



**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, January 29, 2026**

**6:30 PM**



Video of the entire meeting. (26-0976)

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

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (26-0522)

**Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Co-Chair Rodriguez read the County's Land Acknowledgement.**

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

Absent: Commissioner David De Leon and Commissioner Mercedes Jackson

2. Awareness Video titled, "Know to Say No: Friends" by LA County DCFS. (26-0529)

**The following Awareness Video: "Know to Say No: Friends," by LA County DCFS, was not shown due to technical difficulties.**

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

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of November 20, 2025. (26-0537)

**On motion of Commissioner Florencia Valenzuela, seconded by Commissioner Cristopher Espino, and duly carried, the minutes from the regular meeting of November 20, 2025, were approved by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner David De Leon and Commissioner Mercedes Jackson

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

4. Approval of the Youth Commission's 2025 Annual Report. (26-0834)

**Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reviewed the Draft Annual Report and indicated that the final report is due to be published and submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the end of February. She encouraged Commissioners to review the Report that highlights the Commission's accomplishments in 2025, and she discussed the focus areas of the Commission and how the overall intent for the Commission is to inform, engage, and support youth throughout the community. She spoke about various hosted and attended events, and the effort by Commissioners to conduct outreach, personally and collectively. She requested feedback from the Commissioners on content and design of the Report. Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez suggested that there be the opportunity given to Commissioners to meet one-on-one to discuss the types of activities they participated in.**

**On motion of Commissioner Josh Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Martine Jones, and duly carried, the Youth Commission's 2025 Annual Report was approved, with authority given to the Executive Director to make additional formatting and grammatical revisions as needed to finalize the Report. Said motion was approved by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner David De Leon and Commissioner Mercedes Jackson

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

## **II. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

5. Presentation and Roundtable Discussion on the Behavioral Health Services Act with stakeholders from the Departments of Mental Health and Public Health's Substance Abuse and Prevention Control.  
(26-0819)

**Co-Chair Christian Gudiel opened the floor to the Presentation and Roundtable Discussion on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) with stakeholders from the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Public Health's (DPH) Substance Abuse and Prevention Control (SAPC).**

**Kanchi Tate, DMH Prevention Services, provided background of the BHSA and discussed the behavioral health transformation and California's 14 Goals to help young people feel better, stay strong, and avoid things that can seriously hurt their lives. There are six goals that are mandatory for the County to implement, with an additional seventh goal based on local data showing where youth are struggling more than the state average. The Goals help the state and County make decisions on programs, funding, and youth support needs.**

**Erica Reynoso, DMH, spoke on the County's plan to address gaps and inequities to determine who is getting support and who isn't and where the systems may not be working fairly for everyone.**

**Ernesto Sosa, DPH, highlighted the Goal, Increasing Access to Care and reviewed the state's definition of access to care, and how efficacy is tracked. Discussion ensued where many aspects of BHSA were highlighted, after which Commissioners made the following suggestions:**

- Explore the pathway determinants to substance abuse.
- Determine how to address implicit bias by health care professionals and law enforcement.
- Expand on the support of the Credible Messenger Program.
- Create a mechanism for follow up with youth who are battling substance abuse.
- Utilize faith-based and cultural driven therapies, as alternatives to talk therapy.
- Defer assessment and allow youths to address their issues first at mental health facilities.
- Offer life training for youth to prepare them for adulthood.
- Start mental health education at schools at an early age as a preventative measure.
- Ensure there is accountability at rehab facilities and eliminate the extensive wait times at Medi-Cal rehab facilities.
- The entry points to care should vary to meet cultural identities and needs.
- Ensure that professionals understand the various mental health triggers so follow up can progress often and efficiently.
- Develop mentorship programs that help youth understand social and emotional awareness.
- Advocate for spaces of wellness where the need is addressed with no qualifying markers to the individual.
- Identify intersectional ways of interacting with the community in lieu of medical or pathological avenues to mental health/substance abuse support.
- Meet youth where they are and truly assess needs rather than relying on status quo textbook analysis.
- Develop safe spaces that are warm and welcoming. Decision makers need to go into the field and visit County facilities to assess the space.

Discussion concluded with various Commissioners voicing their personal thoughts. The Panelists thanked Commissioners for their suggestions.

