



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, August 29, 2024

6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (24-3721)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (24-3278)

**Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Commissioner Evelyn K. 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 Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

Absent: Commissioner Florencia (Flo) Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

2. Awareness Video - Know to Say No: Teachers, by LA County DCFS. (24-3294)

**The Awareness Video - Know to Say No: Teachers, by Los Angeles County's Department of Children and Families was shown.**

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of July 25, 2024. (24-3287)

**On motion of Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Christopher Espino, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of July 25, 2024 were approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 8 - Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Co-Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel and Commissioner Martine Jones

**Abstentions:** 3 - Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Myriah Smiley

**Absent:** 4 - Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

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

## **II. REPORTS**

4. Leadership Report.

- "I See You" Shout Out (24-3288)

Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez provided the following Leadership Report:

- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) passed a motion by Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell at their meeting held August 6, 2024 titled, "Expanding Breathe: LA County's Guaranteed Income Program to Foster Youth". This action expands the Breathe Program to an additional 2,000 foster.
- The Los Angeles County Youth Commission (YC) has been named in two Board motions:
  - The first Board motion sponsored by Supervisors Solis and Hahn titled, "Setting Youth Up for Success: Adulthood, Money Management, Personal Rights, and Education. Tiara Summers, Executive Director, YC, met with the Ombuds Office and the LGBTQ+ Commission for a preliminary discussion followed by a roundtable discussion with three YC Commissioners to discuss the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR) training.
  - The second Board motion was sponsored by Supervisors Horvath and Hahn titled, "Establishing New Reporting and Accountability Structure for the Child Trafficking Strategic Plan (Plan). Executive Director Summers, met with a consultant in a preliminary discussion regarding the Strategic Plan, followed by a meeting with the Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTL Team). Commissioner Robinson will represent the YC on the CTL Team.

- **Commissioners were reminded to complete mandatory assigned trainings; Cybersecurity Awareness Curriculum 2024 and Your role as a Disaster Service Worker (DSW). Assistance accessing the trainings can be obtained by staff.**

**Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, representing the Second Supervisorial District, provided the "I See You" Shout Out for the month of August, recognizing Yerimar Rodriguez. She spoke about Ms. Rodriguez' phenomenal leadership in the community and highlighted her efforts in empowering young adults.**

**Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez reminded the Commission that the next Shout Out presentations are scheduled as follows: District 4, September; District 1, October; and District 3, November.**

5. **Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (24-3289)**
  - **Commissioner Myriah Smiley reported that she attended the Miss Compton Pageant on August 17, 2024. The Pageant provides a platform for youth to showcase their community in a positive light and to open up many other opportunities for inner city youth.**
  - **Commissioner Joshua Elizondo provided an update on the Education Coordinating Council's (ECC) quarterly meeting. The ECC December meeting will be cancelled. A youth summit or possibly a listening session is in the works.**
  - **Commissioner Clarissa Peña reported on her attendance to the Board meeting to support the extension of the Breathe Program.**
  - **Commissioner Brittianna Robinson reported on the Courts to College Program that offers comprehensive, high quality, affordable education and career training to youths on Probation. She recently had the opportunity to engage with the facilitators and requested feedback on the Youth Commission Survey.**

### **III. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

6. **Presentation by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH), followed by a discussion on prevention and services for Transitional Age Youth (TAY).  
Dr. Erica Reynoso, Ph.D., LCSW, DMH Prevention and Child Wellbeing Bureau  
Carol Sagusti, LCSW, DMH Outpatient Care Services Division/TAY Navigation Team (24-3295)**

**Dr. Erica Reynoso, PH.D., LCSW, Department of Mental Health (DMH) Prevention and Child Wellbeing Bureau, provided a presentation on prevention and services for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) between the ages of 16 and 25. She highlighted the following:**

- **TAY & Priority Populations**
- **Overview on LAC Data, Initiatives and Reports**
- **DMH Mental Health Resources – School Based Community Website & Resources**
- **Provider Directory**

**Carol Sagusti, LCSW, DMH Outpatient Care Services Division/TAY Navigation Team, presented on the TAY Navigation Team and highlighted the following:**

- **Who We Are**
- **TAY Gatekeeper Services and Contact information 213.738.61974 or [TAYNavigation@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:TAYNavigation@dmh.lacounty.gov)**
- **Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EESP) Information**
- **Eligible TAY & Referring to EESP**
- **TAY Drop-In Centers & Services**
- **TAY Team Contact Info**

