

2022 Facility Inspections:
Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH), Central Juvenile
Hall (CJH) and Campus Kilpatrick (“Kilpatrick”)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION (POC)

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BACKGROUND

This year (2022) marks the second full year in which the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) completes inspections in juvenile facilities operated by the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation or the Department). In both 2021 and 2022, the POC completed facility inspections in eight juvenile facilities, two juvenile detention centers (“juvenile halls”), and six juvenile camps, including the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) ([2021 Facility Inspections report](#)). However, in 2022, the POC also completed two facility “pre-inspections” at Central Juvenile Hall and Campus Kilpatrick earlier this year ([2022 Pre-Inspections reports](#)).

This report includes the facility inspections of Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH), Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) and Campus Kilpatrick (or “Kilpatrick”) which were conducted in October 2022.

In the interest of following the recommendations of the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the POC now communicates the findings of its inspections to the Probation Department with increased frequency, following each inspection, in addition to the delivery of an annual report. Further, each inspection includes recommendations and questions from the POC to which the Department are expected to respond in writing.

METHODS

Each official POC inspection is conducted by at least one Commissioner who utilizes direct observations as their primary method of reporting as well as relies upon interviews with youth and staff assigned to the respective facilities.

Two POC Commissioners inspected BJNJH, two inspected CJH, and one POC Commissioner inspected Campus Kilpatrick. At least two POC staff members provided support during each inspection.

The inspections of each facility were coordinated by POC staff, giving full notice to Probation leadership and leaders at each facility. Further, the template for the inspection was shared with Probation along with detailed email correspondence indicating information needed, expectations, and suggestions for preparing for each inspection.

It should be noted that the data is a “snapshot” captured for the day of the inspection. This means that data reporting, observations, youth, and staff interviews are indicative only of the date of the inspection and this report does not purport to suggest long-term trends or provide a comprehensive analysis.

Additionally, the facility’s demographic data, such as the “facility’s rated capacity,” “population” and “staffing” information herein is provided to the POC directly by the facility’s Director, Administrative Director or Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO). The partner agency data was received from Department of Mental Health (DMH), LA County Office of Education (LACOE) and Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) managers or leads.

FINDINGS

The information in each table depicts data gathered directly from each juvenile facility. Although these facility inspections were all conducted in October 2022, the facility reports appear in order of chronological sequence by date (first inspected to last inspected). However, in an abundance of precaution, to protect youth and staff members’ identities and ensure confidentiality in a reasonable manner, each inspection date and individual names have omitted from this report.

The narrative portions following each table include youth and staff accounts derived from face-to-face interviews with POC Commissioners. For the sake of this report, we will refer to the Commissioners who conducted the inspections at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall as “Commissioner A” and “Commissioner B;” the

Commissioners who conducted the inspections at Central Juvenile Hall as “Commissioner C” and “Commissioner D” and the Commissioner who conducted the inspection at Campus Kilpatrick as “Commissioner E.”

Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH)

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Number of Youth at Court	Facility’s Rated Capacity	Total Staff (Payroll) - all	Total Active Staff (DPO’s and GSN’s)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Day)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Night)	Attempted Suicides	Escapes and documented attempts
205*	5	584	378	221	1:2	1:3	1	0

*5 youth attended court physically

Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
14	155	50

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) <i>*Dental Clinic available as needed</i>	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Nursing Coverage: (3 shifts) 6:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 2:30PM – 10:30PM and 10:30PM – 6:30 AM Doctors on site M – F (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM) and on-call on the weekends
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

Inspection Report #1

Commissioner A first visited the holding area of BJNJH’s Juvenile Courthouse to report on its conditions. It was Commissioner A’s observations that no youth were in the holding area at the time of the visit. There were two identical holding tanks next to each which contained a small holding area with a wooden bench, and a semi-concealed area for youth to use the restroom. It was unclear to Commissioner A whether the restrooms were being actively used because one toilet was not working in one of the holding areas and there was no tissue in the other, and overall, they appeared to be unused. No staff member was available during this time to provide further detail about the restrooms’ condition, but it was noted that holding rooms could use repainting to cover the graffiti that appears to be longstanding.

Commissioner A inspected the cafeteria which appeared safe and sanitary with all staff wearing proper gear and menus, schedules and signage was posted appropriately. It also appeared that the food was stored at the appropriate temperatures.

Unit R/S

Commissioner A spent most of their inspection time dedicated to visiting SYTF units and interviewing youth and staff. Commissioner A visited unit R/S during school hours to see how youth were occupying themselves during the day. This unit is said to be the unit for SYTF youth who “earned” their way out of Unit X and the compound. Staff have told them they are working toward moving to Kilpatrick; one staff referred to the youth in these units as “the good kids.”

Most of the youth assigned to the unit were high school graduates who spent the prime of their day in the dayroom watching movies.

It is noted that there are no wet rooms in this unit. Restroom facilities are shared. Restroom conditions were disappointing and unsanitary. There was soiled paper on the floor, open soap containers on the counter and on the floor, and two large grey bins that had used clothing and trash combined throughout. While the condition of the bathroom did not seem very concerning, Commissioner A noted that it was dirtier and less hygienic than it was during their previous visit.

