



**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, June 27, 2024

6:30 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (24-2671)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (24-1900)

Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call, and Commissioner Gudiel 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 Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner Cristopher Espino and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

2. Awareness Video - Know to Say No: To All of Us, by LA County DCFS. (24-1904)

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 April 25, 2024. (24-1907)

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo requested edits to the minutes.

On motion of Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of April 24, 2024, were approved, as amended, by the following vote:

Ayes: 10 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: 5 - Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Approval of minutes from the special meeting of June 8, 2024. (24-2424)

On motion of Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Christian Gudiel, and duly carried, the minutes from the special meeting of June 8, 2024, were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

Abstentions: 1 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez

Absent: 5 - Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

5. Leadership Report. (24-1910)

Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez reported the following:

- The Youth Commission (YC) is ready to move forward with the “I See You” YC Shout Out, she provided an overview of the selection process and the months that each Supervisorial District’s nomination will take place.
- A brief overview of Board Motions that the Commission has been named in and the corresponding projects for which the Commission has collaborated with other Los Angeles County Departments.
- The Commission is working in partnership with the DCFS to enhance the youth experience of the DCFS Independent Living Program (ILP) Celebration II. The Commission’s feedback and recommendations have enhanced the 2024 celebration, and Co-Chair Hernandez is hopeful that the Commission can continue to provide feedback for future celebrations.

6. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (24-1911)

- Commissioner Smiley attended a Juneteenth event hosted by Supervisor, Holly J. Mitchell, Second District and the Adult Driving Together event in the City of Pomona and shared her experience and thoughts of the event.
- Commissioner Gudiel provided an overview of his participation in the International Youth Conference, held May 31, 2024. Panelists consisted of international students and a UCLA social welfare professor specializing in civic engagement for youth and young adults. Discussion topics included youth unemployment and. He then highlighted a project discussed to amend the voting eligibility age in California to 16 years old.
- Commissioner Joshua Elizondo reported participating in the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) virtual Listening Session on June 21, 2024. A follow up listening session is scheduled for Friday, June 28, 2024. Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez who shared her thoughts on the event and emphasized that DMH staff were open to the Commissioners’ feedback on how to make their videos more relatable to youth. Commissioner Martine Jones shared her thoughts on the opioid use discussion and acknowledged the receptivity of the YC’s feedback regarding bridging the gap between opioid use and mental health.
- Commissioner Brittianna Robinson reported on the National Center for Youth Law’s five priority areas in their Five-Year Strategic Plan. She reported that the Commission’s work related to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) will be featured in three of the five priority areas.

- **Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. reported that the International Youth Conference (IYC) extended to 180 countries and 474,000 youth participants. He informed that the IYC expressed their enthusiasm in continuing their partnership with the YC.**
- **Commissioner Joshua Elizondo provided an update on the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) and reported that they approved their strategic plan for the next three years and he will co-chair the youth engagement work group.**
- **Commissioner LaToya Cooper reported on her participation in the Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee's Listening Session. She reported that Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell was in attendance and connected with attendees and provided concrete responses to questions posed. She also attended an event hosted by the California Youth Connection (CYC) in partnership with the Foster Youth Museum. Commissioner Clarissa Peña added that the Foster Youth Museum is a traveling museum.**
- **Commissioner Sherrie Bradford reported that Third District Commissioners are starting to plan their listening session, flyers will be distributed later.**

III. DISCUSSION

7. **Follow-up Roundtable Discussion with the Department of Children and Family Services on the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative, Housing Choice Vouchers. (24-2423)**

Tiara Summers, Executive Director, Youth Commission (YC), opened the floor to discussion and requested that the Department of Children and Family Service (DCFS) representatives provide insight on the information on the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Voucher Fact Sheet (VFS).

Robert Castaneda, DCFS, provided a high-level overview of the information obtained in the VFS.

A discussion ensued regarding the VFS, the application process, eligibility requirements, with Commissioners' feedback and recommendations.

In response to questions posed by the Commissioners, Mr. Castaneda clarified the following:

- **Eligibility is based on HUD criteria.**
- **Eligibility requirements include: 1) The young person must be between the ages of 18 and 24; 2) The youth has not reached their 25th birthday; 3) The Youth must have left foster care or will be leaving within 90 days; and 4) The youth be homeless or at risk of homelessness at 16 years of age or older.**

- Young adults may be in care, out of care, or reentering care, so long as they are within the qualified ages.
- Applications may come from varying organizations, or directly from the applicant themselves. DCFS will then contact the applicant to schedule an interview.
- The VFS is designed for young people.
- Questions may be directed to the email noted on the fact sheet, and a DCFS representative will respond accordingly.

Member of the public, Kate, CYC, addressed the Commission.

IV. UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS

8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (24-1918)

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) Frequently Asked Questions; and 3) General Information on how to apply. Final drafts will be discussed at the next OPS meeting and then presented at the next YC meeting for a vote. He also noted that recruitment for the two at large vacancies will begin soon.

9. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (24-1919)

Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), reported that the Fourth Supervisorial District's Listening Session will be held on July 13th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Houghton Park. Also, the YC's End-Year Event (Event) will take place in October; date and location will be determined. The purpose of the Event is to consolidate data gathered from the listening sessions, and the survey, and report the findings. She indicated that there are more than 500 surveys received to date.

Commissioner Martine Jones proposed additional questions for the survey, and Commissioner La'Toya Cooper requested that they be addressed at the end-of-year retreat.

10. Ad Hoc Committee on DCFS and Probation Report Card update by Committee Chair Amanda Hernandez followed by Ad Hoc Committee recommendation to approve the Evaluation Tool to be completed by the Department of Children and Family Services, Youth Development Services (24-1920)

Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez provided background information regarding

the Ad Hoc Committee (Ad Hoc) Report Card and its original intent. She presented an Evaluation Tool to be completed by the DCFS, Youth Development Services, regarding their Independent Living Program (ILP).

In response to questions posed by Commissioners, Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez confirmed that the reporting period is from the previous fiscal year. She also confirmed that the vote would be for the current Evaluation Tool that was being presented.

On motion of Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and duly carried, the Evaluation Tool to be completed by the Department of Children and Family Services, Youth Development Services, was 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 Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Myriah Smiley and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Cristopher Espino and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

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. (24-1921)

Members of the public, Lisa Guo and Kate, CYC, 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. (24-1922)
- Co-Chair Hernandez requested a follow up discussion with DCFS regarding the FYI vouchers and a fact sheet that can be presented to youth.**
 - Commissioner Bradford requested that the panelists and headliners for the Third Supervisorial District's Listening Session be showcased at a future meeting.**
 - Commissioner Elizondo requested a follow up discussion with DMH once they have concluded their presentations at the listening sessions.**

- **Commissioner Clarissa Peña requested the exploration of services being offered to foster youth in higher education. Commissioner Martine Jones informed that the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) has a map which lists colleges and their respective programs**

13. Adjournment. (24-1923)

The next Youth Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Martine Jones, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.