

ANNUAL FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT: 2021
SUBMITTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION
OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

Report prepared by
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Annual Facility Inspection Report: 2021

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) established in 2021 is a civilian-led oversight commission focused on systemic reform within the Probation Department, on both adult and juvenile arenas. The POC advises the Probation Department and the Board of Supervisors about said progress. The POC has some authority and responsibilities directly related to juvenile facilities and institutions. Specifically, conducting facility inspections to ensure the physical safety and welfare of youth is among one of these duties.

The Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), Section 240, requires that the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) performs documented inspections and evaluations of the buildings and grounds at the County's juvenile facilities on an annual basis. The POC has a direct relationship with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), a statutory agency that inspects for compliance of standards of detention facilities in California. Annual inspection reports are to be submitted to the office of the BSCC Field Liaison annually, before December 31st.

Due to COVID-19 and other factors, the previously existing Los Angeles County Probation Commission did not conduct inspections during the 2020 calendar year. The Probation Commission sunset in January 2021 and the POC was launched in February 2021 and tasked with carrying out the responsibility of conducting facility inspections to ensure the physical safety and welfare of youth and adults in Probation custody during calendar year 2021. As such, in the Spring of 2021, the work around coordinating the facility inspections of the eight (8) juvenile facilities was underway.

METHODS

In 2021, Los Angeles County Probation Department ran eight (8) juvenile facilities; 2 juvenile detention centers ("juvenile halls") and 6 juvenile camps, including the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) in Commerce, CA.

Since the two detention centers are the largest facilities in the county, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNH) in Sylmar, CA and Central Juvenile Hall (AKA Eastlake) in Los Angeles, CA were scheduled first on the inspection rotation. During each facility inspection, with the exception of Dorothy Kirby Center and Camp Scott (both currently located in Commerce, CA), two POC Commissioners were assigned to conduct the inspection. In addition to the (2) Commissioners, one or two POC staff members provided support during each inspection. Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation leadership and leaders from each facility were aware in advance of the inspection and which commissioners would attend.

The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report. The Probation Department provided the POC with examples of previous year's inspections and the POC developed a detailed, 12-page facility inspection template that was reviewed by the Probation Department and BSCC. Prior to each inspection, the template was shared with Probation leadership at each facility, respectively. Each inspection took between 4 – 5 hours to complete.

The information below depicts data gathered directly from each facility inspection. The data is a "snapshot" captured for that day (of the inspection). The narrative portions are direct reports provided by POC Commissioners who conducted the inspections.

FINDINGS

September 2021

Inspection #1 – Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: 16350 Filbert Street, Sylmar, CA 91344

Facility's Rated Capacity: 584

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DSO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
150	8*	365	270	2:1	30	150	23

*4 in-person appearance; 4 virtual appearance

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 – 2:30, 2:30 – 10:30, 10:30 – 6:30 (24-hour)
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

Additional concerns arising from observations or conversations with youth that are not included in previous sections of this report include the following (in no particular order):

- 1) COVID-19 protection concerns: Two youth noted they got tested when they arrived but did not mention being tested since then (and both had been there for multiple months). They expressed concerns of contracting COVID from staff because staff stand over them and talk unmasked while the youth are eating. In many areas, youth were seen without masks (e.g., waiting behind a fence before movement, inside a dayroom). Youth were not wearing masks when playing basketball. Inside the gym, some staff had no masks or had their masks down. In various areas, staff were not wearing masks or wearing them improperly (e.g., not covering their noses). There were no hand sanitizer dispensers in the school hallways. A hand sanitizer dispenser in a living unit was empty. A staff member reported that if a youth wants a vaccine, they may not get one immediately because the facility will only administer vaccines when enough youth have requested them (apparently because of the way the vaccines are packaged).
- 2) A youth in the “compound” reported that after any fight, youth are placed on “lockdown” for 1 week, meaning that they are locked in their rooms for the entire day except for 40 minutes for showers each day (Title 15, § 1354.5 Room Confinement and §1390 Discipline).

