



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 28, 2026

6:30 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (26-1845)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgement. (26-2474)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel called the meeting to order at 6:37 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 Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Clarissa Peña. Commissioner Cristopher Espino and Commissioner Joseph Roa arrived after roll call.

Absent: Commissioner David De Leon, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

2. Awareness Video entitled, Know to Say No: Teachers, by LA County DCFS. (26-2475)

The Awareness Video entitled, Know to Say No: Teachers, by LA County DCFS, was shown.

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of March 26, 2026. (26-2476)

On motion of Commissioner Martine Jones, seconded by Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of March 26, 2026 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Co-Chair Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Martine Jones and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Absent: 5 - Commissioner David De Leon, Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. PRESENTATIONS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

4. Presentation by the LGBTQ+ Youth Ad Hoc Subcommittee on priority recommendations based on the Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Youth Preparedness Scan, and Roundtable Discussion on the Identified Recommendations
- Sunitha Menon, Executive Director, Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission
 - LGBTQ+ Youth Ad Hoc Committee Members (26-3167)

Sunitha Menon, Executive Director (ED), Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission, provided a presentation on the LGBTQ+ Youth Ad Hoc Subcommittee's priority recommendations as identified in the Los Angeles County LGBTQ Youth Preparedness Scan Report (Report), drafted by Dr. Cooper, Bianca D.M. Wilson, and Soon Kyu Choi, dated February 28, 2017. She introduced Dr. Khush Cooper, UCLA, and Stefanie Glockman, Office of Child, Youth and Family Wellbeing (OCFW), and presented four priority recommendations identified in the Report:

- **Moving beyond training to staff development**
- **A proactive, practical approach to discussing SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression) with youth**
- **Increasing preparedness for serving Transgender and gender non-conforming youth**
- **A coordinating entity for strategic implementation of recommendations**

ED Menon emphasized youth voice and described meetings with County departments to assess services and training needs. Ms. Gluckman highlighted growth areas in policy, programs, resources, and data collection. Commissioners were asked to provide feedback on whether additional needs exist for LGBTQ+ system-involved youth, and to respond to the following questions:

- a. Do you agree/disagree with the need to prioritize the recommendations the Ad Hoc Subcommittee has identified?
- b. Are there additional needs LGBTQ+ system involved youth have that, that are not included in these recommendations?

Discussion ensued and Commissioners provided the following responses:

- Departments are overworked and understaffed and training may be rushed. Recommend hands-on training with realistic scenario-based training reflecting SOGIE impacts. ED Menon stated that another ad hoc committee is developing interactive Countywide training with realistic scenarios.
- Concerns about overreliance on training, personal biases, and inconsistent practice standards. SOGIE rights need to be integrated into training and there is a need to cultivate an environment of unified practice standards and expectations. ED Menon responded that no matter the personal bias, training must be grounded in basic human rights and equality with emphasis on service to those in need.
- There is concern with how practice-change retention is measured and the importance of people with lived experience and/or academic expertise in Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies to assist with training. ED Menon responded that another ad hoc committee would determine how measurements will be tracked. Ms. Gluckman added that the next steps will include discussion on how to proceed with training, measurements, and cost.
- Staff values must align with the work and value-oriented hiring was suggested. ED Menon responded that individuals begin at different understanding levels and training supports growth, but value change comes from within. She expanded on ways to engage with youth that provides space for interaction and youth engagement approaches. The OCFW will initially lead implementation efforts, with future decisions on permanent placement.

ED Menon thanked the Commissioners for their suggestions and closed the discussion by extending an invite to the next LGBTQ+ Commission meeting scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Room 374 A, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, (Hall) as well as a Progress Pride Flag Raising event at the Hall on June 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Tera Walsh, member of the public, addressed the Youth Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. Roundtable discussion on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights Advocacy and Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP-NMD) Expansion, with the Los Angeles County Ombudsperson for Youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs)

- Michelle Lucarelli-Beltran, Ombudsperson
- Ivory Bragg, Ombudsperson (26-2477)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel opened the floor to the Roundtable discussion on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBR) Advocacy and Transitional Housing Placement Program for Non-Minor Dependents (THPP NMD) Expansion. Michelle Lucarelli-Beltran, Ombudsperson for Youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), provided an introduction and overview of her professional background, followed by an introduction from Ivory Bragg, Ombudsperson (collectively, the Panelists). The Panelists shared a brief overview of the Ombuds Office that is housed in the Auditor-Controller's Office. They manage a helpline and email intake system, addressing both individual and system-wide STRTP issues. Expansion efforts include:

- Visits to THPP-NMD agencies
- Group programming and office-hours drop-in centers
- Engagement with NextUp Programs on college campuses
- Resource tables at community events
- Outreach in transitional living settings

After reviewing the expansion settings, the Panelists solicited additional ideas, and Commissioners provided the following:

- **Emphasized extended hours and stronger community advertising; virtual drop-in models with breakout mentoring availability.**
- **There is a need for texting and app-based communication. Ms. Lucarelli Beltran responded that a text feature linked to the helpline is in development and stated that they readily collaborate with the Children's Law Center in addressing youth issues.**

- In regards to an inquiry about the NextUp Program, Ms. Lucarelli-Beltran confirmed it is in its infancy stages and has a drop-in center at the Pasadena City College campus. They also provide a resource table at events and connect with other city colleges to expand the program. It was recommended to consider Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined, Community Action for Peace, student unions, A Sense of Home, and Community based organizations as great spaces to advertise and nurture partnerships.
- Distributing school-themed promotional items—such as bookmarks or laptop covers—featuring Ombuds Office information and QR codes.
- Cultivating partnerships with California State Universities and as well as Community Action for Peace, operated by the Office of Violence Prevention under the LA County Department of Public Health should be considered.

Discussion ensued and Ms. Lucarelli-Beltran shared the following:

- They do not cold call youth directly but rather work through service providers. She also clarified that each youth has a case worker and the Ombuds Office engages with them regularly.
- Stabilization meetings are conducted when a youth is asked to leave an STRTP, and the importance of being involved in these incidents.
- Updates on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights (FYBOR) training for social workers, launched in February 2026. Multiple methods are used to share FYBOR information and highlighted the use of Mentimeter for real-time feedback and data collection.

Commissioner Hernandez and Boykin who attended the training shared their positive personal experience. Ms. Bragg reported that three additional sessions are scheduled for June, with additional trainings commencing in January 2027. DCFS is offering incentives for staff participation, and the State Ombudsperson has been invited to introduce the training statewide. Co-Chair Rodriguez added reflections on the importance of honesty, trust, and values in practice.

Ms. Lucarelli Beltran introduced lived expert, artist, and social worker, Parker Terese who developed a graphic novel comic book (book) describing the FYBOR for the benefit of foster youth.

The development of the book was in collaboration with Rice CU Funding, LA County Ombuds and California Office of Foster Care Ombuds. Mr. Terese requested Commissioner feedback on the characters presented and Commissioners shared the following:

- Unable to clearly identify a white youth. Mr. Terese agreed with this comment and stated that the effort was to be inclusive, including gender identity as well.
- Highlighted the use of AI and the importance of limiting its use for more realistic characters and inquired about the wording used. Mr. Terese indicated that all the characters are drawn and then enhanced with AI for color and dimension, they are working with artists with lived experience in this effort. Ms. Lucarelli-Beltran responded that the verbiage in the book comes directly from the FYBORs.
- It was observed that the characters appeared to originate from different artistic sources and recommended refining them for greater visual cohesion, including more consistent backgrounds.
- Inquired if the characters would appear within the same issue or as part of a series. Mr. Terese clarified that all characters will be included in a single book, with each character representing a single foster youth right.
- It was suggested to create a comic-book recap through a podcast or magazine feature.
- Consider having the book available online as well as developing an audio file with a voice over and a video with American Sign Language.

Ms. Lucarelli-Beltran closed by inviting Commissioners to help promote and distribute the book once released.

Tera Walsh, member of the public, addressed the Youth Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. REPORTS AND UPDATES

6. Leadership Report. (26-2478)

Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez provided an update on the Mid-Year Retreat, to be held Saturday, June 13, 2026, with mandatory attendance. Commissioners were encouraged to wear YC T-Shirts.

Last month's meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. Commissioners were requested to respond to staff in a timely manner. Co-Chair Christian Gudiel added his personal remarks regarding the need to meet quorum. Commissioners Joshua Elizondo and Amanda Hernandez, and Executive Director, Tiara Summers, added comments regarding communication.

