



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, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 9:17 a.m. Wende Julien, Executive Director conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Diane Terry, Vice Chair Dolores Canales, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: Commissioner Milinda Kakani

2. Approval of the August 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Kakani being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the August 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Secretary Diane Terry, Vice Chair Dolores Canales, and Chair Eduardo Mundo

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Milinda Kakani

Attachments: [Approved August 8, 2024 Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. Discuss and take possible action on an update on progress the Los Angeles County Probation Department has made towards reaching compliance with the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Discussion will include:

- i. Recent BSCC findings of noncompliance regarding staffing and approval of Corrective Action Plan (CAP) regarding Program Calendars at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH).
 - ii. Report on “spot checks” at Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility.
- Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Chief Deputy Epps delivered a presentation on the areas of noncompliance for LPHJ and Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Facility (BJN SYTF).

Commissioner Meredith inquired about lateral transfers for line level staff. Chief Deputy Epps stated that the Probation Department is developing their own talent by creating succession plans and cross training staff.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the resources and measures in place to improve the working conditions within the Department. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that the Department has rolled out a Proactive Supervision Program, which will be redacted and provided to the POC. Chief Deputy Epps also shared information about the Comprehensive Violence Reduction Program where a workgroup of consultants with representation from all partners, work directly with the staff and youth.

In response to Commissioner Canales’ inquiry about line staff being included in the vision for the CAP, Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that supervisors and directors were held responsible for relaying messages about the CAP between management and line staff.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the benchmarks set for proactive supervision and comprehensive violence reduction strategy. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that progress will be measured based on the number of physical altercations, presence of graffiti, frequency of use of force incidents, and a safety survey.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about how management collects feedback from the line staff. Chief Deputy Epps stated that with proactive supervision there is more listening, briefing amongst supervisors and directors (shift change), and staff collaborating with support teams, LACOE, DMH, and health services.

Chief Deputy Epps proceeded with the CAP presentation, which is attached to the agenda, and announced that the CAP is due to the BSCC on October 11, 2024.

Commissioners Meredith and Canales shared their sentiments for the Proactive Supervision Program.

Commissioner Jackson recommended that the Probation Department consider youth empowerment opportunities such as encouraging youth to facilitate the youth programs.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

Chief Deputy Epps responded to various questions around training, reducing the detention population, and added that Probation’s detention reduction program should be agendaized for the next POC meeting.

Chair Mundo shared the July 31, 2024 Snapshot data, which has been attached under agenda item 6.

Attachments: [Supporting Documents](#)
[BSCC’s CAP Approval & IIR for LPJH](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

4. Discuss and take possible action including a formal request for information regarding reports from the Probation Oversight Commission's Ad Hoc Committees.
 - Commissioner Recruitment – Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director
 - New Crime Filings – Eduardo Mundo, POC Chairperson
 - i. Update on Probation's proposed policy, POC recommendations, and timeline
 - ii. Request for data regarding a list of new charges filed since their last report broken down by month, facility, charge, and age
 - CBO Relationships – Diane Terry, POC Secretary

Executive Director Julien shared that the POC has entered the interview phase for the vacant "at-large" Commissioner position, and the applications for the top candidates will be shared with the full POC body.

Commissioner Meredith shared his sentiments about the POC's previous commissioner recruitment process.

Chair Mundo reported that the New Crime Filings ad hoc will be reviewing the updated draft of the New Crimes Filings policy, will meet with Chief Deputy Epps again to discuss comments and concerns before formalizing the policy.

Commissioner Terry shared the themes that arose from the CBO town hall. The CBO ad hoc committee will submit a formal comprehensive report back.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the differences in treatment at each facility and the need to standardize the process, Chief Deputy Epps emphasized that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect.

Chief Deputy Epps encouraged staff and visitors to file a [Citizen's Complaint](#) with Probation's Ombudsman Office if they are experiencing wrongdoings or unfair treatment by staff of the Probation Department.

Four public commenters addressed the POC.

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

5. Discuss and take possible action including a formal request for information on a report from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on use of force incidents with a focus on LPJH.
 - Eric Raley, Senior Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Senior Probation Director Raley summarized the attached document and reported that the Probation Department is waiting for a response from the BSCC regarding the spot checks at BBN SYTF.

Executive Director Julien asked for clarification on the graph for BBN SYTF. Senior Probation Director Raley confirmed that the last bar graph is for the total number (228) of incidents, not a spike in incidents.

Commissioner Meredith requested clarification on the differences between physical intervention incidents and use of force incidents. Chief Deputy Epps stated that use of force categories range from how staff intervene during a fight up to the deployment of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, and physical intervention is pulling kids apart which may involve a firm grip or bump, and all are categorized using the POST Standards.

Commissioner Jackson shared her sentiments about a recent visit to BJJ SYTF and inquired about the policies and practices that are in place for de-escalating matters before physical intervention is required. Chief Deputy Epps mentioned that crisis intervention teams are in place to intervene when a youth is out of control.

