

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE July 10, 2024 MEETING

510 South Vermont Avenue
9th Floor – Conference Room C
Los Angeles, CA 90020

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chair Pro Tem: Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender

*Frank Adams for Guillermo Viera Rosa, County Chief Probation Officer
Darren Arakawa, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association
Darren Arakawa for Cosme Lozano, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association
Mirian Avalos for Michael Owh, Director, County Internal Services Department
Jeffrey Cohen-Laurie for Ricardo Ocampo, Supervising Judge, Criminal Division,
Superior Court; Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Superior Court; Judge
Kevin Rosenberg, Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court;
Judge Yvette Verastegui, Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior
Court

Beatriz Dieringer, California League of Cities

Holly Francisco for Robert Luna, Sheriff

*Adrian Franco for Akil Davis, Director in Charge, Los Angeles Division, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender

James Garrison for George Gascón, District Attorney

Alan Hamilton for Dominic Choi, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

Jennifer Hunt, Director, Office of Diversion and Reentry

*Khalil Rasheed for Haydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney

Edward McIntyre for William Parent, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Emilio Mendoza for Brandon Nichols, Director, County Department of Children and Family
Services

Irene Pelayo for Kelly LoBianco, Director, County Department of Economic Opportunity

*Karen Streich for Lisa Wong, Director, County Department of Mental Health

Susan Sullivan Pithey for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General

Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Commission on Human Relations

Odey Ukpo, County Chief Medical Examiner

Andrea Welsing for Barbara Ferrer, Director, County Department of Public Health

Doug Young for Chris Margaris, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol

Norayr Zurabyan for Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel

*Not a designated alternate

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender, Chair Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. by Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender, Chair Pro Tem.

Ms. Anzoategui read the Land Acknowledgment for the County of Los Angeles, which can be found at the following link:

<https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/>

Self-introductions of members and alternates followed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender, Chair Pro Tem

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting. Bea Dieringer of the California League of Cities made a motion to approve the minutes. This motion was seconded by Susan Sullivan Pithey, designated alternate for the California Attorney General.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting was approved without objection.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mark Delgado, Executive Director, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

IV. COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (CSEC)

Emilio Mendoza, Assistant Regional Administrator, Department of Children and Family Services

Adela Estrada, DREAM Program Administrator, Department of Children and Family Services

Joan Pera, Director, Probation Department

Emilio Mendoza, Assistant Regional Administrator of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), began the presentation. He introduced co-presenters, Adela Estrada, DREAM Program Administrator with DCFS, and Joan Pera, Director with the Child Trafficking Unit of the Probation Department.

Mr. Mendoza reviewed the history of local efforts to address commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and to coordinate among different departments/agencies.

Two legislative mandates that had a significant impact on treating victims of CSEC were

Senate Bill (SB) 855 and SB 794.

The CSEC program was established as an opt in program across California by SB 855 in 2014. The program includes an interagency protocol and multi-disciplinary team approach. Funding was provided for prevention and intervention training, and direct support of the youth.

The passage of SB 794 in 2015 required those in child welfare to be trained to identify and document youth at-risk or victims of CSE and provide services. In addition, they must report CSE as child abuse and report to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Further, they must expeditiously locate any child who receives child welfare services and is missing.

Additional important legislation that was passed in 2016 is SB 1322, which eliminated the crime of prostitution for minors.

Ms. Estrada noted that the past ten years has seen an overall increase in the number of referrals of children through the child protection hotline.

The majority that are referred to DCFS are between 15 and 17 years old, but about 18% are children between the agencies of 9 and 13. The majority of referrals are female and African American or Latinx. However, the number of male victims being identified has increased from about 5% to 10%.

Ms. Estrada provided additional information about the Dedicated to Restoration through Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentoring (DREAM) program that helps to build a sense of community and support among the youth in their care.

She also discussed the Los Angeles County Child Trafficking Steering Committee, which offers a multi-disciplinary approach to supporting youth that have been impacted by commercial exploitation.

One of the program's initiatives is the First Responders' Protocol (FRP), which began in 2014. Mr. Mendoza discussed the expansion of this program among participating law enforcement agencies and the ways in which DCFS and law enforcement have coordinated to intervene and provide expedited action in responding to child abuse.

