



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, November 20, 2025

6:30 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (25-6557)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (25-6307)

Co-Chair Clarissa Peña called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Co-Chair Peña read the County's Land Acknowledgement.

Present: Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: Commissioner David De Leon

Assembly Bill 2449 Notification and/or Request to Approve. (25-6562)

Co-Chair Clarissa Peña reported that Commissioner Joseph Roa requested remote attendance due to just cause. Commissioner Roa confirmed that his request was due to just cause, and there were no persons over the age of 18 present at his location.

2. Awareness Videos.

- "Know to Say No: Myself", by LA County DCFS.
- "Know to Say No: Family", by LA County DCFS. (25-6318)

The following Awareness Videos were shown:

"Know to Say No: Myself" by LA County DCFS.
"Know to Say No: Family" by LA County DCFS.

Attachments: [VIDEO - "Know to Say No: Myself"](#)
[VIDEO - "Know to Say No: Family"](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of September 25, 2025. (25-6326)

On motion of Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of September 25, 2025, were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 13 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David De Leon

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Approval of minutes from the special meeting of October 25, 2025. (25-6334)

On motion of Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, and duly carried, the minutes from the special meeting of October 25, 2025, were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 2 - Commissioner La'Toya Cooper and Commissioner David De Leon

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Approval of minutes from the special meeting of November 1, 2025. (25-6341)

On motion of Commissioner Florencia "Flo" Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, and duly carried, the minutes from the special meeting of November 1, 2025, were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner La'Toya Cooper

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David De Leon

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Approval of the 2026 Commission Meeting Schedule and Discussion on additional priority dates and tentative YEC Event dates. (25-6347)

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, provided clarification of the 2026 calendar and highlighted priority events. A brief discussion ensued regarding preferred and/or conflicted dates on the calendar.

On motion of Commissioner Miguel "Josh" Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, and duly carried, the 2026 Commissioner Meeting Schedule was approved as submitted by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 - Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Abstentions: 1 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David De Leon

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Discussion and Vote on the Commission Leadership Structure for 2026: (1) One Chair and one Vice Chair, or (2) Two Co-Chairs. (25-6355)

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo opened discussion on this item and clarified the difference between the leadership structure of one Chair and one Vice Chair and two Co-Chairs. Commissioners were polled on their preference.

On motion of Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, and duly carried, the Leadership Structure for 2026 of two Co-Chairs was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo

Absent: 2 - ~~Valenzuela~~ Commissioner David De Leon

8. Discussion and Vote on the 2026 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers. (25-6363)

This Item was tabled until after Item No. 16. Later in the meeting, Election Chair, Martine Jones, opened the floor to discussion and vote for the 2026 Commission Nomination Slate and Election of Officers, indicating that the Commission voted for a structure of two Co-Chairs. Prior to this meeting the current Co-Chairs indicated their intent to run for re-election. Additional nominations were received for Commissioners Bradford, Espino, and Gudiel, who accepted their nominations for Co-Chair. Commissioner Jones opened the floor to any additional nominees for Co-Chair.

Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez nominated herself to the Slate. Commissioners Sherrie Bradford and Christopher Espino removed their names from the Slate. No additional nominations were made.

Election Chair, Martine Jones, closed the nominations and invited the nominees to make remarks on their qualifications. Co-Chair Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, made statements in support of their election.

On motion of Commissioner Josh Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Christopher Espino, and duly carried the Commission approved the Nomination Slate for 2026 by the following vote:

Ayes: 13 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña
Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, , Commissioner Joseph Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David De Leon

Election Chair Martine Jones called for the Election of Officers for Co-Chairs and staff conducted a Roll Call vote. A brief break was taken to tabulate the votes. Staff reported that the votes have been tabulated, and the Commission has voted by majority to elect Commissioner Christian Gudiel with 8 votes and Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez with 10 votes, to serve as Co-Chairs for the 2026 term.

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo congratulated the new Co-Chairs and moved on to Item No. 17.

II. REPORTS

9. Leadership Report. (25-6364)

This item was called after Item No. 7. Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo reported that Commissioner La'Toya Cooper is resigning from the Youth Commission. Various Commissioners and Executive Director, Tiara Summers, shared their personal thoughts and commended Commissioner Cooper on her dedication and extraordinary effort and leadership of the Youth Commission during her tenure.

10. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (25-6365)

The following activities and events were attended by Commissioners on behalf of the Youth Commission:

Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez attended the First District's Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined meeting, the Prevention and Promotion Systems Governing Committee (PPSGC), and participated in the Prevention and Promotion's Committee Implementation Team (PPCIT), the Office of Child Protection's (OCP) Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Table, and the Department of Youth Development's (DYD) Youth Summit.

Commissioner Josh Boykin attended HOPE event, and the Office of Child Protection TAY Table.

Commissioner Sherrie Bradford participated in the TAY Table and reported that the HIV Black Caucus is hosting a listening session on sexual health.

Commissioner Christian Gudiel participated as a panelist and a workshop at the Tri-County Collaborative Community Safety Conference, a collaborative between Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties regarding youth issues. He also attended the DYD Youth Summit.

Co-Chair Elizondo reported that the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) determined at their last meeting that a recommendation will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors to fold ECC into the state education tables and cease as a Brown Act Body known as the ECC. He also participated in the LGBTQ Ad Hoc Committee. He clarified that there is still room for Commissioners to join the LGBTQ Ad Hoc Committee as long as the attendance stays under quorum.

