



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



ST. ANNE'S CONFERENCE AND EVENT CENTER
155 NORTH OCCIDENTAL BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90026

poc.lacounty.gov

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 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 9:03 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 Tyrique Shipp, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair Dolores Canales

Absent: Commissioner Samuel Prater

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

2. Approval of the June 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

Commissioner Kakani proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Terry to approve the June 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Commissioner Meredith made a friendly amendment to agenda item 7 to change Raphael's last name from Hauz to Paz.

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Kakani, seconded by Commissioner Terry, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Prater and Shipp being absent), the Los Angeles Probation Oversight Commission (POC) agreed to approve the June 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes as amended:

Ayes: **6 –** Commissioner Brooke Harris, Commissioner Esché L. Jackson, Commissioner Milinda Kakani, Commissioner Donald D. Meredith, Commissioner Diane Terry, and Chair Dolores Canales

Absent: **2 –** Commissioner Samuel Prater and Commissioner Tyrique Shipp

Attachments: [Approved June 11, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes](#)
Public Comment/Correspondence

II. DISCUSSIONS

3. **Psychotropic Medication** – Discuss and take possible action on a presentation about the uses, risks, and side effects on teens and young adults of psychotropic medications including Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) to treat substance use disorders, especially in detention settings. Probation will share their role in ensuring youth have access to psychiatric medical care through their partners and the impacts they see of the use of psychotropic medications including MAT.

- **Panelists include:**

- i. Dr. Sarah Gongora, Psy.D., Project Director, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
- ii. Robert Arcos, Chief Deputy, Los Angeles County Probation Department
- iii. Dr. Hanumantha Damerla, MD, Chief Psychiatrist of the Forensic Psychiatry Division of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
- iv. Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, MD, Medical Director/Supervising Psychiatrist of DMH's Juvenile Justice Mental Health Program (JJMHP)
- v. Stefanie Gluckman, Project Director, Los Angeles County Office of Child and Family Well-Being

Commissioner Shipp joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Dr. Gongora introduced the agenda item by emphasizing the psychiatric needs of detained youth and the importance of reviewing data on medication use and clinical trends.

Dr. Damerla and Dr. FitzPatrick gave verbal presentations and responded to questions and concerns raised by Commissioners. They provided detailed presentations on diagnostic patterns, screening tools, evaluation processes, and the role of psychotropic medications and MAT in stabilizing youth in detention.

Dr. FitzPatrick explained physical, telephonic, and court-authorized consent procedures and confirmed families are informed of side effects and alternatives during the consent process.

Commissioner Harris asked about medication data and consent. Dr. Damerla confirmed medication tracking and clarified that youth cannot be forced to take psychotropic medication.

Chair Canales requested a list of commonly used medications prescribed to youth for mental health, the number of youth receiving multiple medications, and data on the number of times that DMH has overridden the parents' authorization. Dr. Damerla confirmed that this information is tracked and available to share with the POC.

Commissioner Terry asked about medication education and youth consent. Dr. FitzPatrick confirmed that parents receive medication education and that only MAT allows youth aged 16 and above to consent. She also asked about file continuity, and Dr. FitzPatrick confirmed that medical summaries follow youth across facilities.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about DMH providing the POC with an anonymous case example, clarification on screening, an explanation on ongoing monitoring, and diagnostic patterns. Dr. FitzPatrick described multiple tools that are being used including parent-

caregiver questionnaire and ongoing assessments. Dr. Damerla provided an explanation between pre-existing conditions and adjustment-related symptoms.

In response to Commissioner Harris' questions about medication rates, Dr. Damerla confirmed that DMH has tracked data that has shown higher diagnostic and medication prevalence in juvenile justice detention settings.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about mental health and drug-use. Dr. FitzPatrick emphasized that most administered medications are sleep medications due to environmental depression/stress.

Project Director Gluckman highlighted the importance of cross-departmental collaboration, citing examples like harm-reduction vending machines, and emphasized that sleep-aid reliance must be considered alongside environmental sleep-hygiene conditions.

Katheryn Beigh, Probation Director for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, gave a verbal report on improved medication management but noted that staff still observe side effects of the medications.

