



**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, JULY 11, 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 encouraged people to apply for the At-Large Commissioner position and conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Vice Chair Dolores Canales, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: Commissioner Franky Carrillo and Commissioner Diane Terry

2. Approval of the June 13, 2024 regular meeting and June 27, 2024 special meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Canales, Carrillo, and Terry being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the June 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes and the June 27, 2024 special meeting minutes:

Ayes: 4 – Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Abstain: 1 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson

Absent: 3 – Vice Chair Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Diane Terry

Agenda item 4 was discussed next.

Attachments: [Approved June 13, 2024 Minutes](#)
[Approved June 27, 2024 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Recap of Chief Guillermo Viera Rosa's [05/14/24 presentation to the Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#) on the status of adopting a Global Plan for the Probation Department's facilities.
 - Guillermo Viera-Rosa, Chief, Los Angeles County Probation Department

This agenda item was discussed after agenda item 5.

Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, joined the panel in Chief Viera Rosa's absence. Chief Deputy Epps explained that the Chief had been called into a meeting and may be in route to the POC meeting if his meeting concludes in time.

Chief Deputy Epps began the presentation and videos were shown with clips of Chief Viera Rosa's presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the Probation Department reaching a place where what is documented on paper will be addressed, brought into compliance, and remain compliant. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that programming is out of compliance, but the Department is continuing to work towards meeting the CAP and minimum BSCC standards.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the adequacy of the programming that are on the calendar for the facilities. Chief Deputy Epps stated that the Probation Department will look into this, invite the POC to attend, and report back to the POC.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the LP Advisory Group, Chief Deputy Epps explained that there is a temporary departmental order (sunset between 12-18 months) that outlines the requirements and criterion of the advisory group.

Chair Mundo inquired whether there is a process in place for the advisory group requirements, meeting frequency, etc. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that there is written documentation (bylaws, etc.) and a sunrise temporary order, which Chief Deputy Epps will forward to the POC.

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

Commissioner Lewis read the section on forward thinking journals from the Developmental Stage System (DSS) Manual and LA Model and shared his sentiments for increasing staffing at LPJH so at a minimum, the youth can participate in the daily interactive journaling.

Commissioner Canales inquired about the programming schedule including who confirms the schedule for the programs and adds the programs to the schedule, and who is verifying that the scheduled programs are happening.

Commissioner Meredith shared his sentiments that Probation's issues are an accumulation of issues from previous administrations.

Commissioner Kakani requested clarification on the "Road to 60-days staffing strategy". Chief Deputy Epps explained that field staff are continuously being deployed for 60-day increments. Commissioner Kakani requested a breakdown of the SEO staff who are being deployed including their assignments.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the Probation Department's plan to eliminate the use of OC Spray, Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that there is a plan to reduce OC Spray usage, which can be reported back to the POC by the end of September.

Chair Mundo inquired about reasons supervisors were not deployed and if Probation staff were ordered not to speak at the POC meetings. Chief Deputy Epps clarified that supervisors were not deployed because they could backfill if Probation Officers were absent and Probation staff were discouraged from sharing inaccurate information about the Department's operations.

Chief Viera Rosa joined the meeting at 11:18 a.m. and gave further highlights from the attached presentation.

Chair Mundo inquired about the educational requirements for GSNs and DSOs. Chief Viera Rosa assured that there will be opportunities for staff to voluntarily participate in a department-sponsored transition program to a bachelor's degree to meet the educational requirements of new position.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the investment required to elevate staff, timeline for implementing the multi-departmental team approach, and more information about the origins of the new behavioral model. Chief Viera Rosa stated that the new Probation positions are being created in a tiered way and are within the existing budget of the department. He shared that many components of composing the multi-departmental team are underway, but he would publish a two-year strategic plan that will outline the projected outcomes of the team within the next three months.

In response to Commissioner Jackson and Kakani's inquiries about the differences between the LA Model and the new behavioral model, Chief Viera Rosa confirmed that it is complimentary to the LA Model but he was not able to provide the clinical description or further details.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the start/stop dates for the 30-day and 60-day turnaround times for achieving outcomes, Chief Viera Rosa mentioned that the BSCC items are already complete and the model-related items are plans for what's to come.