- 3) Every youth being moved from the “compound” had restraints around their hands and feet. The Superintendent stated that youth within the “compound” are handcuffed and shackled whenever they are outside of the “compound” (but still within the facility) (Title 15, §1358.5).
- 4) One youth noted that for the first week upon admission, they were in their cell all day because they had already graduated from high school. However, the week of our visit they were finally allowed to begin college classes online.
- 5) One youth noted that when placed on Level III (mental health-related), they are locked in their rooms except for 1 hour in the dayroom (Title 15, §1329 Suicide Prevention Plan).
- 6) Female youth reported that at least some youth are only getting disposable underwear (Title 15, §1480 Standard Facility Clothing Issue). Also, during menstruation periods, whether because of the type of underwear given or other reasons, when blood leaks and runs down their legs, they are not allowed to clean themselves by showering until nighttime. Until then, they are given a rag and allowed to go to the sink and wipe themselves and then throw the rag in the trash.
- 7) Youth reported they are not given razors (§1487 Shaving).
- 8) Female youth reported they are not given hair conditioner. The same product serves as a bodywash and shampoo. A youth was also not given an alternative lotion even though the lotion issued gives her bumps and makes her skin break out (Title 15, §1485).
- 9) Female youth reported that the facility is behind in laundry. As a result, at some point, they did not have enough gowns for youth to use in the bathroom. Clean clothes are not given every day (though a distinction was not made between t-shirts and pants and undergarments) - Title 15, §§1480 Standard Facility Clothing Issue, 1482 Clothing Exchange and 1483 Clothing, Bedding and Linen Supply). One youth noted they wore the same pants for the entire week (Youth Handbook Updated June 2021).
- 10) Two youth complained that rules are not applied consistently and depend on individual staff. They feel that sometimes staff make up their own rules. Staff often curse (contrary to the rights stated in the Youth Handbook).
- 11) Multiple youth reported not being provided the two phone calls during admission (Title 15, §1350 and WIC §627). When allowed to call their attorneys, the calls were not confidential. One youth was only allowed to call her mother, who didn’t pick up, and was not allowed to call anyone else because she was told that only her mother was listed in the facility’s system.
- 12) In one bathroom in the female unit, a cup was sitting out on the sink—a hygiene concern.
- 13) In the library, books did not seem to be properly categorized. For example, one book set in 16th century England was found in the Latin American Biography section. Also, while there was an Asian American and Latin American section, there was no African American section.

Report #2

- Paint appeared fresh and bright in living units; Restroom sinks in girl's unit was leaky during initial and follow-up visit. Windows were clear in living units; Windows in girl's school covered with paper (half) while windows in the boy's school facing campus center were fully covered. Maintenance team stated that window coverings were placed to eliminate distractions. However, fully-covered windows prevent all natural lighting from entering classrooms. Furniture appeared to be in working condition in living units and medical unit and cleaning supplies located in secured closets.
- While inspecting the restroom in female unit, I asked the supervising staff where I could locate the soap supply for girls to access to wash their hands. I was directed to "check on the sink." I checked and there was an open, half-filled 3 oz. white paper cup sitting there with debris inside of the liquid soap. I asked staff to confirm whether this was the soap supply the girls were expected to use. It was confirmed. Youth should be able to exercise good hand hygiene and have access to a non-contaminated soap supply. I suggested that a dispenser be provided. During a follow-up visit, the cup was no longer there, and neither was a soap dispenser.
- Youth were witnessed in confinement while quarantining/waiting to be medically cleared. All were either in bed sleeping or standing at the door. I was hoping to see them reading, writing or engaging in other productive activity considering that the number of days (varies) they are housed there before cleared.
- Number of youth interviewed during inspection visit and on follow-up visit. (3) Key issues reported: lack of programming (locked in room for excessive periods of time, especially during Covid), deprived of phone calls, insufficient meal portions, staff not wearing face coverings.
- During my inspection, I witnessed some activity at the South School and approached for more insight. I interviewed the youth, the teacher, the school liaison, and the principal. The earlier-submitted grievance was being actively investigated. The youth reported that she was not comfortable being in the classroom because the teacher was not wearing her mask for extended periods of time, which two other female students confirmed. Tension grew in the classroom as the teacher stated that the youth were not wearing their masks, implying that she should not have to. It was also claimed that the teacher said management would believe her over them, so it wouldn't matter if a grievance was submitted. The youth shared that it was rumored that a staff member had Covid-19, so they were hyper vigilant and critical of those not wearing face coverings. Note: A total of three grievances were filed; 2 for the teacher not wearing a mask and 1 for the teacher allowing other students to access her folder.
- I was concerned that 1) LACOE management took several days to investigate the matter while the issue festered in the classroom and interrupted the learning environment for a week, 2) the teacher comment related to management taking her side perpetuates negative classroom culture that discourages youth from filing grievance and having a fair outcome, and 3) lack of communication between Probation and LACOE prolongs the resolution of matters like this. Aside from the seemingly flawed investigative process, I was concerned with the assistant principal's initial remarks to me that the teacher said that 'she was wearing her mask,' when asked about the status of the investigation. At that time, it felt like management was siding with the instructor before the investigation was complete. This was consistent with earlier comments from the youth who submitted the grievance. The youth signed and dated, agreeing to outcome of all three grievances; thereby closing the case. I looked into a second complaint of the two girls "always being hungry," which was also expressed in two grievances. After interviewing Probation staff/triage nurse, it was reported that BSCC dietary guidelines are followed each day. The youth's chart is reviewed and, unless there are weight deficiencies, portions cannot be increased. On my follow-up visit, their complaints were the same. Thirdly, youth also reported bugs were in their food on a consistent basis (timeframe not specified) and were offered cake to make up for this. A grievance was filed.