Commissioner A reviewed safety check logs to inspect for BSCC compliance. Probation staff appeared to do timely checks. Commissioner A expressed a great concern that one room had a wool blanket adhered to the window and completely blacked out the room; even if a safety check was conducted, the room was so dark that unless the staff turned on the light, the person could not be effectively monitored. After [Commissioner A] asked staff, it was casually mentioned that 'they do that sometimes but are supposed to take it down,' which indicated that the blanket was up during the checks throughout the morning. Commissioner A noted that although understandably the daylight can be bright in the rooms, having blacked out rooms can be compromising and unsafe.

During Commissioner A's walkthrough, staff was useful in explaining recent R/S activity along with the challenges that have come with SYTF youth movement throughout the facility. The key argument being that communication was poor and often decisions are made with poor planning and/or poor communication. One of the greatest challenges noted within the SYTF transition was the application of the "DSB programming model," which does not account for population or circumstantial differences. Issues arise when it comes to behavior management and incentivization. Times might call for policies that are specific to SYTF in DSB facilities, given the fact that most secure track youth are adults and current policy is more applicable to children under 18; A DSO and supervisor explained that they do not fully understand the SYTF policies including use of force and the policy around earning points for the SYTF commissary. Youth are simply not motivated by the behavior management model or current program offering because the point systems are not complimentary.

At approximately 10:30am, four youth returned to the unit from school. Probation staff asked why these youth returned early; it was explained that if the youth want to leave, they (the youth) either say that they don't feel well or say that they're leaving, LACOE school staff do not stop them from leaving and they are able to return to the unit. According to staff, these boys thought they would be able to return to the unit to play video games with the college aged youth, but Probation did not allow them to do so. They then remarked that they wanted to return to school, thus Probation staff called movement and control but there was not enough staff available to take the boys back to school. Probation staff appeared frustrated not only at the lack of staffing, but also because someone at school had given one of the boys a full Jack-in-the-Box meal, and another one of the boys appeared "high".

Commissioner A spent an ample amount of time interviewing youth in unit R/S. The Commissioner's goal was to get as much perspective on their experience, including their goals, the condition of the facility, the treatment of the staff, the availability of programs and the effectiveness of services.

Youth Interview (#1): Program is optional, but not interested in the lineup. Wednesday's program is interesting and "ARC is cool." The days are said to be extremely boring. This young man suggested that it would be nice to have programming that was more interesting and things that are more entertaining, such as gaming systems, more vocational training, and music programming, including a studio to create music. This youth has already been sentenced and really wants to spend his time more productively. Youth further reported that food is "whatever; he had "no complaints" about the food or the staff and comfortably remarked that "it's jail." Commissioner A noted being impressed by how mature and responsible the youth replied.

Youth Interview (#2): The themes discussed with this youth echoed that of the initial interview. This young man shared that he spends most of his time “doing nothing” and desperately seemed to want other options on how to spend his time. He also came to the conversation with a level of maturity that allowed him to express his wants for more personal development through programming, especially having only six months of his sentence remaining. This youth believed that youth should be served better food after comparing it with the type of food staff get from the cafeteria.

This youth had plenty to say about educational programming, believing that the teachers have flaws that effect students’ learning experience. It was stated that the instructors often have language barriers, will not go the extra mile to get students to understand the lesson, and ‘just throw materials in front of them’ and disengage.

Commissioner A expressed concern about youth disengagement in the classroom; particularly noting that less committed teachers seem to be teaching and/or less live instruction is being provided, thus students may not be receiving an enriched learning experience.

Unit X1

[POC Staff] Note: Youth in the compound are no longer restrained with zip ties when on regular movement (e.g., from the compound to medical). Staff witnessed multiple groups moving without restraints. Supervisor informed POC that [this] change happened many months ago.

Commissioner A visited the compound next, unit X1. First note: BMP and posters were all torn down. Probation staff informed that they had been torn down by a youth in the morning.

The Commissioner was taken aback by the poor condition of the unit which was noticed immediately after walking in. Though it was daytime, the unit was poorly lit due to multiple burned ballasts. Commissioner A noted that ISD was actively repairing, but noted that once the ballasts break, the lighting system will have to be rewired. A few concerns reported by Commissioner A related to poor lighting; one, historical workorder delays, thereby maintaining a poorly lit unit until issue is addressed and two, poor lighting is a cause for concern when considering safety risk.

Commissioner A noted that the bathroom in this unit was ‘in a terrible state’—severe rusting around window frames, in the shower and on other surfaces, paint peeling from floor to ceiling, trash everywhere, graffiti everywhere, wet floors and sink area, and the reeking smell of mildew. Rooms were messy and trashed with mattresses and bedding thrown around and graffiti-painted walls (see photos below).



Commissioner A observed several minors sitting around watching gangster music videos on YouTube or sat on the pay phone in the Dayroom. While these activities may have kept them occupied, the Commissioner was concerned about the content on the TV and how that may exacerbate gang activity.

While in Unit X1, the Commissioner interviewed a few youth and staff members.

