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[CLICK HERE FOR THE INTERIM CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT DATED MARCH 22, 2023](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT DATED APRIL 7, 2023](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT'S REPORT DATED APRIL 21, 2023](#)

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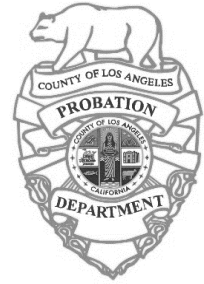
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KAREN L. FLETCHER
Interim Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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March 22, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Karen L. Fletcher *Karen Fletcher*
Interim Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **ADDRESSING EMERGENT ILLICIT SUBSTANCES AND CONTRABAND
ENTERING THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JUVENILE HALLS
(ITEM NO. 56-A, DIRECTIVES 1, 5 AND 6, AGENDA OF MARCH 7, 2023)**

On March 7, 2023, on motion of Supervisors Solis and Hahn, as amended by Supervisor Horvath, the Board of Supervisors (Board) took various actions pertaining to illicit substances and contraband entering the juvenile halls, including those related to Directives 1, 5 and 6, as follows:

1. Instructed the Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board in writing in 14 days on how the Department is immediately addressing the flow of illicit substances and contraband that are entering the County's juvenile halls including at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Using K-9 search teams to conduct searches of housing units only, for illicit substances and contraband;
 - b. Supplementing existing security, stationed at the entrances and perimeters, with law enforcement, including the use of K-9 search teams;
 - c. Reporting to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Probation Oversight Commission (POC) on:

- i. Any complaints of misuse or misconduct on the use of K-9 search teams; and
 - ii. Documentation on the deployment of K-9 search teams with date, time, units, names of staff involved in search, names of staff assigned to the unit, what was discovered, measures taken, and other relevant information; and
 - d. Working with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to make Narcan readily and easily accessible to youth and educating and training youth on how to use Narcan.
5. Instructed the Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board in 14 days about their immediate effort with Probation staff with supervisory duties to initiate disciplinary procedures against any employee who has knowledge of another employee enabling the spread of illicit substances, but does not report those activities to their supervisor; and
6. Directed the Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board in 14 days about their work to immediately begin the discipline process, including termination for any employee who, in violation of County policy, is found to be enabling the spread of illicit substances in any Juvenile Probation facility.

The following provides a response to the above Directives.

I. DEPARTMENT'S IMMEDIATE ADDRESSING OF FLOW OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES AND CONTRABAND ENTERING COUNTY'S JUVENILE HALLS (DIRECTIVE 1)

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Given the serious nature and prevalence of illicit substances and contraband flowing into the juvenile facilities, as reported to the POC on February 22, 2023, the Probation Department continues to proactively make every effort to take preventative measures to mitigate the risk of contraband at the juvenile facilities including the following:

Detention Services Bureau (Juvenile Halls)

Central Juvenile Hall

- Requests to local law enforcement have been made to increase mobile surveillance to increase presence in areas where contraband is believed to be thrown from.
- A request to increase vehicle patrols by contracted security.

- Searches are being conducted in adherence to Detention Services Bureau Manual section 700 and Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), Title 15 Regulations 1360.
- Field searches are conducted before and after a unit is moved throughout the facility (to/from school and outdoor recreation).
- A request for pricing/proposal was submitted for golf course-type fencing/netting to be placed high along the perimeter wall.
- Preliminary research has been conducted by facility staff about acquiring Drone Security Technology to eliminate the risk of drone drops.
- Metal Detector wands were issued to each unit to aid in unit searches.
- Everyone entering the facility is required to go through a metal detector and all belongings (bags, purses, etc.) are scanned by an x-ray machine.
- The addition of Vapor Tracer machines at the entrance of the facility will be utilized to detect illegal substances.
- The assistance of the Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) and the Canine Units are requested, when needed.
- As of 3/20/2023, 236 staff have completed Narcan training. Narcan is available in every unit.

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD)/Allied Universal Contract Security Guard post orders were updated and implemented on November 14, 2022. The list of prohibited items was updated and provided to all staff and Partner Agency personnel.
- Searches are being conducted in adherence to Detention Services Bureau Manual section 700 and BSCC, Title 15 Regulations 1360.
- Directors are conducting weekly Director/Supervisor meetings where contraband and solutions are being discussed. Supervisors also share all pertinent information with their unit staff during unit meetings.
- Regular perimeter checks occur on each shift; exterior perimeter security checks are conducted twice a week and randomly to observe suspicious behavior outside the walls.
- Daily school searches are conducted by the School Team.
- Future plans include a two-tier security check point at both the entrance of the facility and the entrance to the compound.
- Effective 3/6/2023 SEO staff and canines were deployed to BJN Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm to assist with searches. Additional assistance of the SEO and the Canine Units are requested, when needed.
- As of 3/20/2023, 86 staff have completed Narcan Training. Narcan is available in every unit.
- The addition of Vapor Tracer machines at the entrance of the facility will be utilized to detect illegal substances.

- Field searches are conducted before and after a unit is moved throughout the facility (to/from school and outdoor recreation).

Central and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls

- In accordance with California Code of Regulations §1324 and §1324, prior to working in a detention facility, all facility staff, partner agencies, community-based organizations, and volunteers receive mandatory training and a handbook which outlines required safety regulations, and strictly prohibits contraband from entering the facility.
- Probation has contracted security guards. All bags and persons entering a juvenile hall are screened by security using metal detectors and x-ray machines.
- Daily, the facility has unit searches. Weekly, we have AB 109 deployed staff complete in-depth searches.
- Signs related to illegal contraband such as, narcotics, firearms, and electronic devices, with applicable laws are displayed at each facility.
- Probation has requested a security assessment of the facility to be conducted by the LASD to see what enhancements should be implemented to keep the facility secure and safe.

Residential Treatment Services Bureau (Probation Camps)

- Issue memos, instruct supervisors to disseminate policies and procedures to remind staff of their responsibilities related to detection/prevention of contraband.
- Utilize facility corrective action plans, including refresher training on how to conduct searches, proactive supervision techniques, identify signs of substance use, and referral process for testing, and investigating the causation of such behaviors.
- Facility managers meet regularly with partner agencies, contractors, volunteers, and visitors to remind them they are responsible for ensuring the facility remains safe and secure.
- All supplies, food, and equipment brought into the facility must be pre-approved by the Director and inspected by sworn staff upon entry.
- Signs related to illegal contraband such as, narcotics, firearms, and electronic devices, with applicable laws are displayed at each facility.
- Persons entering a camp have their bags inspected and may be screened with a Vapor Tracer when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the person is under the influence or attempting to bring in contraband.
- Managers sit on security enhancement work groups with Internal Services Department (ISD), Department of Public Work (DPW), Chief Executive Office and the Department's Management Services Bureau (MSB) to identify and track progress on security projects such as the installation of Closed Circuit Television Cameras, construction of guard shack, roller bars, obscuring screens, reinforced

gates, locks, and recent placement of security guards to prevent unauthorized access to parking areas and facility perimeters where contraband is easily thrown into the facility. This was done at the three (3) east camps (Afflerbaugh, Paige, and Rockey) in November and December of 2022. Plans include placing security personnel at Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) and Campus Kilpatrick.

- Each facility selected minimally one (1) representative to participate in a Gang Intelligence Unit. Their function is to investigate and share information related to gang activity and narcotics trends in the facilities and the community.
- In 2021, the cell phone policy was revised and enforced. The Department revised and began enforcing the prohibition of personal cell phones. Additionally, starting with Dorothy Kirby Center, visitors are required to use clear bags during visitations for baby supplies and a newly developed list of approved baby supplies.
- Narcan supplies distributed; completed training for trainers to ensure all staff are trained before they are given a holster and supply of Narcan. In the interim, trained staff can access Narcan in the Automated Electronic Device storage in the living units and supervisors' offices.
- Ordered new evidence lockers, storage supplies, label machines, and established access to the Prelims system to book, and submit narcotics for testing and destruction with LASD.
- Added additional narcotics to the testing kit panels; and youth with court ordered drug testing, as part of their conditions of probation, are being tested regularly.

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

The following provides details about the resources that are allocated to address this problem, including the accessibility of rehabilitative and trauma-informed programming consistent with the Youth Justice Re-Imagined approach.

The resources that are allocated to address the issue of contraband through rehabilitation includes individualized assessments and a multi-faceted approach. Youth with a history of substance abuse through self-admission, medical testing, or psychological assessments will be referred to a DPH Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) contracted Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) provider while detained in juvenile hall. The CENS provider utilizes the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria to determine the requisite Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment needed for each youth and connects them to a provider before they are released into the community.

Previously, SUD services were only provided through individual therapy and group Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI) facilitated by Department of Mental Health (DMH) clinicians; however, DPH-SAPC CENS providers are now conducting educational groups to youth detained in the halls and will contract for additional SUD services for youth who will be detained in a camp or Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

If a youth was not identified as having a need for substance abuse services but is subsequently identified after disclosing in treatment, being under the influence, or an officer receives notification from a parent/caregiver, the case worker can have the youth assessed for treatment and ask the court to have services added as a condition should the youth refuse to participate.