- Programs change in 12-week cycles; New CBO's brought in upon completed cycles. Internal Programs: Social Awareness Activities (3:00 – 4:00 PM / Mon – Fri); Rec: Basketball/Field Kickball, Soccer, Games, Letter writing.
- Real-time data was not available during interviews. Information was submitted for quarterly reporting in July. LACOE needs to have data readily available for reporting. No information was provided for during inspection.
- Youth were not in school on the day of our inspection, so we were unable to observe youth in classrooms. However, LACOE provided absence summary with reasons for not attending school, which includes Probation absences (353 periods in July), in school suspensions (29), school suspensions (8), medical and court, and unexcused (73).
- The relationship between school personnel and Probation/Partner agencies is disjointed. Namely, communication between parties is poor unless matters are “urgent.” Probation was not aware that school was closed on day of inspection after LACOE claimed to have sent adequate notice. The youth had no school and Probation had no programming in place. Youth were frustrated because that meant more time would be spent in the room when inspection was over. During conversations with LACOE personnel, I gather that school personnel and partner agencies may have a better working relationship through participating in MDT's.
- Regarding access to school, recreation, and exercise for youth confined to their quarters: Youth had access, but the quality of educational and recreational supplies was poor. The books were dated, and the unit only had two balls for the youth to play with. There didn't appear to be any age-appropriate activities to occupy the youth. The girls complained that all they do is color in coloring books and play cards and are often bored.

October 2021

Inspection #2 – Central Juvenile Hall: 1605 Eastlake Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90033

Facility's Rated Capacity: 800

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DSO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) <i>rounded to whole number</i>	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
132	11*	459	334	3:1	20	114	6

*1 in-person appearance; 10 virtual appearance

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 – 2:30, 2:30 – 10:30, 10:30 – 6:30 (24-hour)
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

Overall, the areas I inspected appeared in conformance with Title 15 and Department policies. I did note the presence of commercial rat traps at various places in the facility. This has been a reoccurring problem for a few years but appears to be well managed now. The areas of facility I inspected are maintained; have no obvious issues, though I was told another part of the facility had problems and getting ISD to address them in a timely manner was tough.

During this inspection, at the school a youth (age 15) was observed being extremely disruptive, angry and on the verge of violence. He had been taken to LACOE wellness three times in the morning for de-escalation – I later learned that the young man punched a teacher in the chest during an angry outburst. The youth was removed from class for the time being and the teacher was allowed to go to another room with a substitute teacher taking the class in an effort to de-escalate tensions. The Supervisor and two School Liaison DSOs did an outstanding job of attempting to control and de-escalate the youth. They were joined by the LACOE Principal who also assisted in the de-escalation. It was clear that the youth was having a mental health crisis and de-escalation mitigated but did not resolve the issue.

Observing staff, I noted them to be upbeat and seem to know the youths they were working with well. LACOE staff and Probation staff have a collaborative relationship which is beneficial. LACOE is well versed on de-escalation. Both grievance forms and other information was readily accessible to the youth.

Senior officers are responsible for making mental health and medical referrals. Every Wednesday, the COVID-19 vaccine is offered to the youth; their parents/caregivers are contacted as part of the process.

