



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, August 27, 2026

6:30 PM



Video for the entire meeting. (26-3931)

Attachments: [Video](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order, Roll Call and Land Acknowledgement. (26-3973)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. County Staff conducted Roll Call. Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez 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 Jasmine Jordan, Commissioner Jania Llerenas, Commissioner Clarissa Peña, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela. Commissioner Mercedes Jackson arrived after Roll Call.

Absent: Commissioner Yin Qiao Zhang

2. Awareness Video entitled. Know to Say No: Teachers, by DCFS, Vimeo. (26-3981)

The Awareness Video entitled, Know to Stay No: Teachers, by DCFS, Vimeo was shown.

Attachments: [VIDEO](#)

3. Approval of minutes from the regular meeting of July 30, 2026. (26-3989)

On motion by Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Martine Jones, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of July 30, 2026, were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 12 - Co-Chair Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Mercedes Jackson, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Jasmine Jordan, Commissioner Jania Llerenas, Commissioner Clarissa Peña and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Yin Qiao Zhang

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. ACTION ITEM

4. Youth Engagement Committee (YEC) update and YEC recommendation to approve the YEC Report 2026.
- Amanda Hernandez, YEC Chair (26-4007)

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, YEC Chair, provided an update on the YEC's recommendation to approve the 2026 YEC Report. A brief discussion followed, highlighting the points below:

- **The graph on the Executive Summary, page 2 of the Report, should clearly distinguish between System Involved Youth and Non-System Involved Youth.**
- **Visuals should be added to the Report, and all Commissioner photographs must be verified for accuracy.**
- **Additional future outreach is needed in districts with low survey participation to help close gaps in the data analysis.**
- **Future surveys should include a prompt that indicates if attendees are visiting from outside the district hosting the event and reflected demographically in next year's report.**

Executive Director Tiara Summers noted that survey response rates have decreased compared with the previous year, emphasizing the importance of strengthening outreach efforts. She added that this issue will be addressed at the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting. Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez added that Commissioners should engage in outreach that is both active and intentional.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Josh Boykin, seconded by Commissioner Florencia Valenzuela, and duly carried, the 2026 YEC Report was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Co-Chair Christian Gudiel, Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, Commissioner Jessica Castillo, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, Commissioner Martine Jones, Commissioner Jania Llerenas, Commissioner Joseph Roa and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Noes: 1 - Commissioner Clarissa Peña

Abstentions: 2 - Commissioner Miguel (Josh) Boykin and Commissioner Jasmine Jordan

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Mercedes Jackson and Commissioner Yin Qiao Zhang

YEC Chair Hernandez shared information about YEC's End of Year Event scheduled for October. She encouraged Commissioners to begin preparing their presentations to stakeholders, including the approach for future listening sessions, key information they wish to share, and any activities they plan to incorporate into their presentations.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
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III. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- 5.** Roundtable Discussion with the Department of Public Health on the Office of Violence Prevention on Sexual Assault Council's Five-Year Strategic Plan. (26-5194)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel opened the floor to the roundtable discussion with the Department of Health (DPH) on the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) on Sexual Assault Council's (SAC) Five-Year Strategic Plan. Valerie Coachman Moore, founder, CEO of Coachman Moore Associates (CMA), strategic planning consulting firm for OVP SAC, and Candy Lewis, CEO of Positive Results Center, partner with CMA, provided self-introductions and conducted a presentation on the OVP's SAC's Five-Year Strategic Plan, and highlighted the following:

- Overview of approach and phases.
- Best Practices and Implications.
- Document Review and Key Findings.
- Lived Experience and Survey Findings.

- **Cross Cutting Principles.**
- **Emerging Strategic Framework.**

After the presentation, a Question-and-Answer Session ensued as follows:

Question 1. When you think about sexual violence and youth, what worries you the most right now?

