

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

April 7, 2026

AND JANICE HAHN

Implementing the County’s Vision For The Department of Youth Development

In 2021, the Board of Supervisors unanimously committed to implement a vision of Youth Justice Reimagined,¹ in part by fully funding the Department of Youth Development (DYD). In March 2023, the Board further directed DYD “to take the lead role in establishing programs and services . . . in the halls and camps, within the confines of existing legal restrictions.”²

DYD is developing plans to do exactly that. DYD’s ability to implement its plans, however, will be limited unless paired with the authority to lead in these spaces by providing services, being supported with additional and sustainable resources, and the Board’s support in ending day-to-day barriers to accessing information and spaces

¹ https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1110342_071321.pdf (Statement of Proceedings, July 13, 2021); <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/160000.pdf> (“Revised: Youth Justice Reimagined: Fulfilling Los Angeles County’s Commitment to a New Youth Justice Model,” July 13, 2021).

² https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1139669_032123.pdf (Statement of Proceedings, Mar. 21, 2023; <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/178970.pdf> (“Care First, Jails Last: Holding the Probation Department Accountable and Advancing Youth Justice Reimagined,” Mar. 21, 2023).

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required to serve youth in our care.

Since 2022, DYD has launched Youth Development Networks and the Youth Development Learning Collaborative; expanded and strengthened partnerships for diversion referrals; established the Reentry Action for Youth Community Reentry Program that connects justice-involved youth with supportive services in their reentry to community through a partnership with the Juvenile Court; and enhanced youth leadership in many ways. DYD's network of community-based organizations has provided approximately 40,000 youth engagements countywide. In FY 2024-25 alone, DYD's programs served approximately 6,000 youth in ongoing programs, an increase of about 50% over the prior fiscal year. DYD also manages 12 community-based organizations to provide programming in the camps and halls, including 50 credible messengers that provide daily presence and mentorship to youth in the facilities.³ DYD's data show that only 5% of youth enrolled in DYD's Youth Diversion and Development programs have a subsequent petition filed within a year, compared to about 20% of youth whose cases are processed through the traditional justice system.

Los Angeles County can, and should, improve the day-to-day experiences of young people in our care by distinguishing critical security functions from services that support youth development and rehabilitation. Presently, staffing shortages and other challenges require the Probation Department to focus on security-related concerns to achieve state compliance and to ensure the safe placement of youth. The Probation Department does, however, maintain a critical piece of program service delivery, with line

³ https://issuu.com/lacountyyouth/docs/celebrating_3_years_of_dyd

staff providing programming when no other programming alternatives from County departments, contractors, or community-based organizations are provided, or when someone who was expected to provide programming is not available. That role is required of Probation staff by law and will continue even after DYD assumes primary responsibilities for implementing a comprehensive, evidence-informed programming model that addresses gaps and improves compliance with state requirements. The County can, and should increase DYD's responsibility for programming, care planning and coordination, and youth engagement to improve the quality and accountability of program providers. DYD is ready, willing, and able to begin taking the lead, and it is time to empower them to do so.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct DYD, Probation, and all relevant County departments, and request that the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), declare that there is, and will continue to be, a shared responsibility and accountability for providing programming in all youth justice facilities, and ensure that their departments' policies reflect that responsibility and obligation.
2. Direct the Director of DYD to report back in writing in 30 days with an implementation plan that details:
 - a. A timeline for the complete transition of the organizational leadership of programming responsibilities in all youth justice facilities, including scheduling and other activities required for effective coordination, and an analysis of information and facility access needed to effectively implement programming, with an expectation that DYD will assume these

responsibilities in phases or steps according to the terms of the Memoranda of Understanding and implementation plan referenced in this motion;

- b. Timeline for the roll-out of DYD's youth development care coordination services, including positive incentives for youth engagement, in all youth justice facilities, along with an analysis of information and collaboration among departments and stakeholders needed to provide care coordination services;
 - c. Analysis of necessary DYD staffing and resources required to manage, prioritize, process, and oversee all youth programming and care coordination services, including a proposed organizational structure informed by County classification and compensation guidelines; and
 - d. An analysis of opportunities to integrate and improve access to community-based reentry and care outside of Probation's facilities as part of DYD's programming and youth development care coordination approach, including through strengthened and, jointly developed protocols, access to information and collaboration related to intake and release planning for youth.
3. Direct County Counsel to report back to the Board in writing 60 days after the report back referenced in Directive 2 is provided to the Board, with any required changes to any ordinances, rules, or protocols necessary to implement the plan described above in Directive 2. This report back should also:

- a. Describe and set out proposed confidentiality obligations and other related contract or Memorandum of Understanding terms that could be used to bind all County departments, contractors, and other service providers granted access to confidential information, including juvenile or youth-specific information; and
 - b. Outline options for DYD, and other County partners, to legally access to information necessary for DYD to implement the plan described above in Directive 2, including confidential, sensitive, juvenile, or other similarly-protected information.
4. Direct the Chief Probation Officer and Director of DYD, in consultation with County Counsel, to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between Probation and DYD for the parties to execute within 90 days after the report back referenced in Directive 2 is provided to the Board, that includes all necessary and relevant terms to ensure DYD's ability to implement its programming and care coordination roles, including clear agreements and terms defining roles and responsibilities, including but not limited to:
 - a. Describes how the departments will transition responsibilities for contracting, scheduling, and coordinating programming to DYD in a way that gives DYD authority to enter into contracts to provide programming in Probation's facilities and provides adequate space and support, with the exception of conditions related to security requirements and core law enforcement functions;

- b. Granting DYD, in consultation with the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender, access to all information required to serve youth, including an explicit agreement with Probation that DYD, and its staff, qualify as service providers to Probation within the meaning of Welfare & Institutions Code section 827, and cannot be prohibited from accessing confidential information required to provide case management and programmatic services, subject to appropriate confidentiality agreements; and
 - c. Ensures that DYD is informed and consulted of any changes in Probation's policies or practices that impact access to programming, including any related to the continuation of services as youth move throughout facilities.
5. Direct the directors of the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services, Arts and Culture, the Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, and any other relevant Departments providing services in facilities to enter into agreements, or MOUs, with DYD within 90 days after the report back referenced in Directive 2 is provided to the Board, outlining roles and responsibilities that complement each department's area of expertise;
6. Authorize the Director of DYD, and the directors of the Department of Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services, Arts and Culture, Los Angeles County Office of Education and any other County department serving youth in Probation's care, to enter into and amend contracts, and

be authorized to hire, using available funding to support this model for programming in all youth justice facilities, on the expedited basis provided by the Emergency Declaration approved by this Board related to the Probation Department as long as that emergency declaration is in effect.⁴

7. Authorize the Director of DYD to enter into, amend, extend, or terminate agreements to provide programming and related services to those in Probation's facilities in a manner that mirrors the authority granted to Probation, to ensure that there are no gaps or reduction in programming services, provided that such agreements do not exceed a term of twelve (12) months and a maximum aggregate contract amount of \$5,000,000 per agreement, and an option to execute up to one additional 12-month extension of such agreements, subject to the availability of funding and continued programmatic or operational need, with notice provided to the Board within thirty (30) days of the execution of each agreement entered into pursuant to this authority.
8. Direct the Director of DYD, or their designee, and the Chief Probation Officer, the directors of, Department of Mental Health, Department of Arts & Culture, and the Auditor-Controller, or their designees, to evaluate, create and maintain a real-time system for tracking programming consistently across all of Probation's facilities, evaluating and tracking the timeliness of programming services, and reporting performance to each relevant

⁴ A copy of the Emergency Declaration regarding Probation can be found on the Board's website at: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1174768_121724.pdf (Statement of Proceedings, Dec. 17, 2024).

stakeholder, and report back to the Board in writing 60 days after the report back referenced in Directive 2 is provided to the Board, and every quarter thereafter, with a report on their progress. These evaluations should include standard accountability metrics for success by youth, and accountability by service providers, that are consistent across County departments and stakeholders so that they are informed of their success, shortcomings, and recommended paths for improvement.

9. To assist with establishing benchmarks to be used across departments, direct the Chief Probation Officer to report back in writing in 45 days with data reflecting the current state of programming for youth detained in Probation's facilities, including not only the availability of programming, but any metrics maintained by Probation regarding access to programming, effectiveness, compliance with contract requirements, and/or scheduling expectations, for use as baseline data. If no meaningful data is available, Probation should report back in writing stating as much.
10. Direct the Chief Executive Officer, in collaboration with DYD, and in consultation with Probation, to report back to the Board in writing in 45 days after the report back referenced in Directive 2 is provided to the Board, with an analysis of available funding sources and recommendations to fund this plan in the current and future fiscal years that will enable DYD to begin implementing the plan described in Directive 2 in the next fiscal year, including but not limited to providing sufficient administrative staffing, transferring funding for programming and services from Probation to DYD,

and establishing care coordination functions. This evaluation should include maximizing the use of funds that are not Net County Cost, for example funds made available for relevant services via State grants or allocations, but that may need to be transitioned to or between different County departments than they have been in the past.

11. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to convene DYD's and Probation's project leads along with appropriate representatives from County Counsel and all relevant partners to meet monthly and discuss timelines and action steps needed to transition programming services to DYD, including tracking the progress of bringing that transition to fruition, documenting and addressing any issues, and identifying and troubleshooting areas for improvement and accountability, and report back to the Board in writing on a quarterly basis.

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