Report #2

Orientation

- Youth onboarding process involves orientation that involves DHS, DMH, LACOE and Probation assessments, but this process is not collaborative by design or practice.

Grievances Reviewed (JCHS)

- Approximately, 40 grievances reviewed dating back to 3/2020. Outcome of grievances reviewed were largely marked as “GRANTED,” meaning, the outcome was in youths’ favor. There is a concern that grievance outcomes validate youths’ claims that services are being denied and medical matters are being mismanaged.
- Grievances include youth denied medical products and services, removing youth from special diet, parents not contacted regarding food allergies, medical staff issuing medication causing abnormalities (commissioner looking into this matter).

Interior of select units visited in very poor condition. See below for narrative. General condition of newer/ repaired units is good.

Girl's Care [Unit] Observations (3 photos forthwith)

- Graffiti present
- Excessive paint chipping throughout unit
- Natural lighting source and airflow is good
- Safety signage posted
- Broken toilet, base of toilet leaking, wall mold, water damage, walls peeling, water foundation broken with water damage.
 - ISD technician on site responding to recently submitted work orders. Confirms that there is moisture in walls and extensive damage that has existed for years.
 - Water damage eroding and swelling walls.
 - Have units been checked for asbestos?



Girl's ESU Observations (1 photo forthwith)

- Staff and youth at rec during inspection
- The doors of (2) assigned minors not secured
 - Mattress on the floor of unsecured room
- Clogged toilet



Boys ESU Observations:

- Staff and youth playing games at tables
- The doors of (3) assigned minors were not secured.
- Poor airflow in unit. AC reportedly not working for weeks, only “when people are here inspecting”
 - Work orders placed and grievances submitted by minors.

Meals/Nutrition Comments:

- Significant plumbing issues reported and witnessed.
- Main sink inoperable and hot water was not available in working sink.
- Kitchen worker reported broken and leaking pipes dating back to one year without repair.
- Water visible on kitchen floor. Safety hazard present
- Work order submitted for issues two weeks prior to inspection
- Minor (Unit G/H) submitted grievance after finding a maggot in fruit cup
- Discussed incident with kitchen manager, confirming the presence of a worm in canned peaches.
- Reviewed Food Safety Action Plan. Immediate corrective and preventative actions were taken.
- All kitchen staff not vaccinated and not being tested regularly, including kitchen staff directly handling food and distributing meals
- Manager points out Probation policy conflicts and enforcement challenges.
- Manager asked to reassign unvaccinated and untested workers until policy issues are resolved.
- Kitchen staff occasionally unmasked.

- Observed flies on stacked trays of cornbread that was to be served for dinner. Workers were asked why the food was not covered and it was said that the trays were “too hot.” The trays were cold to the touch.
- Table tops contained food residue and smears. Surfaces did not appear to be clean.

October 2021

Inspection #3 – Campus Kilpatrick: 427 S. Encinal Canyon Road, Malibu CA 90265

Facility Rated Capacity: 48

Youth Population (Physical) – Male	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DPO’s and GSN’s)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) <small>rounded to whole number</small>	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
20	0	113	106	5:1	6	18	2

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM (RN’s work 10-hour shifts)
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

During the inspection the facility appeared well kept, there was a crack on a window inside the closed side of the Sycamore Cottage. Cottages (Maple, Aspen, Sycamore and Oak) appeared well-kept, did not witness any mold nor graffiti. The exterior of the facility appeared well kept; no concrete cracks, pool appeared clean and well-kept. Visited the school, and spoke with the school principal, who informed us about the general education curriculum including special education and the available career training programs like construction classes. Youth have recreational activities available like basketball. The youth in the Aspen cottage had photo albums of their families. The interviews with DPO I and DPO II’s all expressed having good rapport with the youth, as they were involved in leading mentoring groups, cognitive behavior therapy with incentives, and family therapy. In addition, this good interaction between youth and Probation staff was witnessed when DPOs were playing cards with the youth, and as the youth decorated their cottages for the Halloween decorating contest. The youth appeared healthy and dresses appropriately. In interviews with the youth they did not express complaints. Youth always wore masks except when they were eating in dining area. Rules and procedure posters were posted throughout the facility including the gender announcement posters.