DMH provides both individual and group counseling which youth can request, when needed. Furthermore, through the implementation of the LA Model, services will continue to be enhanced and incorporate trainings on small group trauma responsive practices, which includes small homelike therapeutic environments, youth-centered collaborative approaches, and evidence-based Cognitive Behavior Intervention (CBI) such as Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Seeking Safety and the Developmental Stage System (DSS), which includes Interactive Journaling as a method to change maladaptive thoughts and behaviors by teaching youth skills that will create a safe environment conducive to healing, personal growth, and development through a restorative approach.

With the implementation of the LA Model and the DSS, the Probation Department remains committed to a care-first model and a holistic approach to juvenile justice; one which focuses on positive behavioral change. In addition, the Behavioral Management Program, a high intensity approach to behavior modification, is utilized in each Probation facility to encourage good behavior throughout the day, which in turn, keeps youth motivated, as well as creating constructive individual attitudes, contributing to a youth's motivation to participate in programming.

SERVICES AND SUPPORT

The types of services and supports being offered to youth around substance abuse issues with respect to the resources allocated, include but are not limited to the following Substance Abuse related programming:

- Mindfulness-Based Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents: 12 Session Curriculum
- The Forward-Thinking Interactive Journaling, particularly the substance abuse journal, which is a CBI
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), as evidence-based cognitive behavior therapy
- Seeking Safety
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- DMH provides SUD counseling, individual and group for non-SYTF youth
- Various Probation programming and community partners offer services that address the underlying risk factors and needs related to substance abuse.
- Gateway (provider) – group SUD services to SYTF commitments.

- Tarzana Treatment Center – will provide a counselor for SYTF youth starting March 2023.

Utilization of K-9 Search Teams to Conduct Searches of Housing Units

Effective March 6, 2023, the Department's SEO staff are onsite at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall conducting random searches of Units and youth Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM. These searches include K-9s, as necessary and appropriate.

Supplementing Existing Security, Stationed at the Entrances and Perimeters, with Law Enforcement, Including the Utilization of K-9 Search Teams

The Department currently has security guards assigned at the entrance of both juvenile halls, under a contract held by the Sheriff's Department. The Department is in conversations with the Sheriff's Department regarding deploying Sheriff's Security Officers to the facilities, rather than the existing security guards. However, the number of vacancies in the Security Officer classification may limit this option. If this is not possible, we will explore higher levels of security personnel for the two facilities. Reserve Deputy Probation Officers will be assigned to assist with perimeter monitoring and searches by April 1, 2023. The County's ISD has moved forward with a sole source master agreement for canine services in our juvenile halls. The timeframe to have the master agreement in place is estimated to be in early April 2023.

Reporting to OIG and POC - Complaints of Misuse or Misconduct on K-9 Search Teams Utilization

Thus far, we have not received complaints of misuse or misconduct of K-9 search teams. However, if we do, we will ensure to report them timely to the OIG and POC.

Documentation on the Deployment of K-9 Search Teams

(Need to provide date, time, units, names of staff involved in search, names of staff assigned to the unit, what was discovered, measures taken, and other relevant information)

The following provides a sample of the searches conducted by the Department's SEO and the contracted K-9 Services provider.

	Facility	Entity	Unit Searched	What was discovered
01/06/23	BJH	Interquest	Facility	No alerts
01/07/23	CJH	Interquest	Visitation	No alerts

01/08/23	BJH	SEO	W2, X2, Y2	10 vape pens: 22 cartridges
01/13/23	CJH	Interquest	Facility	No alerts
01/14/23	BJH	Interquest	Visitation	No alerts
01/21/23	CJH	Interquest	Facility	5 alerts
01/22/23	CJH	Interquest	Facility	7 alerts
01/23/23	BJH	Interquest	Facility	No alerts
01/28/23	CJH	Interquest	Visitation	6 alerts
01/29/23	CJH	Interquest	Visitation	1 alert
01/31/23	CJH	Interquest	Facility	(1) Cellphone (1) Cellphone charger (2) vape pens
02/02/23	CJH	Interquest	Facility	No alerts
02/05/23	CJH	Interquest	Visitation	No alerts
02/08/23	BJH	Interquest	Facility	No alerts
02/10/23	BJH	SEO	X1, X2	(14) Alerts (5) Marijuana Vape Pens (1) Cell Phone (1) Laptop (2) unidentified Pills
02/11/23	CJH	Interquest	Facility	5 alerts
02/18/23	CJH	Interquest	Visitation	No alerts
02/26/23	CJH	Interquest	Visitation	No alerts
03/01/23	BJH	SEO	Y1	3 alerts to marijuana or marijuana residue/odor
03/05/23	BJH	SEO	X1	(6) alerts (2) vape pens

II. IMMEDIATE EFFORT WITH PROBATION STAFF WITH SUPERVISORIAL DUTIES TO INITIATE DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AGAINST ANY EMPLOYEE WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER EMPLOYEE ENABLING THE SPREAD OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES, HOWEVER, DOES NOT REPORT THOSE ACTIVITIES TO THEIR SUPERVISOR (DIRECTIVE 5)

The Department is reviewing the potential path(s) for entry of illicit substances into juvenile hall. This review is being performed as expeditiously as possible but as thoroughly as necessary to inform opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness of preventative and detective security controls in order to stop future entry of illicit

substances. If evidence is found that appears to support staff complicity, the appropriate level of corrective performance management action will be deployed up to and including discharge and/or criminal referral.

The OIG recommends, and we concur, utilizing local law enforcement to conduct investigations. We have placed one staff on Ordered Absence for this type of alleged behavior and continue to monitor others, including staff, county partners, LACOE staff, community based providers, contractors and visitors.

III. WORK TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS, INCLUDING TERMINATION FOR ANY EMPLOYEE WHO, IN VIOLATION OF COUNTY POLICY, IS FOUND TO BE ENABLING THE SPREAD OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES IN ANY JUVENILE PROBATION FACILITY (DIRECTIVE 6)

As of the date of this report to your Board, the investigation of security control weaknesses and accountability is ongoing. Fully informed findings from this investigation that identify individuals who evidence supports were complicit in the entry of illicit substances will result in appropriate performance management actions and/or referrals to the District Attorney as applicable. The Department will continue to collaborate with County Counsel on the path forward as evidence-based clarity is achieved.

Conclusion

The Probation Department will seek continuous process improvement with respect to security of our youth facilities including reinforcing our vigilance against contraband entering these facilities. If future incursions of contraband arise, the Department will use an assessment of those incidents to strengthen any disparity between security expectations and actual performance. Complicity of employees and/or others with the entry of contraband will be accompanied by a due diligence security and causation review in support of appropriate disciplinary actions and/or criminal referrals.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Felicia Cotton, Interim Chief Deputy, Juvenile Services, at (562) 940-2526.

KLF:FC

c: Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel
Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services
Lisa H. Wong, Director, Department of Mental Health
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health
Max Huntsman, Inspector General

Each Supervisor
March 22, 2023
Page 10 of 10

Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission
Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Rene Philips, Acting Senior Manager, CEO
Justice Deputies



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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HOLLY J. MITCHELL
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JANICE HAHN
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MAX HUNTSMAN
INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 7, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Max Huntsman", is written over a horizontal line.

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK ON ADDRESSING EMERGENT ILLICIT
SUBSTANCES AND CONTRABAND ENTERING THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY JUVENILE HALLS
(ITEM NO. 56A, AGENDA OF MARCH 7, 2023)**

PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM

On March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion directing the Office of Inspector General, with support from the Probation Oversight Commission (POC), to report back in writing within 30 days with details about the Office of Inspector General's in-depth and comprehensive investigation into how illicit substances, and contraband are entering the facilities, including through staff and visitors, with recommendations, if any, to address illicit substances and contraband from entering the juvenile halls.

In response to the Board's directive to conduct an investigation, the Office of Inspector General visited both juvenile hall facilities, conducted youth interviews in the presence of their attorneys, interviewed Probation Department staff, reviewed Probation Department policies and procedures, monitored the security checks of persons entering the facilities through the security entrance, watched video recordings of K-9 searches conducted, and received information from informants to help assess how contraband and illicit drugs are entering the facilities and into the hands of youth.

BARRY J. NIDORF JUVENILE HALL

Overdose Incidents

The Office of Inspector General was able to confirm that three overdose incidents occurred at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) this year. Two of the three incidents involved the same youth, on two consecutive days, and one involved another youth housed in the same unit. The information regarding the overdoses is based upon a review of Probation Department documentation.

On February 27, 2023, during a visual safety check, Youth 1 was seen sleeping while sitting up in his room. When the Detention Services Officer (DSO) found Youth 1 unresponsive, the DSO declared a “code blue” and called for backup. Medical personnel determined that Youth 1 had “indigested an unknown drug” and administered Narcan. The medical staff then transported Youth 1 to a nearby hospital, where Youth 1 was examined and discharged to return to BJNJH. A search of the youth’s room was never conducted after the overdose incident. The following day, while in school, Youth 1 appeared under the influence of some illegal substance. Youth 1 was escorted to BJNJH’s medical unit and transported to the hospital again for observation.

That same evening of February 28, 2023, a second Youth housed in the same unit as Youth 1 was found unresponsive in the restroom. According to the documentation, Probation staff believed that Youth 2 ingested an unknown drug. A “code blue” was declared, Narcan was administered, and Youth 2 was transported to a local hospital. The next day, on March 1, 2023, a K-9 unit conducted a search of the unit where Youth 1 and Youth 2 were housed and recovered the following:

1. Eight Fentanyl pills from inside a youth’s room along with two other pills inside the door lock.
2. Three Fentanyl pills recovered in a lotion bottle inside a youth’s room.
3. A crushed pill inside a youth’s windowsill.
4. Two large bindles of what appeared to be Fentanyl inside the dorm.
5. A makeshift straw with white residue in a youth’s room.

