for the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission to (1) address contraband and (2) community-based organization (CBO) relationships. Each ad hoc committee will be comprised of less than a quorum of Commissioners and will expire once their report back to the POC is complete, not to exceed one year.

- Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

**Commissioner Garcia-Leys joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.**

**Ms. Julien read the motion which is attached to the agenda.**

**Vice Chair Canales moved, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, to create two ad hoc committees as outlined in the motion.**

**Commissioner Kakani recommended that motion number one on contraband searches incorporate research and analyses of written policies related to searches and include the voices of the youth to understand how the searches impact the youth.**

**Ms. Julien shared that Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, has volunteered to be part of those committee meetings if needed.**

**Commissioner Kakani inquired about the Probation Department's budgeting process, including the amount allocated to CBOs, the breakdown of those budgeted line items, and how those dollars are being spent.**

**Four public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Commissioner Lewis inquired about the Probation Department procuring airport-style scanners for the entrances of all facilities with random spot-checking to reduce exposures. Chief Deputy Epps reported that there were safety and health concerns with the level of exposure of the airport-style scanners, but everyone who enters the facilities must go through the scanners that are currently installed at the facilities.**

**Commissioner Kakani shared her observations from a recent visit at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) regarding the scanners and security.**

**Commissioner Meredith shared his sentiments about his experience at a recent visit at Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN SYTF).**

**Commissioner Canales shared her concerns with lawsuits and recommended that further research be conducted into the causes and effects of health-related challenges with the airport-style scanners.**

**Vice Chair Canales and Commissioner Lewis agreed to accept the motion amendments as outlined below:**

***For over a year the POC has been asking questions and receiving reports on contraband being brought into and found in the facilities. This ad hoc subcommittee will continue this work, specifically learning more about interventions and/or arrests that have occurred when staff, visitors, or partners are found to have brought in contraband, to receive more information about the installation of airport-style scanners at the entrance to the juvenile***

*hall and SYTF facility, to learn about practices for searches within the facilities, and to learn about policies and practices implemented and recommended to stop the flow of contraband into the facilities. Additionally, the committee will seek copies of the department's written policy governing how searches of youth and their rooms/cells are conducted. Commissioners will also speak to young people at the hall to ask about their experience and perspective on this issue. The committee will report back to the full POC as needed.*

*This ad hoc subcommittee will investigate recent reports from several CBOs regarding challenges related to contracting, scheduling, and background check clearances. Additionally, the committee will seek information about the department's 2023-24 budget including how funding was allocated to community-based organizations the department contracted with during the 2023-24 FY. The documents should show how the funding allocated to CBO's compares to the department-wide budget. The committee will discuss these issues with CBOs and with the Probation Department and report back to the full POC.*

On motion of Vice Chair Canales, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Carrillo, Jackson, and Mundo being absent), the POC agreed to accept the motion as amended:

**Ayes:** 6 – Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Diane Terry, and Vice Chair Dolores Canales

**Absent:** 3 – Commissioner Franky Carrillo, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson and Chair Eduardo Mundo

**Attachments:** [POC Motion](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

4. Overview on the Probation Department's Adult Field Supervision Operations including its Coordinated Optimal Rehabilitative Efforts (CORE), adults served, and the caseloads for the adult populations.
  - Richard Giron, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Deputy Director Giron thanked the Probation Staff for their work, and gave a presentation, which is attached to the agenda.

In response to Commissioner Meredith's inquiry about programming, Deputy Director Giron mentioned that the Probation Department has started a pilot program that include tours of the offices and possible off-site services.

Commissioner Terry inquired about supervision outcomes for the different age groups. Deputy Director Giron mentioned that the 18–25-year-olds are grouped together when offering programs and services, and they also have gender-specific caseloads.

Chief Deputy Epps responded to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about restitution and stated that the data for target caseloads for Probation Officers and violations related to outcomes can be reported back to the POC.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about how these programs are reducing recidivism. Deputy Director Giron will gather this information including the number of people who complete their probation and report back to the POC.

In response to Commissioner Terry's inquiry about a person not being able to afford restitution, Deputy Director Giron mentioned that the Probation Department notifies the court, and the court makes the final decision in a civil judgement.

Commissioner Canales inquired about how the temporary housing is tracked. Deputy Director Giron stated that Probation has a network of over 76 housing providers that are used as transitional housing.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Kakani requested that all data related to recidivism be provided to the POC.

Commissioner Lewis inquired about factors that contribute to Probation extensions.

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

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

### III. REPORT

5. Report from the Probation Department on deployments to the juvenile halls and the impact on caseloads on the field.
  - i. Provide current caseload numbers not considering deployments
  - ii. Impact on caseloads (if any) with deployments
  - Representative from the Los Angeles County Probation Department
  - Union Representatives from the Los Angeles County Probation Department

Deputy Director Howard Wong reported that deployments have caused AB 109 field Probation Officers to have had shorter interactions with clients during the mandated rotations, with a total of four supervising DPOs and one DPO handling about 1,500 cases.

Deputy Director Felicia Cotton reported that the juvenile operations have had 63 full duty staff deployed to the juvenile halls in the first round of rotations and gave highlights from the attached document.

Ms. Julien explained that union Representatives were invited but were unable to attend today's meeting for various reasons.

Commissioner Kakani requested information on the total caseload numbers in relation to overall totals and a breakdown of cases based on offices.

In response to Commissioner Terry's inquiry about the amount of time spent with clients, Deputy Director Wong mentioned that client interactions are now about fifteen minutes and will report back to the POC on possible ways to collaborate with CBOs.

Commissioner Garcia-Leys inquired about the effects of staff reassignments and violations. Chief Deputy Epps stated that the Probation Department is seeking a more streamlined process for ensuring people are aware of probation violations.

Commissioner Canales inquired about communications when field officers are deployed. Chief Deputy Epps confirmed that currently the staff are mandated to deploy, but they are notified in advance. Deputy Director Wong added that staff are called via phone first, followed by written notices/memos, and then assigned to training prior to being deployed.

Ten public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Kakani requested updated call out data and Commissioner Garcia-Leys requested data on all reasons staff are not in the field offices including deployments.

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

6. Report from the Probation Department on progress with maintaining compliance with Title 15 and Title 24 at Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN SYTF) and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) with updates on “spot checks” by inspector.

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

**By Common Consent, there being no objections, this agenda item was tabled for discussion at a future POC meeting.**

**Attachments:** [Supporting Documents](#)  
[Probation's BSCC Reinspection for Determination of Suitability](#)  
[BSCC Compliance Sheet](#)  
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

7. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission Executive Director. Topics for presentation include the launch of the POC's public-facing data dashboard.

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

**Project Director Smith gave a presentation detailing the launch of the POC's data dashboard, which is attached to the agenda.**

Two public commenters addressed the POC.

**Attachments:** [Public-Facing Data Dashboard Launch](#)  
Public Comment/Correspondence

#### **IV. 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.

**Commissioner Meredith shared his sentiments and memories of Detention Services Officer Michael Wall who passed away in the line of duty.**

The following topics were proposed to be agendized at a future POC meeting:

- Maintaining compliance with BSCC's Title 15 and Title 24 requirements
- Presentation on Community Collaborative Courts
- Invite Probation Union representatives to report back on the impact of deployments
- Breakdown of the Probation Department's budget including allocated line items, CBO contracting, and explanation on how funds are being spent

### **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](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.

**Nine public commenters addressed the POC.**

**Attachments:** [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of May 9, 2024.

**On motion by Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Lewis, unanimously carried (Commissioners Carrillo, Jackson, and Mundo being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.**