



**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, June 25, 2026



6:30 PM

Video for the entire meeting. (26-2653)

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgement. (26-2654)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez read the County's Land Acknowledgement. Co-Chair Gudiel introduced new Commissioner Jania Llerenas, who then provided personal remarks.

Present: Co-Chair Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Jania Llerenas and Commissioner Clarissa Peña. Commissioner Martine Jones arrived after roll call.

Absent: Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

2. Awareness Video entitled, "Love Listens - Parents Can Help Prevent Child Trafficking" by Love146, YouTube. (26-2655)

The Awareness Video entitled, "Love Listens - Parents Can Help Prevent Child Trafficking" by Love 146 on YouTube, was shown.

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of May 28, 2026. (26-2656)

On motion of Commissioner Josh Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of May 28, 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

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Jania Llerenas

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Flo Valenzuela

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Approval of the minutes from the Special Meeting of June 13, 2026. (26-3910)

On motion of Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Jessica Castillo, and duly carried, the minutes from the Special Meeting of June 13, 2026, were approved as amended 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

Abstentions: 1 - Commissioner Jania Llerenas

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Flo Valenzuela

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. DISCUSSION

5. Roundtable Discussion with the Department of Economics and Opportunity on the youth programming. (26-2657)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel opened the floor to the Roundtable Discussion with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) on youth programming. Jenny Synn, Program Manager, Workforce Systems, DEO, provided a self-introduction and presented the following:

- **The Youth @ Work program is a regional program funded by the Board of Supervisors. The program helps youth gain valuable work experience, build professional skills, and connect with local employers, including those in high-growth industries. The program is limited to 160 hours.**
- **Eligibility: Work Permits will be coordinated with staff and school districts for participants under age 18.**
- **Pay Rate: Currently at minimum wage: \$17.87/hr and will increase to \$18.47/hr on July 1, 2026.**
- **Recruitment: Actively happening now. Youth can join by completing the Interest Form linked on the Youth @ Work flyer (QR code provided).**
- **Summer Opportunities: Additional roles available through Parks, Libraries, and YMCAs, which are running extensive summer programming.**

Ms. Synn responded to questions posed by Commissioners as follows:

- **Services are delivered through America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) across Los Angeles County, with 18 sites operated by community-based organizations. The DEO also partners with libraries, the YMCA, and other groups that regularly engage youth that are no longer in school.**
- **A job center in Altadena is serving youth affected by the Eaton Fire. Additionally, the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs' Office of Immigrant Affairs is assisting families in crisis with resources beyond employment support.**

- To support youth after completing the 160-hours, a federally funded Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program provides extended services such as job placement and training through AJCC. The DEO is currently considering expanding age eligibility. Youth over the age of 18, can also access adult programs, including pathways to union jobs. Recruitment and outreach events are actively being held at local parks and other community locations.
- Supportive services for youth are jointly provided by DCFS and the AJCC. When DCFS cannot cover certain needs, AJCC can step in, to provide transportation assistance. The program offers more than work experience. AJCC provides access to training, including industry-recognized occupational credentials. They also support short-term skill development, such as software courses or other targeted learning needed for employment.
- Mentorship is provided through the Elevate program, a pilot program that DEO is looking to expand, as well as the Credible Messengers that are incorporated into a variety of programs, as well as the LA Rise programs.
- The number of placements have increased in the past year and she will provide data to the Youth Commission. Data regarding how many youth are placed after the Youth @ Work program is completed, is not available.
- There has been a decrease this year of approximately \$2 million due to funding cuts. However, a substantial amount of funding was still made available, therefore, work continues to the maximum ability of what funding allows.
- Enrollment is contingent based on proper documentation submission. Once all required documents are received, enrollment can take as little as one week. Placement may take longer due to other requirements such as a Live Scan, which is paid for by AJCC.
- Enrollment is now taking place as early as May for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1st.

The Roundtable discussion concluded with a brief discussion regarding the need for personal documents, and efforts within the Registrar Recorder's Office to assist youth in obtaining them.

Members of the public, Bryan Celis, and Kate, addressed the Youth Commission.

Attachments: [Y@W - General Flyer](#)
 [Y@W - Parks flyer](#)

III. REPORTS/UPDATES AND ACTION ITEM

- 6. Leadership Report. (26-2658)**

No report was provided.