Commissioner A interviewed a youth that seemed bored and agitated. During their conversation, the youth shared that he graduated and spends all his time in the unit where he is often frustrated by the lack of programming. He shared that all they do is sit in the unit all day long with nothing to do but watch YouTube and that they are only able to do that when 'certain staff with Wi-Fi access are on duty.' This youth spoke on the behalf of others in the unit in stating that he and his peers wanted to have more Facetime (calls) with their families.

The youth further explained to Commissioner A that he felt strongly that the lack of "good" programming equaled more fights because everyone is bored and, perhaps, finds entertainment in fighting. This youth also believed that bringing in new youth [into the unit] typically escalates issues and caused more fights.

Prior to this inspection, Commissioner A received alarming information that concerned youth relieving themselves in empty water bottles or other containers due to not being allowed to leave their rooms to use the bathroom. Also concerning, the Commissioner heard that youth were also possibly tossing the urine-filled water bottles at others, so the Commissioner inquired about it. In speaking to a unit X1 staff member, they shared that there is 'serious racial tension in the unit right now and that recent violent attacks are the result of an effort to remove all Black youth from the unit' (staff confirmed that no Black youth were currently assigned to X1). Because of [these] recent violent attacks and staff shortages, youth are said to be confined in their rooms longer than usual. Staff understand that excess room confinement contributes to behavior issues but the issues on the table leave staff short of options when trying to maintain their safety.

Commissioner A confirmed that bathroom access was/is temporarily restricted for safety purposes. Youth are let up one at a time so they can be easily monitored when there are outstanding issues or tension. Things are "slowed down" to ensure safety but not completely halted. Commissioner learned that this is primarily because staff assigned to the unit are females who can easily be overpowered by the young men.

Staff further spoke to the Commissioner about difficulties of trying to oversee unit operations with poor staffing levels and how much this impacts youth. Staff stated that the unit conditions prevent other staff from coming in and helping; staff are concerned that staff are 'scared or simply don't want to work with this population' and 'avoiding this unit (X1) places existing staff at a disadvantage and in danger.' Further the staff member reported that they believe there is contraband in the unit, and though (they acknowledge) that searches should be conducted twice each shift, they explained that there are no staff to conduct these searches at this time. One DSO suspected and expressed concern that youth were disposing of contraband (e.g., vape pens) in the bathroom.

Before leaving unit X1, Commissioner A confirmed that there were no issues with access to supplies, but it was noted that there were only five chairs in the unit – staff informed that they had ordered more.

Recommendation: Request of a minimum of 10 chairs on each side to accommodate the population.

Unit X2

Unit X2, compared to its neighboring side (X1), 'was slightly in better shape but could use some physical improvements', according to Commissioner A, such as conducting deep cleaning and temperature control (i.e., dirty bathroom mirror, food spattered on the ceiling, and the unit is freezing cold).

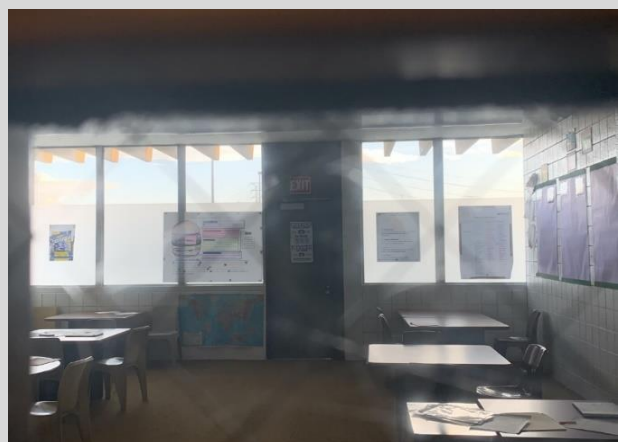
Commissioner A noted that the tone on the X2 side was lighter and the youth in the dayroom seemed more positive and communicative with one another. The Commissioner randomly spoke with a few young men who

expressed a need for a speaker to listen to music, board games, good sports equipment, and, most importantly, the ability to have recreation on the grass. They also wished to play volleyball and have access to 'better snacks.'

Several young men communicated with Commissioner A about search procedures being violating and unnecessary. One youth shared that during searches personal items are taken and never replaced. Another youth reported being aggressively searched and having his genitals touched.

One youth expressed to Commissioner A his frustration behind being an adult who left the county to be housed at the compound where his family cannot visit. His parents are physically unable to visit, but able family members are not able to because of facility policy. He argued that policy should be consistent with the person and population versus something blanket policy that does not account for demographic differences.

During the last inspection cycle (2021), two Commissioners (including Commissioner A) made note of the classroom windows being painted over with a dark mustard color, leaving no natural sunlight to enter the room (see photo below). This said paint was reported to have been originally applied years ago for the purpose of having no outside distraction for the youth inside the classrooms, such as having 'line movements of youth walk by' who would 'encourage gang activity.' During that time, it was also noted that the classrooms, across the hall do not have the windows painted but rather have half natural glass and half frosted glass, thereby ensuring privacy to those classrooms and prevention of others walking by to distract the youth in class (see photo below). POC staff was asked to follow up with Probation management, including the facility director to request the removal of the paint on the classroom windows. A work order remains unconfirmed by management and the status of this project remains unknown.



