LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

DOROTHY KIRBY CENTER
CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK
LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL
BARRY J. NIDORF-SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY
CAMP CLINTON B. AFFLERBAUGH
CAMP JOSEPH PAIGE
CAMP GLENN ROCKEY

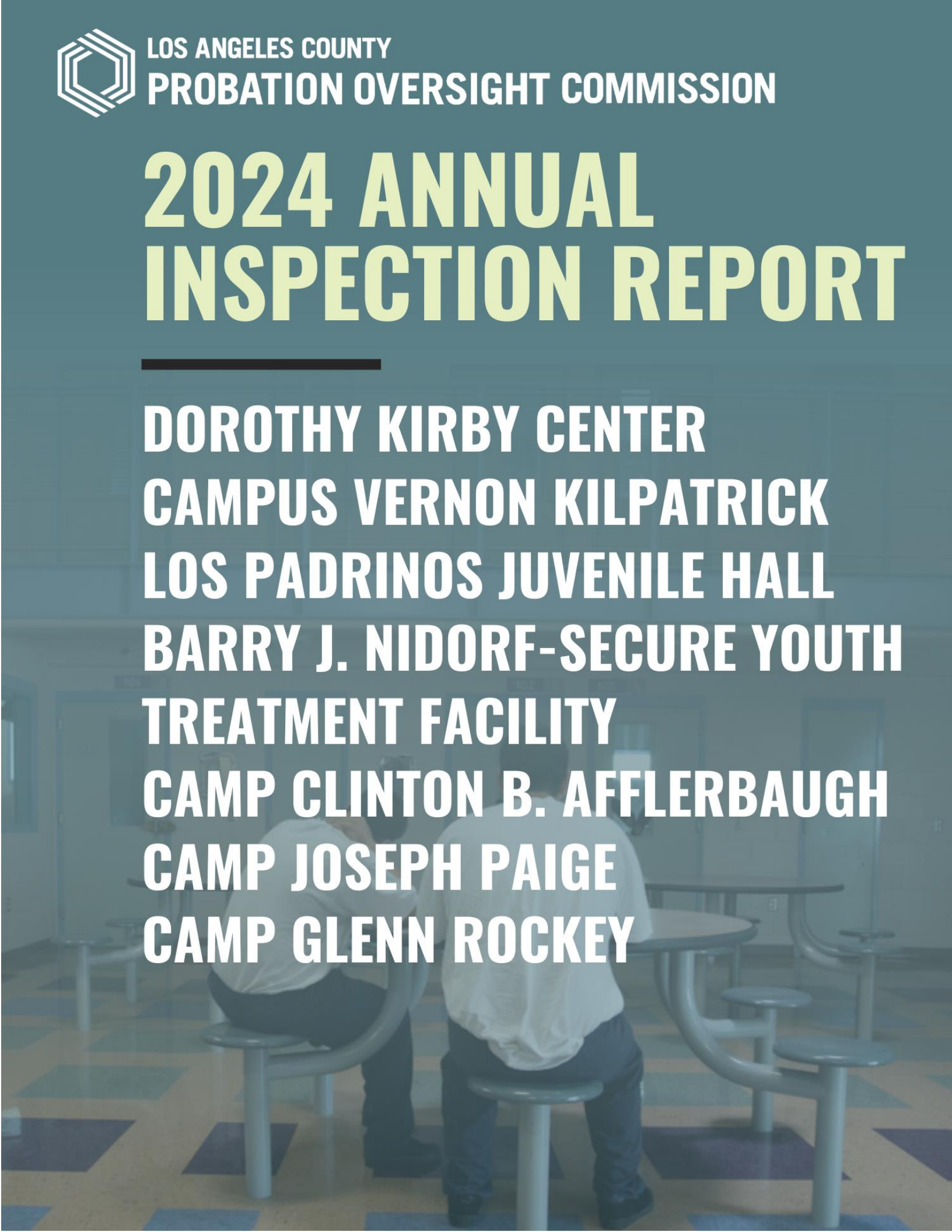


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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

DOROTHY KIRBY CENTER



MARCH 2024



SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC), in its mission to oversee and make recommendations to the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation), is completing the 2024 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fourth year of inspections.

The POC has found it of critical importance to provide substantial feedback to Probation, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and public stakeholders after each inspection of the conditions observed within the facilities. This summary presents the findings of the first facility inspected during this annual cycle: the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC). Significant changes occurred at DKC since the last inspection due to the division of the premises into three distinct facilities: DKC-Placement, DKC-Camp, and DKC-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

While the POC collected a large amount of information at this inspection, takeaways were derived from the most impactful observations and interviews made during the day.
The following list represents key findings from the inspection of DKC:

- Within the last year, DKC has transitioned to serve three distinct populations including youth dispositioned to DKC as Suitable Placement, Camp, and SYTF. Probation leadership and staff working in each of the three separate settings demonstrated intentional strategies and distinct operations to meet the individual needs of the populations.
- Varied relationship quality with co-located departments: Partnership with LACOE reportedly improved over the last year through more regular communication and interdisciplinary meetings that occur once a month. Partnership with DMH was reported to have weakened over the last year citing communication issues with leadership and lack of clarity about roles.
- Underpowered implementation of the LA Model: Though it was reported that DKC has implemented the LA Model, many officers reported not being trained on LA Model and there was little evidence indicating full implementation of a therapeutic milieu, family engagement, homelike spaces, individualized programming, and regular and robust multidisciplinary team planning processes with co-located departments.
- Major Construction Projects Completed: Construction that caused many concerns in the POC's 2023 Annual Inspection of DKC is now complete, resulting in a safe, attractive physical environment and students attending school daily in their classrooms.

Similar to last year, the POC's primary inspection findings described within this report points out a continued need for the Probation Department to commit to the full installation of a practice model which emphasizes a youth-centered, rehabilitative, trauma-responsive, and teamwork-focused approach to serving youth in detention. Until there is a unified goal around what practice should look like, outcomes will continue to rely on the individual choices and behaviors of officers, rather than an intentionally created departmental culture of care.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) was established in 2021 as a civilian-led oversight commission focused on systemic reform of the Probation Department. The POC advises the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) about progress and challenges within Probation. The POC has considerable authority and responsibilities directly related to juvenile institutions. Specifically, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1313 (f), requires the POC to conduct annual inspections of the buildings, grounds, and services delivered to the young people detained in each of the County's juvenile facilities on an annual basis. The Board also granted the POC specific authority to "as permitted by law… conduct unannounced inspections of any facility, and its non-confidential records, where any juvenile probationer can be held or where probationers receive services and "prepare reports on inspection findings" for the Board (LACC Sections 3.80.040(B) and 3.80.050(A)).. The POC submits these annual reports to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), a statutory agency that inspects for compliance of standards of detention facilities in California, by December 31st each year and shares the report with Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the public. This report marks the fourth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

METHODS

At the beginning of the 2024 Annual Inspection cycle, Probation ran six juvenile facilities: one juvenile detention center ("juvenile hall"), four juvenile camps, and two facilities solely dedicated to housing young people dispositioned to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities, including Barry J. Nidorf- SYTF and Campus Kilpatrick. DKC is counted here as one of Probation's camps, also known as a residential treatment facility. Since the previous POC Annual Inspection of the Dorothy Kirby Center, significant changes occurred on the campus. Previously, the Dorothy Kirby Center housed Camp Scott, the only all girls camp in Los Angeles County in one of the campus cottages with 10-person occupancy. In January 2024, the use of the name "Camp Scott" was phased out and replaced with "DKC Camp". In August 2023, DKC received its first girls and young women dispositioned to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility and dedicated one cottage with 10-person occupancy to house those young people. Given these changes, DKC now operates three distinct facilities within its walls, and each was inspected on this day.

For the DKC Inspection:

- Two POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Two POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation leadership and leaders from the facility were aware in advance of the inspection.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report. The POC developed a detailed facility inspection template that was updated this year and reviewed by Probation and the BSCC.
- Within the inspections template, key themes are included to ensure a thorough inspection of both physical structure and environment. The template also highlights the need to examine practices and the treatment of youth at the facility.
- The DKC inspection took eight hours to complete.

The information below depicts data gathered directly from the DKC inspection. It should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" of information recorded only to the day of the inspection. The data collected about the "facility's rated capacity," "population" and "staffing" (page 2) was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Director or Administrative Director (AD); each of these numbers was directly reported in this report. The only two numbers which required calculation in this report were the "Staff to Youth Ratio" and the "Number of Graduates." Staff to Youth ratio is calculated by dividing the number of total active staff by the total youth population. For clarification, these ratios do not reflect the actual staff to youth ratios per shift, but rather a broad staff to youth ratio for each facility. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

FINDINGS

Inspection #1 - Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC): 1500 S. McDonnell Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040
Facility Rated Capacity: 92

Youth Population[1] (Physical)- Co-Ed.	Youth at Court/ Medical	Total Staff (Payroll	Total Active Staff[2] (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Staff at time of Inspection / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Line staff on Duty at time of inspection	Total Credentialed Teachers (LACOE)	Number of High School Students	Number of High School Graduates
64	1	140	136	1:2	42	7	60	6

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **6:30 AM -10:00 PM**
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**

FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Since the 2023 Annual Inspection of the Dorothy F. Kirby Center (DKC), significant changes took place to reorganize DKC into three distinct facilities: DKC Placement, Camp DKC, and DKC SYTF. DKC Placement remains in its original configuration of being a co-ed residential treatment facility. The facility was previously identified by Probation as the location that would house any female youth dispositioned to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) and one, 10-person occupancy cottage was designated to house young people with this disposition. In August 2023, DKC received its first young person dispositioned to SYTF. This cottage is considered its own facility and is referred to as DKC-SYTF. In years past, DKC housed girls dispositioned to Probation's only all girls' camp, Camp Scott. In January 2024, the single cottage that was functioning as Camp Scott was re-named "Camp DKC" and continues to receive girls dispositioned to camp under its new name.

The DKC campus is an open and tidy space with green grass lawns and concrete walkways. During the 2023 Inspection, significant construction was underway which disrupted the use of the lawns and the general operations of the facility, including the movement of youth to the school. All of the construction projects, including installation of air conditioners, Wi-Fi in construction remaining. A single white car is parked in the middle of the DKC campus which is a key component of a popular vocational auto class put on by Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC or "Trade Tech").

Each of the cottages at DKC can house up to 10 youth. The three girls' cottages open to their own small courtyard, while the other cottages open to the main lawn. Each cottage has communal living space with hard plastic couches and chairs where young people can watch televisions, play video games and engage in programs. Each cottage has a refrigerator and folding tables that can be pulled out to sit all young people comfortably for meals which are eaten inside the cottage. All cottages visited were clean and mostly free of tagging. The girls' cottages had some decorations up on the walls and the boys cottages were mostly plain. One commissioner remarked that the environment within the cottages did not appear to reflect a home-like environment.





[1]Physical youth population and High School Student/Graduate numbers are discrepant due to differences in Probation/LACOE data gathering and reporting processes. In this case, LACOE reported that they have a system update delay that occurs when youth are released or on transit to another facility.

[2]Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.









STAFFING

DKC leadership reported that the facility was not short staffed, though most probation officers interviewed remarked that the facility has staffing shortages. Some individuals said that they liked having an opportunity to work overtime on a regular basis due to shortages. Others remarked that it caused problems and stress when needing to carry out day-to-day tasks of managing a cottage. POC staff spoke to two DKC staff members working overtime during the inspection. One was a Group Supervisor Nights (GSN) who took the opportunity to stay for the AM shift after working the overnight shift. The officers interviewed during the inspection reported that there were no mandatory holdovers due to a sufficient number of individuals being willing to work overtime.

Two weeks prior to the DKC inspection, the Los Angeles Times published a story about the arrest of a Dorothy Kirby Center "probation officer accused of sex"[3] with a boy in detention. The same officer was also accused of bringing contraband into the facility, which has been an ongoing concern for the department. A POC commissioner and staff asked leadership about next step plans to prevent such abuses from occurring in the future. It was reported that there was a plan in place for the next staff meeting to discuss grooming and ways for staff to identify abusive relationships such that they would be aware of and report any inappropriate behaviors between their colleagues and incarcerated young people.

