



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA

Chief Probation Officer

September 23, 2024

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

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **SPEEDING UP YOUTH MOVEMENT OUT OF LOS PADRINOS (ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF JULY 23, 2024)**

On July 23, 2024, on motion of Supervisor Janice Hahn, with a revised recommendation submitted by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis, the Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the Chief Probation Officer, in consultation with the Directors of Youth Development, Health Services, Mental Health, the Public Defender, and the Alternate Public Defender to report back in writing in 60 days with the following:

1. Data related to the post disposition movement of youth from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to their next placement, including data starting from July 2023 to the present including, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. A breakdown of the percentage of youth dispositions to each of the placement options (community based suitable placement, Probation Camp, Probation Secure Youth Treatment Facility, Probation Placement – Dorothy Kirby Center, or other);
 - b. Minimum, maximum, and average length of stay at Los Padrinos for post dispositioned youth, broken down by the facility or placement youth are dispositioned to;
 - c. Percentage of post-dispositioned youth whose transfers take more than three days after the judge's placement determination is made;
 - d. A breakdown of the various reasons youth transfers out of Los Padrinos are delayed, including the medical clearance process, mental health assessment processes, placement facilities waiting to accept youth, challenges with transportation, challenges finding an appropriate community placement, etc., including average wait times for each of the above reasons for delay;

2. An outline of the steps required post disposition and before youth can be transferred to their next placement, including which Department and/or bureau is responsible for completing each step, and a description of different types of medical and mental health assessments and clearances, at which stages they are required and any related policies;
 - a. An analysis of any barriers at each step required post disposition that is impacting a speedy transfer of youth out of Los Padrinos to their next placement;
3. A list of recommendations to speed up the post disposition transfer process of youth out of Los Padrinos to their next placement, with the recommendations to consider, but not be limited to the following:
 - a. Drafting a policy about the recommended and maximum allowable wait-time before post disposition youth are transferred out of Los Padrinos and into their various placements (ex: three days);
 - b. Streamlining the medical clearance process;
 - c. Exploring efficient and timely transportation options for transfers to different facilities;
 - d. Enhancing training for staff and partners at Los Padrinos to handle the transfer process more efficiently, including handling paperwork, coordinating with other agencies, and managing transportation logistics; and
 - e. Implementing a system for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the transfer process with regular reports to the Board

In accordance with the Board Motion, this memorandum serves as the Probation Department's report and provides the collective response and recommendation developed in collaboration with the partners identified in the motion, Youth Development, Health Services, Mental Health, the Public Defender, and the Alternate Public Defender related to Speeding Up Youth Movement Out of Los Padrinos. The Department will continue to review processes and collaborative efforts to support expeditious movement of youth following court orders.

CURRENT PROCESS

Following the Court ordered disposition for Community Based Suitable Placement, Probation Camp, Probation Secure Youth Treatment Facility, Probation Placement – Dororthy Kirby Center, various processes by Probation and collaborative partners are activated. All Court dispositions for out of home placement are communicated by end of business on the date of the order to the applicable bureau staff by the Probation Officer assigned to each Juvenile delinquency court. This communication is made via the Order to Detain/Release (provided to transportation staff at the court location) and/or Camp and

Suitable Placement Notices (transmitted via scan/email). Upon receipt of the initial notification, the process for each bureau is as follows:

Placement Services Bureau/Community Based Suitable Placement*

- Case assigned to a ZIPP (Zero Incarceration Placement Program) officer
- ZIPP officer begins contacting Placement facilities consistent with youths age, needs, and in alignment with the court order to submit referrals for screening
- Placement facilities schedule screening interviews with youth (in person or via telephone)
- Placement facilities communicate acceptance/rejection to the Probation ZIPP officer
- Upon acceptance to a program, Placement facility picks youth up from Los Padrinos

