



**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 26, 2026

6:30 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (26-1491)

Attachments: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgment. (26-0749)
Co-Chair Christian Gudiel called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Co-Chair Gudiel 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 Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: Commissioner David De Leon
2. Awareness Video titled, "Love Listens - Parents Can Help Prevent Child Trafficking" by Love 146, YouTube. (26-0756)
The Awareness Video titled, "Love Listens - Parents Can Help Prevent Child Trafficking" by Love 146, YouTube, was shown.

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)
3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of January 29, 2026. (26-0761)

On motion of Commissioner Martine Jones, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Castillo, and duly carried (Commissioners Sherrie Bradford, David DeLeon, and Mercedes Jackson being absent), the minutes from the regular meeting of January 29, 2026, were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION

4. 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 (Continued from the meeting of 1/29/26). (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). Ernesto Sosa, DPH, Christian Bonce, Consultant, and Tiffany Tan, DMH Prevention Services, provided a presentation on *Justice Involvement Reduction: Keeping Youth Out of Jail*. Mr. Sosa highlighted the meaning of Justice Involvement Reduction, the state definition, how it is measured and what the measurement means. Mr. Sosa began the discussion with a set of questions to Commissioners (paraphrased):

- 1. Why do youth become involved with law enforcement instead of seeking help?**
- 2. What types of support can help youth?**
- 3. What makes it hard for young people to trust the system?**
- 4. What would help build trust?**
- 5. What support do youth need coming out of the system?**

Discussion ensued and each Commissioner provided their personal thoughts on the proposed questions. During discussion the following recommendations were made:

- Youth do not feel safe in new environments creating limitations and barriers. Youth should be placed in an environment that allows autonomy and allows them to bring comforting items from home.**
- Trust can be developed with those with lived experience and hiring practices should include them.**
- Provide alternate ways for youth to decompress such as art, music, and games.**
- Enhance the Credible Messenger Program for the delivery of services and resources and start with messaging at an early age.**
- Understand the damage that mandated reporting has caused and support the Mandated Supporting Initiative.**
- Look at areas in the community to connect youth to services and safe spaces such as recreational centers and parks.**

- Follow-up with youth and families upon reentry into the community and home.
- Provide support for employment and mentorship.
- Support the STARS Program and address implicit bias toward the black and brown communities.
- Hold agencies and staff accountable for trauma informed healing processes. Law enforcement should not be the first call when youth are in trauma.
- Have centers that are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week, where youth can come in and decompress with no judgment or tracking.
- Eliminate punitive measures and work toward other healing alternatives.
- Develop a different lens when looking at youth in trouble, seek out what they can teach providers about their needs.
- Develop tangible opportunities for youth and ensure that interaction happens early to help them develop positive goals, and ensure interaction is consistent.
- Provide an easy navigation system for services and resources.
- Address wealth gaps, and shift from how topics are approached within the community, highlight the harm of child neglect, and teach values and how to embrace a peaceful presence.
- Seek funding for programs that embrace and pay individuals with lived experience.
- Change the language from addressing youth as criminals.
- Develop a focus group with incarcerated youth to ascertain answers to the proposed questions.
- Create messaging specifically for communities that don't normally talk about mental health issues and find ways to engage and support parents by giving them the tools to engage with their child about healthy relationships and life goals.
- Address language barriers and cultural differences.

Mr. Sosa thanked Commissioners for their responses and indicated he will consider their feedback and incorporate their suggestions as services are being developed.

Darlesh K. Horn, DMH, David Yun, SAPC, and Giovani Sanchez, Member of the Public addressed the Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. REPORTS

5. Leadership Report. (26-0762)

Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez reported that Commissioner Sherrie Bradford will be leaving the Youth Commission. She thanked her work and for her leadership as Chair of the Youth Engagement Committee. Each Commissioner and Executive Director Tiara Summers provided their well wishes and shared their sentiments for Commissioner Bradford. Commissioner Bradford thanked the Commission and offered her personal comments.

6. Commissioner Reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (26-0763)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel reported the following:

- **Commissioner Amanda Hernandez attended a two-day training for social workers of the Foster Youth Bill of Rights on February 6 and 7, 2026.**
- **Commissioners Sherrie Bradford, Cristopher Espino, Martine Jones, and Co-Chairs Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Christian Gudiel attended the HIV Commission and Black Caucus Collaboration, a listening session on health, held February 7, 2026.**
- **Commissioner Josh Boykin attended the Youth Summit Planning meetings, which were held on February 9, 11, and 18, 2026.**
- **Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez attended the LGBTQ Ad Hoc Committee meetings on February 17 and 20, 2026 and was joined by Commissioners Joshua Elizondo and Clarissa Pena on February 25, 2026.**
- **Commissioner Mercedes Jackson attended the Care First, Community Investment meeting, held February 19, 2026.**

Commissioners shared details for the activities they participated in.

IV. UPDATES

7. Update on Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (26-0764)

Tiara Summers, Executive Director (ED), referenced the following Board Motions:

- **Foster Youth Bill of Rights.**
- **Transitional Age Youth Table Resource Hubs.**
- **Soluna, a Mobile Mental Health Application, designed to help users manage anxiety and over thinking.**

ED Summers stated that the youth voice is being sought throughout the County in various capacities and agencies, and she encouraged Commissioners to stay engaged with any and all opportunities that present themselves.

8. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (26-0765)

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee (OPS), reported that in lieu of the regular meeting of March 16, 2026, a Special Meeting will be held on March 23, 2026. Also, OPS will be conducting outreach to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner Sherrie Bradford and will submit a candidate for consideration to the whole Commission by June. OPS Chair Elizondo then reported that the Commissioner Reflections process is still being discussed by the OPS Committee.

9. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair Sherrie Bradford. (26-0766)

Commissioner Sherrie Bradford, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), reported that the YEC is working on various collaborations. The YEC End-Year Event is scheduled for October 3, 2026. Tiara Summers, Executive Director (ED) reported that there will be a vacancy for the YEC Chair due to Commissioner Bradford leaving, and name for the replacement will be reported at the next meeting. She encouraged Commissioners to support the Third District's Listening Session scheduled for April 25, 2026.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

10. 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. (26-0772)

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. (26-0779)

The following matters were requested to be considered and placed on a future agenda:

- **Update on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.**
- **Impending cuts for the CalFresh Program.**

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel provided information regarding the Tri-County Collaborative between, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties, scheduled for April 25, 2026, at the University of Southern California, and the Reimagine Youth Reentry Conference at Cal-State Long Beach, on September 17, 2026.

12. Adjournment. (26-0785)

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

On motion of Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.