Inspection Report #2

Facility notes:

- Unit W (compound unit) was being used to house youth identified as developmentally disabled
- Units A/B and C/D were closed for upgrades, including installing cameras and due to not having enough staff
- Unit T/V currently under construction for renovating to "a home-like environment" and installing cameras. Noted: Probation intends to move youth from unit R/S into T/V when the renovations there are complete
- Unit N/O is currently being used as the HOPE center (eight young men currently housed there) – the compound HOPE center is currently closed.
- According to HOPE center staff, youth are reported to receive unlimited and unsupervised collect calls during the week which helps youth stay connected to family, but staff also complained about this privilege being misused by some - 'there are some units that allow the youth to stay on the phone all day, which may contribute to the contraband problem.'

Commissioner B started the morning at BJNH by interviewing the lead from the Department of Mental Health (DMH). The Commissioner and [DMH] supervisor discussed both the scope of the DMH services provided to youth as well as some of the challenges at the hall. The supervisor described the full complement of services such as: initial assessments, psychotropic medication planning, individual therapy, group, family, substance abuse, and case management. Commissioner B noted that it appeared that they need additional mental health staff but was also impressed with her description of the breadth of services provided, especially considering the transitory nature of the population at BJNH.

Unit N/O: HOPE Center

It was noted that all youth in the HOPE center are high school graduates except one who is taking classes virtually. He was seated in the hallway in front of a computer on virtual school.

Commissioner B interviewed youth housed in the HOPE center and noted observations from being in the unit and upon reviewing logs from a sample of youth housed there. Three (3) youth were there for periods time far exceeding the guidelines prohibiting solitary confinement. Noted by Commissioner B, one youth had been at the HOPE center since December 2021; second youth had been there since March 2022 and third youth since May 2022 – all those were housed in Unit Y.

Commissioner B interviewed a youth who was recently transferred to the HOPE center from the compound. He described a situation in the compound where he interacted with Probation staff from outside the juvenile hall. He described their appearance as “military-like” wearing tactical gear and military style clothing and carried batons. He described their behavior as consistent with aggressive LASD personnel in the field, using regimented approaches to dealing with the youth, using a field, “command voice” and ordering youth in units being searched to lay face down on the ground in what law enforcement calls a “felony prone position.” This youth noted that in the searches, all personal effects were removed from their cells and were not returned for three days. Most notably, he noted that he was required to remove his pants and stood in his underwear while members of the unit searched his body by pulling his underwear away from his body and looking at his groin, rear, and genitals. He also noted he observed more intrusive searches taking place in areas of the unit where there was no security camera coverage. The youth also described observing a youth being searched while bending over naked with one of the searching Probation officers behind him wearing surgical gloves and holding an implement resembling a tweezer.

Programs / Services

On this inspection day, POC received schedules indicating scheduled recreational activity and programs offered to youth, by unit. POC staff attempted to audit activities described on the program lists. Most programs were noted to be offered after school, starting at 3:30/4:00 PM. Because of the light rain fall on this day, most outdoor recreational activities were cancelled. Probation supervisors indicated that in lieu of outdoor recreational activities, most youth remained in their units, playing games, or watching TV. In Unit R/S, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM, the staff observed a community-based organization, Asian Youth Center, or “AYC” conduct a social skill, process-group with approximately 8 young men participating. The co-facilitators of this group were two gentlemen, each with lived experience or “credible messengers” as Probation staff referred to them. The group appeared to run smoothly, and all youth seemed to be fully engaged (other than the occasional youth stepping out to receive their meds. from the visiting nurse dispensing them, by unit).

Inspection Questions – Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

1. Are there formulated plans by Probation management, MSB or janitorial services to maintain regular deep cleaning schedules and/or regulate temperature in buildings, particularly living units?
2. What progress has been made in developing and helping staff understand the SYTF policies including use of force, behavior management and the policy or structure around earning points for the SYTF commissary?
3. How is the Hope Center being utilized by regular population units and by compound units and how is the Department ensuring that youth are not housed there for prolonged periods of time?
4. May you please confirm work orders in progress for the aforementioned items in this report? (Lighting ballasts in compound units, window glass replacement in classrooms, camera installations, and order for extra chairs).
5. What policies or procedures are followed by staff if they suspect a youth may be actively under the influence (e.g., taking drugs)?

Central Juvenile Hall

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Number of Youth at Court	Facility's Rated Capacity	Total Staff (Payroll) - all	Total Active Staff (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Day)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Night)	Attempted Suicides	Escapes and documented attempts
169*	15	556	620	192	1:3	1:4	0	2

*15 youth attended court physically and 6 youth attended virtually

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Nursing Coverage: (3 shifts) 6:30 AM – 2:30 PM, 2:30PM – 10:30PM and 10:30PM – 6:30 AM
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 7:30 AM – 10:00 PM (Mon – Fri); 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM (Sat/Sun) <i>plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist</i>

Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
11	154	unverified

Inspection Report #1

Upon arrival, Commissioner C noted that the grass was generally well kept, cut, nothing obstructing walkways. The paved ways with broken concrete (noted during the Pre-inspection), were fixed. And there were neon markings on the floor indicating that work might be done in the future.

