

Accountability for Programming at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

In February 2024, the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) found both Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Los Padrinos) and Barry J Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility out of compliance in several categories. The Los Angeles County Probation Department (Department) was given 60 days to come into compliance or vacate the facilities. On April 11, 2024, the BSCC voted to find both Los Padrinos and Barry J Nidorf in compliance. However, less than three months after achieving compliance, the BSCC once again found Los Padrinos to be out of compliance in item 1371 – “Programs, Recreation, and Exercise”. According to the BSCC report,¹ randomly reviewed video footage from June revealed that “many programs indicated on the facility schedule and documented on facility activity logs and program provider youth signoffs did not occur.” Due to this noncompliance, the Probation Department now has until August 27, 2024, to submit a Corrective Action Plan to the BSCC detailing how they plan to rectify this discrepancy.

¹<https://www.bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Attachment-F-1-2024-Juvenile-Adult-Noncompliance-Report-for-Dashboard-7.5.pdf>

MOTION

SOLIS _____
MITCHELL _____
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The BSCC's finding of noncompliance was not the first time that the Probation Department and Board of Supervisors had heard about discrepancies between scheduled programming and what was actually taking place in Los Padrinos. The Probation Oversight Commission (POC) issued their annual inspection report of Los Padrinos in December 2023² that highlighted the termination and absence of various programs and services at the Hall, both from County departments and community-based organizations. The issue has been brought up in multiple public POC meetings and in private meetings. In the recent POC meeting on July 11th, one Commissioner shared that in their recent visit to Los Padrinos, the schedule of programs for the day was not followed, nor were programs occurring during their scheduled times. Additionally, youth and staff had no recollection of a specific program that the commissioner asked about.

The Board has repeatedly supported improving and increasing programming in the County's juvenile detention facilities, including at Los Padrinos. But it is not enough to have a paper schedule of programs and activities – there needs to be a system in place to ensure that those activities actually happen. The Department has heard multiple times from various sources that the schedule did not match what was happening in reality, and yet no adequate efforts were taken to audit the programs and rectify the situation, leading to a finding of noncompliance by the BSCC. The Department should not have to rely on the BSCC to find a facility out of compliance in order to take action. Systems need to be set up within the County to self-audit to ensure that programming is happening when it is scheduled and to address any issues or discrepancies that arise. This is important not

² <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/POC23-0178.pdf>

just to remain in compliance with BSCC standards, but also because access to robust programming is an essential part of youth development. All young people, and especially youth with developmental disabilities and special needs, benefit from routine and consistency in their daily schedules. Structured routines promote learning, help with behavior management, alleviate anxiety, and enhance emotion regulation and skill development. Ensuring youth in Probation's facilities have consistent, accurate programming schedules goes far beyond maintaining BSCC compliance – it is essential for youth wellbeing and development.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Auditor Controller, in collaboration with the Probation Department (Probation), the Department of Youth Development (DYD), and other relevant County departments and partners to evaluate the Probation Department's processes and controls for overseeing, monitoring, and reporting on calendared youth programs and activities at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, and report back in writing in 60 days (including an interim report in 30 days) to the Board of Supervisors with the evaluation and recommendations. The report should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. A review and analysis of the process/procedure for documenting when program facilitators enter the facility;
2. A review and analysis of the process/procedure for documenting youth who participate in programs within the facility at the start of each program, including scheduled programs provided by Probation and the Department of Mental Health;
3. A review and analysis of Probation's internal monitoring system and management controls to ensure that programs are being delivered in alignment with the calendar

and applicable laws, policies, and agreements, and that program attendance, length, and outcomes are accurately reported to oversight entities;

4. A review and analysis of the calendar creation process/procedure, including how Probation collaborates and communicates with service providers, including County partners and contracted community-based organizations;
5. A review and analysis of Probation's training procedures for current and new employees to ensure programs are being properly administered, supervised, and documented;
6. A review and analysis of the Corrective Action Plan being submitted by Probation to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) in response to the BSCC notice of noncompliance submitted to Probation on June 28, 2024; and
7. Recommendations on how to streamline and improve program coordination, delivery, and monitoring so that program delivery is consistent with the scheduled calendar. The recommendations should consider recent changes and improvements made at Barry J Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility to improve programming fidelity.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Auditor Controller to conduct a follow-up review at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall four months after publishing the aforementioned report, to examine how the Probation Department has considered and applied the Auditor Controller's recommendations, and report back in writing to the Board of Supervisors on the results of their changes.

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JH:kc/ccr