During the search, a youth appeared to be under the influence but the youth was not drug tested or transferred to the medical unit for observation. A search was conducted of the youth, but nothing was recovered.

The documents reviewed by the Office of Inspector General indicate that this is the only K-9 search that was conducted in this specific unit since January 1, 2023. Other

searches have been conducted in adjacent units. It was noted that youth in different units interact at times during movement from one area to another at BJNJH, specifically during recreational periods and during school hours. This appears to be a likely method that youth are using to transfer contraband to each other.

Packages thrown over perimeter walls into BJNJH

Through its investigation, the Office of Inspector General learned that packages containing contraband are being thrown over the perimeter walls of BJNJH into the facility. According to the Probation Department's supervising staff at BJNJH, this started shortly after youths were transferred from Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) to BJNJH in March 2022.

There are three perimeter walls at BJNJH where packages are thrown over a wall onto the facility grounds. According to the Probation Department staff, they have found arrows spray painted on the outside of these walls, which they believe gives direction as to the location where the contraband should be thrown over the wall.

To combat this problem, the Probation Department is conducting perimeter checks inside the facility three times a day, once every shift, to recover any contraband found on the grounds that was thrown over the walls. However, there are no logs kept of these perimeter checks and no perimeter checks are being conducted on the outside of the facility. According to the Probation Department staff, youths find ways to distract staff in order to break the back doors of their units to collect the contraband thrown over the walls. The following are photos of the plywood on the broken doors that youths broke to retrieve contraband thrown onto facility grounds.:



The Probation staff also believe drones are used to drop contraband into the facilities, and noted in its Board report back dated March 22, 2023, that it is researching the possibility of acquiring Drone Security Technology to eliminate the risk of drones dropping contraband into CJH. If acquired, Drone Security Technology should also be used at BJNJH.

Entry into the BJNJH

All visitors and staff, other than staff who transport youth to the facility, are to enter BJNJH through the front entrance way where a security check is conducted by an outside security company.¹ Office of Inspector General staff monitored the front door screening process on several weekdays and observed people entering the facility. Family visits are permitted on the weekends but special visits, which are discussed in the next section, can be scheduled during the week. Office of Inspector General staff observed that bags were not searched during the screenings, and that electric security monitors were not consistently monitored. Even when an alert was sounded as staff or other persons walked through the metal detector, no further actions were taken by the security personnel to screen the individuals with a wand or to conduct a search.

¹ Security is currently provided by Allied Universal Security Services. The Probation Department reported that it is seeking to replace Allied Universal Security Services and use security personnel from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

According to Probation Department staff, the security company has strict instructions not to touch **any** individual entering the facility, which would include weekend family visitors if the information provided to the Office of Inspector General is accurate. Based upon this information, that means if an alert is sounded, the security company will wand search an individual and ask them to empty their pockets, but no pat down searches for weapons, drugs, or other contraband are conducted. This information has not been confirmed with the security company as efforts to contact them were unsuccessful.

A second entry to BJNJH located at the front of the building is used for transportation buses. The same security company monitors this entry. However, there are no searches of the transportation buses during the departure or arrival at BJNJH conducted.

Visits/Special Visits

Youths are allowed to receive visits by parents, guardians, or persons standing in *loco parentis*² and grandparents and visits from their children.³ In addition, youths are also allowed special visits with other family members, such as adult siblings and supportive adults, with the approval of a facility administrator or as ordered by the court.⁴ Probation Department staff have concerns that these special visits have led to contraband entering the facilities because the identity of these individuals are not being properly verified. The Superintendent at BJNJH reports that he is not sure who is approving these special visitors. The Probation Department has recently ceased allowing special visits.

Unauthorized Food Deliveries

Outside food brought into the facilities for the youth is restricted to coming from “approved sources” and be non-perishable, ready to eat, and store bought (pre-packaged) foods.⁵ The policy refers to Probation staff, church groups, educators, and mental health staff, in an apparent reference to the types of groups that might be granted approval. In addition, staff are not permitted to “prepare food at home or off-site to bring it into the facilities to be consumed by minors.”⁶ By this policy, staff is prohibited from bringing restaurant prepared foods and any food from a non-approved source, delivered by an unknown person, to youth.

² *Loco Parentis* refers to the legal responsibility in which a person puts themselves in the position of assuming and discharging the obligations of a parent.

³ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Movement, Detention Services Bureau -300, section 304, Visiting.

⁴ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Movement, Detention Services Bureau-300, section 304, Visiting.

⁵ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Food Services Policies and Procedures, Hall and Camps #012.

⁶ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Food Services Policies and Procedures, Hall and Camps #012.

Persons interviewed by Office of Inspector General staff reported that for some time, youth orchestrated fake Door Dash food deliveries to bring contraband into the facility. According to the information provided to the Office of Inspector General, youths arranged for family or friends to come to the facility disguised as Door Dash delivery drivers. The Probation Department staff, in contravention of Probation Department policies, would then accept the order at the entrance of the facility, claim it as their own, and then drop it off to the youth as a favor. According to interviewees, these prohibited foods delivered to the youth were hiding contraband, including pills wrapped inside burritos. According to Probation Department management, staff have been directed that food deliveries from services like Door Dash and Uber Eats are no longer permitted.

Contraband Storage at BJNJH

Based on the Office of Inspector General's review, all contraband recovered at BJNJH is collected and stored in a locked closet inside the Superintendent's office.⁷ All of the items are placed in paper or plastic bags inside the closet, without an official written inventory of the items. Local law enforcement is not notified, and there is no process to place the evidence in a locker or to log the evidence even though Probation staff have access to the evidence logging database system used by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. In addition, inside the closet is a safe that is reported to be used to store cash and valuables. However, when the Office of Inspector General staff requested to see the contents of the safe, the Superintendent informed them that he did not have the combination to open it.

All contraband should be securely stored after being logged for evidentiary and accountability purposes and because improperly storing drugs such as Fentanyl, may pose a health hazard. Non-secure storage also increases the risk of the drugs being stolen. Including the possibility that the drugs will end up in the hands of youth in the facility. The following are photos of the contraband closet and the contraband kept inside:

⁷ According to the Superintendent, only he and his secretary have keys to the closet used to hold contraband.



CENTRAL JUVENILE HALL

Entry into CJH

All visitors and staff, other than staff who transport youth to the facility, enter CJH through the front entrance way where a security check is conducted by the same outside security company used at BJNJH. Office of Inspector General staff monitored the front door screening process during several weekday visits and observed that although bags were processed through the electronic scanner, Probation Department staff and their bags were not searched even after the metal detectors signaled an alarm. Probation Department staff also were repeatedly observed placing containers such as water cups and thermoses on top of the scanning machine as the staff walked through the metal detectors. The staff retrieve the drinking containers after walking through the metal detectors without the containers being examined or searched by security staff.

As with BJNJH, according to Probation Department staff, the security company has strict instructions not to touch **any** individual entering the facility, which would include weekend family visitors if the information provided to the Office of Inspector General is accurate. Based upon this information, that means if an alert is sounded, the security company will wand search an individual and ask them to empty their pockets, but no pat down searches for weapons, drugs, or other contraband are conducted. This information has not been confirmed with the security company as efforts to contact them were unsuccessful.

In addition to the main entrance being monitored by the private security company, there are four other entryways to CJH:

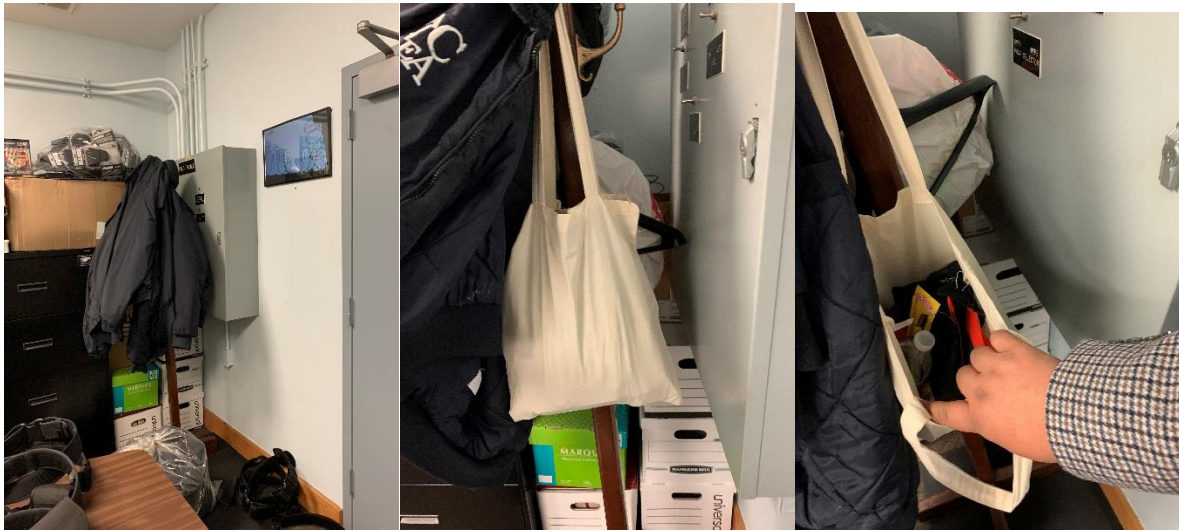
1. A side door entrance next to the staff parking entrance. Probation Directors assigned to the facility have a key to this door which allows them to bypass the main entrance. This entrance is not monitored by security.
2. A bus transportation entrance for buses carrying youths that is also used by outside vendors working at the facility. Although youth are searched before they are transported from the facility and when they arrive at their destination, the staff and outside vendors are not searched.
3. A bus transportation entrance for buses not carrying youths. This entrance is monitored by the security company, but staff is not searched entering from this entrance.
4. An entrance for the Probation Department's Internal Services Department (ISD). This entrance is monitored by the security company from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., then by the Probation Department from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. However, no searches of staff are conducted.