Commissioner C had previously inspected the Central Juvenile Hall facility for the 2021 POC Annual Facility Inspection and this year's Pre-inspection, during construction, thus paid close attention to the progress. Commissioner C noted feeling "disappointed" due to the absence of a work-order spreadsheet that was being

used last year to track progress. It was observed that most of the repairs appeared to be done but was unsure of the progress in other areas due to the absence of said progress spreadsheet.

Girls' CARE Unit (XY)

Commissioner C then visited Girls CARE (XY) unit, which appeared clean at a glance, and adequately supplied as the storage closet appeared to have sufficient sanitary supplies, linens and clothing. It was noted that clothes and linens were exchanged twice a week. Bathrooms appeared clean, and the couple of youth observed also appeared clothed appropriately. Commissioner C noted that repairs were visibly being done as the ceiling with the water damage (noted during last inspection) was being repaired. The assigned Probation escort confirmed that ISD repairs were underway. However, it was unclear to Commissioner C when the repairs were scheduled to take place and when the unit would be habitable again. Reportedly, the unit would remain vacant until projects were complete.

Girls' Unit C/D

The commissioner then proceeded to Buildings C and D where it was noted that the bathrooms were clean, the staff mentioned that the utility closet was clean, and the log was current. Commissioner C expressed concern for building "D" as 2 doors were not secure while the girls were in the day room. In addition, Commissioner C was concerned that there were full size personal items in bedrooms. Personal items should not be stored in youth rooms, especially full-sized products that can conceal contraband more easily. Generally, contraband policy must be enforced routinely as Commissioner C witnessed several rooms with personal items during "rec" that were not permitted by policy, such as excessive clothing, books, and personal belongings including full-sized toiletries. Youth must store personal items in an area that can be monitored and inspected by staff, such as dayroom cubby holes. Commissioner C noted that buildings C and D had really small TV's (30 inches) mounted on the walls and added that this was the second time this issue was being identified (first mentioned during the 2021 Annual Inspection Report). The size of the TV in the girls' dayroom in C/D is inadequate (too small). Originally, there was a TV installed that was proportionate to the size of the dayroom and distance of the seating area. After the TV was broken during an incident (presumably, several years ago) it was replaced with a smaller one. The concern is that a TV of this size and poor proximity may cause strain to the eyes and neck of those watching. Commissioner C understands that access to a TV is a privilege; however, if youth will have access to television for recreational or educational use, they should have a better viewing experience. If Probation is concerned that the TV can be broken again, it is suggested that a protective, glare-free covering should be installed over an appropriately sized TV. During previous inspections, Probation has remarked to Commissioner C that a larger TV can be ordered with no problem. **Recommendation: Commissioner C would like to see a larger TV installed prior to the POC's next inspection cycle.**

Commissioner noted that there was a non-functioning water fountain on side D, and a work order was in place which was outstanding as it had been placed 2 weeks ago.

Kitchen

Commissioner C then walked to the facility's kitchen and noted that the sink was leaky; and it perhaps needed a better drain. The floor was wet, not as wet as in the previous inspection, but a lack of a signage was a hazard. This observation was mentioned to kitchen staff, and they eventually placed wet floor signage. The commissioner saw no visible plumbing issues; issues from previous inspection appeared addressed. Other areas in the kitchen appeared dried and clean; the storage room appeared clean, food appeared appropriate and not expired, everything appeared to be stored at appropriate temperature and in adequate condition.

Recommendation: Precaution signage should be displayed whenever the floor is wet.

Note: After leaving the kitchen, Commissioner C observed a security hazard, as the Chapel gate was left open and unlocked.

Medical Unit / Medical Housing Unit

Commissioner C noted that the Medical Housing Unit was temporarily used for anyone under medical observation. During the March 2022 Pre-Inspection, the commissioner noted several concerns regarding this unit, and observed that most work orders were addressed. The commissioner noted that the flooring was done, most walls had been painted, water damage was repaired, but still concerned about the walls in some of the rooms as they appeared to have graffiti, and some windows needed bar guards replaced. The commissioner observed that all the pending repairs were in vacant rooms. A few occupied rooms observed; one youth was sleeping, and they had a one-on-one (staff member) in the hallway observing.

Interviews:

Commissioner C met with a young lady from Unit C/D who talked about the shower water temperature not being regulated properly, and how it was too hot. Due to this water temperature, they cannot take thorough showers. This young lady also expressed concerns about not having opportunities to Facetime her family, yet in further inquiring about this with a CJH Director, it was informed that Facetime was only a COVID-accommodation, not a standard practice, but the girls don't understand this.

Another young lady expressed concerns about not getting sufficient *Brown phone calls* (calls made using land-line county phones in the unit). Commissioner C cross referenced this concern with call logs; this young lady had made at-least (3) phone calls this week.

