

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH AND
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April 23, 2024

**UPDATE ON THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT’S INTERNAL REFORM EFFORTS
AND NEXT STEPS**

On April 11, 2024, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) voted to find both Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP) and Barry J. Nidorf-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN-SYTF) suitable for housing youth in the custody of the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation). The determination followed a year in which both facilities faced considerable challenges and potential findings of unsuitability which would have required the County to find alternative placements for roughly 350 youth between the two facilities.

At its April 11, 2024 meeting, the BSCC also made clear that BJN-SYTF and LP remain subject to comprehensive BSCC inspections in the coming months. Multiple BSCC members, and members of the public, expressed concerns regarding the quick turnaround between the BSCC’s February 15, 2024 unsuitability findings and its April 15, 2024 conclusions. With staffing challenges being part of the basis for the previous

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findings of unsuitability, BSCC members were “dubious” and “doubtful” that Probation could consistently meet staffing needs on an ongoing basis.

The April 2024 suitability findings follow considerable investments in County resources, time, and staffing among multiple County departments to help address the ongoing crisis involving youth in the custody of Probation and the ongoing push towards Youth Justice Reimagined (YJR), including new leadership from outside of the department. These efforts have been significant and offer immeasurable insights into the steps the County must take to fully implement the YJR vision.

Under new leadership, Probation has engaged in extensive efforts to address decades of structural and institutional shortcomings, to both come into compliance with BSCC mandates and establish a foundation for moving the department forward with roles and operations more appropriately suited to the County’s vision of YJR and the required substantive changes in Probation’s operations and relationship with youth who are physically within its care.

The BSCC and other stakeholders have expressed skepticism regarding the suitability status and the quick turnaround Probation made between BSCC inspections. We owe it to the families of the youth in our care and to our regulatory agencies to clearly articulate all strategies implemented to ensure the youth in our care are safe and provided the tools necessary to heal and turn their lives around within the County’s facilities. Transparency and accountability are the only way we regain the public’s trust after years of management failures that led us to where we are today.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to present, in person, at the May 7, 2024, Board of Supervisors

meeting on the Department's efforts to maintain the BSCC's determination of suitability and next steps towards expanding educational programming and vocational training at LP and BJN-SYTF.

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LPH:sgc