[3] L.A. County probation officer accused of sex with jailed youth - Los Angeles Times (latimes.com)

Young people within the facility overwhelmingly shared positive examples of interactions with probation officers at DKC, regardless of gender or cottage assignment. One youth said, "I feel like the staff here really listen and want to help you work on being better" and young people in multiple cottages boasted that they had the best staff in the facility as a result of the mentorship and encouragement they reportedly received from probation officers.

ROOM CONFINEMENT/HOPE CENTER

There are two Hope Centers at DKC, one dedicated for girls and gender expansive youth and one for boys. No young people were housed or present in either Hope Center on the day of the inspection. No young people were observed to be in room confinement in any cottages throughout the day. Program and Services calendars were prepared to accommodate youth in the event that anyone is sent to the Hope center, which is a commendable preparation not seen across county facilities.

GRIEVANCES

There were 24 grievances filed for the period of January 1, 2024 through March 27, 2024. Those grievances involved topics including issues about televisions and concerns about clothing not keeping youth sufficiently warm. Other older grievances from the summer of 2023 were also reviewed and aligned with findings from the POC's inspection of Central Medical Hub in which it was discovered that insufficient staffing at some facilities prevented youth from being transported to medical appointments for x-rays and optometry. The DKC grievances reviewed indicated that youth were not taken to planned dermatology appointments and x-ray appointments during that same time period. One grievance from May 2023 resulted in a Suspected Child Abuse Report made to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). No grievances from 2024 indicated any missed medical appointments or suspected child abuse.

One commissioner interviewed young people regarding their understanding and use of grievances and the young people indicated that they were aware of the grievance procedure and of their ability to make complaints to the ombudsperson. One young person said he had filed grievances when their cottage TV went out and that they were responded to promptly. There was no report of any hesitation or concerns expressed by any young person throughout the day about how they would be treated or perceived for filing grievances within the facility.



DISCIPLINE AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

At DKC, there appear to be two models in use which guide discipline. Probation leadership at the facility reported that the LA Model has been implemented at the facility and was the guide for Probation Officers for working with young people. This also integrated the use of a point-based incentive system for young people which was noted near the office and entrance of each cottage. When interviewing probation officers throughout the day, many reported no training in the LA Model. Others indicated having had training yet gave little indication of any specific practices that were enacted as part of LA Model implementation in cottages housing boys. All officers in the girls' cottages reported having LA Model Training and participation in trauma-responsive interventions associated with the model, such as co-facilitation of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT).

At school, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) administrators described a different discipline model called Positive Behavior and Support (PBIS). PBIS is meant to increase pro social behavior by supporting youth through challenging behaviors by offering multiple opportunities and interventions to youth and teachers aimed at "rejoining". LACOE reported that this approach has proven helpful to avoid suspensions, decrease tensions, and encourage communication. LACOE administrators reported that they would like more alignment between PBIS and Probation's discipline practices. It was also reported that LACOE is interested in training their staff in additional restorative justice practices to further support young people at school, but no timelines were offered on any implementation goals.

SCHOOL

Commissioners and POC staff observed three classrooms and various classroom practices that seemed to be working - young people in all three classes were well behaved and there seemed to be an expectation on the part of everyone that the focus was on educational tasks. No observations were made of any young person actively trying to undermine or resist learning activities. Many of the young people had good things to say about most (but not all) of the teachers. They felt teachers were fair and knew them personally and wanted them to do well.

Administrators stated that the system of keeping youth in the same groupings both in their units and their classes had both benefits and serious challenges. The grouping reportedly reduced fighting and improved classroom management. The main challenge reported by LACOE with grouping young people by cottage assignment was that the decision was based solely on Probation's needs without consideration of educational needs, making it difficult for LACOE to adequately meet the individual needs of this diverse group of young people. It was reported that 40 of the 64 young people at DKC on the day of the inspection had an individualized Educational Plan (IEP). Three young people at the facility were reportedly receiving learning loss accommodations.

It was noted that the rigor of work in two of the classes was of the most basic level. Students were asked to copy and fill in the blanks in packets. While this may have been appropriate for some of the students,

it was noted that the rigor of work in two of the classes was of the most basic level. Students were asked to copy and fill in the blanks in packets. While this may have been appropriate for some of the students, it was not grade level work and was not the kind of work described in the Road To Success Academy[4](RTSA) curriculum. While two of the classrooms had student work up on the walls that showed more challenging assignments, one classroom showed no evidence of grade level work.[5]

On the day of the inspection, Probation Education Services staff shared that the Rising Scholars program was set to start in approximately two weeks, therefore there were no dual enrollment students. There were three high school graduates enrolled in college, two of whom were young people in SYTF. These three were enrolled in an online sociology class.

KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen at DKC was inspected and found to be clean and a hygienic environment for the preparation of food. All machinery appeared to be in good working order. During interviews with young people, many reported that the food at the juvenile hall was more flavorful and familiar than what they receive at DKC. A POC commissioner inquired about the difference between facilities and was informed that the contracts at the two facilities are different, which puts more limits on the vendors that DKC cooks are allowed to use for ordering supplies. They reported that they do have the same monthly menu as the juvenile hall and reported that DKC is on a five week cycle, meaning that every five weeks the menu is repeated. The cooks reported that they have been participating in test kitchen activities where different menus are cooked and sampled using a variety of supplies from different sources. They shared that young people are consulted for their feedback about the food on an ongoing basis and that the kitchen staff also monitor the amount of food that gets thrown away after each meal.

During the inspection, two meals were observed: lunch and dinner. At DKC, meals are meant to take place at a communal table. Years ago, young people and the probation officers assigned to the cottage would share a family style meal at these tables. In more recent years, since stoves were removed from the cottages, meals are served in individual trays. Both the lunch and dinner meals that were observed did not take place around a single table, rather young people were seen at various stations around the cottage, eating in front of televisions and video game consoles. At dinner, young people said that they often do have their meals together and signaled the folding table next to the refrigerator that is typically used. The young people reported that eating dinner in this way was a reward for multiple days without an incident within the cottage. One young person was given a box of chicken wings from an outside restaurant as a reward for good behavior. The youth interviewed at lunch and dinner meals overwhelmingly said that it was their preference to be able to eat while relaxing away from the table and enjoying their preferred media source. There were enough spaces for youth to eat comfortably.

[4] RTSA_Impact-Report_ExecSummary_FINAL_8.30.22.pdf (ucla.edu)

[5] The findings within this paragraph were gathered and expressed by Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys whose professional experience as a teacher and expertise assessing curriculums enabled the determinations regarding grade level work.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Medical care at DKC is provided by JCHS which operates from 6:30am-10:00pm seven days per week. Youth reported that they have regular access to see a nurse as needed by asking a probation officer in their cottage to call JCHS or by putting in a written request to see a nurse. On the day of the inspection, youth also reported being transported to Central Medical Hub and LAC+USC Medical Center as needed with no delay. As described above in the "Grievances" section of this report, in the summer of 2023, there were grievances that indicated appointment delays for dermatology and x-rays which aligned with reports of cancelled appointments during the POC's 2023 Annual Inspection of the Central Medical Hub. There was no indication of any ongoing issue with medical appointment access.

Mental health care at DKC is provided by DMH which operates from 8:00am-8:30pm seven days per week with 24-hour access to an on-call psychiatrist who is available to respond to psychiatric emergencies. DMH provides individual therapy services, psychotherapy group services, and psychiatric services. Most young people reported that they were able to see their therapist at least once a week. It was mentioned by both youth and probation officers that there had been considerable turnover of DMH clinicians and supervisors in the last year. While visiting living areas, DMH clinicians were not observed in any cottages throughout the day.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Commissioners and POC staff were provided programs and services calendars ahead of the inspection day. In alignment with the division of the facility, separate programs and services calendars track what is offered at DKC-Placement, DKC-Camp, and DKC-SYTF cottages. The calendars reflected substantial programming provided by community-based organizations (CBO), DMH, LACOE, and Probation including Educational Services and Youth Student Councils. The SYTF cottage calendar clearly emphasized age-appropriate differentiation from the programming available in other cottages including time allocated for college counseling, college classes, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification training. DKC Placement and Camp calendars indicated strong time investment in psychotherapy groups.

On the afternoon of the inspection, the POC verified that the scheduled programming occurred across the cottages. One commissioner observed a program put on by The Unusual Suspects, a theater group. The program involved all of the youth in the cottage who were observed laughing and interacting with the providers and clearly enjoying the activity. The commissioner opted to not interrupt the activity to interview youth but probation officers interviewed reported that the provider consistently showed up, built rapport with young people, and that it appeared to them that youth genuinely enjoyed the program.

On other units where programing was not directly observed, young people and probation officers were interviewed about the programs and services offered according to the calendars. POC commissioners and staff were repeatedly informed that scheduled providers, including DMH clinicians and CBO providers showed up on time and as expected, made successful efforts to build rapport with youth, and were

respectful and engaging.

HARM PREVENTION PROGRAMMING AND INTERVENTIONS

Contraband was reported to be minimal at DKC. Over the last year, nets were installed on the patios of various cottages to prevent access to any contraband thrown over outer walls of the facility. Programming schedules across the three DKC facilities emphasized psychotherapy groups facilitated by DMH clinicians. These groups include substance abuse and Seeking Safety which integrates discussion of substance abuse as it relates to the experience of coping with post-traumatic stress symptoms. These services are available at least once weekly in every cottage in the facility.

Young people in the facility reported that they also receive individual substance abuse counseling services as needed with their assigned clinician. Young people reported that in many cases the substance abuse services provided were helpful to them in achieving their personal goals, which at least two shared was to maintain sobriety in detention and beyond.

Young people interviewed at DKC reported that they had not been trained on recognizing the signs of opioid intoxication nor Narcan deployment. Probation leadership reported that Narcan was not made available for youth use at the facility. Probation officers interviewed reported having training to identify opioid intoxication and Narcan deployment. The majority of officers asked showed that they were carrying Narcan on their utility belt in addition to having extra Narcan supplies locked in each unit.

JCHS reported that medication-assisted treatment is available at the facility as a harm prevention strategy offered to youth who may be struggling with opioid addiction. On the day of inspection, it was reported that two young people at the facility were on medication-assisted treatment.

AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships between co-located county partners within the facility were mostly positive. LACOE Administrators discussed the progress in relationship building and increased collaboration over the last year through interdisciplinary meetings. LACOE administrators expressed a desire to have more regular meetings with Probation and DMH in order to further align interventions and approaches for serving youth. It was reported that one interdisciplinary meeting happens monthly, which was described as a good starting point, and desire was expressed for meetings optimally to occur weekly.

Feedback received about relationships with DMH was mixed. Within the cottages, it was reported by probation officers that professional relationships with assigned clinicians included open communication, respect, and meaningful collaboration. There were concerns expressed throughout the day about recent losses of clinical staff and the destabilizing effect that clinician turnover has on the general functioning of a cottage. There were also reports that in the last months there had been ongoing strained relationships between Probation and DMH leadership at the facility when efforts to clarify counseling roles of probation officers and clinicians had reportedly collapsed after a series of unpleasant exchanges.

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

POC commissioners inquired about the presence and use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray within any of the three functioning facilities in DKC. It is understood that while OC spray is not used within any of Probation's residential treatment facilities, or camps, the officers in the one cottage housing girls dispositioned to SYTF could potentially carry and deploy OC spray as a use of force. It was reported by Probation Officers and administrators that no one in the facility carries OC spray, including the officers assigned to DKC-SYTF. At the time of the inspection, there was no published policy and procedures manual for DKC- SYTF, and the POC hopes that Probation will intentionally and explicitly exclude OC as a use of force option.