**There is no further clearance required by the Department of Mental Health or Health Services for these youth*

Residential Treatment Services Bureau/Probation Placement - Dorothy Kirby Center

- Case assigned to a Camp Headquarters assessment officer
- Camp Headquarters staff alerts Department of Mental Health and Health Services of new Dorothy Kirby Center order
- Department of Mental Health
 - Notifies Camp Headquarters of decision to clear or hold youth
 - In general, Mental Health does not hold youth from transfer since same level of service is available at DKC
- Health Services completes medical clearance
 - Holds are applicable for youth with medical conditions that require close monitoring (until stabilized)
 - Some medical procedures, such as immunization are now being completed once youth are delivered to the Camp Facility (effective 9/12/24)

Residential Treatment Services Bureau/Probation Camp

- Case assigned to a Camp Headquarters assessment officer
 - Assessment officer reviews youth's full history, including but not limited to the current order, arrest history, incidents in detention, etc.
- Camp Headquarters staff alerts Department of Mental Health and Health Services of new camp order (daily notification list)
- Department of Mental Health notifies Camp Headquarters of clearance or hold
 - Holds are applicable for youth on psychotropic medication, Developmentally Delayed youth and psychotic youth or those unable to function in a camp/dorm setting due to mental illness
- Health Services completes medical clearance and notifies Camp Headquarters of clearance or hold

- Holds are applicable for youth with a pending off site medical appointment within one week
- Some medical procedures such as immunization are now being completed once youth are delivered to the Camp Facility (effective 9/12/24)

Secure Youth Treatment Facilities Bureau/Secure Youth Treatment Facility

- Male youth are transported to SYTF/Barry J Nidorf from court on date of commitment order
- Female youth return to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall prior to transfer to SYTF/Dorothy Kirby Center

DATA

Between July 1, 2023, and August 31, 2024, there were 842* youth ordered by the court to out of home dispositions, including Community Based Suitable Placement, Dorothy Kirby Center, Probation Camp, and Secure Youth Treatment Facility. Of the 842, the number of youth and percentage breakdown was as follows:

**These are not unique youth as a youth may have been ordered a new disposition on more than one occasion during the timeframe*

- Community Based Suitable Placement - 393 (47%)
- Dorothy Kirby Center - 152 (18%)
- Probation Camp - 235 (28%)
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility - 61 (7%)

The minimum, maximum, and average length of stay at Los Padrinos between Court Order and release was:

- Community Based Suitable Placement - 393 youth
 - Minimum Days – 0 days
 - Maximum Days – 51 days
 - Average of all days detained – 5.3 days
- Dorothy Kirby Center - 153 youth
 - Minimum Days – 2 days
 - Maximum Days – 38 days
 - Average of all days detained- 15 days
- Probation Camp - 235 youth
 - Minimum Days – 0 days
 - Maximum Days – 42 days
 - Average of all days detained - 8 days

- Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) - 61 youth
 - Minimum Days – 0 days
 - Maximum Days – 3 days*
 - Average of all days detained – 0 days

**Female Youth Only*

Of the 842 total youth, the movement of 416 youth (or 49%) exceeded three (3) business days. The percentage of post-disposition youth whose transfers took more than three (3) days after the Court Order were as follows:

- Community Based Suitable Placement - 112 (47%)
- Dorothy Kirby Center - 119 (78%)
- Probation Camp - 185 (79%)
- Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) - 0 (0%)

The reasons post-disposition youth transfers were delayed beyond three (3) days include the following (by disposition):

- Community Based Placement – 112
 - Challenges with finding Placement (Hard to Place) – 28 (25%)
 - Agency at Capacity – 4 (4%)
 - Medical Unit – 1 (1%)
 - Replacement - 33 (29%)
 - Court Ordered a Specific Placement – 38 (34%)
 - Age Restriction - 6 (5%)
 - Youth Refusal - 2 (2%)
- Dorothy Kirby Center – 119
 - Medical Clearance – 27 (23%)
 - Mental Health Assessment/Clearance – 4 (3%)
 - DNA Collection – 1 (<1%)
 - Facility at capacity at time of Order (Wait List) – 67 (56%)
 - Camp Headquarters Assessment Unit Staffing – 15 (13%)
 - Youth Refusal – 3 (3%)
 - Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall Lockdown – 1 (<1%)
 - Pending additional court Hearing – 1 (<1%)
- Probation Camp - 185
 - Medical – 96 (52%)
 - Mental Health – 7 (4%)
 - DNA Collection – 5 (3%)
 - Camp Headquarters Assessment Unit Staffing – 73 (40%)