III. DISCUSSION

11. Discussion on potential topics for the Youth Commission's 2026 Roundtable Discussions (Continued from the meeting of 11/1/2025). (25-5883)

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo opened the floor to the discussion on potential topics for the Youth Commission's (YC) 2026 Roundtable Discussions. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, indicated that discussion will be based on the five focus advocacy areas selected by the Commission based on collected survey data. She also reported that recommendations have already been made to have the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Youth Development, and the Department of Arts and Culture return with presentation updates. She stated that due to events and special meetings, there are only eight to nine spots available for stakeholder presentations. She then spoke about the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), whereby the DMH and the Department of Public Health will combine holistic approach efforts toward mental health and substance abuse. The data that the YC collected will be integrated into DMH's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (Integration Plan), and ultimately to the state for consideration. The YC is also being considered to lead an ad hoc committee that will monitor the implementation of the Integrated Plan. The Commissioners recommended the following department, committees, and outside companies for presentations.

- LGBTQ Commission (current focus and potential collaboration)
- Register Recorder/County Clerk (voting process)
- Public Works Department (Employment opportunities)
- Department of Human Resources (Career and Internships)
- Film LA, Inc. (Career opportunities)
- Museum of Art (Programs)
- Natural History Museum (Programs)
- Homeless Services and Housing Department (Youth housing)
- Department of Economic Opportunity (Work, training, and workforce development programs)
- Probation Department (Update)
- Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (Programs)
- Department of Public Social Services (Measure A Funding)
- County Library (Education programs)
- YWCA (Youth programs)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - PARTNERSHIP LIST](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - FOCUS AREAS LIST](#)

IV. UPDATES

12. Update on Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in.

- Empowering Youth Through Know Your Rights Education for Civic Engagement (July 1, 2025, Board Agenda Item 11). (25-6366)

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported that on November 18, 2025, the YC was named in two additional Board Motions regarding two youth applications: The Soluna Application for mental health, and the other relates to housing supports. She then introduced Vanessa Reyes and Marianna Hernandez-Cadena from the Department of Youth Development (DYD) who shared a presentation titled, Empowering Youth Through Know Your Rights (KYR) Education for Civic Engagement, they presented the following:

- Overview of the Board Motion to empower and education youth on how to participate in civic engagement.
- Update on the KYR's Board Motion.
- Current Workshop Content.
- Youth with Heightened Risk
- Support for Discriminatory Targeting or Civil Rights Violations
- Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Safety Strategies
- Next Steps and Timeline.

Commissioner Josh Boykin suggested creating a self-help card with phone numbers to resources, Ms. Reyes indicated that there is a resource list currently being developed.

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez indicated that the Office of Immigrant Affairs has a resource card in various languages available, and she asked about mutual aid, the vetting of lawyers, and the procedure for physical care during protests. Ms. Reyes indicated that resources are vetted, especially for Hotline resources, and concurred with Commissioner Hernandez' recommendation regarding physical care.

Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez questioned which artists are being utilized for the resource card. Ms. Reyes indicated that they have solicited requests from providers and have sent an announcement out to Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined across the five Districts to see if a youth artist is interested.

Attachments: [25-6366SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - MOTION](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - DYD DECK](#)

13. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (25-6367)

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo reported on the ongoing efforts of the OPS Committee to create onboarding videos, with the intent that a sample will be submitted to the OPS Committee by March 2026, and to the whole Commission by mid-year. He then provided an update on the reflection process that will take place upon Commissioners' term ending or reappointment. He stressed that the process would have a restorative lens, focusing on mental health without losing accountability. He stated that there will be five Commissioners coming up to their term ending.

14. Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) update by Committee Chair Sherrie Bradford and Recommendation to Approve the revised YEC Youth Survey. (25-6368)

Sherrie Bradford, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) opened the floor to discussion and recommendation to approve the revised YEC Youth Survey. Commissioner Amanda Hernandez reviewed the revisions, and extensive discussion ensued whereby Commissioners voiced their concern and/or preference regarding the revised survey. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported that the Survey has been revised yearly as data is obtained from youth at various listening sessions and events. The Sections discussed were:

- The re-inclusion of the Sexual Orientation question.
- The question regarding belonging to a social group or community.
- Question No 5. Expanded responses on Entertainment, replacing the question on mental health concerns.
- Replacing Question No. 7 from how youth want to learn about resources to what a safe place means to them.
- The addition of question No. 8 regarding justice system involvement (Specifically Probation).

During discussion the Survey was revised, and questions and internal prompts were expanded or removed.

On motion of Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Josh Boykin, and duly carried, the Commission moved to make a Recommendation to Revise the Survey to re-include the LGBTQ Sexual Orientation question, and to revise the Social Group question to read: "Do you feel like you belong to one or more of these communities," and to adjust Question No. 6. to read: "What parts of housing are you most concerned about?" and the motion for the Recommendation was approved by the following vote. Executive Director agreed to further develop and incorporate the feedback from the meeting's discussion regarding prompt options.

Ayes: 13 - Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo, Co-Chair Clarissa Peña
Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner
Sherrie Bradford, Commissioner Jessica Castillo,
Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Christopher
Espino, Commissioner Christian Gudiel, Commissioner
Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson,
Commissioner Martine Jones, , Commissioner Joseph
Roa, Commissioner Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and
Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 1 - Commissioner David De Leon

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - CURRENT](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT - REVISED](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

15. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) not on the agenda, that are of interest and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (25-6369)

No members of the public addressed the Youth Commission.

16. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (25-6370)

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez requested to place a review of the Youth Commission Bylaws at a future meeting.

17. Adjournment. (25-6371)

Co-Chair Joshua Elizondo tabled this item and recalled Item No. 8. Upon conclusion of Item No. 8, Co-Chair Elizondo recalled this item. He reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Jessica Castillo, seconded by Commissioner Josh Boykin, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 p.m.