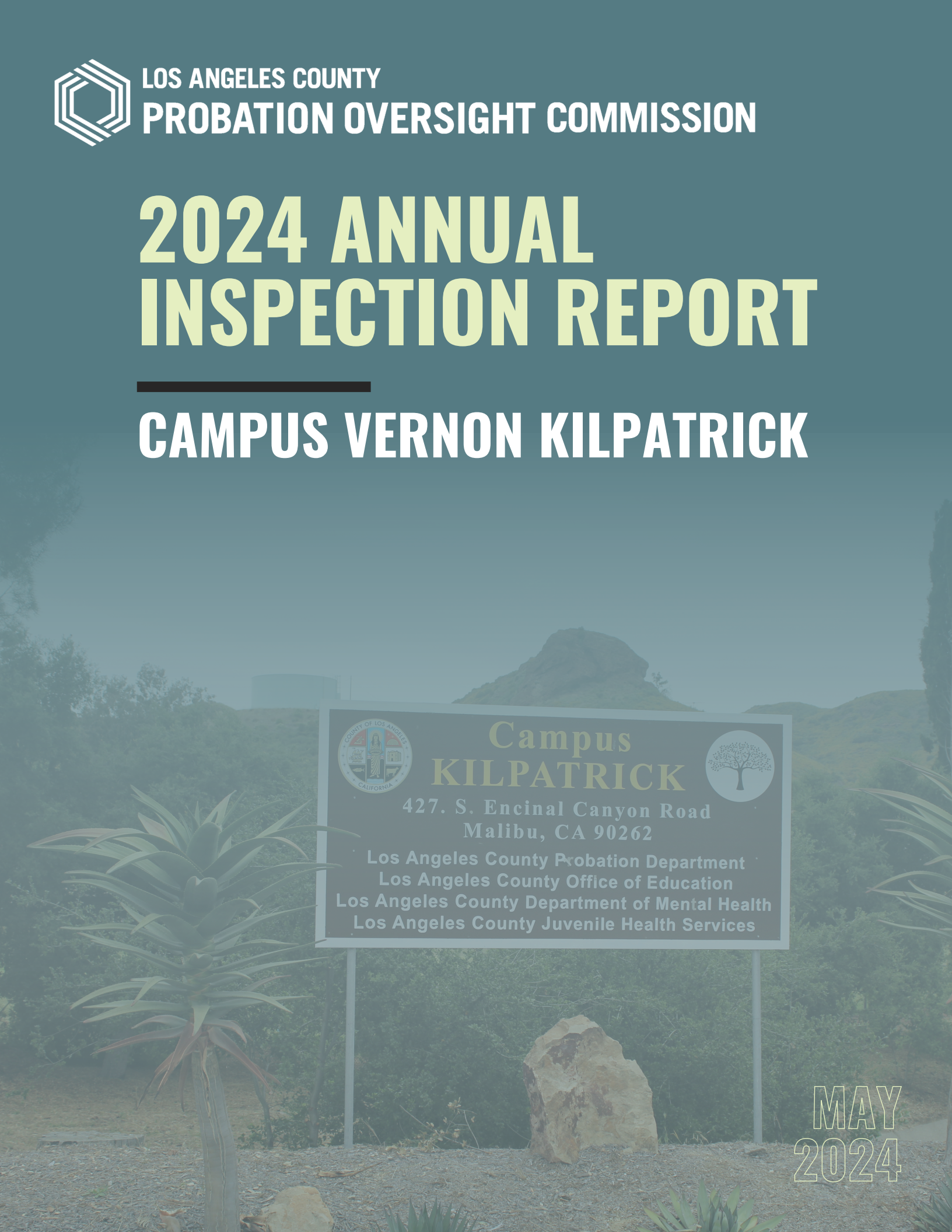
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK



MAY
2024



SUMMARY

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The POC has found it of critical importance to provide substantial and timely feedback to Probation, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and public stakeholders after each inspection of the conditions observed within the facilities. This summary presents the findings of the second facility inspected during this annual cycle: Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK).

While the POC collected a large amount of information at this inspection, takeaways were derived from the most impactful observations and interviews made during the day.
The following list represents key findings from the inspection of CVK:

- The only facility consistently using a practice model based upon trauma-responsiveness and teamwork amongst professionals, CVK is an environment where youth thrive- The implementation of a partnership-driven model with a shared cross-departmental understanding of youth development and trauma appeared to directly cause the successes seen at the facility. Partnerships rooted in respect of one another's professionalism directly helped to create safety and accurate programming calendars. Steps to replicate the practices and the actions taken to develop this culture should be immediately replicated across Probations facilities.
- Lack of full commitment to a model- While the model used by Probation and county co-located partners at CVK appears to work well for youth at the facility, actions of the Department show little commitment to ensuring full implementation or maintenance. The integration of outside models appeared redundant and does not align with the Board's established priorities regarding the L.A. Model.
- An underutilized gem- It was reported that the population is capped at 20 possibly due to insufficient infrastructure including plumbing and insufficient staff housing. Research should be launched by the Department to remedy these issues so the facility can be used to provide more youth a chance to exit Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF. Two cottages that could house 12 youth each sit empty.
- Lack of human resources leaves state-of-the-art facilities unused- While facilities were built to provide numerous physical, vocational, and educational opportunities, the inability of Probation and LACOE to sufficiently staff the facility leaves a state-of-the-art student kitchen and woodworking shop

completely unused. If county staffing options are limited, partnerships with community-based organizations should be explored to utilize these resources to provide vocational training on site.

Similar to last year, the POC's primary inspection findings described within this report points out a continued need for the Probation Department to commit to the full installation of a practice model which emphasizes a youth-centered, rehabilitative, trauma-responsive, and teamwork-focused approach to serving youth in detention. Until there is a unified goal around what practice should look like, outcomes will continue to rely on the individual choices and behaviors of officers, rather than an intentionally created departmental culture of care.

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For the CVK Inspection:

- Three POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Three POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation leadership and leaders from the facility were aware in advance of the inspection.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report. The POC developed a

detailed facility inspection template that was updated this year and reviewed by Probation and the BSCC.

- Within the inspections template, key themes are included to ensure a thorough inspection of both physical structure and environment. The template also highlights the need to examine practices and the treatment of youth at the facility.
- The CVK inspection took nine hours to complete.

The information below depicts data gathered directly from the inspection. It should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" of information recorded only on the day of the inspection. The data collected about the "facility's rated capacity," "population" and "staffing" (page 3) was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Director or Administrative Director (AD); each of these numbers was directly reported in this report. The only two numbers which required calculation in this report were the "Staff to Youth Ratio" and the "Number of Graduates." Staff to Youth ratio is calculated by dividing the number of total active staff by the total youth population. For clarification, these ratios do not reflect the actual staff to youth ratios per shift, but rather a broad staff to youth ratio for each facility. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

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Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

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[1] Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.

FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CVK sits nestled up against the hills in a small canyon in Malibu. The buildings are modern and clean as the facility was re-built from a previous configuration and re-opened in July 2017, making it the newest construction of any of Probation's facilities in Los Angeles County. Upon entry to the facility, there was a security guard present and a scanner apparatus for all to enter through, though searches were not conducted of POC commissioners nor staff, which was a concern amongst commissioners considering the possibility of contraband entering the facility. During the morning visit to the school, commissioners came into a room with an open door, and found an unattended cell phone charging.

The grounds are comprised of an administrative building which connects to a cafeteria, kitchen, and gym, multiple cottages for living units, and a school wing of the campus with the name above the gate that reads, "Road To Success Academy". The grounds offer exercise equipment, a volleyball court, a large grassy field, a swimming pool, and basketball courts.

Two cottages were in use on the day of inspection, housing a total of 20 young people who previously resided at Barry J. Nidorf after receiving a disposition to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). Three additional cottages housed no youth. Inspectors questioned why the number of available spots for youth at the facility has remained at 20 or less since the facility transitioned from a residential treatment facility, i.e. "Camp", in 2022 despite a rated capacity of 48. Various issues with the facilities were shared including a problem with insufficient sewage capacity. Staff reported that with current population, the sewage pump is running at 90% capacity. When population was higher, staff reported that Probation had to pay $10,000 a month to have a truck cart away sewage. Insufficient staff sleeping quarters were also referenced since the facility was built with just 15 staff sleeping rooms despite the fact that Probation officers at the facility work a highly compressed work schedule (the "56") that necessitates sleeping at the facility.

Oak Cottage housed 12 of the 20 youth at the facility, and Alder Cottage housed 8. The outside of the cottages were clean, graffiti free, and one has a garden on the side. Commissioners learned that one young person was heading the garden project where flowers, fruits, and vegetables such as strawberries, artichokes, and parsley were being grown in large planter boxes. The garden appeared well maintained and added a refreshing pop of color to the beige exterior of the cottage. The inside of the cottages displayed many individual style choices from the youth housed there. Youth at CVK have their own sheets, decorate the walls above their beds, and have keepsakes and photos on their windowsills. The cottage has two "sides" with two sleeping areas of three or four beds on each side. In the center of the cottage is a living room area replete with a large, mounted television, sofas, and a table in the center. No graffiti was observed in either cottage.

During the afternoon, one young person was observed lounging on the couch using the television to stream a video about real estate investing on YouTube while two other young people had a smaller mobile television and gaming console wheeled into the bedroom area and were laughing and playing a

sports video game. One Probation officer was in the cottage and was sitting at a table watching over the young people in a relaxed way as they engaged with their chosen activities. The cottage environment was calm, and all young people appeared to be comfortable in the space. Clean bathrooms and showers were also observed in both cottages with appropriate privacy curtains in place. All plumbing fixtures, doors, locks, and other machinery in the cottages appeared to be in good working order, including microwaves.











STAFFING

CVK boasts a level of stability and longevity of Probation staffing reportedly unmatched at any other Probation facility. It was shared that all Probation officers on staff have worked for the Department for at least 10 years. Through interviews, Probation officers, leadership, and co-located partners at the facility remarked repeatedly that the culture of the facility instilled through the implementation and practice of the L.A. Model has led to a team of exemplary Probation officers who work with integrity, respect for the young people, and value co-located professionals and community-based providers who work alongside them. It was reported that the culture of the facility directly leads to the high morale, low call out rates, and low turnover at the facility. It was reported that utilization of the 56-hour work week[2] also contributes to a high level of work satisfaction, allowing officers to participate in significant self-care and restorative down time between shifts.

ROOM CONFINEMENT/HOPE CENTER

Given the open layout of the cottages, there is no opportunity for any type of room confinement at CVK and there is no HOPE Center. Various Probation and county co-located partners described collaborative efforts to de-escalate youth on the occasional basis that it is required, and a few stated that there would be no need for a Hope Center even if one existed due to the youth-centered, collaborative de-escalation methods used at CVK. It was reported that there have been only two physical fights at the facility since it opened as an SYTF.

GRIEVANCES

There were two grievances filed for the period of January 1, 2024 through May 16, 2024. Grievances were addressed in a timely way and did not indicate any emergencies. Young people interviewed throughout the day indicated that they were aware of the grievance procedure and of their ability to make complaints to the ombudsperson. Multiple young people shared that they felt they had no need to write grievances because any time they asked for something, they were responded to by a probation officer or administrator. There was no report of any hesitation or concerns expressed by any young person throughout the day about how they would be treated or perceived for filing grievances within the facility, though one commissioner noted during conversations with youth that there is an accepted general belief that when disagreements occur between youth and Probation officers, the Probation officer's viewpoint eventually will win out, rendering the grievance process useless for addressing interpersonal issues.

[2] The 56-hour work week is a highly compressed work schedule utilized at Probation's Residential Treatment Services Bureau Facilities with the exception of the Dorothy F. Kirby Center. For more information, please read the POC's 2022 report: LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION: 56-Hour Work Week Study (lacounty.gov)

DISCIPLINE AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

CVK is being used as a step-down facility from Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF (BJN), which is a privilege that youth can earn by working their way through the "Developmental Stage System" (DSS) which is a rewards-based behavior modification program adopted within the last year by the Probation Department for use with young people dispositioned to SYTF. According to the CVK youth handbook, the DSS "is built upon the core principles of the Positive Youth Justice Model[3]" a model which has not been formally adopted by the county[4]. While at BJN, youth are on level one through five of the DSS, and promotion to level five is understood to indicate readiness to move to CVK, where youth may achieve promotion to levels six, seven, and eight through the completion of various activities. On the day of the inspection, a DSS promotion ceremony took place where youth prepared statements about their personal growth, goals, and values which they presented in front of their peers, CVK staff, and program providers. Almost everyone in the facility was at the promotion. After each young person spoke, the professionals in the room spoke on the strengths they observed in each youth, highlighting the successes and improvements made in the areas of school, personal accountability, planning for the future, interpersonal functioning and communication, among others.

Alongside the DSS, there appears to still be a Behavior Management Program (BMP) run by Probation, in which LACOE and DMH also participate by reporting youth participation in various programming so that youth may earn daily points. With the points accumulated, youth are able to "purchase" items like snack foods and brand name personal care products from the CVK "store". The Probation officer tasked with stocking the room shared that requests from youth are taken into consideration in selection of the product rotation.