Ms. Pera discussed changes in the juvenile justice system resulting from the noted legislation. She noted that all youth that are brought into the juvenile halls through intake are assessed with a CSEC tool.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Sheriff's Department and LAPD is in place to locate and recover any child that is missing from either Probation or child welfare.

Restoration funds provided through legislation can assist the youth and their families with resources. Each child also is provided with an advocate if desired.

Dedicated CSEC Courts are located in Long Beach for Probation and Monterey Park for child welfare.

Ms. Estrada discussed other human trafficking (HT) county-funded initiatives. These include Safe Youth Zone, HT Awareness Campaign (Knowtosayno.com), Child Trafficking Training, and Strategic Planning Consultation.

Ms. Estrada invited government and law enforcement agencies that are interested in creating a safe refuge for youth in crisis to contact her office. As examples, she noted that they have agreements with the Sheriff's Department and Parks and Recreation Department in which youth can go to locations and ask for help.

Additional resources can be located on the DCFS website at:

<https://dcfs.lacounty.gov/youth/sexual-exploitation/csec-resources>

PowerPoint slides that were used in this presentation are available online at <https://ccjcc.lacounty.gov/meetings> under Documents.

ACTION: For information only.

V. L.A. FOUND

Anna Avdalyan, Assistant Director, Aging and Disabilities Department
David Kochen, Human Services Administrator II, Aging and Disabilities Department

Anna Avdalyan, Assistant Director of the Aging and Disabilities Department, began the presentation on the L.A. Found program. She introduced David Kochen, Human Services Administrator II with the Aging and Disabilities Department, to provide details on the program.

As background, L.A. Found is a multi-agency initiative designed to promote and facilitate necessary action focused on protecting, locating, and identifying persons likely to go missing. This is the sixth year of the program.

There is a focus on building the following: Enhanced coordination; technology solutions; prevention, education, and training; and social engagement.

The conceptual model includes:

- Activities geared to protecting at risk people from having a critical missing incident;
- Locating them when they are missing; and
- Identifying people who are found but whose identity is unknown.

Participants enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a small transmitter on the wrist that emits an individualized frequency signal.

If a Project Lifesaver participant goes missing, the caregiver notifies 911 and the responding law enforcement jurisdiction can request assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team (MET). The MET will then use specialized receivers to search for the participant's individualized radio frequency.

Mr. Kochen discussed how the program is now including the use of more advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) technology through the use of tracking devices manufactured by Theora Care.

The eligibility criteria for this program includes:

- A person living with Alzheimer's, dementia, or autism.
- Prone to wandering behavior
- A resident of Los Angeles County

Participants receive the following:

- Free Project Lifesaver tracking device 1-year kit
- Free replacement batteries, wristbands, and spare parts each year
- Continued support and recommendations to keep their loved ones safe
- Resources

Applications can be submitted online at: <https://lafound.ad.lacounty.gov/>

More information can be obtained by sending an email to lafound@ad.lacounty.gov or by calling the L.A. Found Hotline at 1 (833) 569-7651.

Mr. Kochen discussed the responsibility of authorized agents or caregivers and who can serve as an authorized agent.

L.A. Found participants enrolled in the program are comprised of individuals with various cognitive impairments, including Autism (26%), Dementia (31%), Alzheimer's (29%), other cognitive impairments (9%), and multiple dementia and disability (5%).

There have been 1,501 Project Lifesaver participants and 28 successful rescues. Over 100 community events have been held and the program has received multiple award recognitions. There are currently 951 active participants.

Any agency can refer a caregiver who is interested in applying for a tracking device by sending an email to lafound@ad.lacounty.gov or by going online at:

<https://lafound.ad.lacounty.gov/referral-form>

Mr. Kochen introduced Deputy Dustin Schnakenburg with the Sheriff's Department MET to discuss the law enforcement component of the program. The MET is responsible for locating the participants in the program who go missing.

Deputy Schnakenburg discussed community outreach efforts so that people working in a location where a missing person may go or be brought to, such as in a hospital, are aware of what the tracking device looks like and are aware of how to contact the Sheriff's Department MET.

The L.A. Found Website is located at <https://ad.lacounty.gov/lafound/>

A link to a video on Project Lifesaver can be found at the following link:

https://lacountymediahost.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?clip_id=12050

PowerPoint slides that were used in this presentation are available online at <https://ccjcc.lacounty.gov/meetings> under Documents.

ACTION: For information only.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.