- Many youth do not recognize what they are experiencing, and those who do may be afraid to speak up.
- Some adults dismiss or doubt youth reports, offer little support, or blame the youth, leaving them vulnerable.
- Youth may become targets when their emotions are visible or misunderstood.
- Youth are sometimes placed in unsafe environments by the system.
- There is a need for trauma-informed care and an understanding of the difference between medical treatment and internal healing.
- Youth need education on the signs of toxic relationships, as fear of homelessness or financial instability may keep them from leaving harmful situations. Some youth remain under the care or control of the perpetrator out of necessity.
- Youth often lack access to clear, reliable resources or information.
- Sexual violence can become normalized, especially in cases of incest, creating deep shame and emotional trauma.
- Healing requires multiple approaches, recognizing that trauma affects each youth differently.
- Professionals may not allow enough time to build the trusting relationships necessary for youth to feel safe.
- There are insufficient resources for both youth who perpetrate sexual violence and youth who experience it, contributing to repeated harm and normalized rape culture.
- Youth may feel forgotten or not seen and lose trust, leading to self-shame, loneliness, and isolation.
- Safety measures on public transportation are inadequate. Youth are often taught to monitor their clothing or appearance rather than being protected. Additional Metro Ambassadors could reduce risk.
- Youth need continued self-affirmation after therapy, as talk therapy alone does not always lead to healing.
- Health providers need greater awareness of interpersonal violence, including psychological, emotional, verbal, and financial abuse, so early intervention can break the cycle.
- County-run out-of-home care facilities can unintentionally create harmful environments for youth, and systemic delays prevent timely recognition and correction of these issues, particularly for LGBTQ+ youth.

- Sexual violence is treated as a taboo topic for youth under 18, limiting access to appropriate care. Young people need safe spaces beyond the home, and the Board of Supervisors should allocate funding for school-based ambassadors and community safe spaces.
- Schools need age-appropriate education that clearly explains sexual assault, lack of consent, coercion, exploitation, and how to refuse unwanted contact. This should include self-defense training and guidance on what to do if harm occurs.
- Social workers need training to meet youth where they are, including those who do not regularly attend school and are consistently truant.

Question 2. When young people need help after sexual violence, what gets in the way, what prevents them from seeking help?

- Feelings of shame and guilt.
- Not being believed or supported, especially in cases of incest.
- Fear of being ostracized, removed from the family, or blamed if the perpetrator is removed from the family setting or friendship groups.
- Delayed disclosure can result in stalled investigations and lack of justice leading to feelings of hopelessness.
- Some authorities respond punitively toward victims, weakening trust in the justice process.
- Investigations may be neglected when perpetrators hold positions of authority, including law enforcement.
- Sexual education programs that are male-centered and misogynistic, with gender biases, such as homophobia and harmful myths about LGBTQ+ youth, discourage survivors from coming forward and obscure the realities of trauma.

Question 3. What trusted resources (sexual violence or others) exist in the community and who is accessing them and who isn't?

- Resources need to be readily available and advertised in the community. A list of resources should be shared with community service providers.
- California Victim Compensation Board (CalVCB), East Los Angeles Women's Center, and Volunteers of American, YWCA are known resources, however, these resources may only be available to those aged 18 and over.

Question 4. What would it take to actually prevent sexual violence among young people under aged 18, not just respond to it, and what resources are needed?

- Older generations need to confront long-held biases and acknowledge the reality of trauma. Communities must also create safe spaces and respond collectively to these issues.

- Community campaigns should provide clear information on how to report incidents and encourage open discussion without fear of retaliation.
- School culture must shift toward a framework rooted in cultural sensitivity, where students, especially girls, are not sexualized based on clothing.
- Communities need trusted, accessible safe spaces where youth can receive support and engage without fear.

Question 5. What would make youth trust the LAC SAC, and work with it as it relates to the intersection of your working with young people?