Commissioner C continued to speak with a small group of young ladies, and several complained about the food having hair in it, and the food being "nasty". The young ladies also complained about pests (like crickets and ants) coming in from the vents/ units.

Commissioner C was informed by a group of young ladies that overall, the staff are "cool." However, some youth also stated that there was "petty staff" who took things personal, and one staff was mentioned by name, who they stated had been working with youth for about a year. The young ladies mentioned that this staff threatened to use OC Spray without having a viable threat, and this was a normal practice for this staff as this staff is aggressive. In addition, the young ladies stated that this staff did not respond to requests for tissue. They further stated that staff practiced favoritism, and they were concerned about a youth practicing witchcraft as this made them uncomfortable.

Commissioner C then interviewed a youth from the "D" side. It was noted that she was being "cheated" for her time as she was made to shower earlier than her usual time. In addition, this young lady stated that she was not offered razors, for shaving and she complained about not getting brown calls. It was noted that she plans to request access to unlimited payphones. This young lady then expressed concern over the AC, as she described it as "not working" which makes rooms hot, and "staff don't do anything about it."

Commissioner C then continued to speak with other young ladies and they stated that when staff is short, they are locked in their room for long periods of time. The young ladies also informed the commissioner that the schedule shows programming that they do not receive. The young ladies expressed a desire for increased recreational activities and physical space to go along with it; they expressed wanting to go outside and several noted that they did not have enough couches in the day room, and the ones available were not big enough, especially on side C.

Inspection Report #2

Commissioner D arrived after Commissioner C, thereby arranging the facility's inspection in a staggered manner. Commissioner D easily gained access to all sections within the facility as they were greeted escorted by the facility's superintendent for most of the inspection. In turn, Commissioner D was able to ask questions in real-time (to the superintendent) as well share immediate concerns and make verbal recommendations directly.

Commissioner D received notations by the superintendent that upon CJH's return from its temporary closure (in March 2022), it was decided to concentrate all the units with specialized populations or "vulnerable youth," such as girls and gender expansive youth, youth identified with developmental disabilities, CARE and youth on enhanced levels of supervision to one side of the facility. Reportedly this was done for several reasons, including to avoid potentially violent interactions between youth; place these units in closer proximity (and on ground levels) to probation staff or medical staff who may need provide immediate responses during a crisis and more availability to wet rooms. Commissioner D decided to concentrate their inspection to these units, visit the school, and audit programs, recreational activities and/or other services being provided to youth. As Commissioner D walked through the facility, they made an immediate observation – it appeared there was a large number of "black shirts" (referring to Special Enforcement Officers, SEO's) positioned throughout the facility, in several units. It was clarified by the superintendent that Probation officers with a "black shirt" is *not* synonymous with an SEO. But if the PO is wearing (army) green pants *and* the black shirt, they are an assigned SEO.



Deputy Probation Officer pictured above (not a SEO)

Boys' ESU

Commissioner D visited the Boys' Enhanced Supervision Unit ("B-ESU"). Upon entry, Commissioner D noted that the staff to youth ratio appeared odd as there were more staff than youth in this unit. It was clarified that the staff ratio may be higher because many youth in this unit have "one-on-one staff" assigned to them, due to safety concerns. Although the staff ratio was higher in this unit, it did not seem to Commissioner D that this population of youth was receiving adequate support needed nor did staff appear to be giving the youth necessary attention. Commissioner D observed youth finishing their meals, watching TV and talking amongst each other around two small tables in the dayroom. One youth was observed to be talking to himself since the Commissioner entered the room. Another youth sat by a wall in the corner of the dayroom and proceeded to fall asleep. A PO later shared with the Commissioner that that youth was "overmedicated" (in her opinion). There appeared to be between 8 – 10 young men in this dayroom and five Probation staff (one SEO standing against the wall) and three staff positioned outside the dayroom, coordinating lunch, and speaking amongst themselves.

According to Commissioner D, the conditions in this building were 'horrific;' seemed outdated, unclean, and not appropriate to serve vulnerable youth. Commissioner D noted a lot of graffiti in the hallway and messy rooms (see photo below).



The chief complaints by the youth in this unit included distasteful food, not getting enough phone calls, and generally not having enough activities or programs to engage in. Commissioner D returned in the late afternoon to this unit as there was a scheduled "psych ed" group to be facilitated by DMH staff; the Commissioner wanted to observe this program (from outside the dayroom) during its scheduled time. The program was not offered - it was later reported that DMH was not available to conduct the programming that day due to not having staff available.

Unit A/B

Commissioner D visited Unit A/B which houses the youth who have identified developmental disabilities; this unit is interchangeably called the "DD unit." Prior to the Commissioner entering the unit, the superintendent set expectations through eluding that the youth housed here have the most behavior problems and that the Commissioner and the [POC] team should 'be careful.'

Several of the young men shared with Commissioner D that they felt "misclassified" by being assigned to this unit; understandable as housing in this unit may carry stigma or labeling associated.