Commissioner Jackson requested clarity on the Behavior Management Plan (BMP) reward programs. Chief Deputy Epps explained that under the BMP, merit ladders are used to incentivize youth to reach certain milestones in their behavior and that at LPJH it's called the BMP and at BJJ SYTF it's called DSS.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry regarding BSCC compliance, Chief Deputy Epps explained the plan that was followed to come into compliance with the BSCC, which was the plan presented to the Board in May 2024.

Commissioner Meredith left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Canales inquired about a memorandum or email that was shared with Probation Directors that some interpreted as not allowing them to speak publicly. Chief Deputy Epps explained the contents of the email that was sent on Friday, May 10, 2024, which will be shared with the POC after the meeting.

In response to Chair Mundo’s inquiry about debriefing after facility visits, Chief Viera Rosa confirmed that there will be a watch commander at each facility to debrief with.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about how the advisory councils coincide with the POC. Chief Deputy Epps shared that there are instances where the council will be reporting back to the POC and attending meetings. She concluded with sharing the background requirements for members of the advisory council.

Agenda item 6 was discussed next.

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

4. Discussion and possible action on a motion to request the following information from the Los Angeles County Probation Department.
 - Updated snapshot of the juvenile hall population data mirroring the information provided in the July 27, 2023 data for June 27, 2024.

This agenda item was discussed after agenda item 2.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, to request an updated snapshot of the juvenile hall population data mirroring the information provided in the July 27, 2023 data for June 27, 2024.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the POC’s subpoena power to request outstanding information. Executive Director Julien explained that part of the data requests were received, and the Probation Department has been willing to provide the requested information.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about a time limit for the Probation Department to report back to the POC.

Commissioner Kakani made a friendly amendment requiring the department to provide the requested data by August 2, 2024.

One public commenter addressed the POC.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Canales, Carrillo, and Terry being absent), the POC agreed to request the juvenile hall population data with a report back by August 2, 2024:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Samuel Lewis, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: 3 – Vice Chair Dolores Canales, Commissioner Franky Carrillo, and Commissioner Diane Terry

Attachments: Supporting Documents
Public Comment/Correspondence

5. Discussion and possible action on a report from the Los Angeles Probation Department on its progress with ensuring that all facilities that hold incarcerated youth are compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards and training.
 - Nathan Martinez, Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Probation Director Martinez gave a presentation on the Probation Department's PREA compliance, which has been attached to the agenda.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about what happens once PREA reports are reviewed and if criminal investigations are conducted. Probation Director Martinez explained how PREA allegations are handled using the PREA policy as a guide, but any next investigative steps are determined by the person reviewing the PREA allegation.

In response to Chair Mundo's inquiry, Probation Director Martinez confirmed that the protocols for handling allegations are included in the PREA policy.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the role that PREA and/or Probation's PREA unit play in the training that is provided to the young people after allegations of sexual abuse are made. Probation Director Martinez mentioned that youth are given PREA educational pamphlets during the intake admissions process, they receive a comprehensive PREA training from staff during orientation, and PREA posters are posted around the facilities.

Commissioner Canales joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about what happens following notification of an incident with the youth. Probation Director Martinez explained that the Probation Department is expanding the retaliation monitoring program where staff can check in with the youth monthly instead of on a 90-day basis, but there is a heavy reliance on the PREA educational pamphlets and wall posters.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about Probation's investigation process when an incident is reported, Probation Director Martinez highlighted that next steps within the investigative process is determined by the level of allegation being made, which is defined in the PREA directives and policies. Probation Director Martinez emphasized the need to create PREA training so that staff understand the dynamics of the investigative process, the reporting process, and the requirement for investigations.

Commissioner Jackson shared her sentiments on the lack of application and practice of directives and policies within the facilities.

Commissioner Meredith expressed concerns with investigative PREA questions not being asked by trained professionals in sex crimes.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about the youth's counsel (such as defense attorneys, alternate public defender, or public defender) being present when allegations are being made against the youth, Probation Director Martinez clarified no counsel is present depending on the level of the allegation.

Chief Deputy Epps clarified that youth have a right to counsel when being questioned about a potential crime and recommended that the Probation Department report back to the POC on this item with responses to all the questions that the Commissioners raised.

