

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS LINDSEY P. HORVATH
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May 13, 2025

Requiring Transparency in Probation Compliance

On December 17, 2024, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) proclaimed a local emergency at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Los Padrinos) in response to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)’s determination that Los Padrinos is unsuitable for the detention of youth. The local emergency continues to this day. On April 10, 2025, the BSCC reaffirmed that Los Padrinos remains unsuitable. On April 18, 2025, Judge Miguel Espinoza ordered the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) to submit a proposal and timeline to depopulate Los Padrinos by transferring youth out of Los Padrinos until the BSCC determines Los Padrinos is in compliance with BSCC regulations.

On May 2, 2025, Probation filed its timeline and proposed plan to depopulate Los Padrinos with the court in advance of the May 16, 2025, court hearing. While public-facing details about Probation’s depopulation plan are sparse, the Probation Department did make clear that moving youth to other facilities was its [primary strategy](#).

Importantly, even before the local emergency declaration that granted the Chief Probation Officer extraordinary powers, [the Board directed](#) Probation to develop a global plan outlining a long-term facilities plan that could be implemented within 2 to 5 years of

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receiving Board approval to address Probation's challenges. Earlier this year, Probation presented its much-delayed plan and included sweeping, and, in some instances, contentious, recommendations that included:

- Ending the well-regarded boys Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) step-down program at Campus Kilpatrick and transferring youth in that program to the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (Nidorf);
- Moving all girls and gender-expansive youth to Campus Kilpatrick which entails having intake, pre-disposition, post-disposition, special needs, and SYTF populations all in one place;
- Transitioning Dorothy Kirby Center to a boys-only facility; and
- Consolidating boys' camp facilities to make way for a Probation staff training site.

Chief Viera Rosa admitted at the Board's February 18, 2025, meeting that the plan was not developed in collaboration with County stakeholders or community organizations.

All stakeholders involved—including our labor partners, County departments, community advocates that provide services in Probation's facilities, and the Probation Oversight Commission expressed genuine concerns about Probation's plan, highest among those being Probation's ability to make the changes without causing harm to youth or otherwise disrupt the few things that are going well, or both.

[The Board responded](#) a month later by directing Probation to be transparent and engage with the public in its planning during the crisis. In doing so, the Board explicitly required Probation "to seek Board approval, and review by an appropriate cluster meeting, *in advance of the implementation of*, or changes to, the Global Plan and/or Facilities Plan" including any "[u]pdates that require material changes to the facilities of any of Campus Kilpatrick, Nidorf, Dorothy Kirby Center, or Los Padrinos" or any "[u]pdates

that require a change in the type of population served at a particular facility.”

Confirmation was received that Probation has begun the process of ending the SYTF step-down program Campus Kilpatrick by no longer sending youth there but to Nidorf, which inevitably lead to a significant increase at the latter. This move comes despite the fact that the last time there was a significant rise in the population at Nidorf led to the May 2023 BSCC unsuitability decision.

This Board has not publicly approved the use of Campus Kilpatrick to house girls and gender-expansive youth, and the BSCC has also not approved the use of Campus Kilpatrick to house girls and gender-expansive youth. Nor has this Board publicly approved the significant expansion of Nidorf to house as many as 150 youth by ending the widely supported and positively regarded boys’ SYTF step-down program at Campus Kilpatrick. Moreover, as of this Board meeting, Probation has not publicly presented any description or communication about whether it has already made any changes to its SYTF step-down process while awaiting any further decisions from Judge Espinoza. Nor has Probation provided any insight or guidance to stakeholders, elected officials or organizations that provide services to youth in custody who may be moved. Despite numerous instructions by the Board to do so, this unilateral move deprives the public of an opportunity to provide input regarding any concerns about these potential moves, their impact on the youth, their impact on service providers, or their impact on the surrounding local jurisdictions in which the facilities are located.

This end run around the Board’s previous directions to Probation and its commitment to be transparent and in conversation with the public is a direct contradiction to the specific directions of the Board’s March 18, 2025, motion requiring transparency in the Global Plan process. In response to a separate motion and direction from the Board,

Chief Viera Rosa appeared at a public Probation Oversight Commission meeting on May 8, 2025, to discuss the POCs recommendations for depopulating Los Padrinos. The Chief, however, left the meeting early and only discussed the first couple of recommendations. Probation did not make anyone else available for the meeting.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Probation Officer to verbally present at the June 3, 2025 meeting, the details of the proposal and timeline to depopulate Los Padrinos submitted in response to the April 18, 2025 court order.

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