Commissioner D noted that both sides of this building were different; on one side, the young men seemed to be engaged in down time (after lunch and before returning to school), either sitting around the dining area or meandering about the unit, yet the tone of the unit seemed tense. The staff were situated around the outer part of the unit, not engaging with youth other than to provide correction or brief set of instructions. One Probation staff shared with the POC that this would be her last week at CJH, she was leaving the Department altogether after serving 15 years. When asked about her decision, she shared that her personal values, purpose, and mission no longer align with that of the Department's.

As Commissioner D approached the other side of the building, the tone was immediately noted as calm, cheerful and welcoming. Youth were respectful as they greeted the Commissioner and the [POC] team. There was jazz music playing on this side of the unit and the youth seemed to enjoy it. When asked about the music, the SDPO in this unit explained that he likes to help the youth 'center themselves' and be in a calm mindset before they return to school; he believes this helps promote learning for them. Commissioner D was highly impressed by this SDPO and how thoughtful and engaging he was with all the youth in this unit; it was evident that the youth respect him greatly. The SDPO shared his thoughts about increasing learning opportunities for the youth, introducing trades in after school programming and how engagement and building positive relationships with the youth pays dividends in setting the unit's tone and in everything he does as a SDPO. The superintendent shared with the Commissioner that this SDPO is a part of his all-star team at CJH and he is heavily relied upon by his peers and by management to mentor junior staff members.

One major concern noted by Commissioner D prior to leaving Unit A/B was the room hall check list hanging on the room doors (see photo below) which listed that the hall check was complete, yet the commissioner noted seeing two of the doors had soap, Vaseline or some other type of opaque cream over the windows obstructing staff from checking in on youth through the door's vertical window.



LACOE School

Commissioner D visited both schools, on opposite sides of the facility. The Commissioner and his team were greeted by the ambassadors, who did a great job at introducing the projects alongside their teachers. In the classroom for which the Commissioner spent most of their time, there were eleven (male) students; one teacher providing instruction; three aids supporting the teacher by giving individualized attention to students, as needed and two Probation Officers positioned near the entrance of the classroom. Commissioner D noted that the youth were not given any homework to take back to their units although several youth and school personnel were keen to this idea. Commissioner D spoke with LACOE staff about the varying types of behavior management programs among juvenile facilities. Both the school principal and superintendent informed the

Commissioner that they intended to merge the current point systems at CJH; LACOE's PBIS and Probation's BMP, with a heavier emphasis on PBIS.

Recommendation: Provide youth with homework

Recreation / Programs and Services

Commissioner D observed recreation time happening on the westside field at about 4:15pm. The Commissioner noted that youth from unit's M/N, and K/L were engaged in playing football. Commissioner D noted that they seemed to be enjoying their time being outdoors, playing and "just being boys." There appeared to be no incidents during this rec time – two Probation staff watched the boys play (it appeared there were eleven boys on the field at that time).

Recommendation: Encourage/ increase more outdoor activities

Commissioner D then walked to the girls' units; C and D to observe the Life Skills program provided by the Probation Department. Here, the girls were engaged in writing an essay regarding a film about Juvenile Justice they had watched. Mostly, the girls appreciated the program - some girls were observed to be working on their essays and others were painting their nails, which the staff permitted them to do. Commissioner D noted witnessing a "comradery among the girls" and "a level of calmness because of how engaged the staff were with the girls." Commissioner D spoke with several of these young women; some commented on how they enjoyed their essay project and other stated that they enjoyed having the opportunity to do their nails.

Several of the young women requested having more programs, such as "Inside-Out Writers," "Parenting classes," "Cosmetology and Hairstyling classes," and any trade programming that would result in earning [vocational] certificates such as Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA), to give them better opportunities upon their release.

Youth Reports

Having visited most *Specialized Units* at CJH and talking with several youth, their general sentiments and complaints included not having enough visits with family, lack of programming or activities, and phones being in disrepair or not having easy accessibility to brown phone calls. One youth shared that his mother was being turned away week after week from visiting him. The Commissioner followed up with the superintendent on this matter; the superintendent confirmed that the visits were not occurring due to lack of staffing but also noted that this young man was identified as one of the boys that damaged a unit at BJNJH (during the period CJH was merged there).

Substance abuse and Contraband

As Commissioner D conducted their inspection, it was evident that recent substance use concerns or increased drug usage was a problem. It was also clear that the superintendent and a director, who took a lead role in accompanying this Commissioner during the inspection, were adamant about discussing contraband issues at Central Juvenile Hall.

While discussing these issues with the superintendent, Commissioner D became extremely concerned about contraband like drug paraphernalia continuing to enter this facility. The superintendent noted being aware of the way they are getting in (mainly through being tossed over the gates or sometimes by drone-drops). The superintendent shared with Commissioner D that he was involved in finding contraband while on a perimeter walk a few months ago. Commissioner D directly asked the superintendent about initiating a plan which would cover maintaining safety and security throughout the facility and especially around these gates. Especially alarming to Commissioner D was related to a comment made about the possibility of ‘guns getting into the facility’ next, by similar means as the drug contraband.

Inspection Questions – Central Juvenile Hall (CJH)

1. Related to FaceTime calls:

- What is the current policy and how has it changed post-COVID/since the pandemic began?
- How are youth informed about the FaceTime usage?