During the inspection, it was apparent that L.A. Model training facilitated by consultants from Missouri that took place years ago appeared to still be driving the discipline models used by staff at CVK. Probation officers and leadership discussed teaching young people housed there through a trauma-responsive lens while emphasizing mutual respect, mentorship, strength-based communication, and accountability. It was reported that the groups of officers that originally went through the cross-departmental training were still at the facility, but that cross- departmental trainings were no longer a regular occurrence. Some individuals expressed concern that without ongoing investment in keeping the culture of partnership established, the environment created was made vulnerable by staff deployments, retirements, and leadership changes. One young person interviewed articulated that the difference in treatment that they received at CVK versus other county facilities made a significant difference in their behavior and progress through the SYTF program.

[3] Positive Youth Justice Model handbook

[4] Multiple models are accepted by the county which are or could be applicable for use within the Probation Department, drawing question toward the integration of concepts from another source. Currently approved models include the LA Model (culture-of-care-long-final.pdf (lacounty.gov) which is tied to the larger concept of Youth Justice Reimagined (Youth-Justice-Reimagined-2020.pdf (burnsinstitute.org). Other Los Angeles County departments, including such key Probation partners as the Department of Children and Family Services and Department of Mental Health, as well as multiple jurisdictions across the state of California have adopted the Integrated Core Practice Model (Integrated_Core_Practice_Model_ADA (ca.gov), which was formulated to also guide Juvenile Justice service delivery.

SCHOOL

The school in the facility has modern and bright classrooms with smart screens and white boards in each. On the day of the inspection, there were four classrooms, one for high school students, two for college courses, and one classroom available as a study hall for college students. One of the classrooms visited had two students assigned to one teacher, and one of those students was outside of the classroom participating in the Apex credit recovery program, which is utilized to rapidly bring high school students up to grade level credits. The teacher in one classroom shared that in prior years he was a literary specialist, who was reassigned to take on teaching for this school year since he has full credential to do so. He reported that his previous position had not been filled, and there was currently no Literary Specialist available to youth. Teachers reported a high level of satisfaction with their roles and work at CVK, including perspectives of the youth as capable students and partnerships with Probation and other co-located county departments.

The sole concern expressed was regarding the online software textbooks and other outdated textbooks used for juvenile court schools while sharing that higher quality textbooks are purchased for other LACOE schools. Examples of text with minimal details in various subjects were shared with the emphasis that students deserved more content robust, up-to-date textbooks.
It was reported that the school had only one suspension during this entire school year (September-May). The suspension occurred just before lunch after multiple attempts to help the young person deescalate and decompress, but ultimately it was decided it was necessary to suspend him for the remainder of the period. The young person reportedly returned after lunch to complete the rest of the school day. It was reported that team (Probation, LACOE, DMH) co-facilitated de-escalation is commonplace at CVK, which professionals said was directly attributed to LA Model training that occurred years before.

The school offers a level of flexibility in its use due to the majority of the population at CVK already having completed high school. It was reported that at 9:00 AM in the morning all students who have a prescheduled class come to school, and the college students are offered an open study hall in one classroom. College students completing self-paced courses have the freedom to decide to come to school or they can stay in the cottage to do so. It was reported that for the previous and coming semester, Mission College declined to offer a dual enrollment program at CVK due to the low number of high school students.

At the school building, there is large woodworking shop which has been unused due to having “no instructor” to supervise the facilities for student use. The principal shared her dream for the shop, which included bringing mathematics learning to life through hands-on experiences, but such plans remain indefinitely on hold. At the POC’s inspection of CVK in 2023, the same issue was brought to the attention of the inspecting commissioners and staff, indicating a multi-year abandonment of these facilities.



KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen at CVK appeared new, very clean, and equipped with newer appliances than those observed at other facilities. All meals take place in a dining hall where youth and staff from both cottages eat all together at the same time. The lunch meal was observed during the inspection. Youth were seen eating their food while laughing and talking throughout the meal. It was shared by youth that most of the meals were “alright”. Kitchen staff reported that the fresh foods often remain un-eaten, and concerns were expressed about the many processed snack foods that youth have access to throughout the day as an alternative to fresh foods. On the day of the inspection during the lunch observation, many salads were eaten, though the majority were left behind.

At CVK, there is a kitchen that was built alongside the main kitchen for the purpose of offering cooking classes to the young people at the facility. It was reported that the kitchen has remained unutilized since the onset of the COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020. LACOE and Probation shared that there is no staff designated for the role, but that the kitchen theoretically could be used if there were an adult available to lead. One DPO with a passion for all things coffee and a barista background had informally begin to mentor a small number of youth in the facility to learn the trade in the time that she could spare from her regular duties to do so.



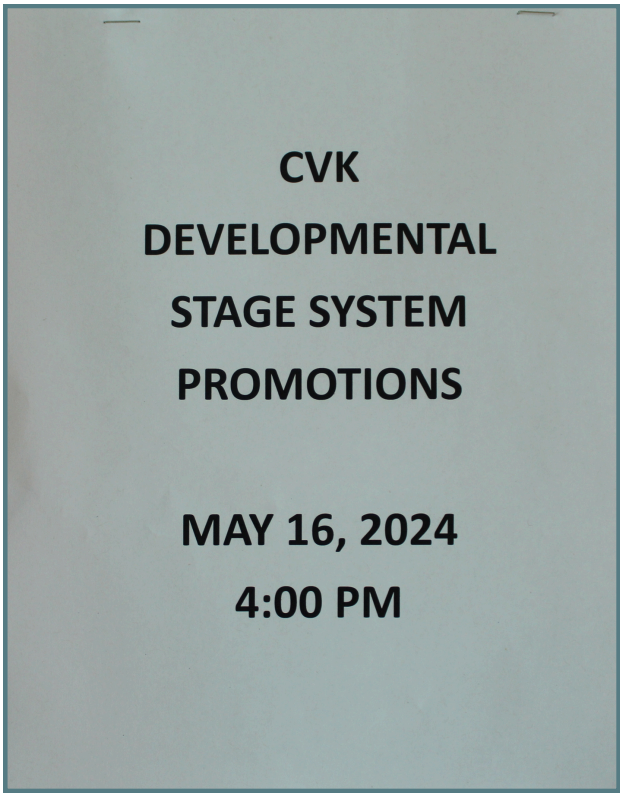


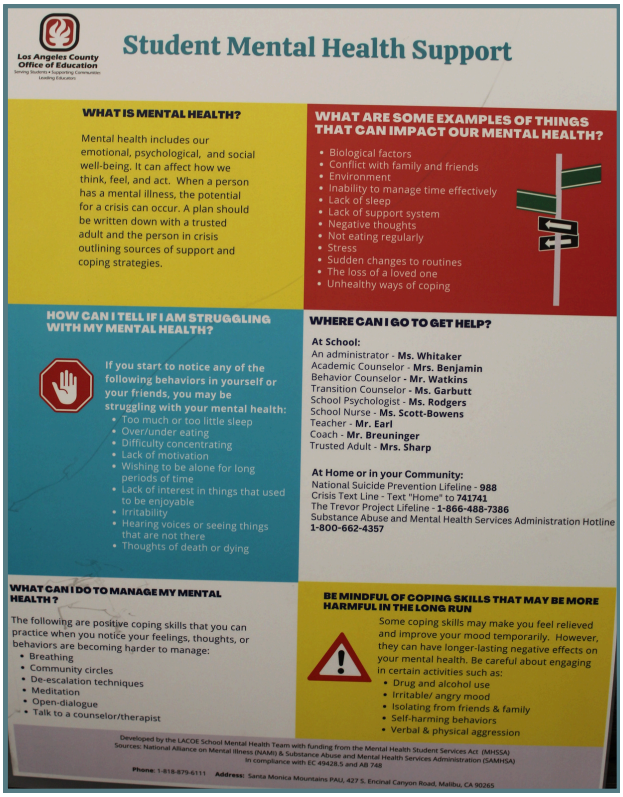




ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Youth reported a high level of ease in accessing medical and mental health care. Numerous youth reported little need to submit requests to see a nurse or mental health clinician, stating that all they had to do was ask or wait a while for someone to show up to the cottage. Probation officers reported that they would simply call the nurse if a youth requested it. It was observed throughout the day of the inspection that mental health clinicians spent time on the living units throughout the day to interact with young people and other co-located county and contracted partners. Positive rapport was clearly established amongst all partners with young people, so much so that during a DSS level promotion ceremony that took place in the afternoon, nurses and clinicians made encouraging comments alongside Probation on observed growth and functional strengths they had witnessed over time in various young people.





PROGRAMS & SERVICES

A calendar of the programs and services available throughout the month was provided in advance of the inspection. The calendar for the month appeared to consistently offer regular services from credible messengers, substance abuse counseling services, group psychotherapy, religious services, and various music and arts offerings. On the day of the inspection, Jail Guitar Doors, a community-based organization which works with youth on a one-on-one to create their own music, delivered programming on both cottages of the facility. The program occurred according to the schedule and was popular amongst the youth interviewed.

A popular program called Marley's Mutts, which brought the responsibility of learning to care for a dog to youth at CVK, was mentioned several times throughout the day as a popular program that abruptly stopped. It was reported that the funding provided by the Board of Supervisors ended, and with it, the program. Youth reported wanting the program to resume as soon as possible.

Some young people reported that while they found benefit in what is currently offered, they need opportunities to develop a variety of vocational skills prior to community reintegration.

The Probation Officer responsible for creating the program calendars expressed pride and organization skills related to ensuring that calendars match programs provided. She stated that she treats community-based organizations as partners and that regular communication alleviates issues with scheduling.

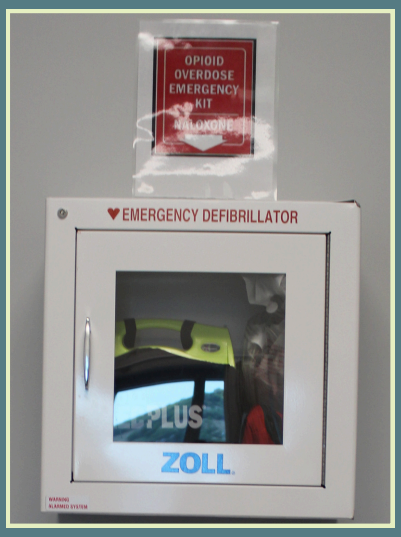
HARM PREVENTION PROGRAMMING AND INTERVENTIONS

While illicit substance related contraband was not a major concern at the CVK inspection, it was reported that one vape pen had recently been recovered. The contraband was believed to have entered when a youth transferred to CVK from Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF. Substance abuse prevention services at the facility appeared to be robust. Department of Public Health- Substance Abuse and Control (DPH-SAPC) had a contract provider offering both individual and group services in the facility five days a week. Young people reported that they found the DPH-SAPC provider relatable, and helpful in preparing them to reach their personal goals around substance use when they are no longer incarcerated. It was also reported that as-needed, youth had the opportunity to use Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) and individual therapy sessions as a place to further discuss any substance abuse related issues.

At CVK, some probation officers carried naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication also known as NARCAN, on their person while others reported keeping it in their bag or with the fire extinguisher in the cottage. The school had naloxone in the front office which included a log of the expiration date of the naloxone they had on hand to ensure that the supply is replaced appropriately.

Young people at the facility reported that they had not been trained in identifying the signs of opioid intoxication nor naloxone deployment. Youth at CVK do not have access to naloxone. It was reported by JCHS that while Medication Assisted Treatment is available at the facility, there is currently no one utilizing the option, though in the past one youth had.

Cut down equipment and a defibrillator were found in each cottage.



AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships between county co-located partners remained strong since the last inspection of CVK, which employees of each department attributed directly to the cross-departmental training they received in the LA Model training roll out and guidance from mentors from Missouri that occurred in 2017. Thanks to the low turnover of staff at the facility, the culture of partnership revolving around the creation of a trauma-responsive environment has been maintained, though some interviews throughout the day indicated a waning fidelity to continuing some of the practices found most helpful in creating the environment including cross departmental trainings and refreshers and formalized interagency meetings.

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

Oleoresin Capsicum spray has not been an available use of force intervention at CVK during the last year.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL



JUNE 2024



SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC), in its mission to oversee and make recommendations to the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation), is completing the 2024 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fourth year of inspections.