- Ensure LAC SAC is equipped to support minors, youth in immigration custody, and survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
- Establish a clear support timeline for traumatized youth: listen, then create a safe space and connect them to self-care resources and continued ongoing support.
- Develop clear objectives, desired outcomes, and an actionable plan to achieve them.
- Maintain ongoing collaboration and dialogue with the Youth Commission.

Ms. Coachman Moore and Ms. Lewis thanked Commissioners and encouraged them to complete the survey that can be accessed via QR Code, and can be shared with others.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Roundtable Discussion with the Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH) and Overview of HSH Youth Programming Initiatives. (26-5202)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel opened the floor to the roundtable discussion with the Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH). Molly Reisman, Director of System Coordination and Engagement, HSH, provided a self-introduction and introduced her colleague, Leticia Colchado, Analyst, Homeless Initiative (Panelists), and presented the following overview of the HSH Youth Programming Initiatives:

- Background of HSH that launched on January 1, 2025.
- System Coordination and Engagement.
- Youth Collaboration and Support.
- Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Specified Programs 2026 27: 726 Interim Housing Beds and 163 Time Limited Subsidy Slots Preserved.

- Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement Grant (YHSI) (one time funding): Goals, Deliverables and Structure
- TAY Expansion Program – Phase I and Phase II: Background and Funding
- Vision, Success and Mission

Commissioner Hernandez emphasized the urgent need for housing, expanded funding, and actionable recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. After which, the Panelists clarified specific aspects of the Programs based on questions posed by Commissioners as follows:

- TAY Age Range and Services – Most TAY programs serve ages 18–24; HSH serves ages 18–26, with additional funding for ages 27–30 that includes all young adults, not only those from foster care.
- Support Beyond Housing – It was stressed that Youth need interpersonal skills education to succeed in shared housing environments.
- Youth Action Boards (YAB) – 60 youth participate across the County’s SPAs, with each YAB appointing a representative to the Cross Systems Leadership Table supported by YHSI grants.
- Funding Landscape – An Assessment for *Measure A* is underway, with results expected in Spring 2027. Deliverables include advocacy for *Measure A* funding and preservation of TAY beds. Philanthropic prevention and flexible housing funding begins January 2027. Funding is a mix of County programs and community providers, with prevention split between County and nonprofits.
- ECHO Team Function – Elevates community identified barriers for system improvements and coordinates regional efforts. Team members work directly with providers and youth to identify community needs; other teams focus on lived experience and continuum of care issues.
- Diversity and Inclusion – Young adult leaders reflect diverse identities and experiences. HSH partners with providers to ensure inclusion of system involved, justice involved, probation involved, and LGBTQA youth.
- Data and Research Partnerships – HSH collaborates with external Action Boards and the California Policy Lab (CPL) for data analysis. The Commission was encouraged to have CPL present on their rapid response research on young adult homelessness.
- Youth Engagement in the Workforce – Two new positions focus on young adult data, and current youth staff are encouraged to apply.
- Maintaining Mission Integrity – Referral pathways are closely monitored to prevent mission drift. Youth are targeted through focused marketing, and referral access does not require HMIS enrollment.
- Funding Prioritization and Responsiveness – Funding tiers exist, but urgent needs remain prioritized and referrals are handled accordingly.

- **Cross Department Collaboration** – Partnerships with agencies like the Department of Youth Development (DYD) ensure strong case management and flexible financial assistance while maintaining service quality.

Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez requested a formal invitation to the HSH Leadership Table for feedback and collaboration. Director Reisman invited the Youth Commission to the upcoming Youth Summit in October.

Kate Teague, member of the public, addressed the Youth Commission.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
 [PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

IV. REPORTS

7. Leadership Report. (26-4004)

No Leadership Report was provided.