Packages thrown into CJH

Based on the Office of Inspector General's review, there are four perimeter walls at CJH where it was reported to the Office of Inspector General that packages are being thrown over the walls onto facility grounds. All four locations are easily accessible to the public from the outside.

Contraband Storage at CJH

The Office of Inspector General discovered that contraband recovered by Probation Department staff is not properly documented or stored. While a Probation Department staffer at CJH claimed that contraband is discarded, the staffer later explained that by discarded they actually meant that the contraband items are kept in a tote bag inside an office, on a coat rack, with jackets hiding it. Probation Department supervising staff stated that unauthorized pills confiscated are "sometimes given to [their] K-9 unit for training." No documentation was provided as to when and how pills recovered at the facility are transferred to their K-9 unit. The following are photos of the tote bag in the office where contraband is stored:



As with the contraband at BJNJH that is confiscated, contraband recovered at CJH is not properly documented or reported to local law enforcement and the same security and safety concerns regarding the storage of contraband exist at CJH.

VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION DEPARTMENT POLICIES

While the Probation Department has policies covering visitors⁸, what food items can be brought into the facilities and by whom⁹, and procedures on how to properly handle contraband recovered at facilities, these policies are not being followed or strictly enforced.¹⁰

Visitors are not permitted to bring any items other than [2 keys on a single ring and identification](#) with them into a facility. Once visitors are verified through their identification, [they are subject to search](#). Yet, as noted in this report, visitors are not thoroughly searched to ensure that no prohibited items are brought into the juvenile halls because, as reported to the Office of Inspector General, the security company is prohibited from touching **any** individual entering the facility. Probation Department policy also **requires** that all visitors are scanned using Vapor Tracer units before any visitation and, if a metal detector buzzes, are subject to a wand search. From the observations of Office of Inspector General staff and reports from Probation Department staff, the

⁸ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Movement, Detention Services Bureau 300, section 304, Visiting. The policy regarding visitations is available on the Probation Department's public website on the [Juvenile Hall page](#).

⁹ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Food Services Policies and Procedures, Hall and Camps #012.

¹⁰ Los Angeles County Probation Department, Daily Unit Operations, Detention Services Bureau 500, section 515, Handling Contraband.

security personnel responsible for searching those entering the facilities are not wanders who have set off the metal detector. While the particular policy referenced here applies to visitors, staff and others entering the facility who set off the metal detector should be checked with the wand. Routinely failing to screen staff and other persons who have set off the metal detector risks certain types of contraband, such as weapons, being brought into the facility. The failure to properly screen employees and other persons entering on weekdays, raises the possibility of lax security on the weekends when family visits occur. As noted previously, there are reports that the identity of special visitors is not being properly verified. In addition, at BJNJH it is unclear who at the facility is approving these special visits.

As detailed in the section titled, *Unauthorized Food Deliveries*, the staff's agreement to deliver outside food to youth is in violation of Probation Department policy.¹¹ These policies need to be updated and strictly enforced.

Probation Department contraband policy includes that all confiscated contraband be kept as evidence, destroyed, or removed from circulation within the facility. Contraband is required to be placed in a sealed envelope with a Contraband Inventory Summary form completed. In the event the contraband merits criminal charges, police are to be notified and a written receipt for the evidence must be obtained from the agency. Any evidence not provided to law enforcement should be safely secured until disposal.¹² As detailed in the sections on contraband storage, there is a lack of compliance with these policies.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the information reported to Office of Inspector General staff during its investigation, contraband is likely entering the facility through the following means: (1) family and special visitors entering the facility who are not being properly identified and searched; (2) staff entering the facility who are not searched, (3) being thrown over perimeter walls, (4) delivery via drone, (5) County employees and contracted vendors who may enter the facility through non-secured entrances without being searched, and (6) unauthorized food deliveries by individuals disguised as food delivery drivers with the assistance of Probation Department staff completing the delivery to the youth.

¹¹Los Angeles County Probation Department, Food Services Policies and Procedures, Hall and Camps #012.

¹²Los Angeles County Probation Department, Daily Unit Operations, Detention Services Bureau 500, section 515, Handling Contraband.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Interdiction alone is rarely an effective means of preventing drug use. Many of the youth in our care struggle with mental health and substance abuse challenges. Conditions within our juvenile custody facilities encourage drug use through the absence of sufficient programming. A large percentage of youth in the camps are supplied sleep aids because of the conditions they face. Accordingly, the Office of Inspector General does not recommend a focus on enforcement over improving the conditions which drive drug use. However, the following approaches are available to supplement improving conditions in the halls:

1. All Probation Department policies on visitation, contraband, and food should be followed, with investigations and discipline for violations.
2. All visitors and their belongings entering juvenile hall facilities should be physically searched and scanned for illegal substances using Vapor Tracer units. Visitors should be required to remove all outer clothing prior to being scanned to ensure that any contraband can be visualized. Visitors who, for religious reasons, cannot remove all outer clothing (such as scarves, burkas, or yarmulke, etc.) should be taken to a private room to be searched by a staff member of the same gender with a metal detecting wand.
3. Establish randomized staff and volunteer searches through the use of scent detection canines and/or mobile trace spectrometers to deter and detect staff and volunteer contraband smuggling. Use of physical searches and enhanced searches of staffs' personal belongings, including bags and food containers.
4. Employ electronic detection devices such as mobile trace spectrometers and body scanners to assist in detecting contraband that may be secreted in the cavity of staff and visitors to the facilities.
5. All staff and visitors should be required to utilize clear plastic bags to carry personal belongings into the facilities.
6. Special visitors should only be approved by a judge and the person's identity should be verified.

7. Create policies to assist in identifying the source of contraband entering the facilities, including conducting thorough investigations that include interviews and review of video recordings of entries into the facilities, housing units and visitation areas.
8. Probation Department staff should supervise and monitor all non-privileged telephone calls in the housing unit by youths in order to listen for plans for the delivery of contraband.
9. Restrict youth from wearing excessively sized clothing that allows easier concealment of contraband.
10. Youths' personal items should be stored in areas easily monitored and inspected by Probation Department staff such as in cubby holes or open shelves.
11. The Probation Department should follow its contraband policy and consider revisions to the policy in order to adequately safeguard seized contraband.
12. All illegal contraband recovered should be documented, reported to local law enforcement or the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, retrieved by law enforcement personnel, and booked into evidence. Illegal contraband should only be safely stored inside a juvenile hall facility pending the collection by a law enforcement agency.
13. The Probation Department should utilize closed-circuit television on the outside perimeter of the facilities to deter trespassers and contraband being thrown over the walls and consistently conduct perimeter checks to retrieve contraband. These checks should be documented to ensure regularity. If acquired, Drone Security Technology should also be used at both juvenile halls.
14. The ban on outside food, including prohibiting food deliveries, should be enforced.
15. Youth appearing to be under the influence should be closely monitored, examined by medical personnel, and later subjected to random drug tests.

16. Creation of a specialized contraband unit to investigate smuggling of contraband, including conducting interviews, review of video recordings and telephone calls made within the facilities.
17. Implement security checks and searches of units and youths conducted on the weekend following visitation.
18. Bi-annual training to Probation Department staff regarding contraband detection, the proper handling of contraband, and tactics to avoid manipulation by youths that may end up assisting the contraband being brought into the facilities.
19. Education and training of outside organizations of contraband policies.
20. Track data related to drug introduction/interdiction and overdoses to better develop evidence-based empirics supported practices relying on data, including date, time, location, search reports, Narcan deployments, mail interceptions, and means of smuggling and interdiction.
21. Drug rehabilitation treatment programs for detained youth.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at 213-974-6100.

MH:sf

c: Karen Fletcher, Acting Chief Probation Officer
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer
Dawyn Harrison, County Counsel
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission



DAVID J. CARROLL
Director

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Hall of Records
320 West Temple Street, Suite 7001
Los Angeles, California 90012
<https://dyd.lacounty.gov>



Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

Date: April 21, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: David J. Carroll *DC*
Director

**ADDRESSING EMERGENT ILLICIT SUBSTANCES AND CONTRABAND ENTERING THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY JUVENILE HALLS (ITEM NO. 56A, AGENDA OF MARCH 7, 2023)**

On March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the motion titled, "Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls." Directive 4 tasked the Department of Youth Development (DYD), in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Probation Oversight Commission (POC), with providing an implementation plan for programs centered on reducing the use of substance use by youth. The motion's other directives included additional immediate and urgent action needed to prevent further overdoses or risk for overdoses among young people in the County's Juvenile Halls.