- 7.** Commissioner reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (26-2479)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel reported the following:

- Commissioner Josh Boykin attended the Foster Youth Bill of Rights Training on May 5, 2026, and will attend the City of LA Youth Expo on May 30, 2026.**
- Commissioners Joshua Elizondo, Cristopher Espino, Amanda Hernandez, Clarissa Peña, Joseph Roa, Florencia Valenzuela, and Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, attended the Youth Commission's Fourth District Listening Session on April 25, 2026.**
- Commissioners Jessica Castillo and Joshua Elizondo attended the Third District Listening Session on May 9, 2026.**
- Co-Chair Rodriguez attended the Foster Youth Bill of Rights Training on May 28, 2026, as well as the Community Action for Peace meeting in East Los Angeles. Department of Youth Development has funded a new program titled the Action Project which she attended on Thursday, May 21, 2026.**
- Commissioners Boykin, Castillo, Elizondo, Espino, Hernandez, Peña, and Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez shared details of the activities they participated in.**

- 8.** Update on Key Strategic Partnerships and Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (26-2480)

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, reported the following:

- Suggestions provided by Commissioners on the Integration Plan (IP) by the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) with stakeholders from the Departments of Mental Health and Public Health's Substance Abuse and Prevention Control, are now being utilized in the implementation process. BHSA will return to present an update in June, and the Youth Commission will be sought for continual feedback.**
- The TAY Table convened an integrated data workgroup, the next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026. The TAY Table quarterly stakeholder meeting was held on May 20, 2026.**

- The Department of Youth Development (DYD) is leading the development of the TAY Resource Hub, with ongoing collaboration from the Youth Commission, DCFS, and the Director's Advisory Council.
- DYD is currently recruiting volunteers for the TAY Resource Hub and is seeking two Youth Commissioners to serve in these roles. A formal announcement will be issued soon.
- Opportunities for Youth Commission feedback will continue throughout the process.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo
- Commissioner Reflections (26-2481)

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair of the Operations Committee (OPS), reported that the production timeline for the Recruitment Videos has been extended beyond June 2026. OPS Chair Elizondo will continue to keep the Commission apprised as the project's progress. He then provided an overview of the Commissioner Reflection process and reported the following:

- The Reflection Sessions will include commissioners who are not yet approaching their term limits, allowing for meaningful feedback from all.
- Reflection Sessions will be conducted jointly by the OPS Chair and the Executive Director (ED).
- Commissioners may request the presence of an additional Committee Co-Chairs if desired.
- Sessions may be held either in-person or virtually, depending on commissioner preference and availability.

In response to a questions, Chair Elizondo clarified the following:

- A Reflection Session is a commissioner-specific process intended to serve as a mid-term check-in, rather than an evaluative tool. The process is scheduled to begin in June 2026, and commissioners will receive additional information as Sessions commence.

- The Reflection process is designed to support commissioners in assessing their current term and considering their potential next term or transition, if applicable. He further highlighted that Question 4 in the Reflection questions specifically addresses understanding of commissioner duties.
- Recruitment and solicitation of applications is currently underway. The application window will be extended through the first week of June, with candidate names to be presented for consideration at the next Commission meeting in June. Final recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval in July 2026.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

10. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair Amanda Hernandez. (26-2482)

Amanda Hernandez, Chair of the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), provided the following update:

- The YEC conducted an after-action review of the District 5 Listening Session. When the YEC was first established, the goal was to reach approximately 50 attendees. Recent sessions in Districts 3 and 4 have approached that target, prompting discussion about whether to increase attendance goals. Members emphasized balancing quantity and quality, noting that listening sessions are intentionally intimate spaces. As the program grows, the Committee will need to determine whether to maintain that intimacy or expand to reach larger audiences.
- A key takeaway was the importance of partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs), which can reliably bring youth participants and ensure meaningful engagement.
- The next Listening Session is planned for District 5 on July 11, 2026, with a focus on education, employment, and mental health, and how these areas intersect. The goal is to connect youth with resources such as unions, the Department of Economic Opportunity, American Job Corps, DHR, and Rise Banking.

Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to their community organizations to support youth attendance.

IV. 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. (26-2483)

Kate Teague and Tera Walsh, 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. (26-2484)

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

- **Department of Youth Development (DYD) to discuss their programming in the Probation Halls, and perhaps seek collaboration. ED Summers reported that DYD is scheduled to present to the Youth Commission sometime in June or July.**
- **The Department of Probation Ombudsperson to make a presentation.**
- **Update by the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the TAY Report Card.**

13. Adjournment. (26-2485)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2028 at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Josh Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.