Report #2

Facility is clean, well-organized and functioning smoothly. Staff are energetic and positive. Staff seem pleased to be at Kilpatrick. There are concerns about morale stemming from: 1. Fear of unnecessary and unfair discipline 2. More difficult youth in the program; especially concerns about the DJJ population that may be coming. Morale issues surface as lack of pride in job and attendance issues. Staff are positive about Kilpatrick leadership, the engagement with staff and the youth. The journal project is popular. Probation Staff would like more and better communication from [Downey] headquarters managers to field staff.

There are significant fears and concerns regarding the DJJ population that will "tear up" the place... Both the programming and the physical plant. Concerns were expressed about the "inadequate" planning for the DJJ population.

It was disturbing to see many staff and students in the classroom not wearing masks. This was true for both teachers and students. The interviews with the youth were positive. They seem satisfied with most services and they report getting the supplies they need.

The youth seem to understand the grievance system and think that discipline is fair. They have telephone access.

Youth report access to medical and mental health care is good. They like the journals project. Feedback from youth was given – they had two suggestions: 1. Have team sports 2. Improve the quality of food. Overall, I am positively impressed with the facility, the staff and the programming. It seems like a model facility. I am concerned about how the DJJ population may adversely affect the facility and the programming.

October 2021

Inspection #4 – Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC): 1500 S. McDonnell Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040

Facility Rated Capacity: 92

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
43	2*	111	96	2:1	6	40	3

*In-person court appearance (+7 youth at CJH, quarantine + 1 youth at CJH for medical)

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM (RN's work 8-hour shifts)
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

The Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) staff exhibit a commitment to treating youth using a mental health framework that creates positive relationships and opportunities for youth to develop into integrated members of society. Staff describe DKC as a relief after their time working in the juvenile halls. Staff seem well attuned to youth and youth exhibit positive attachments to staff. Nonetheless, youth believed that they should be given more freedoms and that they had been misled into believing DKC would be more like a “placement” and less like a juvenile hall. By that they meant that DKC has more of a prison-like environment than they feel is appropriate and they are unnecessarily restricted from staying connected to their home communities and the outside world. Also, youth seemed about evenly divided between those who believed that they would benefit from being at DKC and those who believed they were just wasting time until their release. Based on interviews with staff, it appears that, since the elimination of the Kirby Intensive Continual Care (KICC) program, youth do not receive a sufficiently immediate or intensive aftercare program upon release from DKC.

October 2021

Inspection #5 – Camp Scott (at Dorothy Kirby Center, 1500 S. McDonnell Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040)

Facility Rated Capacity: 92

Youth Population (Physical) - Female	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DPO’s and GSN’s)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) <small>rounded to whole number</small>	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
3	0	10	9	3:1	2	3	0

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM (RN’s work 10-hour shifts)
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

During this inspection, there were two major areas of concern. The first complaint involves food service to the youth. The kitchen management reported several complaints have been made to DKC administration about the youth not eating/being served on time. There are designated times during which service is intended to be served to the youth but due to varying reasons, the youth are not served during the specified time frames.

This is a healthy and safety concern as meals are planned by the kitchen staff and food has to be temperature controlled accordingly for consumption. A further problem is that the food containers are not microwave safe and cannot be re-heated. Reportedly, this is a longstanding issue that is yet to be resolved. Kitchen management staff expressed concern to me about this issue and expressed wanting to avoid kids getting sick. The second area of concern relates to the programs offered to the youth. Although the youth are satisfied and feel comfortable with their staff, interviews with all youth revealed disinterest in current programs that don't offer opportunities for positive engagement with mentors; opportunities that could help and prepare them with their transitions back to their communities (e.g., educational/credit recovery; vocational, and other resources in the community). All youth expressed wanting to have mentors, particularly women mentors of color – they report feeling inspired and open to any and all mentorship opportunities. Other issues mentioned by youth include feeling somewhat displaced [in school] due to the ongoing construction. It appears female youth (from both DKC and Scott) are being mixed and placed in makeshift classrooms which may be resulting in lack of attention or tailoring to each population. Finally, both youth and staff alluded to the need for a permanent cottage for Scott girls that was carefully considered (re. safety, supervision, etc) and conducive to the girls' needs.