Commissioner Kakani emphasized that sleep aids is the root reason of why she asked that this item be agendaized and inquired about the extent of giving these medications to youth. Dr. Damerla and Dr. FitzPatrick confirmed that Benadryl and Melatonin among other medications are used as sleep aids. Dr. FitzPatrick confirmed that decisions to medicate youth are discussed with parents.

Commissioner Kakani emphasized sleep-aid concerns and requested data on Benadryl use, dosages, and duration. Commissioner Kakani inquired about how youth refusals are handled. Dr. Damerla confirmed that youth cannot be forced to take medication, and refusals are not reported unless specifically required. Probation Director Beigh further emphasized that youth medication refusals are not documented unless courts request the information.

Commissioner Kakani requested that the DMH provide the number of youth on Benadryl, the dosages, and the length of time they are on it. Project Director Gluckman recommended that the POC also consider the underlying reasons for the usage and administration of the Benadryl to each youth. She referred to it as the "Sleep Hygiene" in the camps and halls.

Commissioner Terry inquired about whether the medical file follows the youth across facilities, even if they go to County Jail. Dr. FitzPatrick confirmed that there is a summary file that is produced and placed in the youth's file once they switch facilities or are released.

Four (4) public commenters addressed the POC.

In response to Commissioner Shipp's inquiry about aftercare, Dr. Damerla explained that every juvenile youth in Los Angeles County has a JJPass (Juvenile Justice Pass), which was established by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
 Public Comment/Correspondence

The POC recessed for 10 minutes and resumed the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

4. **Update on Probation's Intake and Detention Control Division (IDC)** – Discuss and take possible action on a report from the Los Angeles County Probation Department regarding continued improvements and collaborations related to intake decisions and detention recommendations including a report on progress in sharing Los Angeles Detention Screener (LADS) scores with the juvenile court and court parties. Discussion will include progress the Department has made with improving the quality of intake reports, recent reductions in population, and progress on implementing the recommendations made by the Office of Inspector General in Assessment of Probation's Detention Reports.
 - **Panelists include:**
 - i. Cesar Mayorquin, Probation Director, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 - ii. Thomas Schofield, Data Scientist Supervisor, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Probation Director Mayorquin provided updates on detention criteria, intake quality, risk assessment use, and collaboration efforts.

Commissioner Harris inquired about the relationship between initial detention and the detention recommendation that goes in the court report. Director Mayorquin mentioned that lots have happened since he came onboard.

In response to Commissioner Kakani's inquiry about what is included in the LADS that are shared with the court, Director Mayorquin confirmed that only the final score is currently being included.

Commissioner Kakani asked for clarification around the data and the policy. Director Mayorquin confirmed that the policy is outdated and needs to be updated and revised.

Thomas Schofield, Data Scientist Supervisor for Probation Department, reviewed the LADS risk-assessment tool and reported that the current LADS risk-assessment tool performs at about 65%, leading the Department to discard the remaining scoring items that were not reliable. Mr. Schofield also noted that the Department is developing and validating a new, more effective risk-assessment model for future use.

Commissioner Jackson inquired about the degree to which parents' feedback is incorporated into the decisions. Director Mayorquin emphasized that parental feedback and information is incorporated when youth decline to speak.

Five (5) public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Shipp asked whether policy evolves with depopulation; Mr. Mayorquin explained that emergency strategies come from executive leadership and do not change IDC policy directly.

In response to Commissioner Harris' request to have Mr. Schofield return and give an overview of and presentation of the dashboard, what it is, progress they have made, etc., Mr. Schofield confirmed that this updated risk-assessment model will be incorporated into a data dashboard for future a presentation to the Commission.

Attachments: Supporting Documents
 [Probation's IDC Policy Section 801](#)
 [Probation's Detention Criteria](#)
 [IDC Data for March 2026 and April 2026](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

Reference Documents – from prior POC meetings

[02/17/26 Depopulation Strategy Evaluation – Intake and Detention Analysis](#)

[03/12/26 Probation's Response to POC's Intake & Detention Analysis](#)

[03/06/26 OIG's Assessment of Probation's Detention Reports](#)

[04/09/26 POC Motion on LADS & Intake Data](#)

5. **Visitation Policy and Dissolution of the Policy Ad Hoc Committee** – Discuss and take possible action on Probation's new Visitation Policy and continued progress in implementing best practices in visitation procedures. After hearing the report, the POC will vote on a motion to dissolve the POC's Policy Ad Hoc Committee.