- 7. Commissioner reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (26-2659)**

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel reported the following:

- **Commissioners Castillo and Co-Chair Rodriguez attended the Queen of Angels Housing - Willow Brook presentation on June 17, 2026.**
- **Commissioner Jackson attended the Care First Community Investment Meeting on June 18, 2026.**
- **Commissioners Elizondo, Jackson, Jones, and Co-Chairs Gudiel and Rodriguez attended the 2026 Independent Living Program (ILP) Scholarship Extravaganza on June 23, 2026. Commissioner Martine Jones and Co-Chairs Rodriguez and Gudiel provided personal comments on the ILP Scholarship event. Commissioner Clarissa Peña discussed the DCFS graduation orientation.**
- **Co-Chair Rodriguez attended the Care First Community Investment Meetings the Community Action for Peace meeting in East Los Angeles, and the Heart of Youth Justice Reimagined meetings, and voiced her concern regarding the new structure of the programming, with the creation of a cohesive cohort of youth in regular attendance rather than having it occur organically.**

8. Update on Key Strategic Partnerships and Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (26-2660)

Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez opened the discussion on key strategic partnerships and Board motions involving the Youth Commission.

Executive Director Tiara Summers provided background on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Motion and shared details about the input sessions in which the Youth Commission participated. She then introduced Rigo Rodriguez, consultant to the Department of Mental Health for the BHSA community planning process, for updates.

Mr. Rodriguez summarized youth feedback collected through reports from the Department of Public Health Youth Advisory Council, the Department of Parks and Recreation's Our Spot Program, and the Youth Commission, regarding the BHSA Integration Plan that will guide the County's use of state provided resources. He highlighted key findings collected from the feedback and outlined the ecosystem of support and systems of care for youth. He also presented next steps, which include:

- **Transitioning from listening to taking action**
- **Developing meaningful, non-tokenizing relationships with youth**
- **Presenting the report to departmental leaders to identify actionable items**
- **Reporting back to the Youth Commission for continued guidance and accountability**

Commissioners then offered the following additional input:

- **Emphasized the influence of environmental factors on mental health.**
- **Stressed the importance of early family support and asked whether departments are being directed toward specific actions or expected to develop their own. Mr. Rodriguez clarified that action items are drawn from the reports and categorized as short, medium, or long-term implementation plans based on departmental capacity.**
- **Regarding the timeline for departmental responses, Mr. Rodriguez indicated he plans to return to the Youth Commission within three months with updates and explanations of any constraints affecting implementation.**

Co-Chair Rodriguez thanked Mr. Rodriguez for his ongoing engagement and shared her own reflections on the Youth Commission Analysis survey process.

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

9. Youth Engagement Committee update by Committee Chair Amanda Hernandez. (26-2662)

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Chair of the Youth Engagement Committee (YEC), announced that the Fifth District Listening Session will take place on Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club of Pasadena, with the theme Driving Confidence: Steering a Path to Wellness, focusing on the intersection of mental health, education, and employment.

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel reported that the Second District Listening Session, is scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Compton YouthBuild, themed Unlocking Opportunities: A District 2 Experience.

YEC Chair Hernandez also reported that planning is underway for the Youth Engagement End-Year Event and encouraged Commissioners to coordinate presentations based on data from Listening Session surveys and other events. Dan Wheeler, Outreach Coordinator, Youth Commission, reported that 1,104 surveys have been collected so far. YEC Chair Hernandez suggested presentation topics include Listening Session themes, giveaways, venues, participation, collaboration, and key takeaways.

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo reported that Supervisor Lindsey Horvath expressed interest in participating in the End-Year Event.

10. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo and Recommendation to Approve the Nomination of At-Large Youth Commission Candidates. (26-2661)

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee (OPS), reported that Commissioners will be contacted by the end of July to schedule Commissioner Reflections. Also, an update on onboarding videos will be provided to the whole Commission at the next meeting.

OPS Chair Elizondo opened the floor to the recommendation to approve the nomination for two At-Large Youth Commission Candidates, Jasmine Jordan and Yin Qiao Zhang. OPS Chair Elizondo provided each candidate's qualifications. He thanked the Commissioners who assisted in the selection process and reported that other applicants who have already been interviewed will serve as possible future candidates. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, confirmed that each candidate is system impacted.

Commissioners Clarissa Peña and Martine Jones shared their personal thoughts on the candidates. OPS Chair Elizondo stressed that the overall makeup and diversity of the Commission will always be considered during the selection process.

OPS Chair Elizondo indicated that based on the last interviews, the structure of questions will be modified.

On motion of Commissioner Martine Jones, seconded by Commissioner Clarissa Peña, and duly carried, the Commission approved the nomination of Jasmine Jordan and Yin Qiao Xhang and submission to the Board of Supervisors for appointment, by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - 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 Jania Llerenas and Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Cristopher Espino, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

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. (26-2663)

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. (26-2664)

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez requested that the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee regarding justice-involved youth be considered and agendaized for discussion at a future meeting. Executive Director, Tiara Summers, indicated that the Department of Youth Development is scheduled for a presentation in July and this would be a good opportunity for this topic to be discussed.

- 13.** Adjournment. (26-2665)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 2026, 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 8:26 p.m.