November 2021

Inspection #6 – Camp Rockey: 1900 Sycamore Canyon Rd. San Dimas, CA 91773

Facility Rated Capacity: 60

Youth Population (Physical) – Male	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
23	0 or 1 *	80	66	3:1	4	24	0

*Per Probation, number of youth at court = 0; per LACOE, number of youth at court = 1

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM (on-call charge RN after 10:00 PM) <i>(RN Supervisor also manages JCHS team at adjacent camps – Afflerbaugh / Paige)</i>
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

During this inspection, three students were not attending class because they were suspended. One had been suspended the day prior and was brought to class. LACOE staff removed him and there was a conflict between LACOE and Probation staff. A counselor from LACOE deescalated the situation with the youth and he had to return to the dorm. Was expected to return to class at 1pm. During the time I was there two other students were suspended and removed from class and sent to the dormitory. Youth have access to packets and school material when in the dormitories on suspension, they can participate in recreation and meals.

Reviewed grievances during this inspection: Grievances were mostly (2/3) complaints regarding the menu choices and how appetizing the food is. In July there appears to have been an organized effort to have most students complain about the food as a group. There were no complaints about the food being spoiled or unhealthy. The remaining grievances were complaints about teachers or POs. These included a complaint that POs were too strict and another that POs were not strict enough. Others complained that teachers refused to allow students access to software. One grievance complained that a teacher would not allow the youth to use a computer to make a grievance. Grievances involving menu choices were given perfunctory responses. All other grievances were taken seriously, and appropriate action was taken.

Overall, Camp Rockey exhibited a solid program with caring and competent DPOs. This was particularly apparent during a disturbance among the youth which was handled with coordination and a minimal use of force. However, staff do not appear to have the focus on mental and emotional health found in some other facilities. Also, the buildings are in poor condition, though the worst are being renovated already or will be in the near future.

Report #2

During the inspection at Camp Rockey, the camp appeared well-kept. Leading to the camp, construction was underway on the main road but did not appear to distract from the youth's care inside. The youth appeared healthy and dressed appropriately. Youth expressed their concerns about some teachers in which the youth felt as if they were being mocked as the teacher would eat McDonalds or In N Out [Burger] in front of them. The youth also expressed that this teacher did not let them speak at all, students could not have study groups. Another complaint expressed by youth was about another teacher ejecting students regularly. However, there were other students who shared compliments about this teacher. Several youth also expressed concerns about the grooming services and small food portions.

November 2021

Inspection #7 – Camp Afflerbaugh: 6631 Stephens Ranch Rd La Verne, CA 91750

Facility Rated Capacity: 120

Youth Population (Physical) – Male	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DPO’s and GSN’s)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) <small>rounded to whole number</small>	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
19	0	56	47	2:1	9	17	2

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM (on-call charge RN after 10:00 PM) <i>(RN Supervisor at Camp Rockey also manages JCHS teams at Afflerbaugh / Paige)</i>
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

Youth are required to enter the dining hall in silence and only allowed to speak once given permission. No youth spoke to each other during my observation. The food is carefully planned to be nutritious and portioned according to youth’s caloric needs, but the menu included unappetizing choices like Salisbury steak and the food was unappetizingly bland and industrial. The cleaning equipment for trays was broken. A work order had been submitted weeks or months earlier but repairs had not been made. Cafeteria workers have been hand washing trays in the meantime. I observed one classroom for 30 minutes. The other classrooms were taught by substitute teachers except for one special day class with one teacher and one student. Student engagement was unacceptably low. During the 30 minutes, two students engaged in a few minutes of active learning while the other four students engaged in no learning during the entire 30 minutes. Instead, they delayed by asking for help logging in to computers or breaking minor rules like not putting feet on the tables so as to distract from the lesson, or simply stared off into space. The lesson was a math lesson on negative exponents with no attempt to make the work meaningful.

Report #2

Commissioner interviewed several youth; youths had been in camp for several months, mid-way through their programs. Youth spoken to were involved in peer support program and in photojournalism program. Youths stated having increased number of programs at camp, more than before. Youth also concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic improved living conditions due to low population; before COVID-19 there were about 60 youth at camp. Regarding staff relationships, youth described staff as "cool". It was noted that DPO's do their casework on the second day of their 56hour shift. The youth participate in the PBIS program with LACOE, Probation. Probation also offers a "merit ladder" incentive program. Per LACOE principal, the team is trying to figure out rewards. Currently LACOE provides the youth certificates and gift cards as rewards (student of the month).

Probation staff noted that they created a program, Freedom School, but due to lack of resources and COVID-19 it was stopped. Staff would like to have more resources to motivate youth; particularly, they would like members from the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) present to youth at the camp. Notation: the camp is currently upgrading all security lighting to LED.