Executive Director Julien explained that the POC was instructed to review Probation's PREA report and provide a report back to the Board with comments from today about the PREA process. Executive Director Julien added that the POC can also agendaize this discussion for a future meeting to discuss whether the Probation Department is willing to make any changes to the PREA policies.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on the need for better record keeping of the PREA training and certifications, and for there to be PREA investigations done by an independent organization, not the Probation Department.

Probation Director Martinez stated the Department will investigate Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the next steps the Probation Department plans to utilize to strengthen the investigative processes, procedures, and trainings and retroactively investigate activities around prior cases or accusations submitted within a year.

In response to Chair Mundo's inquiry about the unit supervisor performing the initial PREA investigation and their training, Probation Director Martinez confirmed that the unit supervisors perform the initial investigation, but not all supervisors are properly trained to conduct PREA interviews.

Chair Mundo inquired about whether the LGBTQ and grievance policies overlap with PREA policies. Probation Director Martinez stated that the Department tries to develop policies that are PREA compliant, and not PREA specific. He added that youth are reminded of the grievance policy during their comprehensive PREA training during orientation.

Two public commenters addressed the POC.

In response to Commissioner Lewis' inquiry about parents/guardians, DCFS, and the courts being notified, Probation Director Martinez confirmed that the PREA policy mandates that these individuals are notified when an incident occurs.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about what happens after the 180 days. Probation Director Martinez explained that if an audit returns incompliance results, then the auditor must reassess and identify the subsections that are out of compliance.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about real time data being omitted from the attached presentation, Executive Director Julien explained that the attachment includes a combined report back from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Executive Director Julien clarified that the POC will draft a report back to the BOS and agendaize it for the August 8, 2024 regular meeting for approval by the POC.

Agenda item 3 was discussed next.

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)
 [Revised Board Motion](#)
 [Probation's 60-day Report Back](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

6. Discussion and possible action on an update from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission ad hoc committees on community-based organizations (CBOs) and new charges against youth in detention. The ad hoc CBO subcommittee is addressing the Department's relationships with CBOs including issues related to contracting, scheduling, and clearances. The ad hoc subcommittee on new charges is planning to meet one final time to review the Probation Department's new policy on when criminal charges can be brought against youth in detention.

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

Executive Director Julien shared that the Probation Department will send the POC the final New Charges policy for review before publishing.

Commissioner Lewis encouraged Chief Viera Rosa to consider compromising on some of the clearance items listed on the attached supporting document. Chief Viera Rosa mentioned that he will consider what he hears from everyone if the clearance list is revised.

David Carroll, Executive Director of the Department of Youth Development (DYD), highlighted that the clearance list is evolving because most of the requirements were originally derived from the criteria for probation officers. Therefore, DYD is creating an appeals process where DYD can address vague areas on the background check form.

Commissioner Canales emphasized that a big part of recovery becomes giving back to the community that people were once a part, which instills hope in others.

Chair Mundo inquired about whether the clearance process is the same for those with/without a past record. Chief Viera Rosa mentioned that there may be a delay in receiving the record, but there was miscommunication due to the policy that was in place not being followed, but now there is an enforceable policy in place.

Twenty-Five (25) public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Lewis shared his sentiments on the benefits of having access to mentors such as Credible Messengers.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the academic research that was done before creating the clearance list, the length and communication of processing clearance applications, and whether the background process for clearance is unified for staff, county departments, and community-based organizations (CBOs). Chief Viera Rosa mentioned that other clearance processes were observed outside of California, but the Probation Department will have a more transparent system, where the applicant will not have to guess if they are cleared or not and will now include a 30-day response time.

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

7. Discussion and possible action on a report from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission 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

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

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

III. **REPORTS**

8. Report from the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission Executive Director. Topics for presentation include Campus Kilpatrick Inspection Report, preparation of Three-Year report and request for public input, future meeting agenda regarding Probation's progress on compliance with multiple Board motions.
 - Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

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

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[Campus Kilpatrick Inspection Report](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. **MISCELLANEOUS**

MATTERS NOT POSTED

9. 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.

By Common Consent, there being no objections, this agenda item was tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10. 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.

By Common Consent, there being no objections, this agenda item was tabled.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of July 11, 2024.

The meeting ended at 1:34 p.m.