



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
SPECIAL MEETING**



**EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON RECREATION AREA
905 EAST EL SEGUNDO BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90059**

poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026, 9:00 A.M.

AUDIO/VIDEO FILE FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING

Attachment: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chair Canales called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Executive Director Wendelyn Julien conducted the roll call:

Present: Commissioner Brooke Harris, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Samuel Prater, Commissioner Tyrique Shipp, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair Dolores Canales

Attachments: [Overview of the POC’s Role](#)

2. Approval of the February 18, 2026 special meeting minutes.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Terry, carried by the following vote, (Commissioners Jackson, Prater, and Shipp being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the February 18, 2026 special meeting minutes as presented:

Ayes: 5 – Commissioner Brooke Harris, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair Dolores Canales

Abstain: 1 – Commissioner Donald D. Meredith

Absent: 3 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Samuel Prater, and Commissioner Tyrique Shipp

Attachments: [Approved February 18, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. **Probation Oversight Commission Reports** – Discuss and take possible action up to and including issuing a subpoena on the following items as reported by the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission:

- **The POC reports included:**
 - i. Recommendations from recent Campus Kilpatrick Inspection (vote to approve)
 - ii. Outstanding requests for information (vote to approve)

- **Panelists included:**
 - i. Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
 - ii. Dr. Sarah Gongora, Project Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

Chair Canales reported that the Probation Department complied with all the POC’s overdue information requests, which have been attached to the agenda.

Executive Director Julien explained that the process by which the POC requests information and the information included as attachments under this item. She mentioned that the request for consultant contracts is due March 18, 2026.

Dr. Gongora summarized the POC’s observations and recommendations after visiting Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK) on February 23, 2026. The notes and recommendations were attached to the agenda. She highlighted that youth were interviewed and reported a decrease in services compared to the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC), including loss of access to Treatment & Counseling Probation Officers (T&C POs) who facilitate family contact, counseling, and de-escalation.

Dr. Gongora explained that Commissioner Jackson and conducted an informal inspection to CVK and her visit notes were shared with Commissioners.

Commissioner Harris shared her observations from an informal inspection at CVK on February 5, 2026.

In response to Chair Canales’ inquiry about staff having to limit their food and water intake because they do not have coverage for bathroom breaks, Dr. Gongora provided additional clarification.

Commissioner Mundo inquired about whether the recommendations were shared with Probation prior to the meeting. Dr. Gongora reiterated that she was escorted by a Probation Supervisor during the site visit. Executive Director Julien added that the attached notes and recommendations were shared with Probation’s leadership team shortly after the visit and before being shared with anyone else. Also before the meeting the notes were shared with the Los Angeles County Office of Inspector General (OIG), and later with Commissioners and the public in compliance with the Brown Act.

The Probation Department declined to comment on the report or the recommendations.

Commissioner Mundo suggested that the POC create an ad hoc committee to discuss this topic further and bring in subject matter experts from the Probation Department and community stakeholders who can address specific questions and conduct a feasibility

study.

Commissioners Terry, Commissioner Kakani, and Chair Canales expressed support for the creation of an ad hoc committee as suggested by Commissioner Mundo.

Commissioners Terry shared her sentiments about the attached recommendations and emphasized that the Probation Department has a responsibility to respond to the POC's CVK recommendations.

Commissioner Kakani provided a background on this agenda item, explaining that there are now four different populations of youth being housed at CVK (pre-disposition, post-disposition camp, post-disposition placement, and post-disposition SYTF).

Commissioner Shipp joined the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, to reiterate the attached recommendation that girls and gender-expansive (GGE) youth dispositioned to DKC as a suitable placement, be sent back to DKC until such a time that appropriate and equal program services and staffing can be made readily available at CVK and to create an ad hoc committee focused on what is happening to the GGE youth who are currently being detained at CVK.

Eleven (11) public commenters addressed the POC.