- Camp Covid Quarantine – 2 (<1%)
- Admin Hold – Pending Decision on Transfer – 2 (<1%)

The data shows that fifteen (15) days is the highest average number of days and it is associated with movement of youth to Dorothy Kirby Center. Movement to Community Based Placement and Probation Camp averaged 5.3 and 8 days respectively. There is no delay associated with transfer of male youth ordered SYTF as they are transported to the SYTF/BJN facility following the court's order and the maximum amount of time associated with female youth movement for this disposition did not exceed three days.

The number of days for youth movement from Los Padrinos for Community Based Placement, Probation Camp and Dorothy Kirby Center is impacted by various factors. Bed capacity at Dorothy Kirby Center is the leading factor which significantly impacts the movement of youth to that facility, accounting for 56% of the delays exceeding three days. The data also reflects the largest delay for Probation Camp movement was related to medical clearances, accounting for 52% of the delays exceeding 3 days. In reference to Community Based Suitable Placement, challenges related to finding a placement for hard-to-place youth, replacements and specific placement orders by the court resulted in the largest impact to the movement of youth, jointly accounting for 88% of the delays exceeding 3 days.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the collaborative stakeholders meeting on September 13, 2024, the current process following court orders was reviewed and the team discussed implementing the following strategies:

- Contacting the attorney of record for youth refusing to participate in any portion of the clearance process, including medical to help facilitate engagement of youth through the post-dispositional clearance process
- Transporting youth to Camp with outside medical appointment scheduled 4 or more days from the order date
- Cross training staff in the Camp Headquarters assessment unit to increase capacity for completing clearances, commencing September 26, 2024
- Relocating a Camp Headquarters staff to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to expedite the assessment process (commencing October 7, 2024)
- Continue Health Services process of completing a portion of their medical clearance once youth arrive at the Camp facility and Dorothy Kirby Center (implemented 9/12/24)

NEXT STEPS

Probation will continue to gather data and track the number of days for movement out of Los Padrinos and the reasons for delays. Data points will be refined to identify specific reasons for medical delays which could include the following: youth refusal, pending physical examinations, pending off-site medical appointments, etc. Additionally, the department and stakeholder partners will explore the feasibility of a pre-disposition collaboration between the youth's attorney, the District Attorney and Probation to identify available Community Based Suitable placement options. Probation will also continue to review the process and communicate with stakeholder partners to determine the impact of the above identified strategies.

CONCLUSION

The Probation department is committed to expeditious movement of youth out of Los Padrinos following the court order for placement in Community Based Placement, Probation Camp, Dorothy Kirby Center and Secure Youth Treatment Facility. The data reflects the average time for movement over the 13-month period (July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024) exceeded three days 49% of the time overall for the collective range of orders for out of home dispositions. A review of the current collaborative procedures for transfer of youth to Community Based Placement and Probation Camp appears to require approximately 5 days. Probation expects to continue moving youth out of Los Padrinos within approximately five (5) business days as an ideal goal, excluding scenarios with factors beyond the control of the department and/or partner stakeholders, including but not limited to unavailable bed capacity, facility emergencies, system outage, quarantines, etc.

The review of data and discussion regarding the processes potentially impacting the movement of youth out of Los Padrinos following their court orders has yielded the opportunity to explore strategies which we expect to have a positive impact.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy for Juvenile Operations, at (562) 940-2513.

GVR:KE:mr

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