The following memo includes information about existing programming for substance use prevention services in the County's Juvenile Halls; available information about access and utilization of existing programming; and a review of best and promising practices to guide opportunities and next steps. In collaboration with the POC and OIG, DYD worked with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Department of Public Health Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) to better understand the status of current substance use prevention and reduction services available to youth in Juvenile Hall. This group identified the importance of a combination of strategies intended to reduce substance use for this population of young people, including clinical treatment services, focused prevention services, and other activities focused on holistic wellbeing that address the impact of the environment and experience of Juvenile Hall that serve as a negative health exposure that increases risk for substance use.

Existing Programming:

During a young person's admission to Juvenile Hall, they complete a psychosocial assessment conducted by DMH, during which co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD) needs may be

"Supporting the Equitable Development of Young People in Los Angeles County"

identified along with any mental health treatment needs. Additionally, DPH-SAPC's dedicated staff at Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Hall are available to provide SUD screening, early intervention and linkages to post-release treatment services, within DPH-SAPC's Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS). Young people may also access additional substance use prevention resources although the analysis below outlines concrete opportunities to improve availability, access, and utilization.

Department of Mental Health and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder Treatment:

All newly admitted youth are evaluated by a Department of Mental Health (DMH) professional who completes the Juvenile Justice Child/Adolescent Assessment, the Child and Adolescent Substance Use Evaluation, and the Co-Occurring Substance Use Parent/Caregiver Questionnaire. From this assessment and with input from the youth, a comprehensive treatment plan is developed. DMH uses Seeking Safety, an evidence-based practice which addresses substance use and trauma. Seeking Safety can be delivered individually or in group. DMH also uses Mindfulness-Based Substance Abuse Treatment, another evidence-based practice. There are DMH directly operated substance abuse counselors and contracted community-based organizations (CBOs) who provide coordinated care to youth with co-occurring disorders. Additionally, youth can access care through the Request for Service process at any time, or be referred through the Mental Health Consultation process. DMH forensic/addiction medicine psychiatrists assess and provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) where indicated in close collaboration with Juvenile Court Health Services pediatric staff.

Department of Public Health and Substance Use Treatment or Early Intervention Services:

DPH-SAPC has two dedicated Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) providers at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Central Juvenile Hall that assist with comprehensive screenings and post-release treatment referrals. Currently, CENS in the juvenile halls only serve the general youth population (none Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) or "Tri-Academy"). CENS providers screen, connect and refer youth and young adults up to age 20 into the DPH-SAPC's contracted DMC-ODS, substance use treatment network that provides a continuum of SUD treatment services based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria, including early intervention, outpatient, intensive outpatient and residential treatment programs, and recovery services as clinically appropriate. Upon release, young adults 18 and over may also be eligible for Recovery Bridge Housing which is a type of abstinence-focused, peer-supported housing setting where participants are concurrently enrolled in outpatient SUD treatment services. In addition, CENS staff may provide early intervention services on-site in the halls for youth and young adults who are at risk for developing a SUD.

DPH-SAPC is currently in the process of implementing direct SUD treatment services for the SYTF population. Services for this population will include on-site SUD screenings and assessments, as well as early intervention and outpatient treatment services, which includes individual and group counseling sessions as well as care coordination for SUD services in the community post-release as clinically appropriate. Services for SYTF will be provided at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, Campus Kilpatrick, Camp Scott and Dorothy Kirby Center.

Other Services:

Young people in the County's Juvenile Halls may also access Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous programming as well as other programs that may also be promising strategies for reducing substance use by way of strengthened youth development, mindfulness, creative expression, recreation, or other healing-centered protective factors.

Access and Utilization:

The partners who came together to develop this memo gathered information that is currently available to inform an understanding of access and utilization of substance use prevention services in the County's Juvenile Halls and identified information that is not currently available but should be prioritized moving forward to meaningfully improve access and utilization for this population.

For additional information about participation in DMH and DPH-SAPC services in Juvenile Hall, please see Attachments A and B, respectively. See Attachment C for an example of a program calendar snapshot from Barry J Nidorf Juvenile Hall, reflecting one week of programming by unit and participation in March 2023.

The following barriers to access and utilization of substance use treatment and prevention services in particular have been identified by the partners involved in this assessment:

1. Lack of access to appropriate, private, safe space for providers to offer therapeutic services, including any escort needed for youth and providers.
2. Limited access to SYTF population for direct SUD treatment services and limited access to youth population for CENS services, specifically at BJNJH.
3. Need for additional training and knowledge of best and promising practices for reducing substance youth for young adults (18 and older), reflecting the change in population in Juvenile Hall as a result of the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice
4. Need for additional resources and practices that increase engagement for youth with substance use needs but are not comfortable or willing to engage in direct treatment
5. Limited specific funding allocated for SUD treatment services.

We will continue to work with the Probation Department to obtain more comprehensive information about access and utilization of programming information from the Probation Department, including types of services available in each facility, frequency of offerings, and number and characteristics of youth participating.

Best and Promising Practices:

A review of the literature on best and promising practices for reducing substance use among detained youth underscores that youth involved in the justice system experience higher rates of unaddressed substance use and SUD compared to the general youth population. Many justice-involved young people also have co-occurring mental health, neurocognitive, and substance use treatment needs. Best practice treatment principles identified specifically for youth in juvenile justice settings include assessment and treatment matching; a comprehensive and integrated approach to treatment; family involvement; developmentally appropriate programming; gender and culturally competent programming; focus on meaningful engagement and retention; and

continuing care with strong linkages to aftercare. Promising strategies to ensure approaches to substance use prevention and reduction for youth in detention include developmentally appropriate and culturally sensitive mindfulness activities and other approaches that acknowledge the role of youth development and racial/ethnic identity and/or experience of discrimination in substance use.

DMH currently offers a considerable number of cultural competence trainings designed to increase the workforce's cultural awareness, understanding, sensitivity, responsiveness, multicultural knowledge, and cross-cultural skills, all of which are essential to effectively serve our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The DMH Cultural Competency Unit annually updates the Department's Cultural Competence Plan, which endorses the following eight criteria listed as vital elements to advance service quality standards for the cultural and linguistically diverse communities of Los Angeles County: Commitment to Cultural Competence; Updated Assessment of Service Needs; Strategies and Efforts for Reducing Racial, Ethnic, Cultural, and Linguistic Mental Health Disparities; Cultural Competency Committee; Culturally Competent Training Activities; County's Commitment to Growing a Multicultural Workforce; Language Capacity; and Adaptation of Services

DPH-SAPC contracts with community-based SUD treatment providers certified by the State of California and required to ensure program policies and operations are consistent with the National Standards for Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS). DPH-SAPC contractors provide SUD services that are evidenced-based, using cognitive behavioral therapies and motivational interviewing approaches tailored for youth and young adults to treat SUDs and address trauma issues that initiated or exacerbated by SUD. Additionally, DPH-SAPC contractors must provide services that are age-specific and developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate considering the youth's primary language, preferred pronouns (he/she/they) and ensure parity in service delivery regardless of age, race, religious background, or sexual orientation.

Opportunities and Goals:

Although existing services are utilizing evidence-based practices and supporting some of the treatment goals of youth whose needs are identified by the Child and Adolescent Substance Use Questionnaire conducted by DMH or the ASAM screening conducted by DPH-SAPC CENS providers, there is a need for additional support for young people who are currently not able to access or utilize either touchpoint.

Major areas of opportunity to expand availability and access of substance use prevention resources for youth in juvenile halls include:

1. Reduce barriers to access through appropriate staffing or changes to process needed to ensure more efficient access to programming.
2. Increase provider expertise and services for youth above age 18.
3. Increase the availability of healing-centered prevention services as a complement to clinical substance use disorder treatment and strengthening cultural competence and trust as promising practices for improving engagement in services.

Each Supervisor
Date: April 21, 2023
Page 5

4. Ensuring that regular and up-to-date information is generated by Probation and provider partners that measures access and utilization among young people and can be disaggregated by race/ethnic identity, gender identity, and other youth characteristics.
5. Further clarify the gap between existing programming and resources needed to inform specific investments in substance use services and a comprehensive approach to developmentally appropriate healing-centered prevention services.

In addition to the priorities listed above to increase access and utilization for current substance use treatment and prevention services, DYD will continue to integrate concrete resources focused on reducing substance use in Juvenile Halls in the implementation plans developed in response to two motions from March 21, 2023: "Adopting a Global Plan for the Probation Department's Halls and Camps," Directive 2 and "Care First, Jails Last: Holding the Probation Department Accountable and Advancing Youth Justice Reimagined," Directive 2. DYD will work with partners named in the above motions to develop a comprehensive menu of services that address complex trauma and connect youth to youth development activities and opportunities to engage and build trust, including but not limited to strategies for reducing substance use and overdose. We will include this detailed information in the June report-back focused on establishing programs and services for justice system-impacted youth in the halls and camps.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (213) 584-4331 or dcarroll@dyd.lacounty.gov.

