

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

March 7, 2023

AND JANICE HAHN

Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls

The reports of illicit substances and contraband being found and used by youth in the Los Angeles County (County)'s juvenile halls, have continued and most recently became almost fatal when, in the last couple of weeks, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJN) experienced two overdoses, resulting in the use of Narcan, on two consecutive days.

Fortunately, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) had voted on a motion earlier this year to provide Narcan to staff and training on how to use it to prevent overdoses.

Last year, the Probation Department reported that illicit substances and contraband were thrown over the perimeter walls of Central Juvenile Hall and that drug use have become more prevalent among the youth in both halls.

The Board has also heard of at least one report from the LA County Office of

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

Education (LACOE) that a staff had witnessed a youth using a vape pen in front of Probation staff and it was not confiscated or addressed.

The Probation Department has increased searches of the housing units, including using K9 search teams, and this past weekend, in one search at BJN, that incarcerates about 12 youth, more than 40 vape pens, dozens of Xanax pills, and a cell phone were found. The following day, another search was conducted in the same unit and four cell phones were found, in addition to another dozen vape pens and a bag of crushed up pills. Other prior searches resulted in finding fentanyl pills in the halls.

To prevent any further overdoses or risk of overdoses, all immediate action needs to be taken to support our youth.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Probation Department to report back 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, which should include, at minimum:
 - a. Using K9 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 K9 search teams; and
 - c. Reporting to the Office of Inspector General and Probation Oversight Commission on:
 - i. Any complaints of misuse or misconduct on the use of K9 search

teams; and

- ii. Documentation on the deployment of K9 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.

- d. Working with the Department of Public Health to make Narcan readily and easily accessible to youth and educating and training youth on how to use Narcan.

2. Direct the Office of Inspector General and Probation Oversight Commission to provide the Board with an initial report back, in writing, 45 days after the implementation of Directive #1, and 60 days thereafter, on:

- a. Whether expanding the use of K9 search teams and supplementing existing security with law enforcement was effective in reducing the flow of substances and contraband in the juvenile halls;
- b. Any misuse or misconduct on the use of K9 search teams;
- c. Any discrepancies with reporting on searches; and
- d. Recommendations on addressing illicit substances and contraband

3. Direct the Office of Inspector General, with support from the Probation Oversight Commission, to provide a report back in writing within 30 days with details about their 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.

4. Direct the Department of Youth Development, in collaboration with the Office of Inspector General and Probation Oversight Commission, to provide a report back to the Board, in writing, in 14 days, with an implementation plan for programs centered on reducing the use of substance use by youth.

#

HLS:el