On motion by Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Meredith, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Jackson and Prater being absent), the POC agreed to approve the CVK recommendations as presented including (A) immediately move all GGE youth dispositioned to DKC placement back to DKC, until appropriate and equal program services and staffing are readily available at CVK; and (B) create an ad hoc committee regarding GGE youth detained at CVK:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Brooke Harris, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Eduardo Mundo, Commissioner Tyrique Shipp, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair Dolores Canales

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Esché L. Jackson and Commissioner Samuel Prater

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[Campus Kilpatrick Inspection Recommendations](#)
[03/02/26 POC Letter to Probation – Data Information Requests with Updates](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports \(January 19, 2026 – February 8, 2026\)](#)
[OC Spray Deployment Reports \(February 9, 2026 – February 22, 2026\)](#)
[December 2025-February 2026 Contraband Summary \(LPJH & BJN-SYTF\)](#)
[YOYV Data for LPJH & BJN-SYTF for January 2026 – February 2026](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. **Services for Youth with Developmental Disabilities in Los Angeles County Probation's Juvenile Facilities** – Discuss and take possible action on panel presentations related to issues facing youth in Probation's Juvenile facilities who have developmental disabilities.

- **The Probation Department was asked to provide:**

- i. The number of youth in Probation's Juvenile Facilities who have Developmentally Disabilities, are Regional Center Clients, and are Receiving Special Education Services.
 - ii. A verbal report on the Probation Department's efforts to provide services to youth with developmental disabilities including challenges and strengths.
- **Panelists included:**
 - i. Susan Sindelar, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights California – Los Angeles Office
 - ii. Kim Binion, Senior Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Commissioner Prater joined the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Senior Attorney Sindelar gave a verbal presentation about the historical context of developmental disabilities within the carceral systems in California. She stressed that youth with developmental disabilities and executive-function impairments are disproportionately harmed by detention environments.

Executive Director Julien shared highlights from each agenda attachment provided by the POC's partner departments.

Senior Probation Director Binion reported that Probation's Developmental Disabilities Program has been implemented at all the juvenile facilities. She added that the policies and procedures are being updated to reflect current facilities and to ensure consistent DD identification and referrals to Regional Center (RC). She acknowledged the need for updated staff training and noted that some youth with developmental disabilities do not meet RC eligibility standards.

Commissioner Brooke Harris emphasized the legal importance of ensuring youth with developmental disabilities receive services that juvenile halls cannot provide, citing the availability of alternative placements under WIC §636. She highlighted that detention itself can be a disabling experience and urged the department to use statutory tools more proactively.

Commissioner Tyrique raised concerns about the stigma youth experience when identified as having developmental disabilities, including bullying and negative peer labeling. He asked how the Department is mitigating backlash toward youth who require additional support.

Commissioner Mili Kakani questioned where institutional knowledge of the settlement resides and why the department appears to be reinventing processes that should already be established. She stressed that staff need training to differentiate disability-linked behaviors from disciplinary issues to avoid unnecessary write-ups.

Commissioner Jackson joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Six (6) public commenters addressed the POC.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[03/09/26 POC Staff Review of Developmentally Disabled Youth](#)
[May 2025 Fact Sheet on Developmentally Disabled Youth](#)
[03/10/26 LACOE's Rates of Students with Disabilities](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

The POC recessed for 10 minutes and returned at 11:13 a.m.

5. **Less Restrictive Programs (LRPs)** – Discuss and take possible action on panel presentations about LRPs including what LRPs offer youth who step-down into the community, how LRPs operate in collaboration with Probation, and the strengths and challenges of their models.
 - **Panelists included:**
 - i. Felicia Davis, Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - ii. Suzanne Lyles, Acting Senior Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - iii. Angeles Zaragoza, California Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR)
 - iv. Elizabeth Braunstein, Deputy Public Defender, Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office
 - v. Oscar Mejia, Executive Director, Welcome Home Oasis (WHO)
 - vi. Roberto Luca, Executive Director, Restorative Academic Mentorship Program (RAMP)
 - vii. Darlene Taque, Executive Director, RAMP’s EmpowHer House
 - viii. Deshaun Houston, Assistant Director, Boys Republic
 - ix. Sam Prater in his capacity as Executive Director of LA Room & Board

Deputy Public Defender Braunstein and OYCR Consultant Zaragoza gave a [PowerPoint Presentation on the closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice](#), the shift to community-based approaches (such as LRPs), and the role of Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council’s Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJCC-JJRBG) funding to support LRPs.