The POC has found it of critical importance to provide substantial and timely feedback to Probation, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and public stakeholders after each inspection of the conditions observed within the facilities. This summary presents the key findings from the inspection of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH).

- Overpopulation, violence, and volatility in some units - Units housing general, age-grouped populations were close to or at capacity, cramping more than 20 youth into dayrooms less than half the size of the day rooms in other buildings. Concerning reports of racial tensions, violence, and regular use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray emerged from these units. Youth from various units were observed throughout the day with obvious signs of injuries including casts for broken and fractured hands and arms, swollen, bruised eyes, and other facial bruising.
- Girls' Needs Unmet - The majority of the girls detained at Los Padrinos have serious mental health concerns, traumatic histories, involvement in the child welfare system, or are victims of child sex trafficking. They need intensive care and healing opportunities in a therapeutic environment and Unit P/Q does not provide that. Pregnant, nursing, and parenting girls were detained on the day of the inspection, continuing the cycle of systemic harm onto a new generation.
- Improvements in Professional Partnerships - Increased constructive communication and regular meetings between Probation and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) resulted in significant improvements in serving youth compared to what was found during the October 2023 inspection. The installation of a specialized substance abuse provider via the Department of Public Health- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) was a notable and positive expansion into new partnership at the facility.
- Insufficient Programming and Inaccurate Schedules - Commissioners attempting to observe programming based on Probation's calendar found that while programs scheduled to be led by Community Based Organizations (CBO) and Credible Messengers mostly occurred as planned, Probation-led programs such as "Mobile Library" were neither occurring nor known to officers or youth. One unit had no programming scheduled for the day.

- Too Many Substitutes in Place of Long-Term Relationships – In the absence of regularly assigned Probation officers and teachers, youth must repeatedly adjust to new people passing through the spaces where they live and learn, depending on people they may never see again, and adding to the institutionalized experience of LPJH. Many deployed Probation officers are faced with the daily challenge of attempting to build rapport with youth, while attempting to create teamwork and safety amongst staff they do not know. This has reportedly contributed to the occurrence of violence in the facility. LACOE's dependence on substitute teachers in place of regularly assigned teachers creates similar instability within the classroom environment.
- Disorganized and Inconsistent Approaches to Supervision and Facility Planning – While facility staffing appeared more robust than the previous year, officers reported issues with the way leadership utilized and prepared their assigned and deployed human resources. Inconsistent approaches, rules, and strategies emphasize the need for the department-wide adoption of a trauma-informed practice model to unify approaches to the work. There was no known plan or progress to install a behavioral model, despite that being stated by Probation leadership as a goal. It was reported that no steps have been taken to divide the facility into smaller "communities" as previously shared by Probation leadership.

Findings from this inspection differ only slightly from the POC's 2023 Annual Inspection of LPJH,[1] and facility culture continues to be at the core of each concern. The improvement in partnerships is significant and will positively benefit youth and officers at the facility. However, a lack of plans and effort to unify practice and address the culture of violence at the facility continue to make creation of a Care-First environment at this facility a challenge.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) was established in 2021 as a civilian-led oversight commission focused on systemic reform of the Probation Department. The POC advises the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) about progress and challenges within Probation. The POC has considerable authority and responsibilities directly related to juvenile institutions. Specifically, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1313 (f), requires the POC to conduct annual inspections of the buildings, grounds, and services delivered to the young people detained in each of the County's juvenile facilities on an annual basis. The Board also granted the POC specific authority to "as permitted by law… conduct unannounced inspections of any facility, and its non-confidential records, where any juvenile probationer can be held or where probationers receive services and "prepare reports on inspection findings" for the Board (LACC Sections 3.80.040(B) and 3.80.050(A)). The POC submits these annual reports to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), a statutory agency that inspects for compliance of standards of detention facilities in California, by December 31st each year and shares the report with Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the public. This report marks the fourth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

[1] 2023 Annual Inspection Report: Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

METHODS

At the beginning of the 2024 Annual Inspection cycle, Probation ran six juvenile facilities: one juvenile detention center (a juvenile hall named "Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall"), three juvenile camps, one locked placement that also serves as the camp and SYTF facility for girls and gender expansive youth, and two facilities solely dedicated to housing young people dispositioned to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF), including Barry J. Nidorf- SYTF and Campus Kilpatrick.

For the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) Inspection:

- Four POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Two POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation leadership and leaders from the facility and partner agencies were aware of the inspection in advance.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report. The POC developed a detailed facility inspection template that was updated this year and reviewed by Probation and the BSCC.
- The POC's inspections template includes key themes to ensure a thorough inspection of both physical structure and environment. The template also highlights the need to examine practices and the treatment of youth at the facility.
- The LPJH inspection took nine hours to complete.

The information below depicts data gathered directly from the LPJH inspection on June 3, 2024. It should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" of information recorded on the day of the inspection. The data collected about the "facility's rated capacity," "population" and "staffing" was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Director or Administrative Director (AD) and these numbers were directly included in this report. The only two datapoints requiring calculation were the "Staff to Youth Ratio" and the "Number of Graduates." Staff to Youth ratio is calculated by dividing the number of Total Active Staff by the Total Youth Population. For clarification, these ratios do not reflect the actual staff to youth ratios per shift, but rather a broad staff to youth ratio for each facility. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.



FINDINGS

Inspection #3 – Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH): 7285 East Quill Drive, Downey CA 90242
Facility Rated Capacity: 409[2]

Youth Population (Physical)- Co-Ed	Youth at Court/ Medical	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff[3] (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Staff at time of Inspection / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Line staff on Duty at time of inspection	Total Teachers (LACOE)	Number of Middle[4] / High School Students	Number of High School Graduates
272	25	526	304	1:1	102-AM, 104-PM	23[5]	238	44

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **24 hours, 7 days/week**
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **8:00 AM - 8:00 PM** **plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist**

FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The entrance to LPJH is a double door entry way that opens immediately to a conveyor belt scanner where POC commissioners and staff passed all belongings through. The security officers tending the x-ray machine were observed asking all staff and visitors entering to put their belongings on the belt before stepping through a metal detector. Signs were posted at the entrance noting dress code and contraband items prohibited from entering the facility. The lobby had a reception center where Probation employees asked visitors to sign into binders and show appropriate identification. There are two entrance options from the lobby: through the administration building or through another secured entry which requires being buzzed through by Probation staff that issue the facility keys. It was reported that only Probation staff have access to those keys and that staff of other departments do not.

The grounds open to manicured grassy areas with covered walkways running along the various buildings. There is a gated pool that appeared clean and maintained in part of the central grass area. Steps from the pool there is a chapel where religious services are held on the weekends and where the majority of special visits for youth with their attorneys, social workers, or others occur. Since the last inspection, a set of four connected privacy pods were installed along one of the walls of the chapel in order to provide private space and to cut down on the wait times that have repeatedly been raised as a problem since the reopening of LPJH. POC staff reviewed attorney visit logs. Since May 14, 2024, attorneys had been signing

[2] This rated capacity was provided by LPJH facility leadership on the day of the inspection and confirmed by a BSCC representative, while Probation's Los Padrinos web page (6/12/24) reports the facility rated capacity at 603.
[3] Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.
[4] There were 14 middle school students on the day of inspection included in the 238-student count, including two seventh graders and 12 eighth graders.
[5] Seven Teachers were full-time, regularly assigned teachers and 16 were substitute teachers.

in at the lobby with their time of entry. They sign in again at the chapel and the time that their meeting starts is logged. Prior to May 14, 2024, however, there was no way to measure the waiting times in the lobby and therefore no way to verify the complaints about attorney wait times. POC staff reviewed 12 random attorney visits between May 14th and 30th, and found all wait times to be shorter than 20 minutes. LPJH leadership reported that another grouping of four pods were ordered to line the opposite wall of the chapel to allow for more visits and shorter waits in the future.

LPJH is comprised of a variety of living units constructed during varying decades and with different priorities in mind. The most recently built units, while substantially larger than the older units, typically held fewer youth than the smaller, older units. Rooms in the newer buildings are “wet rooms”, meaning they contain a toilet and sink in addition to a bed. The newer units were observed by commissioners and staff to overall be a calm experience. The youth on those units mostly reported a sense of stability and were observed to have sufficient space between themselves and staff to be able to move around freely, and even play. There were multiple televisions and gaming consoles seen on these units, and it was also observed that one or more youth were using the telephone each time. One unit had an elliptical machine, and another had a basketball hoop.

At least three of the older units were at or very close to maximum capacity on the day of the inspection. According to youth and Probation officers alike, high population, turnover of youth, and cramped quarters often contributed to tensions and violence on these units reportedly not experienced at the same rates elsewhere in the facility. Two youth interviewed who had been in the facility for a month observed that to them, LPJH was a jail and that they were there to be punished for their mistakes. They did not think the institution was meant for rehabilitation and reflected that they accepted that punishment was the obvious purpose of the facility. For example, one youth reported that his unit was not allowed to have time "down in rooms" for months because of a lack of staffing. Youth housed in these older units felt that the youth culture had not been addressed by those in charge nor improved in any way and that they lived with a constant threat of violence. Various youth on these older units reported fights breaking out in front of them on a near-weekly basis and various uses of force including Oleoresin Capsicum spray (OC spray; see section below).

Despite the difference in the layouts and tone of the boy’s units, it was observed throughout the day in separate units that many youth appeared to have violence-related injuries. Four youth were observed to have casts and arm slings, all of whom reported that the injury and resulting care took place during detention. On one unit, a youth was interviewed with a bruised, swollen eye. Throughout the day, various others were seen with facial bruising indicative of the high levels of violence occurring within the facility. Throughout interviews with youth who had injuries, POC staff and commissioners asked youth about circumstances of their injuries, recovery, and current sense of safety. While many reported fighting with other youth, some declined to discuss their injuries[6]. Multiple youth throughout the day reported that

[6] POC staff members are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse. No interviews conducted during the day of the inspection resulted in a suspected child abuse report.

there was a racial component to the violence they had been involved in or witnessed over the last several months. On one unit, one Black youth shared that he perceived staff as showing racial favoritism to Latino youth. He shared examples of times where his requests for something are denied, but the same requests are honored when made by Latino youth.

The girls' unit was also in one of the older buildings. All of the girls are housed in the same building, regardless of age and needs, divided between two sides of the building. This includes general population girls in a wide age range, Girls Care, and the Girls' Enhanced Supervision Unit (ESU). POC staff and commissioners noted that on both sides of the unit girls exhibited distress and signs of mental health concerns, including a youth who self-separated instead of joining the rest for lunch, youth disrupting lunch service with loud concerns about medical needs, food allergies and dislikes, and girls clearly in conflict with each other. A particularly young-appearing girl had adorned herself with a handmade bow that she fashioned out of discarded red tissue paper in an attempt to make a good impression for a placement interview that could get her out of LPJH that day. Also present on the unit were a pregnant girl and a lactating mother. It was noted that on one side of the girls' unit the walls were not decorated or friendly looking like some other units. Commissioners noted that lunch was served slowly while staff attempted to multi-task, supervising girls washing up and addressing and supervising the youth who did not want to leave her room. On one side of the unit, Commissioners were concerned to witness a meeting occurring between a girl and her DMH clinician in the open day room in earshot of other youth and visitors. A commissioner asked about it and the clinician moved the girl into an available office.

Throughout the living units, informational posters were visible and mostly at eye level reminding youth of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Youth Bill of Rights, and Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson. These posters were also observed in areas youth may occasionally visit within the facility, including intake and medical, but were noticeably absent from the school administrative offices and classrooms visited. On each living unit, locked boxes for grievances, mental health and nursing self-referrals were functional and had available forms available for youth to submit.

