



**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, February 27, 2025

6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (25-1392)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (25-0986)

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Commissioner Clarissa Peña read the County's Land Acknowledgement.

Present: Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Flo Valenzuela

Absent: Commissioner Jessica Castillo

2. Awareness Videos:
 - Unseen: The Boy Victims of the Sex Trade by GBH News
 - Black Deaf Community by Ray Walker on IG @theraywalker
 - Grand Midwives by Joel Bervell on IG @joelbervell
 - This is Black History Too by the Illustrious Blacks on IG @theillustriousblacks (25-0992)

The following Awareness Videos were shown:

- **Unseen: The Boy Victims of the Sex Trade by GBH News**
- **Black Deaf Community by Ray Walker on IG@theraywalker**
- **Grand Midwives by Joel Bervell on IG @joelbervell**
- **This is Black History Too by the Illustrious Blacks on IG**

Attachments: [Video by GBH News](#)
 [Video by Ray Walker](#)
 [Video by Joel Bervell](#)
 [Video by The Illustrious Blacks](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of January 30, 2025. (25-1004)

On motion of Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of January 30, 2025 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Abstentions: 3 - Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo and Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Leadership Report. (25-1008)

Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson reported the following:

- **Commended former Youth Commission (YC) Co-Chairs, Amanda Hernandez and Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., and welcomed new Commissioners, Mercedes Jackson and Jessica Castillo.**
- **The Department of Mental Health, Division of Parenting and Empowerment Program and Prevention Services will present in March, and in April by Dr. Reynoso will present regarding the Office of Safety.**
- **Committee Chair nominations for the Operations Committee and the Youth Engagement Committee must be emailed to Executive Director Summers by March 5, 2025.**

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5. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (25-1009)

The following activities and events were reported:

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez reported that she participated as a panelist at an event sponsored by CalMatters. The event was held at the Japanese Heritage Museum, and she spoke about youth ages 16 to 24 and how to better connect them to opportunities and mentorship programs.

Commissioner Christian Gudiel, along with Executive Director Tiara Summers, have joined the Systems Review Leadership Team (SRL Team) formed by the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice. The purpose is to conduct a systems wide assessment of the Juvenile Justice System and improve outcomes for youth. The SRL Team has been invited to a two and a half day national symposium in San Diego called Transformation of Youth Justice. The YC has also been extended an invitation to the symposium.

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo presented two keynote speeches in SPA 4 (Hollywood and Greater Los Angeles Area), for the Department of Public Health Event with Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Topics included the intersectionality between public health and foster youth. Co-Chair Elizondo also represents the YC on the Education Coordinating Council where the strategic plan and future listening sessions were discussed.

III. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

6. Presentation and Roundtable discussion on the Los Angeles County Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent and Address Child Trafficking (Strategic Plan) to explore relevant collaboration opportunities. (25-1018)

Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson opened discussion on this item. She provided background on the work that has been done by the YC on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) thus far. She spoke about the National Center for Youth Law and the strategic plan currently being drafted. She also discussed the various listening sessions conducted between January and October, with the participation of over 80 youth and family members.

There are various County Departments represented on the Child Trafficking Leadership Team (CTLT) and YC is a member of the Community Resources and Services Subcommittee. She then discussed the various efforts that include human and labor trafficking, and the January 2025, CSEC Empowerment Event. She encouraged the continuance of showing the CSEC videos at the beginning of each YC meeting.

Discussion ensued and the following suggestions were made:

- **Prioritize an environment where current events within the CSEC community can be reported and addressed, and where resource referrals can be provided to youth on an ongoing basis.**
- **Initiate a campaign at schools to target younger youth with information and resources.**
- **Be cautious of the mental health implications by discussing CSEC at the Listening Sessions so that it does not create unintended trauma.**
- **Mainly focus on issues that are specific to District Listening Sessions. Perhaps have a table for CSEC information and resources in order to create a place of safety for minors in attendance or at minimum provide a video for the Listening Session with a representative informing on resources.**
- **The information that youth are being exposed to on television and music should be considered, and there should be an infrastructure created to change language to empower youth.**

Co-Chair Robinson listed the six priority areas for the CTLT:

- **Prevention and early education.**
- **Build a broad and inclusive community-based service and support ecosystem.**
- **Fill key services gaps.**
- **Promote youth empowerment, peer mentorship, and lived experience leadership.**
- **Empowering parents and caregivers to support their children.**
- **Assesses and adapt existing collaboration with trauma informed services and systems impacted youth.**

IV. UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATION

- 7. Update on Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (25-1011)**

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported that there will be various opportunities for Commissioners to become involved in the CTLT work. She also stated that through the Prevention & Promotion Services Governing Committee (PPSGC), areas of collaboration regarding the Transitional Aged Youth table is being established. There are also opportunities for Commissioners to participate in the SRL Team regarding evaluating the Juvenile Justice System previously discussed during Agenda Item No. 5.

8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (25-1013)

Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo reported that the Regular Operations Committee Meeting of March 17, 2025, has been rescheduled to a Special Meeting on March 24, 2025. At that meeting an update will be provided on the timeline to fill the three vacancies that will take place in August.

9. Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) update by Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper and Recommendation to Amend and Approve the current YEC survey.

Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper reported that the next Listening Session will be held in the Fifth District at Pasadena City College on Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Listening Session is being promoted as a "healing session." She asked that Commissioners encourage their faith-based organizations to attend.

Commissioner Martine Jones reported that Calibrate would like to participate in the Listening Session because they were involved with Patrick Page, a musician from the band "Internet" who sponsored an event last year called the Healing Toolkit.

It was suggested that if faith-based organizations become involved, they must do so without discrimination.

Committee Chair Cooper opened discussion to consider amending the YC Survey, to remove the question regarding sexual orientation. Max Weltz, Communication Liaison, shared data from the 31 surveys obtain from the Lancaster/Palmdale events.

Josh Boiken, Member of the Public, addressed the Commission.

The meeting recessed for break at 8:09 p.m. The meeting reconvened to open session at 8:11 p.m.

Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson made a motion, seconded by YEC Committee Chair La'Toya Cooper, to amend the YEC survey, to remove the question of sexual orientation from the Listening Session Survey. Said motion failed by the following vote:

Ayes: 2 - Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson and Commissioner La'Toya Cooper

Noes: 9 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Flo Valenzuela

Abstentions: 3 - Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Jessica Castillo

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

10. 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. (25-1015)

Ruby Guillen, Member of the Public, addressed the Commission.

11. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (25-1016)

Commissioner Sherrie Bradford reported that she recently partnered with the UCLA Bruins Guardian Scholars Academy (BGSA) who is preparing for a creative education conference. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, expanded on the event that will be hosted by First Star Education Creation Conference on April 26th, the same day as the YC Fourth District Listening Session. Commissioners were encouraged to attend either one of these events.

Director Summers also spoke about upcoming presentations by DMH scheduled in April and May.

12. Adjournment. (25-1017)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Cristopher Espino, seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.