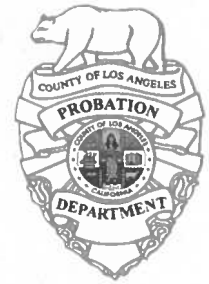




COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

January 11, 2024

TO: Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director
Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy
Juvenile Operations

*KEpps
1-11-2024*

SUBJECT: PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY (17th REPORT)

On July 8, 2021, the Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) requested that the Department provide a written report to the POC on the progress of implementing the elimination of the use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, including a timeline with dates for key interim benchmarks and steps toward elimination, and a specific target date when the use of OC spray will be eliminated. As of this date, the plan and timeline for eliminating OC have not been completed, as we assess how to address and mitigate ongoing incidents of youth-on-youth assaults, physical altercations between youth, incidents of riots and escape attempts, and assaults against staff.

Probation is committed to downscaling and ultimately eliminating the use of OC, and a plan without a definitive elimination date will be provided to the POC no later than April 1, 2024. Specific timelines will be identified as the facility culture of violence previously noted subsides through staff training, youth education, and influence through reimagined strategies of effective youth programming and youth supervision, care, and safe and secure custody management.

TRAINING PLAN

Staffing challenges within our juvenile facilities impact our ability to facilitate concurrent training cohorts for skillsets such as de-escalation techniques and behavior management. During this reporting period:

- 488 staff who are assigned at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall have completed the 16-hour Behavior Management Program (BMP) training which supports detained youth with a detailed merit system that promotes pro-social programming.

- 128 supervisors and managers attended a 4-hour BMP training designed for their cohort.
- SYTF are developing a BMP program specific to their population's needs and is anticipated to initiate training during the month of January 2024 that supports these efforts.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

The Department has developed five new courses that support the goal of elimination of OC Spray.

Table 1

Dynamics of De-Escalation Enhance knowledge of de-escalation, legal standards for the use of force, safety techniques, and traumatic triggers.
De-Escalation By Using Strategic Communication Communication skills to prevent or de-escalate conflict, and use of language to maintain mental and emotional safety and generate voluntary compliance.
Crisis Recognition and Response Recognizing and effectively communicating with individuals who are experiencing a behavioral crisis caused by mental illness, drug addiction, or other conditions.
Trauma Informed Care for Juvenile Justice Professionals Strategies to deliver trauma-informed care to juveniles.
Incident Command and Emergency Procedures Review of the Probation Department Detention Facilities (SYTF, DSB & RTSB) policy and procedures to ensure the safety and security of youth and staff during emergency and disaster situations.

There are 1,132 employees who have participated in the Use of Force Policy training since September of 2021. Field employees are currently taking the training as an added support to their contributions to juvenile hall staffing. There are 705 employees who have participated in training on de-escalation for institutional settings and the course is also offered to deployed employees.

OC UTILIZATION

Table 1 documents OC spray incident totals by month.

OC Utilization by Month

Table 2

MONTH	BJNJH	CJH	LPJH	MONTHLY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
June-21	6	5		11	11
July-21	10	3		13	24
August-21	9	6		15	39
September-21	9	13		22	61
October-21	17	18		35	96
November-21	9	20		29	125
December-21	11	15		26	151
January-22	4	14		18	169
February-22	7	32		39	208
March-22	42	14		56	264
April-22	47	0		47	311
May-22	48	8		56	367
June-22	20	24		44	411
July-22	29	27		56	467
August-22	13	32		45	512
September-22	13	75		88	600
October-22	22	55		77	677
November-22	10	32		42	719
December-22	15	22		37	756
January-23	13	23		36	792
February-23	9	24		33	825
March-23	17	6		23	848
April-23	12	20		32	880
May-23	6	20		26	906
June-23	5	15		20	926
July-23	3	7	1	11	937
August-23	0	0	46	46	983
October-23	0	0	51	51	1,034
November-23	1	0	43	44	1,078
December-23	2	0	37	39	1,117
TOTALS:	409	530	178	1,117	16,294

Chart 1 illustrates the respective facility OC spray trends.