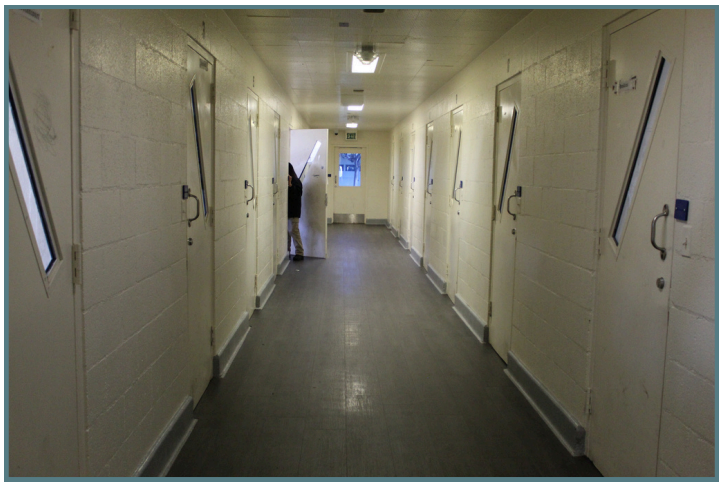













EXIT







STAFFING

LPJH has made strides in addressing ongoing issues with low staffing by requiring the deployment of Deputy Probation Officer II's (DPOIIs) from field offices across the county. Throughout the inspection, deployed officers shared that they were told they would be deployed for a finite period, including three who stated that their deployment was slated to end in the coming week. One deployed officer reported that he had some level of stability of working on the same unit nearly every day of the deployment and was able to form positive rapport with both the youth and colleagues on that unit. On yet another unit, a deployed DPOII reported that he was moved nearly every day and was working for the first time on the unit where he was interviewed. He shared that he knew neither the names of his colleagues nor youth on the unit but was willing to do what was possible to provide supervision under such circumstances. It appeared that the facility continues to have staffing challenges resulting from unexpected call outs resulting in insufficiency officer to youth staffing ratios. While staffing anecdotally looked more robust unit by unit than it did at the 2023 Annual Inspection of LPJH, interviews with officers on the units indicated that holdovers remain a common occurrence, and many officers were there voluntarily working overtime.

An additional improvement noted by various co-located departments was the reduced presence of Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) officers. It was reported that SEO officers were only present on the PM shift which takes place from 2-10pm. LACOE shared that having the school movements coordinated once again by non-SEO decreased incidents in the mornings and may have had a role in youth regularly getting to and starting school on time. Antagonistic interactions between SEO and youth reportedly continued since the last Annual Inspection of LPJH. Various youth interviewed reported that they viewed SEO (often referred to by youth as "the men in black") as wanting to "start stuff," referring to arguments or wanting to exert authority over youth through exchanges where youth will ultimately need to comply with their orders despite communicating in ways that youth find disrespectful or offensive.

POC asked facility leadership if they could speak to any specific steps taken to address concerns of violent facility culture since a widely publicized video was released of an incident at the facility in which eight Probation officers allegedly coordinated or failed to stop the repeated beating of one youth by various others. While facility leadership reported that the eight officers involved were no longer at the facility, it was also communicated that no other additional specific actions were planned by Probation to address the issue of officer facilitated violence widely as prevention. It was reported that youth are informed of the grievance process upon orientation to the facility.

ROOM CONFINEMENT/HOPE CENTER

Commissioners did not note any instances of room confinement during the inspection.



GRIEVANCES

There were 431 grievances filed for the period of January 1, 2024, through June 2, 2024. Due to the time constraints of completing a thorough inspection in a single day, three commissioners split the grievances from the months of April and May 2024 for review. Some of those grievances involved concerns for physical safety on living units, programming, condition of the facility, visitation, requesting a rosary and other religious services, and dietary needs. Some grievances seemed to be incomplete, with the questionnaire for the physical intervention report being totally blank, others appeared superficially investigated and responded to; indicating that an issue was "resolved" due to the youth's release. Multiple grievances reviewed were not addressed within three business days as indicated as the standard in Probation policy[7].

It was also noted by one commissioner that there was an anonymized grievance stating that the writer had been touched inappropriately by a Probation officer on the unit. The response documented in the grievance folder indicated that all youth in the unit were simply asked to sign a document describing whether they had experienced inappropriate behavior from an adult. It was noted that most youth wrote "No" and that Probation wrote "Refused" for those who did not sign. It was noted by the commissioner that there was no further effort described to document review of video or the occurrence of any meaningful engagement of youth to ensure their well-being.



DISCIPLINE AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

During the inspection, LPJH reported using a Behavior Management Program (BMP), which is a points-based reward system in which youth are assigned points throughout the day via their participation in various activities and prosocial behaviors like avoiding fights and verbal altercations. With the points earned through the BMP, youth are able to "purchase" snack foods and name brand personal care items that youth find highly desirable. In addition to these tangible rewards, youth with the highest points are occasionally invited to participate in a movie screening within the BMP store, replete with popcorn and sport drinks.

[7] LosAngelesCountyProbation-Youth Grievances Procedures (revised)

Over the last year, Probation leadership has referenced the installation of a "behavioral model" for their facilities, including LPJH. Questions were posed throughout the day to various Probation officers and facility leadership regarding information they may have about a plan to install a behavioral model, what that model is called, or what it might entail. No one was able to elaborate on a plan, name, or information about the installation of a new behavioral model beyond BMP. Facility leadership reported awareness of previous discussions to divide the facility into smaller, focused communities, but reported there had been no further discussion or planning processes toward that goal in months.



Throughout the day in the interviews conducted with Probation officers and youth alike it was clear that a wide range of behaviors between Probation officers exists when it comes to interactions with youth. Many youth interviewed had at least one Probation employee they could reference in a positive way, and various officers spoke to commissioners about their approach to the work being rooted in their desire to help young people by building mutually respectful relationships and fostering honest communication. It was clear through observations that there are numerous officers that repeatedly meaningfully engage youth, repeatedly de-escalate tensions, and create opportunities for positive rapport. It was also clear that the individual officers approaching the work in this way were doing so out of a personal motivation and not a clear communicated strategy or expectation that all officers adopt, as numerous observations were made throughout the day of practice behaviors across units throughout the day. There was no evidence of progress in this area since identical findings were made at the 2023 Annual Inspection of LPJH.

SCHOOL

There were 23 classrooms operating on the day of the inspection. The classrooms were run by 7 full-time teachers with 16 substitute teachers, including a handful described as long-term substitutes that had been filling in for a month or more. There were 238 youth in school on the day of the inspection which included 14 youth in middle school: two in seventh grade and 12 in eighth grade. It was reported that classrooms averaged 12 youth each and that classrooms did not mix youth from different units. LACOE reported some issues with not being able to group youth according to grade level or other needs but acknowledged that having youth attend school with their unit peers caused a decrease in violence and other disruptive incidents at school. There were four youth suspended on the day of the inspection, which took place on a Monday. It was clarified that all four were suspended on Friday and two were returning from suspension for afternoon classes.

At LPJH, school movement starts at 8:05AM Monday through Friday, to ensure that all youth that leave their units for school arrive in a timely way. The officer in charge of coordinating the facility's school movements reported that all units are moved one at a time to have all students in their seat by 8:30AM to have all classes started as expected. A POC commissioner and staff observed one boys' classroom with seven youth in class and five adult professionals including a long-term general education substitute

teacher, a special education teacher, a Foster Youth Specialist Counselor, a tutor, and a Probation officer. There was lots of individual attention paid to students due to the high number of professionals in the classroom. The worksheet being done appeared to be of grade level standard[8]. Some youth appeared to have difficulty with the math and metric system questions and were therefore each working with the adults in the room, with the exception of the Probation officer. One youth pulled out a set of cards when they finished their worksheet but was quickly told by the teacher that cards are considered school contraband. One youth appeared to give up on completing the worksheet and was playing cards with the other youth who ignored earlier direction put the cards away. The Probation officer in the class did not engage with any student or other professionals in the room at any point. Only one youth in the class complained about school, the others appeared engaged and learning. One youth reported that he was detained for approximately one month and reported that he had earned at least seven credits since coming to the facility in late April 2024.

At the girl's school, two LACOE substitutes struggled to instruct the class. They received some guidance from the girls about what they were supposed to be doing. There were eight girls in the classroom. An APEX student in the class was trying to complete a unit and was frustrated with the substitutes not knowing how to guide the class. DMH removed a student who arrived to LPJH the night before for a brief assessment. One girl in the class was sitting on the counter instead of at a desk and talking back to the teacher. She was upset when she didn't get a handout. Instead of attempting any type of a redirection or even making eye contact with the student, the teacher stated "restructure," asking Probation to take her out of the classroom. The DSO outside the classroom was a member of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) with the school unit. She conducted an extremely successful restructure, learning that the youth was nervous and anxious about a court appointment later that afternoon and convincing her to respectfully return to the classroom and participate. In speaking with the DSO afterwards, she reported having training in de-escalation from an outside agency that she found helpful and in three months learned on-the-job how to do restructures. POC staff and commissioners were impressed by the level of assistance and de-escalation provided by the officer and commended their skills to Probation leadership. In another girls' classroom, students were observed laughing appropriately, quietly working, and engaged. The teacher was also a substitute and had the regular special education teacher in the classroom.

Units with self-contained classrooms were also visited including one where students were in with one teacher, one substitute, and a paraprofessional. They were doing packets and reportedly had not been allowed to watch the news as they were accustomed to starting with because the substitute did not know how to access it. Youth reported that they were supposed to have P.E. that day, but often did not get to go out to P.E. On another unit, there was only one high school student who was working with a substitute teacher in the day room. POC commissioners were told that the teacher did not want to work with the student in the classroom due to safety concerns and that Probation could not afford to put a DSO in the classroom with only one student.

[8] The findings within this paragraph were gathered and expressed by Commissioner Sean Garcia-Leys whose professional training and experience as a teacher enabled the determination regarding grade level work.

It was reported by LACOE and youth that young people missing class due to short Probation staffing is an issue that has been resolved for months such that LACOE administrators could not recall the last time the issue had occurred. It was reported by youth in one classroom that one morning they had class in the unit due to a classroom door being broken but were able to return for class at school later in the afternoon.

There were 44 high school graduates in the facility during the inspection. There was recently a wrap up of a dual enrollment program that happened with Cerritos College. 17 youth participated in the dual enrollment program, but it was reported that due to youth being released from detention, eight students finished the term. Probation Education Services staff reported that they were unsure if a summer dual enrollment program would happen and were awaiting communication from the college. Students reported concerns about their ability to successfully complete their college classes. They reported that they do their on-line coursework on LACOE computers, and only in the dayroom when Probation Education staff come in with the computers, which was confirmed by Probation. They reported that they often have trouble accessing videos and research that they need because of the filters on the computers and have to "guess" on the answers to questions.









KITCHEN AND FOOD

POC commissioners and staff observed multiple meals on different units throughout the day. All meals were observed taking place in the day rooms of the living units. In one instance, youth were eating during Credible Messenger programming. Youth were allowed to converse with one another at all mealtimes observed. Probation officers were present and supervising the meals, and servings appeared ample. Youth shared differing opinions about their level of satisfaction with the food overall, so it was difficult to broadly label the food served as appetizing, good, or bad. At one meal, youth were seen eating pizza with tater tots, and another meal was tacos and fruit. While the meals may not have appeared nutritious to commissioners who noted a lack of fresh food in the pizza/tater tot meal, it was remarked that the food offered appeared familiar to youth, appeared age-appropriate, and was consumed. It was also observed that a special diet was provided for a nursing mother in the facility.

The kitchen at LPJH was inspected and observed to be clean though small. Kitchen staff reported their approach to teamwork to accomplish their daily work since they lost staff in the midst of the population steadily rising over the last several months. The staff working at LPJH were previously working at Central Juvenile Hall prior to its closure, which they reported had a much larger kitchen. They reported the main challenge with having less space is that they must now order supplies every other day since they do not have storage space to accommodate any more. While visiting the kitchen, a commissioner observed that two sinks in the kitchen were labeled “Out of order”. Kitchen staff shared that they had reported the issues previously and were awaiting maintenance to fix the issue.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Department of Mental Health reported that clinicians aim to meet with youth on their assigned caseload weekly or more often pending mental health referrals received indicating a more urgent need for attention. This also included monitoring youth in their units at specific intervals (daily, every three days, etc.) if the youth are on “Enhanced Supervision”. On the day of the inspection, there were 22 clinicians, many of whom were reportedly new hires, replacing many of the clinicians that left in the 10 months since the move from Central Juvenile Hall to LPJH occurred. The DMH program manager reported that there are soon to be 31 clinicians in the facility within approximately three months pending human resources clearances. Concerns were expressed by DMH leadership that when fully staffed, there will not be sufficient office space on the units for clinicians. There are currently designated locations for individual therapy sessions within every living unit which is typically one office allocated to DMH, however it was observed during the inspection that the office space is not consistently occupied or used for therapy. Few clinicians were actually seen using the offices on the day of the inspection. Concern was expressed by DMH that when they eventually have more clinicians than units there will be some overflow, since office space is a major concern in the facility. During the inspection, it was observed by a commissioner that a DMH provider was facilitating a session in an open hallway, with several people walking by. There was no privacy, and it was unclear to commissioners why the session was not conducted in a private space. One commissioner noted that eventually they moved location to continue the session.

