



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, April 25, 2024

6:30 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (24-1659)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

## I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (24-1433)

**Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, and Commissioner Rodriguez read the County's Land Acknowledgement.**

Present: Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

2. Awareness Video - Know to Say No: Friends, by LA County DCFS. (24-1075)

**The Awareness Video, Know to Say No: Friends, by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), was shown.**

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of March 28, 2024. (24-1434)

**On motion of Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Angela Young, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of March 28, 2024, were approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 8 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Abstentions:** 3 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner La'Toya Cooper and Commissioner Joshua Elizondo

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

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

## **II. REPORT**

4. Leadership Report. (24-1435)

**Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., reported that the following:**

- **The International Youth Summit hosted by the United Nations will be held from May 30 to June 2, 2024. He will lead a workshop on June 1st regarding Political Power for Youth. Scheduled to participate are youth from Nevada involved with gun reform, Dr. Charity Chandler Cole, Executive Director of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), and Assemblyman Juan Carrillo.**

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

- **The nomination process for the Shout Out space, "YCU Working" highlighting individuals for their work with youth and/or extraordinary lived experience will be sent to the Commissioners. The first individual is intended to be highlighted by May 2024.**
- **Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee and LaToya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee were both reappointed to their positions on March 12, 2024. Committee Chairs were congratulated and thanked for their leadership.**

- **The Calibrate Connections Circle will take place on May 16, 2024, and May 30, 2024. Commissioners interested in participating were encouraged to contact Staff.**
5. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (24-1504)
- **Commissioner Gudiel provided an overview of his participation in the Los Angeles County Department on Mental Health Symposium hosted by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), held April 20, 2024, at East Los Angeles Community College. Commissioners Evelyn Rodriguez and Martine Jones also participated in the event. He noted that the event was well attended with 500 students from 16 various schools who participated in workshops that yielded 70 surveys from the students.**
  - **Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez provided information on the March 29, 2024, Call to Action event with young leaders from SPA 1 in Lancaster. Topics included youth homelessness, the isolation of the Antelope Valley within L.A. County, and the delay in obtaining services. Discussion also included domestic violence and CSEC (Commercial Sexually Exploited Children), sexual orientation discrimination, and how to expedite services in the area. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority was also in attendance.**
  - **Commissioner Joshua Elizondo provided an update regarding the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) and the request for feedback regarding their strategic plan. Responses are due by end of day on Friday, April 26th. At their last meeting, ECC discussions included members from the Cal State University (CSU) system, and John Burton Advocates for Youth, and covered topics about enhanced services for better educational outcomes for students. The CSU system will be joining ECC to assist in the development of a well-rounded approach to postsecondary education.**

### **III. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS**

6. Roundtable discussion with Los Angeles County's Probation Department and Department of Youth Development (DYD), to explore the existing partnership between the departments and discuss efforts for collaboration in providing services to pre-disposition and post-disposition youth in the Community. (24-1439)

**David Carroll, Director, Department of Youth Development (DYD), provided background on the DYD's mission and purpose. Director Carroll shared the following updates since his last visit:**

- **Diversion expanded from 11 to 36 law enforcement agencies that offer diversion.**

- The number of referrals has double since last year.
- Expanded to new regions and added four providers.
- The first data evaluation was conducted, and it was noted that 95% of youth that go through diversion, do not reoffend.
- There is a \$40k savings per youth enrolled in diversion, in comparison to the cost of arrests.
- Five out of Five key strengths (emotional regulation, school engagement, social support, conflict resolution, and caring adult relationship) are being met during diversion that will carry them the rest of their lives.
- The Youth Development Network (YDN) will include 33 organizations. In Fiscal Year 2024-25, \$6.8 mil will be disbursed to organizations in the YDN to support youth in the areas of mentorship, academic support, development and employment opportunities, and intervention/wellness.

Patricia Seung, Reentry Branch, DYD, reported on their strategies inside facilities and their work with credible messengers. A network is being built across the County in coordination with YDNs in communities to ensure decision making regarding justice involved youth is youth centered and collaborative. Director Carroll added that youth are defining needed programs and services and DYD is working to fill the gaps.

Ms. Seung spoke on one of the priorities of the County being the decarceration of girls and gender expansive youth as one of the focus populations of the County. She shared the strategies being used and the partnerships being developed in this area. Safe Healing Centers are being proposed to provide a safe space for youth. She then spoke on various other institutions working toward alternatives for incarcerated girls.

The DYD panelists then responded to questions posed by Commissioners as follows:

- At the inception of the Diversion Program there were approximately 550 pre booking referrals. The program is on pace for approximately 900 referrals for the remainder of the year: close to 100 referrals per month.
- In response to the concern of the facilities being named Safe Healing Centers, and the name sounding like a halfway house, Ms. Seung showed her appreciation for the concern, and informed that it is critical to have youth involved with the development of the facility and they are designing these centers with youth in mind.