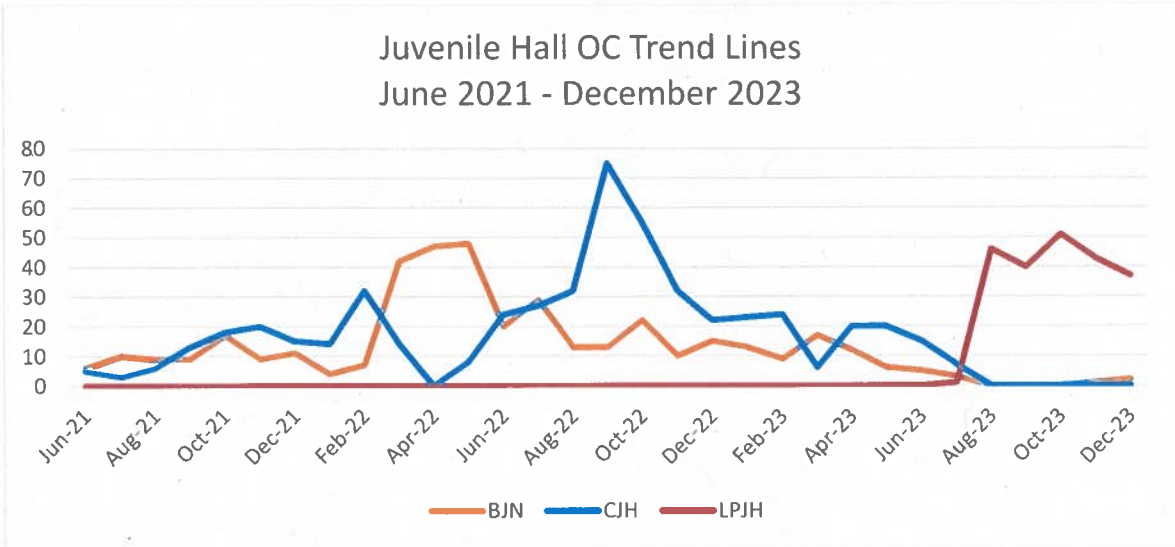
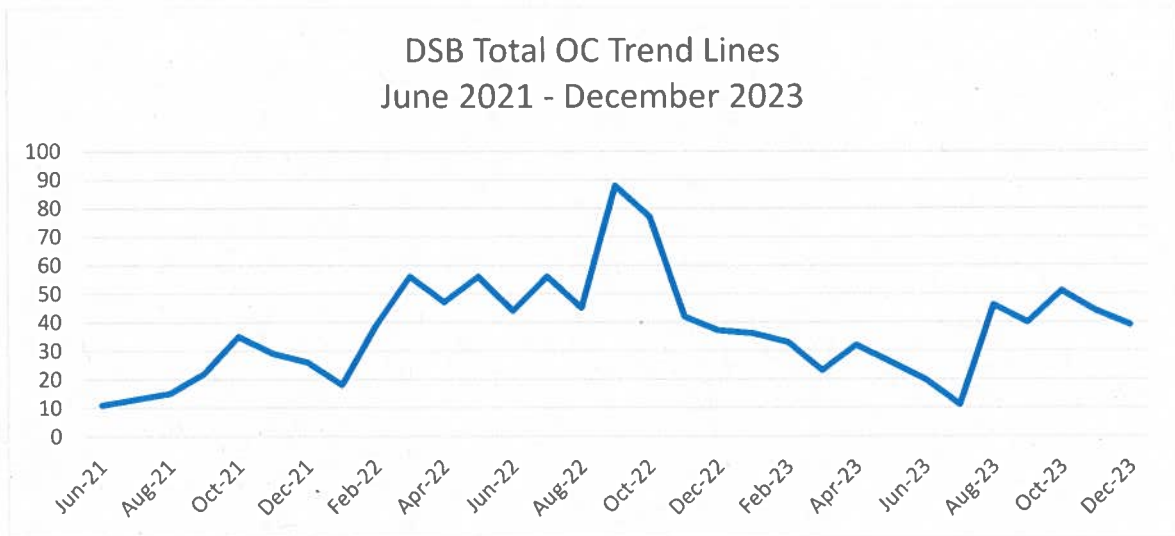


Chart 2 illustrates the combined total OC Spray trends for both SYTF and DSB facilities.



TIMELINE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF OC SPRAY

The Department continues to collaborate with the California Department of Justice court appointment monitor to develop an updated OC spray phase out strategy. A timeline will be provided as soon as possible.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 940-2513.

KE:rs