8. Commissioner reports on Activities and Events attended on behalf of the Youth Commission. (26-4005)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel reported the following:

- Commissioner Joshua Elizondo participated in Commissioner reflection sessions between August 5 through August 11, 2026.
- Commissioner Mercedes Jackson attended the Care First, Community Investment (CFCI) meetings on August 6 and August 20, 2026.
- Commissioners Clarissa Peña and Jania Llerenas attended the DYD – In Person TAY (Transitional Age Youth) Resource Hub Listening Session #2 Survey on August 25, 2026.
- Co-Chairs Evelyn Karina Rodriguez and Christian Gudiel attended the Probation Oversight Commission meeting on August 13, 2026. Co-Chair Rodriguez attended the Care First, Community Investment (CFCI) meeting on August 20, 2026.
- Commissioner Joseph Roa attended the Department of Youth Development Listening Sessions.

Commissioners Clarissa Peña and Joseph Roa and Co-Chairs Gudiel and Rodriguez provided additional feedback and comments on the events they attended.

Executive Director, Tiara Summers, encouraged Commissioners to continue attending crucial meetings and stressed the importance of reporting back to the full Commission. Also, it is necessary to be aware of email, invitations, and tasks to be completed by those Commissioners representing the Youth Commission on various tables and task forces.

She added that there will be opportunities to strategically support the efforts of youth engaged entities, and a brief discussion ensued regarding various initiatives.

V. UPDATES

9. Update on Key Strategic Partnerships and Board Motions that the Youth Commission is named in. (26-4006)

No report on Key Strategic Partnerships and Board Motions was provided.

10. Operations Committee update by Committee Chair Joshua Elizondo. (26-4008)

Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Chair, Operations Committee (OPS), provided the following report:

- **Commissioner Reflection Sessions were completed successfully. Executive Director Tiara Summers highlighted their value in fostering honesty, engagement, and Commissioner growth, recommending the process occur annually. Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez shared her reflections and congratulated OPS Chair Elizondo on the successful design and implementation of the sessions.**
- **The vacancy process is moving forward: Round 1 interviews begin next week, and previously interviewed candidates will enter Round 2 at the end of September. A finalist may be presented to the full Commission by late September or October.**
- **Commissioner Joseph Roa is shifting his work from the Fourth Supervisorial District to the Third District to better align with his focus areas.**

VI. DISCUSSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Discussion and possible action on creating an Ad Hoc Committee regarding justice involved youth. (26-5203)

Commissioner Amanda Hernandez provided a brief statement stating that the Commission has not readily focused on justice-involved youth who can provide feedback and insight into the system. She suggested creating an ad hoc committee to engage this population for feedback and advocacy.

On motion of Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, second by Commissioner Josh Boykin, there being no objection, this item was continued to the next meeting.

12. Discussion and possible action to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of funding for the *My Life My Way Blueprint* through the DYD Emerging Program. (26-5204)

Co-Chair Christian Gudiel opened the floor to discussion on this item.

Commissioner Josh Boykin, made a motion, seconded by Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, to continue this item to the next meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Amanda Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Josh Boykin, there being no objection, the motion to continue this item to the next meeting was reconsidered to allow the discussion to continue.

Commissioner Hernandez provided a brief refresher of the presentation by the Department of Youth Development (DYD) at the last Commission meeting where the funding issue for the Blueprint was addressed.

Discussion ensued regarding the process of drafting the letter and submission to the full Commission for approval. Commissioners Clarissa Peña, Jania Llerenas, and Joseph Roa, agreed to prepare a draft letter for review and approval by the whole Commission at the next meeting.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to the next meeting.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

13. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered, and placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (26-4010)

The following matters were requested to be placed on the next meeting agenda:

- **Discussion on visiting Juvenile Halls.**
- **Consider a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Department of Homeless Services and Housing's Youth Programming Initiatives.**

14. 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. (26-4009)

Kate Teague, member of the public, addressed the Youth Commission.

Attachments: [PUBLIC COMMENT/WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE](#)

15. Adjournment. (26-4011)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Co-Chair Evelyn Karina Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Josh Boykin, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.