DC:ts:zr

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Department of Mental Health
 Department of Public Health
 Probation Department

ATTACHMENT A

**Department of Mental Health
Average Daily Number of Open Mental Health Cases
and
Average Daily Number of Youth on Psychotropic Medications
2022**

Facility Type	Facility	Average Daily # of Open Cases	Average Daily # of Youth on Psychotropic Meds
Juvenile Hall			
	Barry J. Nidorf JH	132	78
	Central JH	159	67
Residential Placement			
	Dorothy Kirby Center	42	32
Camp			
	Afflerbaugh	22	10
	Paige	19	8
	Rockey	21	11
SYTF	Campus Kilpatrick*	10	6
	Barry J Nidorf JH**	59	29

*Campus Kilpatrick became a SYTF Facility in September

**SYTF at BJNJH case count separated in September

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH -
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**Substance Use Disorder Services for Youth and Young Adults
in Juvenile Halls**

Below is a description of substance use disorder (SUD) and early intervention services currently in place or in the process of implementation for youth and young adults in Probation's juvenile halls and camps:

1. Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) for General Population Youth in the Juvenile Halls (Active)

Description of Services

The Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) currently operates the Client Engagement and Navigation Services (CENS) program for juvenile justice-involved youth at Central Juvenile Hall (Central JH) and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) which is intended to facilitate access to early intervention and SUD treatment services for general population youth in the halls. CENS serves as a resource hub for participating youth while in-custody and as they return and reintegrate into the community by providing on-site SUD screenings and connecting youth to a continuum of SUD treatment services including prevention, early intervention, outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential treatment programs, and recovery services.

To date, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, 494 youth have been screened by CENS at Central and 111 have been screened at BJNJH. Services at Central JH also include 127 youth who have accessed the early intervention services program.

Current funding:

DPH-SAPC's current funding for CENS services is \$718,784 allocated from Probation's Juvenile Justice and Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds.

2. Early Intervention and SUD Treatment Services for the Secure Youth Treatment Facilities Youth and Young Adults (Anticipated Implementation: April 2023)

Description of Services

DPH-SAPC is currently in the process of implementing direct SUD treatment and early intervention services for the Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) population of youth and young adults being transferred to Los Angeles County from the Division of Juvenile Justice with an anticipated implementation date of May 2023. Services for the SYTF population will include on-site SUD screenings and assessments, individualized early intervention and outpatient treatment services, which include individual and group sessions as well as care coordination for post-release linkages to continue treatment upon release as clinically appropriate. Young adults 18 and over who are experiencing homelessness may also be eligible for Recovery Bridge

Housing (a type of recovery residence or sober living for adults concurrently enrolled in outpatient treatment type services).

Services for SYTF youth and young adults will be provided at approved SYTF locations, including: BJNJH, Campus Kilpatrick, Camp Scott and Dorothy Kirby Center. The projected capacity is up to 60 patients at any given time.

Current funding

DPH-SAPC's current funding for SYTF services is \$564,135 which is allocated from Probation's Senate Bill (SB) 823 funds that supports contracted SUD clinical staff. Considering the expected growth in FY 2023-24, DPH-SAPC would necessitate additional funding to sustain an active census of up to 120 youth and young adults at any given time, although slots may be utilized longer or shorter depending on the youth's disposition and clinical needs.

3. Early Intervention and SUD Treatment Services for General Population Youth and Young Adults in Probation Camps (Anticipated Implementation: December 2023)

Description of Services

DPH-SAPC is in the process of developing a Work Order Solicitation (WOS) to implement full scale early intervention and SUD treatment services for general population youth and young adults housed within the Probation Department's six camp locations. Projected completion of the WOS and its implementation is slated for FY 2023-24. Services for this population will provide on-site SUD screenings and assessments, individualized early intervention and outpatient treatment services, which include individual and group sessions as well as care coordination for post-release linkages to continue treatment in community post detainment, as clinically appropriate. Young adults 18 and over who are experiencing homelessness upon release are also eligible for linkages to Recovery Bridge Housing (a type of recovery residence or sober living for individuals concurrently enrolled in outpatient type treatment services). Camp locations to be served include Camp Kilpatrick, Camp Rockey, Camp Paige, Camp Scott, Camp Afflerbaugh and Dorothy Kirby Center.

Current Funding and Staffing

DPH-SAPC's current funding for general population camp services is \$800,000 allocated from Probation's general fund. The projected number of youth to be served is 192 youth at any given time across the six camps with an average length of stay of six months, although some slots may be utilized longer or shorter depending on the youth's disposition and clinical needs.

[illegible]

[illegible]



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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MAX HUNTSMAN
INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 9, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Max Huntsman", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **SECOND REPORT BACK ON ADDRESSING EMERGENT ILLICIT
SUBSTANCES AND CONTRABAND ENTERING THE LOS ANGELES
COUNTY JUVENILE HALLS
(ITEM NO. 56A, AGENDA OF MARCH 7, 2023).**

PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM

On March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion directing the Office of Inspector General, with support from the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) to report back in writing within 45 days after the Probation Department provided its report on how it is addressing the flow of contraband and illicit substances that are entering the County's juvenile halls. The Office of Inspector General's report is to address (1) whether expanding the use of K-9 search teams and supplementing existing security with law enforcement was effective in reducing the flow of substances and contraband in the juvenile halls, (2) any misuse or misconduct on the use of K-9 search teams, (3) any discrepancies with reporting on searches, and (4) recommendations on addressing illicit substances and contraband. After consulting with the POC, the Office of Inspector General provides this report.

**A. EFFECTIVENESS OF EXPANDED CANINE SEARCHES IN
REDUCING CONTRABAND IN JUVENILE HALLS**

On March 7, 2023, the Board instructed the Probation Department to provide how it is immediately addressing the flow of illicit substances and contraband into the juvenile halls, including the use of canine search teams. The Probation Department reported to the Board on March 22, 2023, that as of March 6, 2023, it increased searches for contraband at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and Central Juvenile Hall (CJH), conducting random searches of the living units Monday through Friday, including the use of canine searches.

The Probation Department conducts searches for contraband in the juvenile halls with the use of staff search teams, canine dogs from its Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) unit, and a contracted canine search company, Interquest Detection Canines (Interquest). The Office of Inspector General reviewed data provided by the Probation Department regarding canine searches of the juvenile halls from January 6, 2023, to April 30, 2023.¹ The information included the date, time, names of staff assigned to the units and involved in the searches, items discovered, and information deemed relevant by the Probation Department. A comparison was made between canine searches conducted before and after the Board's March 7, 2023, motion to determine the effectiveness of increased canine searches in reducing the flow of contraband into the juvenile facilities. Based on the Office of Inspector General's review, it appears that the expanded canine searches aided in discovering and recovering contraband in the juvenile halls.

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

From January 8, 2023, to March 7, 2023, the Probation Department conducted seven canine searches of the housing units at BJNJH, four by the SEO canine unit and three by Interquest. During this approximate two-month period, the search teams recovered contraband three times. The searches were generally conducted approximately once per week, but there was a one-month gap in searches during this time period. For the three searches during which contraband was discovered, Interquest and the Probation Department recovered 19 youth manufactured weapons, 33 vape pens, 31 vape pen cartridges, 2 marijuana cigarettes, 2 cellular phones, 13 cords/charging devices, 5 tattoo

¹ The Probation Department provided two tables of the searches conducted by SEO staff and the canine unit. The two tables were for a period of January 6, 2023, to March 7, 2023, and March 19, 2023, to April 14, 2023.

devices, 123 pills resembling Fentanyl, and 3 unidentified pills.² Items of less serious concern were also recovered including excessive food, excessive clothing, excessive bedding, electronic devices, pay/owe sheets,³ matches, photographs related to gang activity, and pornography.

In comparison, from March 7, 2023, to April 14, 2023, the Probation Department conducted 18 searches, resulting in the recovery of 13 youth manufactured weapons, 93 vape pens, 12 vape pen cartridges, 1 tobacco cigarette, 3 marijuana cigarettes, 2 lighters, and 48 unidentified pills. It is evident that the Probation Department significantly increased the number of searches since the Board's March 7, 2023, motion. While fewer items were recovered in the recent searches, the time frame analyzed following the Board motion is approximately one-month, whereas the time period analyzed prior to the Board's motion is a three-month time period.

Central Juvenile Hall

From January 6, 2023, to March 7, 2023, the Probation Department conducted 12 canine searches at the housing units at CJH resulting in the recovery of 2 vape pens, 1 cellular phone, and 1 cellular phone charging cord.

In comparison, from March 7, 2023, to April 30, 2023, the Probation Department conducted 11 searches at CJH resulting in the recovery of 1 cell phone charging cord. Although the total number of searches in this period was fewer than the period before the Board's motion, the frequency of the searches at CJH increased, with searches sometimes occurring on subsequent days.

Based on the information provided by the Probation Department, there is not a noticeable difference in the quantity of contraband recovered before the increase in canine searches and the quantity recovered after the increase in the number of searches. However, it should be noted that the majority of canine searches at CJH are conducted by Interquest as opposed to the SEO unit. There is a noticeable difference in the quantity of contraband recovered by the SEO unit during these two periods, compared to that of Interquest. This may be attributable to better technique or expertise used by the SEO unit. The Probation Department reported to the Office of Inspector General that the SEO unit is utilized more frequently at BJNJH because of the higher

² A "vape pen" is an electronic device shaped like a pen that is used to inhale vapor from tobacco or marijuana oil.