DMH leadership reported that family therapy sessions are happening minimally at the facility, and it was estimated that approximately 5% of youth in the facility have family therapy sessions. DMH reported that family therapy could help many youth in the facility and would like to considerably increase the number of youth that receive family therapy sessions. There was no clear plan shared to do so, but the plan to increase the number of clinicians was identified as a step in reaching that goal. DMH shared that there are various resources that could also be used to facilitate more family engagement, such as the use of tablets, offering transportation, or gas vouchers, but at the current time, there were no shareable plans.

There are designated DMH staff to provide crisis mental health intervention within the facility which is called the "Mental Health Officer of the Day" however it was recognized by DMH leadership that best practice would be to have the assigned unit clinician assist a young person in the mental health crisis if needed. The difficulty in accomplishing this is that it was noted on various units that all mental health clinicians do not spend their entire shift on their assigned units. On these units, there were complaints about the lack of DMH presence and partnership. Some clinicians were reported to spend the majority of their day on the assigned unit, and it was reported by youth and Probation officers that the resulting relationships and rapport built was excellent due to clinician accessibility. During interviews, Probation officers showed familiarity with both medical and mental health referral processes and supporting youth to ask for help from co-located partners. As of January 2024, DMH initiated a partnership process where the DMH supervisor and the Probation director of each unit meet with one another regularly to collaborate discuss various partnership issues, lifting up any issues that need to be resolved between the two departments in order to serve youth.

Since the previous inspection of LPJH, JCHS was able to move the last of the medical equipment that was kept at Central Medical Hub to LPJH, including an operational X-ray machine and four Pixus machines for automated medication disbursal. This consolidation is an improvement from last year's inspections because having the machine at the facility should cut down on the wait time for getting youth medical attention and will result in fewer cancelled appointments. It was reported that since the equipment was moved, youth now only leave LPJH for external appointments with specialists. One nurse was observed providing triage to a youth in their living unit and shared that triage on the units is only being done occasionally, and generally youth have to be brought to the medical unit for triage. Nurses typically visit the units for teaching and counseling. At the June 15, 2023, Pre-Inspection of LPJH, plans were reported for Unit J, a small walled off unit positioned close to the administrative building, would eventually be used as a medical unit due to limited space for JCHS. It was reported during this inspection that Unit A is now in use as medical and is preferred to Unit J because it is closer to the other medical area and considered by staff to be "nicer".

JCHS related that while they view Probation's staffing as improved, concerns still persist due to instances of delayed transportation to the Emergency Room and some issues getting youth to specialty appointments. JCHS staff also reflected serious concerns about youth getting injured in fights caused by the overall lack of supervision occurring throughout the facility.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The LPJH Programs and Services monthly calendar was provided ahead of the inspection and confirmed to be the most current updated schedule on the day of the inspection. It was observed that there was no scheduled programming for unit X1 for that day. The calendar provided for the inspection showed 17 instances of units having no scheduled programming daily per week. For the month of June 2024, this would result in 72 instances during the month that a unit would have no programming for the day.

During the inspection, POC Commissioners and staff took the opportunity to audit programming that was occurring. On one of the boys' units, ARC showed up approximately one hour later than scheduled. The program facilitator noted that they are at the facility at the scheduled time, but usually spend the first hour in the office doing paperwork and emails. The scheduled program was successfully conducted but should be reflected appropriately in the programming schedule. The topic of the credible messenger's program was emotion regulation. Worksheets were provided explaining what emotion regulation was, posing questions about how youth view their emotions, emotional triggers, relationship with emotions, etc. The youth were engaged in the discussion and answered the questions. At one point the ARC credible messenger mentioned advocating for one of the youth by speaking to their lawyer, an example of how a provider can do more than just provide programming.

In the girls' unit, a commissioner observed that a credible messenger was not interacting with the youth but rather was sitting with a Probation officer. At the same time, multiple girls in the unit were observed in apparent need of de-escalation support while they were banging at the windows and yelling threats to other girls outside during their recreation time.

On one unit, students reported that OSHA program came in earlier in the morning (this program was not listed on the schedule) and that they enjoy that program and are looking forward to getting certified. Students reported that the Student Nest program did not come in (scheduled 9-12 on the calendar) because they were on break from college, however staff reported that they did come in for a very short time and then left. It remained unclear which was correct, and if so, what service was provided during any brief visit.

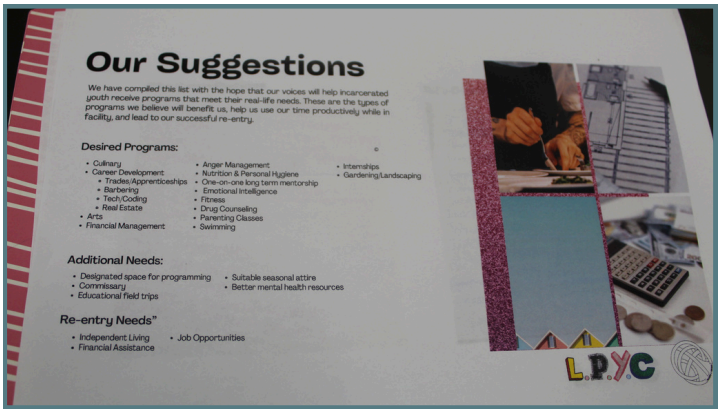
Three programs listed on the calendar for the afternoon named "Mobile Library" and "Library" were new to commissioners. POC Commissioners and staff attempted to observe these programs to learn what they were. Officers and youth confirmed that the only library received was during the school day, through LACOE. There was no afternoon programming connected to the library known to the units. Upon visiting the units with Mobile Library, on one unit neither the youth nor the staff had any idea what Mobile Library programming was. The officers of the other unit with the Mobile Library scheduled said that during this time, youth were invited to pick a book off of a cart. The officers clarified that youth were always welcomed to grab a book regardless of Mobile Library programming. Commissioners remarked that essentially, these three units also received no programming on this day. Commissioners noted significant concern about Probation-led programming scheduled to occur in the evening as potential placeholders rather than real activities.

Youth observed in units N/O seemed particularly restless. Youth were observed lifting trash bags filled with water to work out and various others paced around those watching various televisions and seated at tables in the dayroom. All youth interviewed in that unit reported that recreation was happening inconsistently. Youth complained that options during recreation were limited, and that the only activity was basketball. If youth were interested in soccer or some other sport, balls were not available to youth and/or staff weren't willing to have kids play on the grass.

The youth on most units reported having recreation time outside every day, though in some units youth reported that recreation time outside was often shortened to less than an hour without explanation. Youth from at least two units reported not getting to go outside for recreation each day. Probation officers interviewed on those units reported that recreation time is usually offered.

One group of boys was observed playing flag football. The staff were incredibly engaged and seen warming up with the kids and coaching plays.







HARM PREVENTION PROGRAMMING AND INTERVENTIONS

Interviews with Probation officers and youth indicated that contraband continues to be an issue at the facility despite efforts to increase searches and security. Reports indicated that contraband issues are uneven across the living units. A JCHS nurse reported that tightened security has led to fewer overdoses and fewer youth appearing intoxicated in the last several months. It was shared anecdotally throughout the day by officers, co-located providers and youth that contraband items such as vape pens and chargers are the more common contraband items related to illicit substances.

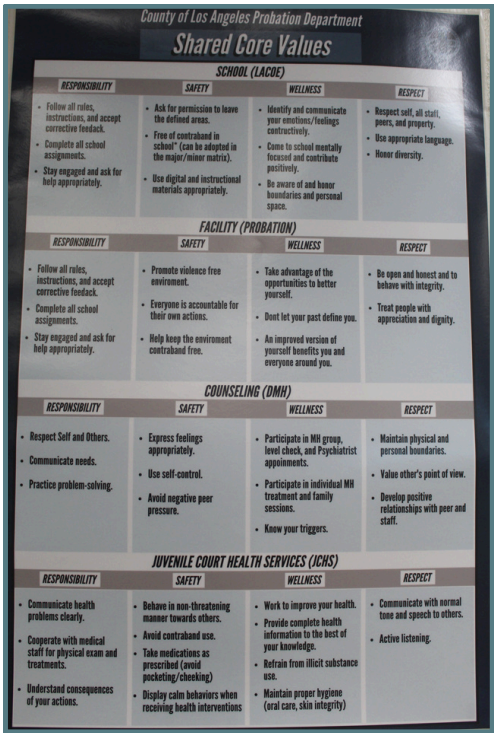
It was reported by facility leadership that since the last formal inspection in October 2023, three doses of Narcan, a life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication, were deployed in two incidents. Narcan was seen in each living unit and in areas of the facility that youth access. During the inspection, five of the 12 Probation officers asked about Narcan carried it on their person. Most officers indicated that the nearest Narcan supply was available in the lock box with the unit defibrillator or in a locked office. Youth at LPJH do not have access to Narcan, have not been trained to deploy Narcan, nor receive education to recognize signs of opioid intoxication or overdose. Substance abuse providers reported that they have asked Probation multiple times to outline a process that would allow them to be able to carry Narcan in the facility as a safety precaution, since they are trained professionals who could readily identify opioid intoxication. It was reported that attempts to initiate that discussion with Probation leadership were ignored.

Both DMH and community-based organizations facilitate individual and group programming for substance abuse prevention. On the monthly programming calendar provided for the inspection, DMH continued to facilitate Seeking Safety on a limited number of units, which is an evidence-based program that addresses symptoms of post traumatic stress including substance abuse. At the inspection, it was reported that DMH now makes referrals to DPH-SAPC's contracted provider for substance abuse services. DMH psychiatrists and JCHS pediatricians at the facility have the ability to prescribe medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction. POC asked for information regarding how many, if any, youth in the facility were currently prescribed MAT, but it was reported by JCHS that the information could not be determined because "some are prescribed by DMH", meaning that no youth in the facility were currently receiving MAT derived from a JCHS prescription.

Cut down equipment was observed in all living units which is found in the centralized Probation office on each unit. There is a defibrillator in every living unit.

AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

Ample improvement in departmental and professional relationships were reported in this inspection in comparison to the previous Annual Inspection of LPJH. DMH reported that the previous leadership upended communication in summer 2023 which disrupted partnership and any planning efforts. It was reported that significant improvements were being put in place since December 2023 at which time Probation re-opened communication at the leadership level. It was shared by DMH leadership and clinicians that they felt that collaboration was improving since the DMH supervisors were meeting weekly with Probation Directors assigned to corresponding units to consider coordinated interventions to deliver to youth on those units. LACOE reported that communication was also improved with Probation in the same timeframe. Two facility directors who function as the school liaisons



were praised by LACOE due to their ongoing efforts to building respectful and positive relationships with kids. JCHS staff noted that relationships with Probation had improved over the past year with improved communications, tightened security, and improved frequency and reliability of transportation to outside appointments, although noting that staffing still has some impact on transportation.

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

LPJH reopened in July 2023 with a pledge from Probation Chief Viera Rosa that oleoresin capsicum spray ("OC spray" or "pepper spray") would not be introduced at the facility. Just weeks after the reopening and a major disturbance, OC spray was made available as a use of force option for all units and populations within the facility. This included the use of spray on units housing girls, gender expansive youth, those with documented histories of commercial sexual exploitation and youth formally diagnosed with developmental disabilities, despite the 2022 Board Motion requiring termination of the use of OC spray in those units.[9] Facility leadership and officers interviewed throughout the day reported that there was no known plan to phase out or eliminate the spray or to implement strategies to reduce the use or prevent the need for OC spray. Officers reported that OC spray was a critical intervention tool needed to operate given the current staff to youth ratios.