November 2021

Inspection #8 – Camp Paige: 6601 Stephens Ranch Rd La Verne, CA 91750

Facility Rated Capacity: 120

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Number of Youth at Court	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Active Staff / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
19	2*	76	54	3:1	9	17	2

*In-person court appearance (+ 1 youth at BJNH, pending new charges)

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 6:30 AM – 10:00 PM (on-call charge RN after 10:00 PM) <i>(RN Supervisor at Camp Rockey also manages JCHS teams at Afflerbaugh / Paige)</i>
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:30 PM (Staff Shifts: 10-hour days, Sun – Wed or Wed – Sat.) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Report #1

One issue to be examined is whether some staff inappropriately proselytize. One staff member was described to me as very passionate and someone who really “gives it to atheist [youth].” Staff noted the need for more and better sleeping quarters. There aren’t enough beds for staff. Better mattresses are needed. Rooms can get very hot in the summer and some are wary of opening the windows because of snakes, tarantulas and other animals. Rooms are small and the bathrooms could be improved as well. A staff member said she generally feels safe. There hasn’t been a fight or a major incident in a while. Caseloads are reported to be small and manageable; the DPO interviewed cites having between 1-2 youth (on caseload) at a time. She didn’t receive training on how to work with young people but thinks training would help. Right now, staff learn from each other. Specific training on how to develop transition/re-entry plans would be helpful (especially with regards to housing). It would be helpful to have more programs, including vocational training and skills-building programs, to keep youth busy.

It was reported that the drinking fountains in the dorm don’t always work. Appears adequate. Mattresses seem good, but I was told they were only replaced last year. Prior to last year, youth were sleeping on the equivalent of gym mats. I was also told that until recently, only the top-level youth (Alpha) had the decent mattresses observed that day. The visit was during the day and the dorm seemed to have enough light. Kitchen lighting was adequate.

Youth noted that some staff are great and others are problematic. The problematic staff take out their anger and other issues on the youth. They also assume the worst of youth. For example, staff say they will not allow youth to go to a certain space because the youth would probably do something illegal. Some staff try to have time to themselves instead of interacting with youth. Staff are quick to write youth up “for no reason.” More programs are needed, like music or sports programs. Other facilities had better programs. One youth enjoying having sports tournaments. Another youth really likes the book club. I only met with two youth and observed a group from afar. There was nothing of note regarding the appearance of the two youth I met with.

Staff and youth spoke about a program with UPS (United Parcel Service) provided through LACOE (LA County Office of Education). According to them (no documentation was reviewed), high school graduates can get trained and paid to work for UPS while they are incarcerated and can have a job with UPS upon release. I spoke to one youth being released who said he would work for UPS when he leaves the camp. Kitchen staff noted that some youth can also receive pay working in the kitchen. Youth are trained on safety precautions and help prepare and serve food. No documentation was reviewed. There are large televisions in the day room and in the sleeping area above the beds. Staff said youth are able to play video games (PlayStation, Xbox) in the day room. The day room also has books. Staff showed me a cupboard full of art supplies.

Staff reported that a substance abuse class takes place in the day room of the dormitory. Youth not participating in the program are often allowed to stay in the same room and play video games as long as the volume is low enough. There are outdoor and indoor basketball courts, outdoor exercise equipment, and a large grass field with soccer nets and a dirt area around the perimeter (that could serve as a track). I also observed bikes and scooters outside. There is a book club that most, if not all youth, participate in. Materials related to the Behavioral Management Program (BMP) were on display in the dormitories, including activity calendars, merit ladders and “zero tolerance behavior” logs. According to staff, Special Incident Reports (SIR) can be

issued for behavior ranging from not following orders to fights. The dorm is divided into 4 sleeping areas/pod that correspond with different levels within the BMP. The higher levels have a later bedtime. Staff also told me that youth are rewarded with video games, extra shower time and extra meals. Youth can also get snacks from the BMP “store.” It was reported that sometimes youth who have earned the ability to move to a higher level, and therefore a different pod, may not be able to move immediately and have to wait for an indeterminate amount of time. This process should be assessed because of the negative impacts of not providing youth with rewards promised to them for positive behavior. It was reported that different staff carry different expectations—this is something that should be examined given the importance of consistent application of rules.