³ Pay/owe sheets are ledgers that keep track of charges and payments for illegal activities such as the sale of illegal drugs.

security level of the youths housed at BJNJH. Additionally, the superintendent at CJH or BJNJH may request that the SEO conduct additional searches if contraband is discovered during a daily unit search. Requests by the superintendent at BJNJH may account for the greater frequency of Probation or SEO searches at BJNJH.

Overall, additional canine searches by the Probation Department aided in discovering and removing contraband from the juvenile halls. In addition to leading to the discovery of contraband, frequent canine searches may also act as a deterrent to the introduction of contraband into the halls.

Although the Probation Department increased the number of canine searches since March 6, 2023, to further assist the detection of contraband in the juvenile halls, the Probation Department recently entered into a new agreement with Interquest for an increased number of canine searches at both juvenile halls. The new agreement provides for three searches per week at CJH and four searches per week at BJNJH.⁴ The Probation Department indicated that it would review the effectiveness of the additional searches and determine if more frequent canine searches are needed.

Tragically, a youth passed away from a suspected overdose at BJNJH today. While other efforts to ensure that youth are not using drugs in the juvenile halls must be implemented, part of the plan to address drug use should include the continued use of canine searches at the juvenile halls, including a review by the Probation Department of the successfulness of the searches to better utilize its canine search teams, with the establishment of criteria for choosing when to deploy Interquest and when to deploy an SEO team.

B. MISUSE OR MISCONDUCT ON THE USE OF CANINE SEARCH TEAMS

The Probation Department is required to report to the Office of Inspector General any complaints of misuse or misconduct with the use of canine searches. The Probation Department indicated that it has not received any complaints of misuse or misconduct related to the use of canine search teams. The Office of Inspector General, has not independently received any complaints from the public of misuse or misconduct regarding the Probation Department's canine search teams. Office of Inspector General staff reviewed video recordings of some canine searches. In the recordings reviewed, the searches were not overly intrusive. The canines were not seen to act aggressively,

⁴ The Probation Department commenced the regularly scheduled increase in canine searches at both juvenile halls on April 23, 2023.

nor did youth appear to be frightened of the dogs during the searches. Searches by canines may be less intrusive than searches by Probation officers, who must go through youths' personal belongings, whereas a search by canines limits the searches of belongings to only those items a dog alerted upon.

C. DISCREPANCIES WITH REPORTING OF CANINE SEARCHES

The Board instructed the Office of Inspector General to report any discrepancies discovered regarding the Probation Department's reporting of its use of canine searches. The Office of Inspector General reviewed canine search reports of searches conducted at CJH and BJNH from January 8, 2023, to April 30, 2023. The reports detailed the units searched, the Probation Department staff conducting the searches, and the contraband recovered. The Office of Inspector General did not discover any discrepancies in the Probation Department's reporting of the canine searches.

D. USE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S SECURITY STAFF

In an effort to support the Probation Department's attempt to prevent the flow of contraband into the juvenile halls, its executive staff met with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Department) to discuss (1) use of its Security Officers to supplement the Probation Department's existing security staff used at the entrances of the juvenile halls,⁵ (2) use of its staff to increase perimeter checks of the juvenile hall facilities, (3) use of its narcotics canine teams to assist Probation Department staff with contraband searches, and (4) conducting a security/contraband assessment of the juvenile halls. The Probation Department's executive staff was informed that the Sheriff's Department is currently unable to provide Security Officers due to low staffing levels and a significant number of vacancies for that position. The Sheriff's Department is unable to anticipate when vacancies will be filled or when its current staffing shortage will resolve, but discussions between the Probation Department executive staff and the Sheriff's Department will continue regarding availability of Security Officers to be employed at the juvenile halls.

⁵ The security at the juvenile halls is currently provided by Allied Universal Security Services. The LASD utilizes uniformed non-peace officer Security Officers at the security entrances to courthouses and other Los Angeles County facilities.

The Probation Department also requested the Sheriff's Department conduct a security assessment of the Probation Department's juvenile halls. The Sheriff's Department agreed to provide an assessment and requested the Probation Department's policies related to (1) juvenile hall security, (2) contraband, (3) employee and visitor screening, (4) facility/unit searches, and (5) personal items permitted in the juvenile halls. It also requested a list of facility entrances and a description of the screening/searches conducted at each entrance. The Probation Department is currently compiling the information for the Sheriff's Department to assist with the security assessment and in anticipation of further discussions regarding the assessment.

E. RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations in its [Report Back on Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls](#), the Office of Inspector General makes the following recommendations:

1. Continue discussing with the Sheriff's Department the use of its Security Officers to assist the Probation Department's existing security personnel, use of its canine units for searches, and a security assessment of the juvenile halls.
2. Assessment of the effectiveness of Interquest, its currently contracted canine search company, in comparison to the SEO's canine search unit.
3. Investigate violations of all Probation Department policies on visitation, contraband possession, and possession of excess items and impose appropriate discipline for any violations.

MH:sf

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MAX HUNTSMAN
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 7, 2023

TO: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Max Huntsman", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **THIRD REPORT BACK ON ADDRESSING EMERGENT ILLICIT
SUBSTANCES AND CONTRABAND ENTERING THE LOS ANGELES
COUNTY JUVENILE HALLS
(ITEM NO. 56A, AGENDA OF MARCH 7, 2023).**

PURPOSE OF MEMORANDUM

On March 7, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion directing the Office of Inspector General, with support from the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) to report back in writing within 45 days after the Probation Department provided its report on implementing policies and procedures to address the flow of contraband and illicit substances that are entering the County's juvenile halls, and 60 days thereafter. The Office of Inspector General's report is to address (1) whether expanding the use of K-9 search teams and supplementing existing security with law enforcement was effective in reducing the flow of substances and contraband in the juvenile halls, (2) any misuse or misconduct on the use of K-9 search teams, (3) any discrepancies with reporting on searches, and (4) further recommendations on addressing illicit substances and contraband. After consulting with the POC, the Office of Inspector General provided an initial report on March 22, 2023, a second report back on May 9, 2023, and now provides this third report.

**A. EFFECTIVENESS OF EXPANDED CANINE SEARCHES IN
REDUCING CONTRABAND IN JUVENILE HALLS**

On March 7, 2023, the Board instructed the Probation Department to provide the ways in which it is immediately addressing the flow of illicit substances and contraband into the juvenile halls, including the use of canine search teams. The Probation Department reported to the Board on March 22, 2023, that as of March 6, 2023, it increased searches for contraband at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and Central Juvenile Hall (CJH), conducting random searches of the living units Monday through Friday, including the use of canine searches.

As noted in the Office of Inspector General's second report, the Probation Department conducts searches for contraband in the juvenile halls with the use of staff search teams, canine dogs from its Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) unit, and a contracted canine search company, Interquest Detection Canines (Interquest). For this reporting period, the Office of Inspector General reviewed data provided by the Probation Department regarding canine searches of the juvenile halls from May 2, 2023, to June 14, 2023.¹ The information included the date, time, names of staff involved in the searches, items discovered, and information deemed relevant by the Probation Department. A comparison was made between canine searches conducted during the period of May 2023 and June 2023 to those conducted during the period of March 2023 and April 2023 to determine the effectiveness of increased canine searches in reducing the flow of contraband into the juvenile facilities. Based on the Office of Inspector General's review, it appears that the expanded canine searches continue to aid in discovering and recovering contraband in the juvenile halls.

Despite these increased efforts, during this reporting period over the course of one weekend four youths from BJNJH were hospitalized due to suspected ingestion of illicit drugs. While the youths survived and returned to the facility, these incidents indicate that illicit drugs are still entering the juvenile hall facilities and the Probation Department must be diligent in its prevention efforts.

¹ The Probation Department provided a summary of the searches conducted by SEO staff canine units and Interquest, for a period of May 2, 2023, to June 14, 2023.

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

From May 6, 2023, to June 14, 2023, the Probation Department conducted 34 canine searches of the housing units at BJNJH, 26 by the SEO canine unit and 9 by Interquest. During this two-month period, the search teams recovered contraband 26 times.

The searches were daily, Monday through Friday. As a result of the 34 searches the Probation Department recovered 3 unknown pills, 54 youth manufactured weapons, 34 vape pens, 22 vape pen cartridges, 5 marijuana cigarettes (including loose marijuana), 13 cellular phones, 34 cords/charging devices, 8 tattoo devices, residue resembling methamphetamine and black tar heroin, \$335 in cash, a razor blade, pruno,² a facility key, a bullet, 3 shell casings, a digital scale, pay/owe sheets,³ photographs relating to gang activity, and a \$100 counterfeit bill. There were no pills resembling fentanyl recovered during the two-month period. Items of less serious concern were also recovered including excessive food, excessive clothing, excessive bedding, electronic devices, matches, and pornography.

In comparison, from March 7, 2023, to April 30, 2023, the Probation Department conducted only 18 searches, resulting in the recovery of 3 youth manufactured weapons, 115 vape pens, 25 vape pen cartridges, 3 tobacco cigarettes, 5 marijuana cigarettes, 2 lighters, and 48 unidentified pills. The Probation Department almost doubled the number of searches since the Office of Inspector General's second report. There has been a significant reduction in the recovery of fentanyl pills as well as other contraband, which suggests the increased searches may be effective. The Office of Inspector General recommends continuing the increased searches.