In response to Commissioner Terry's inquiry about what those crisis intervention teams look like and the ability to have gang intervention teams join some of Probation's crisis intervention teams, Chief Deputy Epps emphasized that the goal is to have a licensed therapist on each of the floors/units, Credible Messengers, social workers, and community health workers that work with the youth be part of those crisis intervention teams.

Commissioner Terry inquired about the contextual factors that contribute to using force. Senior Probation Director Raley explained that several factors such as youth using illegal substances and those substances being intercepted or activity in the community. He mentioned that the Department wants to look into the data to determine what is causing these increases in violence/incidents.

Chair Mundo inquired about whether the data included attacks on officers. Chief Deputy Epps highlighted the new use of force submission process which requires all use of force or physical intervention packets to be completed by the end of the shift and submitted (with designated time to complete it), then go to the Internal Affairs (IA) table for immediate review.

In response to Chair Mundo's inquiry about the number of uses of force incidents that led to new crime filings, Senior Probation Director Raley reported that there were 0 at BJJ SYTF, and Chief Deputy Epps reported 3 new filing cases since the last report (1 new juvenile case for violation of probation and the other 2 cases filed in adult court).

Commissioner Meredith inquired about new crime filings against and consequences for youth who assault officers. Chief Deputy Epps confirmed that new crime charges are filed when situations allow, but that sometimes the new charge undermines the controlling charge the youth is held on, or the elements necessary to file a new charge do not exist. The Department needs to clarify to staff that there are consequences for all levels of use of force incidents.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the timeline for implementing the crisis intervention teams so there is a sense of security at the facilities, Chief Deputy Epps reported that the Department plans to identify partners, in person and virtual training opportunities, and properly roll out the crisis intervention teams by June 2025.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

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

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

6. Discuss and take possible action on presentation from the Los Angeles County Probation Department on data related to intake trends, specifically how many intakes occurred between January 1, 2024 and June 30, 2024, how many of those are 707(b)s, and how many resulted in a detention recommendation from Probation.
 - Julia Vest, Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Probation Director Vest gave a presentation, attached.

Probation Director Vest clarified Commissioner Terry's inquiry about the evidenced-based assessment tool, which is called the detention risk assessment instrument (DRAI).

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about the total number of detained youth and the number of the youth with 707(b) offenses, Probation Director Vest stated that some of the youth who are detained do not have 707(b) offenses.

Probation Director Vest broke down Chair Mundo's inquiry about the 29 females by explaining that the Department recommended 16 females to detention, 3 females were released prior to court, and 10 females were recommended to a community detention program (CDP).

In response to Chair Mundo's inquiry about who is in the DRAI group, Probation Director Vest mentioned that the recommendation was originally outlined in the DOJ Settlement Agreement group because LADS is for case management, not an evidenced-based tool that assess whether the youth should be detained or safely released into the community.

Chair Mundo shared his sentiments about Probation staff reporting PREA incidents.

In response to Commissioner Jackson's inquiry about suitability assessments, Chief Deputy Epps emphasized that the detention reduction plan includes increasing the use of CDP.

Three public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Canales inquired about the name of the consultant for Proactive Supervision. Chief Deputy Epps shared that Probation Officer Todd Holmes is an expert in proactive supervision who has expertise in the intake, report writing, court officers, and decision-making continuums to make independent recommendations for the Proactive Supervision program.

Executive Director Julien highlighted that the POC has requested intake data from Probation over two years ago and is encouraged by the Department's fulfillment of the data request.

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

III. REPORTS

7. Report from the August 20th Probation Oversight Commission's Leadership Retreat where the leadership team discussed how Probation data and information is shared with the POC, and outlined strategies for updating the existing data-sharing agreement (MOU) to broaden and diversify the various datasets the POC receives from the Probation Department.
 - Eduardo Mundo, Chair, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Chair Mundo reported that the Probation Department has been very responsive under this new administration to the POC's data requests. Chair Mundo added that the POC will be revising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so the POC can effectively measure progress, identify trends, and make meaningful assessments of programs, policies, and outcomes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

8. 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.

(Not on agenda)

The following topics were proposed to be agendized at a future POC meeting:

- **Presentation from Probation's Emergency Response Team on what their role is, what they're doing and how, and what the plans of action are if an evacuation is required.**
- **Discuss updates related to sexual assault lawsuits against the Probation Department.**
- **Implementation of a Juvenile Court Watch Program where people (including Commissioners and District Supervisors) can attend court for 707(b) offenses.**
- **Presentation on an analysis of Probation's budget.**
- **Presentation and explanation about staffing data including Sedgwick, administrative leaves, and call outs.**
- **Possible creation of an ad hoc committee on hugging.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

9. 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.

Four public commenters addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

V. ADJOURNMENT

11. Adjournment for the regular meeting of September 12, 2024.

On motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Canales, unanimously carried (Commissioner Kakani being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.