**In response to questions posed by the Commission, Dr. Reynoso and Ms. Sagusti responded as follows:**

- **DMH partners with the City's Workforce Center in Service Provider Area (SPA) 6 through the Watts Labor Community Action Committee. DMH has also engages with the Department of Economic Opportunities, specifically with the Peer Services Division to establish a streamline method to work with cases, this effort is ongoing.**
- **There is a high tolerance/low demand at the Drop-in Centers, the staff do not ask a lot from the youth that come in and will not approach the youth unless they wish to be.**
- **There are youth who require shelter but do not wish to receive mental health services, the Gatekeeper encourages youth to meet with the team at least once while they are working on housing, or they will refer them to other programs. Each case is considered on an individual basis.**
- **The Drop-in Center in SPA 6 is a pilot program. However, additional locations are being considered in the area. Another resource for TAY is the Wellnest Program, however, it is not contracted through L.A. County. SPA 5**

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(West Los Angeles) has six drop-in locations through Safe Place for Youth that are also not contracted with L.A. County.

- The length of stay in the EESP is contracted for 60 days, however, a youth will not be released until appropriate housing resources have been acquired. Those that require intense mental health services will be referred to a full-service partnership for a more intensive program.
- Commissioner Brittianna Robinson suggested providing the Drop-in Centers with the YC's survey to assist in obtaining data on the needs of TAY. Also, Ms. Sagusti clarified that TAY 18 years of age and over would not be subject to the same mandated reporting requirements as a minor, and their therapists would work with the youth to find a way to maneuver an abusive situation.
- During Mental Health Awareness Month in May, all shelters engage with “expressive” providers to help youth participate in alternative therapies each day of the month. Within the Drop-in Centers there are opportunities to engage in gardening and music. The LGBTQ Center in SPA 4, has artists visiting on a regular basis including those from recording studios.
- Each shelter has their own Code of Conduct and rules. There are no punitive mandated policies. However, some shelters are stricter than others.
- The number of beds contracted with DMH are approximately 14 to 20 beds, the total for the eight SPAs is 110. Also, there is not a set ratio for staff-to-youth. Each shelter has their own requirement, however, at least two staff are required onsite, at all times.
- The definition of a major mental illness episode would be translated as the first psychotic episode, such as depression or bipolar. Also, the Navigation Team does conduct family counseling when needed as long as a release form is provided to contact the family. Also, families can be linked to Community based organizations for intervention.
- DMH works closely with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in the placement of youth.

At the conclusion, DMH agreed to connect with the YC to determine ways in which the YC can be of assistance to the various TAY programs.

**Attachments:**    [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DMH PPT](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - EESP FLYER](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - TAY FLYER](#)  
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - RESOURCE FLYER](#)

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**IV. UPDATES AND ACTION ITEMS**

7. Operations Committee (OPS) update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (24-3290)

**Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair of the Operations Committee provided the following report:**

- **At the August 19, 2024 Operations meeting, the Committee members reviewed scripts for two videos: "Frequently Asked Questions" and "How to Apply." Still outstanding is the review of the video script for "Who We Are." All three videos will be completed and reviewed at the next Committee meeting and submitted for final approval by the full Commission at the September 26, 2024 meeting.**
- **The ability to apply for a vacated position will be opened on September 6, 2024. The application period may be revised to obtain an appropriate group of applicants. Candidates for consideration will be presented to the full Commission either by the October meeting or at the Retreat in October.**

8. Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper. (24-3291)

**Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee, reported that the End Year Event will be held on October 26, 2024 at the Department of Mental Health's location on Vermont Avenue, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Board of Supervisors and their Deputies will be invited, and data from surveys obtained from all Listening Sessions will be shared. One Commissioner from each District will be asked to present on their respective Listening Session outcomes.**

**Commissioner Joshua Elizondo added that the next Listening Session for the Third Supervisorial District will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Valley College. The event will showcase various talents, a film, and open mic as well as a panel discussion; 40 RSVPs have been received to date.**

**Member of the public, Paulette, Executive Director of Stopping Pressure on Teams, addressed the Commission.**

**V. MISCELLANEOUS**

9. 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. (24-2745)
10. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (24-3292)

**The following items were requested to be considered and placed on a future agenda:**

- **Department of Youth Development to discuss Youth Justice Reimagined along with their involvement with the Summer Bridge Campaign.**
  - **LA County Department of Health Services Office of Diversion and Reentry to discuss the Court-to-College Program.**
  - **Department of Mental Health to discuss their 130 Program.**
11. Adjournment. (24-3293)

**On motion of Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**