



**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, April 24, 2025

6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (25-2393)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (25-2092)

**Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.
County Staff conducted Roll Call. Commissioner Christian Gudiel read the
County's Land Acknowledgement.**

Present: Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford,
Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino,
Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian
Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Evelyn
Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper,
Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes
Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and
Commissioner Clarissa Peña

2. Awareness Videos:
 - Special Delivery | Autism Awareness Month by CBC Kids, Youtube
 - #UnderstandMore about how autistic people experience the world by Autistica, Youtube
 - School of Origin Rights by the Office of Child Protection (OCP), Alliance for Children's Rights Education Rights Advocates, Castillo Consulting Partners, and the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors (EOBOS).
Special thanks to Kids in the Spotlight for use of their production studio.(25-2094)

The following videos were shown:

- **Special Delivery | Autism Awareness Month by CBC Kids, Youtube**
- **#UnderstandMore about how autistic people experience the world by Autistica, Youtube**
- **School of Origin Rights by the Office of Child Protection (OCP), Alliance for Children's Rights Education Rights Advocates, Castillo Consulting Partners, and the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors. Special thanks to Kids in the Spotlight for use of their production studio.**

Attachments: [Video by CBC Kids](#)
 [Video by Autistica](#)
 [Video by OCP and EOBOS](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of March 27, 2025. (25-2095)

On motion of Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Cristopher Espino, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of March 27, 2025 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Martine Jones and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 6 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Leadership Report. (25-2096)

Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson requested a moment of silence for Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo who was in surgery. She commended all Commissioners on their work performance in and outside the Youth Commission, as well as the team staff, and congratulated Commissioners Mercedes Jackson and Christian Gudiel for graduating this year. She then encouraged Commissioners to review the Youth Commission Bylaws.

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5. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (25-2097)

Commissioners reported the following activities and events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission:

- **Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez provided a brief report on her work with Youth Justice Reimagined in East Los Angeles.**
- **Commissioner Christian Gudiel expounded on the assessment work being done by the Systems Review Leadership Team (SRL Team) formed by the RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice and spoke briefly about the Hub Court Subcommittee's work.**
- **Commissioner Martine Jones shared information regarding the Youth Empowerment meeting and discussed the Foster Youth Summit.**

III. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

6. Presentation and Roundtable Discussion on the Department of Mental Health (DMH) services in the juvenile facilities and the Juvenile Justice Transitional Outpatient Treatment (JJTOT) services.

Tonya Jewell, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, DMH JJTOT
Karen Streich, Ph. D, Deputy Director, DMH Forensic Psychiatry Division
(25-2098)

Tonya Jewell, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, Department of Mental Health (DMH), Juvenile Justice Transitional Outpatient Treatment (JJTOT) services, and Karen Streich Ph.D., Deputy Director, DMH Forensic Psychiatry Division, provided self-introductions, and presented the following:

- **An overview of the Probation Camps and Juvenile Hall facilities and locations.**
- **How youth access to Mental Health Services is provided.**
- **A list of Juvenile Justice Transitional Outpatient Treatment Services.**
- **Information on the Aftercare Treatment Program.**

The Presenters responded to questions posed by the Commission as follows:

- **All entities caring for clients collaborate, such as DMH, Juvenile Court Health Services, Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Department of Youth Development staff meet on a regular basis to discuss the best needs of the client. There are also group trainings and individual coaching, as well as family therapy sessions.**
- **Discussion ensued regarding administered medications in and out of**

facilities. Electronic records track treatment between doctors.

Approximately 10%, or more, of released youth are still on prescribed medication. Underage foster youth require legal guardian's input regarding medications, and the youth is always encouraged to be part of those conversations. A full interview is conducted with youth and family at intake regarding substance use.

- The resources provided to the families include DMH clinics, NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) Urban L.A., and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). Direction is taken from the family and youth as to what best meets their needs. Injected medication is no longer utilized in Juvenile Halls.
- There are many programs hosted by the Arts Commission within the Juvenile Halls and Camps, as well as the Drumming for Life program, and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), which is especially effective for people who have difficulty managing and regulating their emotions.
- There is a high rate of youth who decline services after leaving the facility. A hinderance may be, being viewed as part of the system and being a collaborator with Probation. Youth are also looking to get their life back after spending a lot of time in a facility. The youth can always come back for services anytime. A survey is being considered to determine if there is specific reason why youth are not seeking help after release.
- JJTOT is part of the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and has been evaluated by the Rand Corporation since 2000 for specific outcomes including recidivism.
- The Credible Messenger Program within Secure Youth Treatment Facilities has been very successful.
- There are specific trainings that occur along with various certifications as it relates to race-based trauma.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. UPDATES

7. Update on Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (25-2099)

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, discussed the TAY (Transition Age Youth) Board motion. The Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee (PPSGC) TAY Table's Kickoff is scheduled for April 30, 2025, with Commissioners Evelyn K. Rodriguez, Amanda Hernandez, and Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., participating as moderators and youth panelists. The TAY Table recently presented before the Child Welfare Board Deputies at their Cluster meeting and received great feedback.

8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (25-2100)

In the absence of Chair Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez reported that applications for Youth Commissioners are scheduled to close on Friday, April 25, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., however, this deadline may be extended. Applicant interviews will commence the first week in June. Commissioner Rodriguez and Chair Elizondo will begin to work on the videos for the recruitment scripts. The May Operations Committee meeting will be cancelled.

9. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair Sherrie Bradford. (25-2101)

Sherrie Bradford, Chair of the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), provided information on the Fourth Supervisorial District's Empowerment Forum, and the Second Supervisorial District's Community Conversation. Commissioners Cristopher Espino and Christian Gudiel added additional information for their respective Districts. She reported on the UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholarship Academy (BGSA) Program and the Creation Education Conference. Commissioners Amanda Hernandez and Jessica Castillo will be serving as moderators and participating in workshops.

The YEC Committee is recommending that six minutes be allocated to videos at each Youth Commission Meeting. The main videos will center on CSEC (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) and Educational Rights, with various other awareness videos added for their specific month, such as Fostercare Awareness month in May. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, commended Commissioners Sherrie Bradford and Cristopher Espino on their selection of Educational Rights videos.

Dan Wheeler, Community Outreach Coordinator, reported that there are approximately 100 surveys received thus far. There are six community events scheduled outside of the Listening Sessions, and he is anticipating additional surveys at the conclusion of the various events.

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. (25-2102)

No members of the public addressed the Youth 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.

Commissioner Sherrie Bradford discussed integrating and partnering with more Faith-based organizations, and discussion ensued.

12. Adjournment. (25-2104)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Cristopher Espino, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.