- **Panelists include:**

- i. Veronica Castillo, Special Assistant, Los Angeles County Probation Department

Special Assistant Castillo provided a verbal report on the new visitation policy, automated phone system, dress code accommodations, and contact visitation.

Executive Director Julien confirmed that the Visitation Policy is pending final review by the Probation unions prior to publication.

Commissioner Meredith inquired about the Probation Department using Reserve DPOs to help accommodate visitation. Special Assistant Castillo agreed to report back to the POC.

Commissioner Shipp proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, to dissolve the POC's Policy Ad Hoc Committee.

Two (2) public commenters addressed the POC.

Commissioner Shipp shared comments that visitation is something that will continually be monitored and tracked despite the ad hoc committee being dissolved.

On motion of Commissioner Shipp, seconded by Commissioner Kakani, unanimously carried, (Commissioner Prater being absent), the POC agreed to dissolve the POC's Policy Ad Hoc Committee:

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Samuel Prater

Attachments: Supporting Documents
 [Probation's Updated Visitation Policy](#)
 Public Comment/Correspondence

Reference Documents – from prior POC meetings

[12/08/25 OYCR's Model Visitation Guidelines for Los Angeles County](#)

[11/17/25 Report Back on Visitation Inspections – Findings & Recommendations](#)

6. **Probation Oversight Commission Administrative Report** – Discuss and take possible action on the following items:
- i. POC Staff update – Executive Director Wendelyn Julien, Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission
 - ii. Committee Updates
 1. Budget Ad Hoc Committee – Commissioner Brooke Harris
 - a. Motion about September Meeting Request
 2. Commissioner Selection Ad Hoc Committee – Chair Dolores Canales

Executive Director Julien reported on outstanding requests for information, noting the 8-module training course had not been received and remained subject to a subpoena duces tecum. She provided updates from the Data & Research Team, including an analysis of staff “no call/no show” patterns, as well as newly updated population statistics.

Commissioner Harris provided an update on the POC’s Budget Ad Hoc Committee and explained that the purpose of the attached motion is to increase the conversation and heighten the understanding of the POC and others around Probation’s budget.

Commissioner Harris proposed a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, to accept the attached motion as presented.

Chair Canales and Commissioner Terry agreed to postpone reports for the Commissioner Selection Ad Hoc Committee and the Less Restrictive Placements Ad Hoc Committee.

Commissioner Kakani reported on behalf of the Campus Kilpatrick Ad Hoc Committee that they are working to understand how the Chief’s vision of housing all girls and gender-expansive youth at a single specialized facility is being implemented. She explained that significant questions remain regarding whether this vision is occurring in practice, how the population is defined, and what data supports current placement decisions. Commissioner Kakani noted that ongoing conversations with CVK staff and subpoenaed training materials are expected to provide needed clarity.

Two (2) public commenters addressed the POC.

On motion of Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Prater being absent), the POC accepted the motion as presented:

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

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Samuel Prater

Attachments: Supporting Documents
[OC Spray Deployment Reports \(May 18, 2026 – June 14, 2026\)](#)
[07/07/26 POC Updated OC Spray Report](#)
[06/09/26 POC Callout Data Report](#)
[07/01/26 POC Updated Population Statistics Report](#)
[06/09/26 POC Research Brief on Staff Callouts and Absences](#)
[POC's 2nd Quarter KPI Report - April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026](#)
[POC Budget Motion](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

7. 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.

(Not on agenda)

There were no topics proposed for discussion at future meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

8. 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.

Five (5) public commenters addressed the POC.

Attachments: Public Comment/Correspondence

IV. ADJOURNMENT

9. Adjournment for the regular meeting of July 9, 2026.

On motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Harris, unanimously carried (Commissioner Prater being absent), the POC adjourned the meeting at 1:11 p.m.