Report #2

I began my inspection by observing the parking lot and perimeter security measures. The parking lot was full of vehicles parking down the access road due to increased staffing. There was evidence of bear activity on the road into the facility and by the open area leading to the parking lot. This was simply overturned and rummaged through trash cans. Staff advised that periodically a bear accesses the area to raid the trash cans. I recommended they contact ISD to try and get bear resistant trash cans or find a way to limit the bear’s access. The camp is located near the Marshall Wilderness Area and Angeles National Forest, so wildlife incursions are likely but pose no threat to staff or youth. I note that the facility is older but well maintained and clean. It has a large recreation area for the youth and at one time served as a Probation Forestry/Fire Crew Camp in partnership with neighboring LACO Fire Department facility. My focus was the school and it’s programming as well as the JCHS Medical/Mental Health services. I went to the LACOE Principal’s office and met with the LACOE Principal for the schools at Camp Paige, Camp Afflerbaugh and Camp Rockey. The principal shared with me that his staff have been trained in de-escalation through CPI a Nonviolence Crisis Intervention Training program. He also informed me that he has a Behavior Counsellor onsite to address behavioral issues in the classroom setting. He also shared some of the programs they focus on to include “Road to Success Academy.” This program uses a cycle of Discovery, Empowerment, Transformation, Compassion and New Beginnings. Also, the school’s mission and vision statements that focus on the academic, behavioral and communications development of the youths. I was impressed with the leadership and direction he was taking the LACOE schools in. I then visited the classrooms and observed the learning taking place. In one classroom the students had individualized training with the teacher guiding and monitoring the courses. One student was completing his algebra assignment, another a historical and geographical assignment. Both students shared that the teacher was supportive and encouraging of their efforts. In another classroom the students were doing a written assignment, though one was reading a book. The teacher explained the student had declined to do the assignment as this was his last day in camp and he preferred to read his book instead. I talked with a few students, and all were satisfied with the LACOE teachers and course work.

I then interviewed staff. One Staff member said he was a veteran employee and a military veteran, but his morale had been impacted when he had been selected for promotion by a Camp Director at a different Camp but then learned through what he felt was manipulation by higher management eliminated him from the spot and he was filing a grievance. He related, that he worked as a DPOII at Camp Paige because he cared about the youth and their wellbeing. I interviewed two other DPOs at Camp Paige and they expressed their concerns were for the wellbeing of the youths and shared some of the success stories of youth who moved forward. Their morale and enthusiasm were high, but they were concerned about the possibility of Camp Closures and/or mixing older populations of youth in the same facility as younger youth to accommodate DJJ or closures. Most notably, all DPOs I interviewed had extensive experience at the Camp and recalled when Camp Paige was a Probation Forestry/Fire Camp. Each expressed a desire

to have a Forestry/Fire camp re-instituted as it provided the youth, especially the older ones a chance for socialization with other ethnic groups that facilitated comradery and understanding. Discipline. They shared that the program also instilled discipline and boosted self-esteem.

Through the Forestry/Fire program the youths learned organizational skills, physical conditioning and obtained certifications from LACo FD that met the standards required for Wildland Firefighting. One DPO, who had an extensive knowledge of the program shared that one of the former youths who had been in the program became a USFS Smokejumper, another was able to use his certifications to become a Wildland Fire-fighter in Idaho.

In conclusion, walking the facility, I noted it was maintained, clean and organized. The staff to include Probation, LACOE, DMH and Health Services worked as a team with regular meetings and support for each other's mission. All seemed genuinely concerned about the welfare of the youth. LACOE has an active role in ensuring students attended class or were doing independent learning as appropriate with East Los Angeles College and Mission Colleges. DMH and Health services was available and worked in collaboration with Probation. De-escalation and Crisis Intervention Training was universal among all the agencies at Camp Paige. The one concern I noticed was radio communications. It appeared that none of the staff had headsets for radios. As a result, I could hear radio transmissions from personnel; this means the youth can hear it too. Since Paige, Afflerbaugh and Rockey share the same frequency that means that if there was an incident in one camp or another any youth in proximity could monitor the radio traffic. This could create a security issue if a youth wanted to act out, try to escape or coordinate an incident. I have noted this to be a consistent problem, on all my camp inspections and visits. In the past I was told there was a communications plan being developed for the agency to include headsets for staff; this issue remains unresolved.