Central Juvenile Hall

From May 2, 2023, to June 16, 2023, the Probation Department conducted 49 canine searches at the housing units at CJH, 25 by SEO canine unit and 24 by the Interquest. During this two-month period, the search teams recovered contraband 16 times, resulting in the recovery of 7 vape pens, 1 cellular phone, 6 cellular phone charging cords, 13 youth manufactured weapons, 7 unknown pills, 1 smoking pipe, and 1 laptop.

² Pruno is homemade alcoholic beverage made from fermented fruit, sugar, and yeast. A "vape pen" is an electronic device shaped like a pen that is used to inhale vapor from tobacco or marijuana oil.

³ Pay/owe sheets are ledgers that keep track of charges and payments for illegal activities such as the sale of illegal drugs.

In comparison, from March 7, 2023, to April 30, 2023, the Probation Department conducted only 11 searches at CJH resulting in the recovery of 1 cell phone charging cord. The Probation Department conducted four times as many searches during the current reporting period compared to the previous period. The result was a significant increase in recovered contraband.

Once again, based on the information provided by the Probation Department, there is a noticeable difference in the amount of contraband recovered by the SEO unit compared to Interquest. In fact, during the latest review period, Interquest did not recover any contraband during its 24 searches, whereas the SEO unit recovered contraband in all its searches except one. This may be attributable to better technique or expertise used by the SEO unit, or a lack of effort by Interquest. The Office of Inspector General recommends the Probation Department evaluate the effectiveness of Interquest's search methods to ensure the Probation Department is obtaining the best use of its budgeted resources.

In addition to leading to the discovery of contraband, frequent canine searches may be acting as a deterrent to the introduction of contraband into the halls, which might explain the reduction in the discovery of fentanyl.

The Probation Department previously indicated that it would review the effectiveness of the additional searches and determine if more frequent canine searches are needed. This analysis was not completed, and the Office of Inspector General recommends that the Probation Department complete such a review.

B. MISUSE OR MISCONDUCT ON THE USE OF CANINE SEARCH TEAMS

The Probation Department is required to report to the Office of Inspector General any complaints of misuse or misconduct with the use of canine searches. The Probation Department indicated that it has not received any complaints of misuse or misconduct related to the use of canine search teams. The Office of Inspector General, has not independently received any complaints from the public of misuse or misconduct regarding the Probation Department's canine search teams.

C. DISCREPANCIES WITH REPORTING OF CANINE SEARCHES

The Board instructed the Office of Inspector General to report any discrepancies discovered regarding the Probation Department's reporting of its use of canine searches. The Office of Inspector General reviewed canine search reports of searches conducted at CJH and BJNH from May 2, 2023, to June 14, 2023. The reports detailed the units searched, the Probation Department staff conducting the searches, and the contraband recovered. The Office of Inspector General did not discover any discrepancies in the Probation Department's reporting of the canine searches.

D. USE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT TO SUPPLEMENT THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S SECURITY STAFF

There is a continued need for better security screening at the entrances of the facilities. Although the SEO unit has assisted the security staff at BJNH, resulting in better security screening, the Office of Inspector General staff witnessed individuals continuing to come into CJH and placing bags and food items on top of the x-ray scanner avoiding screening. In addition, bags that are put through the x-ray scanner are not consistently monitored. The Office of Inspector General staff brought this to the Probation Department's executive staff's attention and in response, the executive staff issued a memorandum informing the contracted security officers that **all** bags, including food, are to be scanned by the x-ray machine. The Office of Inspector General will continue to monitor the security screening at both juvenile facilities.

As noted in the Office of Inspector General's previous report, the Probation Department executive staff met with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's Department) to discuss (1) use of its Security Officers to supplement the Probation Department's existing security staff used at the entrances of the juvenile halls,⁴ (2) use of its staff to increase perimeter checks of the juvenile hall facilities, (3) use of its narcotics canine teams to assist Probation Department staff with contraband searches, and (4) conducting a security/contraband assessment of the juvenile halls. The Probation Department's executive staff continues to discuss the use of the Sheriff's Department Security Officers, but their availability is still hampered by low staffing levels and a significant number of vacancies for that position. In the meantime, the Probation Department is utilizing its SEO unit at BJNH and Probation Department field staff at

⁴ The security at the juvenile halls is currently provided by Allied Universal Security Services. The LASD utilizes uniformed non-peace officer Security Officers at the security entrances to courthouses and other Los Angeles County facilities.

CJH to assist with security screening. In addition, canines are deployed daily at each facility for “sniff” searches.⁵ The Sheriff’s Department is unable to anticipate when its Security Officer vacancies will be filled or when its current staffing shortage will resolve. However, discussions between the Probation Department executive staff and the Sheriff’s Department will continue regarding availability of Security Officers to be employed at the juvenile halls.

The Probation Department also requested the Sheriff’s Department conduct a security assessment of the Probation Department’s juvenile halls. The Sheriff’s Department agreed to provide an assessment and requested the Probation Department’s policies related to (1) juvenile hall security, (2) contraband, (3) employee and visitor screening, (4) facility/unit searches, and (5) personal items permitted in the juvenile halls. It also requested a list of facility entrances and a description of the screening/searches conducted at each entrance. The Sheriff’s Department conducted the security assessments for CJH, BJNJH and Los Padrinis Juvenile Hall, and the results have been provided to the Probation Department.

E. FOLLOW-UP TO FIRST REPORT

The Office of Inspector General has continued monitoring how illicit substances and contraband are entering the juvenile facilities as previously instructed by the Board, and provides the following update to its first report back:

1. **Packages thrown over perimeter walls at BJNJH:** Probation Department staff reported that there has been no change in the frequency of packages being thrown over the walls since the Office of Inspector General’s first report. However, Probation Department executive staff has stated that there are increased perimeter patrols to assist in reducing contraband being thrown over the walls.
2. **Entry into the BJNJH:** The Office of Inspector General staff recently observed the main entrance into the facility used by visitors and staff. The Probation Department has initiated a new policy at both BJNJH and CJH requiring a clear bag to be used by all visitors and staff carrying personal items into the facilities. This should assist in preventing the introduction of contraband into the facilities. Also, members of the SEO unit are assisting the

⁵ Sniff searches are canines brought into the facility to smell around the facility for contraband. If the canines indicate they smelled contraband, a search is then conducted by the SEO staff.

contracted security officers with searches of visitors and staff and are present at the entryway Monday through Friday.

3. **Unauthorized Food Deliveries:** As reported in the first report back, the youths received contraband in the facility by utilizing people appearing to deliver food ordered by telephone. As a result, the Probation Department has ended the use of outside food delivery services to staff at both BJNJH and CJH.
4. **Contraband Storage at BJNJH:** Contraband at BJNJH continues to be stored in an office closet as previously reported.
5. **Entry into CJH:** As noted in its first report back, the Office of Inspector General was concerned regarding the lack of any security screening at three of the four entrances at CJH. The Probation Department staff continue to have the ability to enter the facility at the side, bus transportation, and Internal Services Department (ISD) entrances without being subject to a security search prior to entering the facility. The Office of Inspector General staff recently observed a Probation Department staff member exit the facility through the side entrance using a key that opens all gates and doors at the facility. Upon inquiring why that person had the key, the Office of Inspector General staff was informed that such keys may be requested and checked out to any of the Deputy Probation Officers at the facility and that there are approximately **600 such keys**. This type of widespread access to facility gates effectively negates the other security measures implemented by the Probation Department.

In response to the Office of Inspector General's concerns, the Probation Department executive staff reported that a detention officer has been placed at the side entrance to prevent staff from using the exit until the locks are changed to allow only supervisors access. The Office of Inspector General recommends the use of a key card system, which has the following advantages over keys: (1) it allows staff access to only specific authorized areas, (2) access can be allowed/restricted by shifts, (3) provides a record of which staff member accessed a specific gate/door, and (4) allows for faster entry into the area in an emergency, removing the problem of identifying the proper key to use for the door/gate.

6. **Packages thrown into CJH:** The Office of Inspector General staff was informed by the Probation Department staff that there has not been a change in the frequency of packages thrown over the walls at CJH since the first report. However, Probation Department executive staff reported that there are increased perimeter patrols and staff have been diligent in responding to sightings of drones flying over the facility.
7. **Contraband Storage at CJH:** Contraband is no longer stored in a tote bag on a coat rack as previously reported in the first report. The Probation Department has installed contraband lockers for logging and storing recovered contraband. The contraband is documented in a Security Incident Report and submitted to management. A copy of the report is submitted with the contraband to the Director and placed in the contraband locker. All contraband that is recovered that was not in the possession of a youth is sent to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department for destruction or used in the Canine Training program. This is a marked improvement by the Probation Department of its handling of recovered contraband at CJH.

F. RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the recommendations in its [Report Back on Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls](#), the Office of Inspector General continues to make the following recommendations:

1. Continue discussing with the Sheriff's Department the use of its Security Officers to assist the Probation Department's existing security personnel, use of its canine units for searches, and a security assessment of the juvenile halls.
2. Assess the effectiveness of Interquest, its currently contracted canine search company, in comparison to the SEO's canine search unit.
3. Investigate violations of all Probation Department policies on visitation, contraband possession, and possession of excess items and impose appropriate discipline for any violations.
4. Increase in efforts searching items brought into the facilities, including searching inside of bags and purses for contraband. All food containers should be opened for visual check.

5. Assess the feasibility of utilizing a “key card” security system in replacement of metal keys.

MH:sf

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