- **Everything that is being designed for youth has come out of Youth Justice Reimagined, and youth are consistently being asked to provide input. Also, every program is rooted in restorative practices, organizations involved are L.A. Youth Uprising and The Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined. Ms. Seung added that employment and educational pathways are the key focus area surrounded by supportive services and programs.**
- **Ms. Seung informed that Safe Healing Center locations have not been determined yet, however, a range of options with multiple sites are being considered.**
- **Law enforcement is being solicited for the Diversion Program by contacting agencies directly. A list of new law enforcement agencies is updated monthly and will be provided to the Commission.**
- **There are currently 53 staff onboard, and there is a request for 59 additional staff.**
- **The Diversion Program engages the whole family with wraparound support. Credible messengers in the communities have been provided flexible funding to assist youth and families.**

**Sharon Harada, Bureau Chief, Probation Department (Probation), expanded on the partnership between DYD and Probation. She reported that DYD works with the District Attorney to have youth released rather than taken into custody if the charges warrant.**

**Mary Beth Walker, Probation, provided information regarding girls detained at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Hall) and the Credible Messenger Program. She expanded on the concept of providing support so that girls do not return to the Halls. She spoke on substance abuse and pressure from peers. Surveys are being obtained from incarcerated girls as well as those on probation, in the community to determine needed services.**

**The Probation panelists then responded to questions posed by Commissioners as follows:**

- **Field officers being pulled from the field to work in the halls on a 60-day rotation. The fieldwork is covered by the remaining staff.**
- **The caseload for a typical Specialized Supervision (involved with DCFS and Probation) is anywhere from 10 to 20. General caseloads are approximately 50.**
- **There are partner resources in the facilities such as mental health psychologists, substance abuse counselors, and Ombuds person to address complaints by youth in the facilities. Referrals to resources are available throughout the facilities. Calls to attorneys are also facilitated**

and there is a grievance process. Ms. Harada indicated that she would provide Title 15 requirements to the Commission and stressed that some of the programs provided are voluntary.

Tiara Summers, Executive Director, informed the panelists that at the follow-up meeting in July, the Commissioners would like to explore the topics of youth partnerships in the community and data on the grievance process and responses.

7. Recommendation to Approve the Youth Commission's participation in a documentary to be filmed by filmmaker, Far West Film Co. ("Far West") on foster care advocacy in the country. Participation will include filming of the Commission's public meetings, community listening sessions, and individual interviews of willing Commissioners. *(Other than the Brown Act meetings, Commissioners may opt to not participate in the filming. For those Commissioners who choose to participate in being filmed and/or interviewed, Commissioners will adhere to the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Los Angeles County Code section 3.66 et seq. and the Commission Bylaws, and in compliance with all applicable law, County policies, and confidentiality and privacy regulations) (24-1440)*

Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez opened discussion on the recommendation to approve the Youth Commission's participation in a documentary to be filmed by Far West Film Company (Far West) on foster care advocacy in the County. Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez indicated that filming would include public meetings, community listening sessions and possibly individual interviews with willing Commissioners, and discussion ensued.

On motion of Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, seconded by Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., and duly carried, the Youth Commission's participation in the Far West documentary on foster care advocacy in L.A. County was approved by the following vote:

**Ayes:** 11 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

**Noes:** 1 - Commissioner Brittianna Robinson

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

**IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (24-1436)

**Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee (OPS), reported that the OPS is continuing to work on the three scripts for the YC website videos: 1) What is the Youth Commission, 2) Commonly Asked Questions, and 3) General Information on how to apply. There will be two at large vacancies in August, the application process will start at the beginning of May.**

9. Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (24-1437)

**Commissioner LaToya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), commented on the first CSEC awareness video that was shown at the beginning of the meeting, and indicated that a CSEC video will be shown every meeting. Other awareness videos need to be submitted to the YEC prior to their meeting for approval to be presented to the Commission as a whole.**

**The Second Supervisorial District's Listening Session will be held on May 18th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Compton YouthBuild facility, located at 1108 North Oleander Avenue Compton, CA 90222.**

10. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card, update by Committee Chair Amanda Hernandez. (24-1438)

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez reported that at a pre meeting, administrative questions to the Departments were reviewed and edited, then presented to the full Ad Hoc Committee where the questions were further refined. At the upcoming Ad Hoc Committee meeting on May 8th, the Committee will begin the work on the youth survey questions. The administrative questions will be presented to the full Commission at the next meeting.**

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

11. 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. (24-1441)

**Ali Mustafa, Founder, International Youth Conference (IYC), Julie Diaz, IYC, and Lady T. Thompson, UNA, USA, IYC, addressed the Commission.**

12. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (24-1442)

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez requested additional information regarding the Credible Messenger Program utilized by the Probation Department at the camps and halls.**

13. Adjournment. (24-1443)

**On motion of Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, seconded by Co Chair Amanda Hernandez, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.**