Members of the Public, Andrew Retland, Mason Lam, Itzel, Hilary Sosa Reyes, Brittianna Robinson, addressed the Youth Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

### III. REPORTS

6. Leadership Report. (26-0538)
  - **Co-Chair Christian Gudiel thanked the previous Co-Chairs, Joshua Elizondo and Clarissa Peña, for their efforts and exemplary way in which they performed their leadership roles, and their energy, mentorship, professionalism, and commitment. Various Commissioners voiced their appreciation for the previous Co-Chairs, and Executive Director, Tiara Summers, also provided her personal thoughts.**
  - **Co-Chair Gudiel reported that each Commissioner is being provided a binder of relevant Commission materials to serve as an ongoing reference, with additional supporting documents to be from future meetings. He then reviewed the various events attended by Commissioners and encouraged them to report on their attended events.**
  - **Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported that beginning in February, there will be a Commissioner Check-in, 45 minutes before each meeting where Commissioners will meet and connect informally. Future meetings will be facilitated by Calibrate.**
  - **Commissioner Joshua Elizondo added that a date for the Third District Listening Session has been set with a mental health theme, in partnership with DMH to discuss safe spaces.**
  - **A five signature scroll by the Board of Supervisors was presented to former Commissioner Brittianna Robinson for her service as Commissioner.**
7. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (26-0539)
  - **Commissioner Joshua Elizondo reported that the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) has been officially moved to a non-Brown Act Body and will begin virtual meetings within the next few months.**
  - **Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez reported the LGBTQIA Ad Hoc Committee has interviewed 13 County youth and family related departments with data analysis to begin on January 30, 2026. The L.A. City Youth Regional Summit Planning Committee will be conducting their events at L.A. City Hall. The Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined provided youth with a list of current personality identifiers, such as caretaker, storyteller, visionary, healer, etc. with examples of what each role entailed. Also attended the Community for Action for Peace, a program on behalf of the Office of Violence Prevention in East L.A.**

**Commissioners Amanda Hernandez and Sherrie Bradford are working with the Ombudsman Office in reviewing the Foster Youth Bill of Rights. Both will be presenting a full section of training to social workers.**

#### **IV. UPDATES**

8. Update on Key Strategic Partnerships and Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (26-0540)

**Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported that there were no major updates. Member of the Public, Kate, addressed the Youth Commission.**

9. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (26-0541)

**OPS Committee Chair, Joshua Elizondo, reported that the onboarding videos and scripts are in production with the anticipated completion date of March- June 2026. Questions are being drafted for the Commissioner Reflections which will be reviewed with the whole Commission in March. He reported that there are a large number of upcoming reappointments this year, therefore, Commissioner Reflections will be conducted for all Commissioners. He will keep the Commission apprised of any updates.**

10. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair Sherrie Bradford. (26-0542)

**Youth Engagement Chair, Sherrie Bradford, reported the following:**

- **UCLA will be hosting an event with a Valentine's Day's theme on February 7, 2026, in partnership with the Bruin and Guardian Scholars Academy – First Star, for approximately 30 current and former foster youth. Also participating are Commissioners Cristopher Espino, Amanda Hernandez, Martine Jones, Co-Chair Christian Gudiel and YEC Chair Sherrie Bradford; surveys will be distributed.**
- **Currently YEC is looking into faith-based collaboratives. Commissioner Clarissa Peña is researching accessibility for diverse needs in public and virtual settings. Commissioner Amanda Hernandez is focusing on employment sector needs, and a faith-based guest speaker will be scheduled to present at a future YC meeting.**
- **YEC is working on dates for the YC End-Year Event and will confirm the date at the next meeting.**
- **The Department of Mental Health and various YEC members will be working on feedback regarding the End-Year Event and specific sections on mental health that they found beneficial.**

- **Additional information was provided on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights training as referenced in Item No. 7.**

#### **V. MISCELLANEOUS**

- 11.** Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) not on the agenda, that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (26-0543)

**No members of the public addressed the Youth Commission.**

- 12.** Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (26-0544)

**Commissioner Josh Boykin requested that the Youth Leadership Initiative group from Long Beach be scheduled for a presentation. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, indicated that there will be an upcoming Press Conference by Fourth Supervisorial District with the Youth Leadership Institute, and Commissioner Clarissa Peña will be attending.**

- 13.** Adjournment. (26-0545)

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**

**On motion of Commissioner Josh Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Cristopher Espino, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.**