



**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, May 29, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

Video for the Entire Meeting. (25-3130)

**Attachments:** [Video](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (25-2760)

**Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.  
County Staff conducted Roll Call. Commissioner Clarissa Pena read the  
County's Land Acknowledgement.**

**Present:** Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford,  
Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper,  
Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores  
Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Mercedes  
Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr.,  
Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Evelyn Karina  
Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

**Absent:** Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez  
and Commissioner Martine Jones

2. Awareness Video titled, "School Stability Testimonial" by the Office of Child Protection, 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.

**The Awareness Video titled: "School Stability Testimonial" by the Office of Child Protection, Alliance for Children's Rights Education Rights Advocates, Castillo Consulting Partners, and the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, was shown, with special thanks to Kids in the Spotlight for use of their production studio.**

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Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of April 24, 2025. (25-2762)

**On motion of Commissioner Cristopher Espino, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of April 24, 2025, were approved by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 9 - Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

**Abstentions:** 3 - Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

**Absent:** 3 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez and Commissioner Martine Jones

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

## **II. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

4. Presentation and Roundtable discussion with representatives from the Department of Youth Development (DYD) on the following topics:
- DYD's Diversion Program
  - Probation Facility Plan
  - DYD's Reentry Access for Youth (RAY) Program (25-2931)

**Marjan Goudarzi, Youth Development Specialist, and Sahelit Bahiru, Youth Development Supervisor, Department of Youth Development (DYD), initiated a Roundtable Discussion guided by their PowerPoint presentation.**

**Tiara Summers, Executive Director (ED), indicated that the Youth Commission's recommendation last year suggesting that DYD align with the Probation Department to direct predisposed youth in the legal system to resources has come to fruition under the Reentry Action for Youth (RAY) Program. Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez encouraged DYD to consider organizations such as Youth Justice Reimagined, and to continue to support the work of community youth leaders and case managers, and to engage with youth more often than once a month.**

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**Discussion ensued and the following topics were discussed:**

- **The RAY Pilot Program (Program) was initiated in East Los Angeles and South Los Angeles due to youth in those areas having greater exposure to the justice system; and judges in those areas are readily receptive to referring cases to the Program.**
- **The Probation Department is currently working with DYD to facilitate direct referrals to 18 service providers, with another provider forthcoming. DYD is also aiming to facilitate more effective care coordination for youth inside secure facilities. Funding for co-located staff within facilities is currently pending from Probation. If not funded, other resources will need to be obtained.**
- **Training for the Program consists of understanding how to complete the referral form; ways to connect with youth; how to organize the process if the Program is mandated by a judge; and how to connect with co-located staff. There is not an official curriculum.**
- **There is a ratio of 10 youth to one mentor. There are currently 340 youth being referred to the Program, with 400 anticipated. 125 youth have already been assigned a mentor, with an anticipated total of 40 mentors beginning in July. There are various options for youth either waiting to be connected to a resource or for those who have aged out (age 26), so that they do not find themselves back in the system. A "wait list" is being considered in the event the anticipated 400-youth capacity is exceeded.**
- **The length of time a youth can stay in the Program is anywhere from six to 18 months. However, if a youth requires additional resources or mentoring beyond that time frame, they will not arbitrarily be released from the Program.**
- **Each mentor has an annual allotment of \$70,000 available as discretionary funds and the use is flexible. Discussion ensued regarding sources of funding and accountability.**
- **County-supported legislation has been proposed to mandate certain levels of diversion to mitigate pre-disposed bias.**
- **Clarification was provided on how the mentorship process and Credible Messenger Program work.**
- **ED Summers explained the flowchart of the Probation Department Juvenile Intake and Court Process. She encouraged Probation and DYD to work together in partnership so that youth are not siloed between probation**

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**officers and mentors.**

- **Entering a diversion program is voluntary for youth. Also, the Program's care plan is designed around the youth's voiced needs. There are no mandatory criteria to be met, and parental/guardian consent is not needed for participation.**
- **Providers were selected based on their current working relationship with Probation and their work within detention facilities and services offered, as well as having in-house resources and experience in assisting youth in the community. Current providers were selected through an RFI (Request for Information) process and interview. In the future, the process may revert to an RFP (Request for Proposal), which has a more rigid scoring process and qualifications standard.**
- **Youth that are DCFS impacted are also eligible for diversion and law enforcement is readily reminded that they can refer these youth to a diversion program. There is also a Pilot Program with DCFS that creates a pathway for youth to be referred to the diversion program rather than having a case referred to a social worker. DYD is also working with DCFS regarding youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) facilities to have DYD called for minor incidents rather than law enforcement.**

**Members of the Public, Josh Boy'Kin and Kate Teague, addressed the Commission.**

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

### **III. REPORTS**

**5. Leadership Report. (25-2763)**

**Co-Chair Brittianna Robinson reported that May 2025 is Foster Care Awareness month, and she commended Commissioners who have been touched by the Foster Care System for their resilience and strength. She then provided information regarding the Mid-Year Retreat scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2025. At the conclusion of her report, she uplifted Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo who is recovering from surgery.**

**6. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (25-2764)**

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

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**Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez reported that she attended the following events: Senator Liu's Second Annual Foster Youth Town Hall, Probation Department's Listening Session, and Youth Justice Reimagined Job Fair.**

**Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. reported on the International Youth Conference, and the DYD Community Dialog in Lancaster.**

**Commissioner Christian Gudiel reported on the Mental Health Wellness Symposium at East Los Angeles Community College and the Second District Listening Session held May 3, 2025.**

**Commissioner Clarissa Peña reported on the AB12 Workforce and Wellness Development Conference.**

7. Update on Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (25-2765)

**Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported that the Youth Commission was named in a Board Motion on May 13, 2025, titled: Advancing CalAIM Benefits for Transition Age Youth. She encouraged the Commissioners to read the motion and to volunteer for the work proposed.**

8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (25-2766)

**In the absence of Operations Committee Chair, Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Evelyn K. Rodriguez reported that new commissioner interviews are moving forward.**

9. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair Sherrie Bradford. (25-2767)

**Sherrie Bradford, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee, reported that the surveys collected at the Listening Sessions will be analyzed. She then commended Commissioners Jessica Castillo and Amanda Hernandez who spoke at the UCLA Education Creation Conference, where approximately 70 high school foster youth were in attendance. She encouraged all Commissioners to use their intrinsic talents to inspire youth and to leverage their experience.**

#### **IV. 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. (25-2773)

**Members of the Public Josh Boy'Kin and Sherbert Diaz, 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. (25-2779)

**Commissioner Sherrie Bradford discussed leveraging talents in order to engage with youth and will present at a future Youth Engagement Committee meeting and the Commission meeting on this topic.**

**ED Summers reported that Minsun Meeker from the Office of Child Protection will present information on the CalAIM motion next month.**

12. Adjournment. (25-2786)

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

**On motion of Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Cristopher Espino, there being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**