Executive Director Julien distinguished licensed Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) from LRPs which provide services to young adults over age 18 and are not licensed. Although all LRPs and STRTPs are run by community-based organizations that are operate through partnerships and collaborations with county departments, STRTPs have a distinct licensing process and can service youth under 18-years old.

Below are highlights from the provider Presentations, which have all been attached/linked to the agenda:

- **LA Room and Board:** Housing; case management; academic mentoring; mental health support; bridge program; phased passes; optional GPS; weekly progress verification ([Click here to view the referenced video](#)).
- **Welcome Home Oasis:** Family-centered routines (early mornings, wellness, vocational partners), trauma-responsive supports, close collaboration with Probation.
- **RAMP & EmpowHer House:** Trauma-informed, lived-experience homes; 24-hour staffing; individualized planning; mental health, coaching, restorative justice; family engagement; ecosystem of community partners ([Click here to view the referenced video](#))
- **Boys Republic – Pomona House LRP:** Participant accountability; positive peer culture; individualized planning; frequent DPO engagement; early mental health assessment; internal staff accountability (time-related core services, caseload meetings).

Commissioner Meredith proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Terry, to create an ad hoc committee focused on LRPs’ effectiveness including system coordination.

Commissioner Shipp made a friendly amendment to include the review of field and

detention services that are available to youth assigned to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF).

Commissioners Meredith and Terry accepted the friendly amendment.

Chair Canales emphasized that just because a youth's placement may not work at one program does not mean they should be sent into a carceral facility.

Commissioner Terry mentioned that the ad hoc committee can take the opportunity to offer some recommendations for how to strengthen and create standardized practices so the youth outcomes can be measured and the needs of the LRPs can be identified.

Commissioner Jackson encouraged the ad hoc committee to compose a list of strengths and weaknesses for the organizations who presented today so that the POC has a clearer understanding of where the consistencies are and what needs to be prioritized.

Commissioner Kakani inquired about the scope of LRPs and what the POC would be measuring competencies against such as guardrails or parameters.

Executive Director Julien explained that the ad hoc committee can establish guidelines and protocols for community placement.

Commissioner Harris encouraged the ad hoc committee to partner and work closely with OYCR to guide the relationship between the Probation Department, the youth, and the LRPs.

Commissioner Jackson clarified that the POC's role in LRPs would be more like allyship in establishing frameworks to strengthen the services that are being provided to better shape the outcomes.

Acting Chief Deputy Robert Arcos of the Los Angeles County Probation Department highlighted the significance of incorporating lived experience and culturally responsive engagement within LRPs. He emphasized the need for greater alignment across programs, supported by standardized, evidence-based practices and measurable outcomes.

Commissioner Mundo sought clarification regarding the scope of Probation's legal responsibilities beyond supervising youth placed in these facilities.

Acting Senior Director Lyles confirmed that the Probation Department is responsible for paying for the LRP services and allocated funds towards programming and LRPs for the SYTF youth.

Fourteen (14) public commenters addressed the POC.

On motion by Commissioner Meredith, seconded by Commissioner Terry, carried by the following vote, the POC agreed to create an ad hoc committee on LRPs which would include reviewing field and detention services for SYTF youth:

Ayes:	6 –	Commissioner Brooke Harris, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Tyrique Shipp, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair Dolores Canales
Noes:	2 –	Commissioner Milinda Kakani and Commissioner Eduardo Mundo

Abstain: 1 – Commissioner Samuel Prater

Commissioner Meredith left the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[DJJ Realignment: SYTF and Less Restrictive Programs](#)
[OYCR's LRP Continuum](#)
[Welcome Home Oasis](#)
[Restorative Academic Mentorship Program – RAMP Communities – video](#)
[Boys Republic](#)
[Los Angeles Room and Board – Prezi Presentation \(with video\)](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

6. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

There were no items to be placed on a future agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the POC.

You may submit public comment by e-mail to info@poc.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. one business day before the scheduled meeting to be included on the agenda. Please include the Agenda Item(s) and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received by 5:00 p.m. the same day of the meeting shall become part of the official record.

One (1) public commenter addressed the POC.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

8. Adjournment for the regular meeting of March 12, 2026.

On motion by Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Harris, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Meredith being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 1:22 p.m.