2. What is the turn-around for work orders related to key amenities like water fountains and sinks?

3. How can more outdoor activities, as witnessed by Commissioner D, be replicated?

4. Related to contraband and possible weapons:

- What are the steps that staff are to follow when they witness/find contraband?
- What are the preventative measures that Probation is to follow to mitigate the risk of contraband and possible weapon drop-offs?

5. When will the repairs for unit XY (Girls’ CARE) take place, and when will it be habitable again?

Campus Kilpatrick (“Kilpatrick”)

Youth Population (Physical)	Number of Youth at Court	Facility’s Rated Capacity	Total Staff (Payroll) - all	Total Active Staff (DPO’s and GSN’s)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Day)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Night)	Attempted Suicides	Escapes and documented attempts
6	0	60	47	36	1:1	1:1	0	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 (7 days a week) plus after-hours physician
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM (Limited staff; only 2 mental health clinicians) plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist

Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Students	Number of Graduates
4*	6	6

*Not included: One “Teacher on Special Assignment” (TOSA) and paraprofessional staff

The changes between the time the Pre-inspection was conducted (April 2022) and this official facility inspection is noteworthy. In April, that inspection coincided with plans made by the Probation Department to move the former Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) population from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) to a permanent secure facility, hence the name, "Secure Youth Track Facility or "SYTF." Campus Kilpatrick was identified as one of two permanent secure facilities for these young men. At that time the key aim of the POC's pre-inspection at Kilpatrick was to assess the facility's readiness to receive the youth from BJNJH (no SYTF youth resided at Kilpatrick at that time), particularly in terms of security and safety measures as well as having physical space and programming available to the youth.

In September, the doors opened at Kilpatrick as the county's first SYTF facility; it welcomed six (6) young men who have remained there to present time.

Inspection Report

Commissioner E arrived at the facility and was greeted by the facility's director. The management staff also greeted the Commissioner and offered to assist for the day.

Commissioner E inspected the grounds, mainly focusing on the cottage occupied by the six young men. Although the Commissioner did also visit a few empty cottages for comparison and to look at any developments since the facility's pre-inspection.

Commissioner E first walked to Maple cottage, where they noted that the unit appeared to be in very good condition and increased physical measures were in place, such as installation of ballistic glass. All doors and entry ways appeared secure. The furniture and amenities in the dorm area appeared well-kept and organized. The same findings were noted in the Alder cottage.

Commissioner E spoke with several young men in their assigned cottage, which appeared to have what they needed and seemed well-kept and well managed by staff. Commissioner E observed youth and staff positively engaging throughout the visit.

Commissioner E reported that several youth expressed being upset with bedtime – youth felt bedtime was scheduled too early, especially on weekends. These young men (explained) that early bedtimes may be more developmentally appropriate for children or adolescents and may not be for them, since many of them are in their 20's.

Recommendation: Consider extending bedtime to a longer time; particularly taking into account developmental factors and day of the week.

The young men also expressed wanting to have more input into their programming and services provided at Kilpatrick. While the youth reported enjoying many of the current services provided by CBO's, they also explained times where those programs or services feel repetitive or do not particularly resonate with their interests or what they would like to learn about. Some youth explained that at times CBO leaders promise support (e.g., court visits, letters of rec) yet do not deliver or the response is significantly delayed.

During this inspection Commissioner E reviewed Special Incident Reports (SIR's), Preliminary Incident Notification's (PINS) and grievances filed by youth – the Commissioner randomly reviewed reports from last year (November 2021), during which time the facility operated as a "regular juvenile camp." Reports reviewed also included the months of January through October 2022.

Commissioner E observed a lunch meal – the food appeared adequately nutritious and tasteful; the menu included turkey and bologna sandwiches, chili with cheese, a side salad, chips, and a piece of fruit. The youth seemed to enjoy it yet stated preferring "home-cooked meals."

Notably, Commissioner E detected a pattern of “write-ups” by one staff member, who seemed to repeatedly write-up youth for frivolous infractions, such as going to bed or “lights out” at 8:34pm instead of 8:30pm, displaying oppositional or disruptive behavior such as “talking back” to her. It was noted that often, these write-ups led to court referrals or harsh sanctions for the youth. Commissioner E was particularly concerned with an SIR (which involved this staff member) that involved a physical altercation disturbance. Although the Commissioner requested to watch footage to gain further context and insight about this situation, the request was unable to be granted because of Probation’s -90- days policy to keep video. However, the Commissioner shared these concerns with the facility director who explained she would investigate it.

The Commissioner and the [POC] team were invited to participate in an expressive arts program followed by a basketball-shooting social time that evening. The facilitator from the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) was very engaging and offered support and positive feedback to all youth who participated.

Inspection Questions – Campus Kilpatrick

- 1. Have the work orders (relating to securing the campus) and installing perimeter fencing been completed? If not, what is the status?*
- 2. How are grievances handled at this SYTF site?*
- 3. What steps can be taken to formally incorporate the youth’s input in programming decisions or promote a collaborative decision-making approach with Probation?*
- 4. Have youth and staff been informed of AB2417 (Juveniles: Bill of Rights) at this facility?*

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