One youth who had been in LPJH for approximately three weeks explained how he and many others were affected by pepper spray when a fight broke out recently in the dayroom. He reported that, as usual, all youth were in the dayroom when two youth began fighting and the one officer supervising the day room tried to intervene but quickly ended up giving the OC warning and deploying spray. The youth reported that the officer did two bursts of spray but that when the youth did not stop fighting that "he sprayed it again and again". The youth reported that the spray affected many of the 20-plus youth in the dayroom that were not involved in the fight, including himself. He described a chaotic scene, with youth trying to get out of the dayroom and away from the spray, "We were all running and coughing, and our eyes were burning." He said that the frequency of the use of spray was a factor in his opinion that "it's horrible here" and pointed out an orange mark on the wall that he said was a remnant of another incident of OC spray use. The youth repeatedly looked around and over his shoulder while telling his story and continuously vowed to do whatever was necessary to get out and stay away from LPJH in the future.

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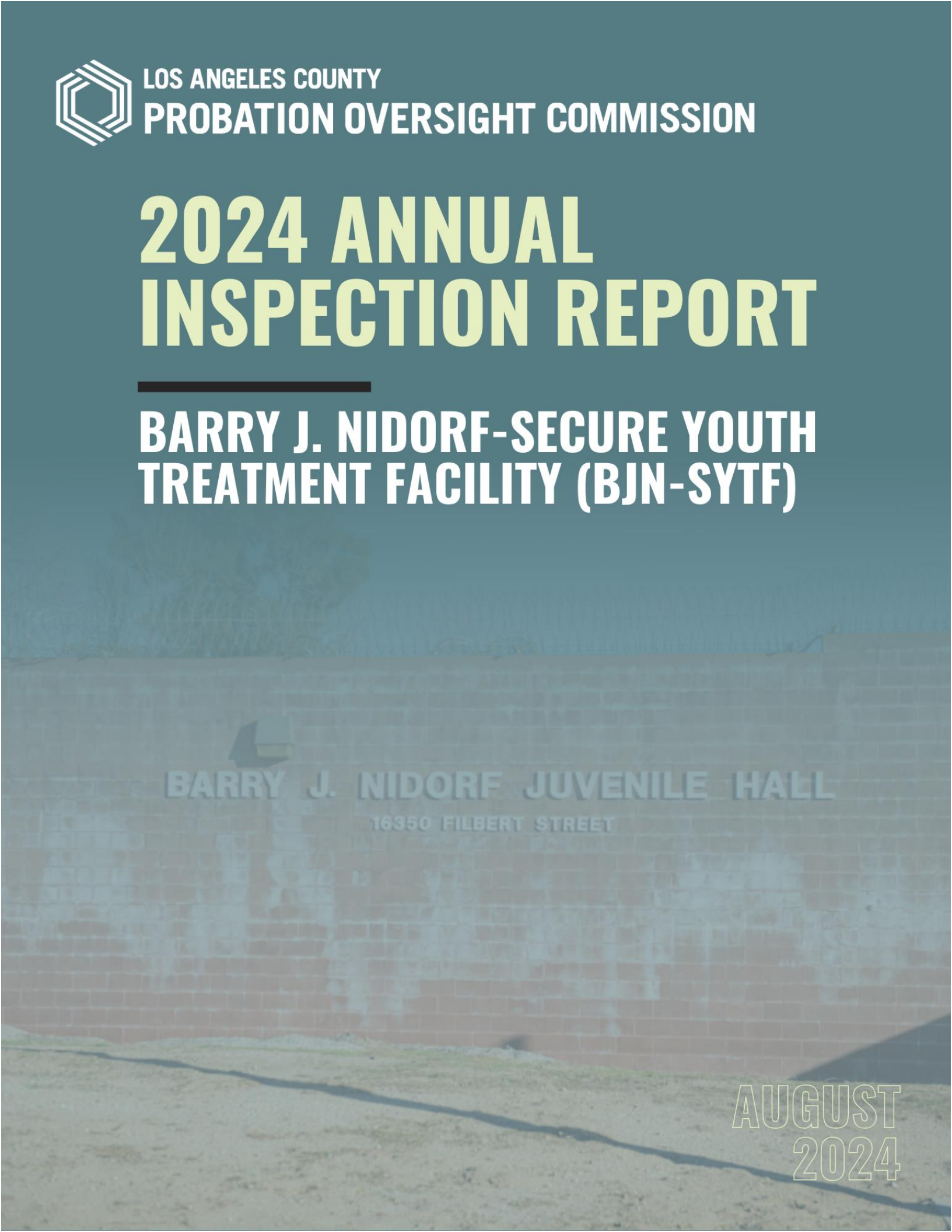


[9] Phase Out of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray at Central Juvenile Hall

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

BARRY J. NIDORF-SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY (BJN-SYTF)



AUGUST 2024

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC), in its mission to oversee and make recommendations to the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation), is completing the 2024 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fourth year of inspections.

The POC has found it of critical importance to provide substantial feedback to Probation, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and public stakeholders after each inspection of the conditions observed within the facilities. This summary presents the findings of the fourth inspection during this annual cycle: Barry J. Nidorf-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN-SYTF). Significant changes occurred at BJN-SYTF in July 2023 when the facility ceased operations as a juvenile hall and took on the sole function of being a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

While the POC collected a large amount of information at this inspection, takeaways were derived from the most impactful observations and interviews made during the day. The following list represents key findings from the inspection of BJN-SYTF:

- ***Trauma-Informed Intentional Language that Aligned with Actions*** – Throughout the inspection, discussions with Directors and Probation officers providing supervision exemplified increased understanding of youth development, including the devastating effects of trauma and incarceration, poverty, and poor mental health as these issues relate to the behaviors of youth. This understanding informed interactions and programming coordinated for youth with positive results.
- ***Remarkable Improvements in Programs and Services*** – Many of the issues with programming noted in the previous years' Annual Inspection reports were resolved, including increased accuracy in the schedule, diversified substance abuse programming offerings, targeted age-appropriate services, and availability of vocational training programs.
- ***Developmental Stage System (DSS) Adoption and Outcomes*** – The connection between the adoption of DSS, a requirement of the Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement, at BJN-SYTF and a unified, countywide approach to practice or discipline in detention remains unclear. The Department has not shared what data will be gathered to determine the success or failure of the system to achieve any expected outcomes for youth.
- ***Increased and Improved Communication with most Co-Located Partners*** – More positive rapport was clearly established from the previous year between Probation and co-located service providers including Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS), Department of Youth Development's (DYD) contracted credible messengers, and Department of Public Health- Substance Abuse Prevention and Control's (DPH-SAPC) contracted substance abuse counseling provider. The sole exception was relations with Department of Mental Health (DMH) at the facility leadership level, which has reportedly worsened over the last two years.

The POC continues to observe significant improvements in programming and the overall leadership culture at BJN-SYTF in which young people and directors clearly have pre-established relationships based upon positive rapport and mutual respect. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement which is applicable at this facility and has been echoed in other inspection reports: the current departmental plan for improving facility culture relies heavily on the behavior of young people and is significantly less focused on the practices and behaviors of Probation employees. A department-wide adoption of practice standards needed to provide clear guidance and make expectations of youth-centered, rehabilitative, trauma-responsive, and teamwork-focused approach clear using a top-down approach. Until there is a unified goal around what practice should look like, outcomes will continue to rely on the individual choices and behaviors of officers, rather than an intentionally cultivated culture of care.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) was established in 2021 as a civilian-led oversight commission focused on systemic reform of the Probation Department. The POC advises the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) about progress and challenges within Probation. The POC has considerable authority and responsibilities directly related to juvenile institutions. Specifically, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1313 (f), requires the POC to conduct annual inspections of the buildings, grounds, and services delivered to the young people detained in each of the County's juvenile facilities on an annual basis. The Board also granted the POC specific authority to "as permitted by law…conduct unannounced inspections of any facility, and its non-confidential records, where any juvenile probationer can be held or where probationers receive services and "prepare reports on inspection findings" for the Board (LACC Sections 3.80.040(B) and 3.80.050(A)). The POC submits these annual reports to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), a statutory agency that inspects for compliance of standards of detention facilities in California, by December 31st each year and shares the report with the Board and the public. This is the fourth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

METHODS

At the beginning of the 2024 Annual Inspection cycle, Probation ran six juvenile facilities: one juvenile detention center ("Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall"), three juvenile camps, one locked placement that also serves as the camp and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) for girls and gender-expansive youth, and two facilities solely dedicated to housing young people dispositioned to SYTF, including Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF (BJN-SYTF) and Campus Kilpatrick.

For the BJN-SYTF Inspection:

- Three POC Commissioners conducted the inspection and three POC staff members provided support.
- Dates for the inspection was coordinated with Probation leadership and leaders from the facility as well as co-located partners were aware in advance of the inspection.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report. The POC developed a detailed facility inspection template that was updated this year and reviewed by Probation and the BSCC.
- Within the inspections template, key themes are included to ensure a thorough inspection of both physical structure and environment. The template also highlights the need to examine practices and the treatment of youth at the facility.
- The BJN-SYTF inspection took eight hours to complete.

The information below depicts data gathered directly from the BJN-SYTF inspection. It should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" of information recorded only to the day of the inspection. The data collected about the "facility's rated capacity," "population" and "staffing" was provided to the POC staff directly by facility Directors; each of these numbers was directly stated in this report. The only two numbers which required calculation in this report were the "Staff to Youth Ratio" and the "Number of Graduates." Staff to Youth ratio is calculated by dividing the number of total staff at the time of inspection by the total youth population. For clarification, these ratios do not reflect the actual staff to youth ratios per shift, but rather a broad staff to youth ratio for each facility. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

FINDINGS

Inspection #4 – Barry J. Nidorf-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN-SYTF):
Facility Rated Capacity: 414

Youth Population (Physical) – Co-Ed.	Youth at Court/ Medical	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff [1] (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Staff at time of Inspection / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Line staff on Duty at time of inspection	Total Permanently Assigned Teachers (LACOE)	Number of High School Students	Number of High School Graduates
65	1	176	154	1:1	69	4	25	40

[1] Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **24hr coverage; 3 shifts**
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: 7**:00 AM – 6:30 PM** ***plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist***

Facility and Physical Environment

Upon arrival to the Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility, (BJN-SYTF), there were two security guards outside the facility and one inside facilitating bag searches and entrance for providers and Probation Oversight Commission (POC) Commissioners and staff. The security officers reminded visitors about the cell phone ban and other non-allowed items including metallic water bottles. POC Commissioners and staff members loaded all belongings in the black bins, which were x-rayed by another set of security guards inside the facility entrance. To enter the facility, one commissioner and one POC staff member were instructed by Probation's security staff to turn in their County issued identification cards and were provided visitor passes. It was noted by Commissioners that other Commissioners and staff were not required to take this step to enter. No explanation was given for the difference.

Facility grounds appeared aged but well-kept. Large grass fields were cut and maintained. These areas are used daily for outdoor recreation programs. Since the 2023 Annual Inspection, a section of the field bordering a wall was fenced off to be used exclusively as a dog park for the animals placed in the step-down units as part of the Paws for Life program. The dog park area included a large chest for storing dog care and training supplies. Youth were observed with their dogs using the area during the day of the inspection as it allowed the animals an open space to run and play without using a leash.

The living areas inside the units all looked fairly similar with rubber seating, bolted down metal tables with attached stools, and multiple televisions with gaming systems. All units appeared clean, and all equipment appeared to be in working order. Any graffiti in and around the entrances of the units was minimal and looked old, the majority of which appeared to be etched in and unremovable. The units visited appeared to have dim lighting, with at least two to three Probation officers on the floor, and about two to three Probation supervisors/seniors inside the office. Two buildings were closed for homelike renovations, which were observed to include ripping out modern, recently installed laminate wood floors to be replaced with colorful tiles reminiscent of a hospital setting. Commissioners were told by Probation staff that this was because the Department of Justice (DOJ) monitor did not approve of the prior improvements. Since the last annual inspection, the razor wire previously seen near the majority of living units had been replaced by roller bars.

During the building observations it was noted that plans were underway to move Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classrooms from their current location near

the buildings referred to as “The Compound” due to their high security look of being surrounded by chain link, to the “North School”, near the units on the northern side of the facility. Commissioners visited the North School which was being remodeled. The remodel includes an area that will ultimately be used for a teen tech and music production center, which was planned to launch in November 2024. Probation was excited to show the progress on construction in one of the units. The goal was to create a home-like environment which included new flooring that resembled what you would see in any new home development. It was reported that carpet would also be installed soon.

Throughout the facility, posters providing young people with information about their rights were mostly easily accessible, viewable at eye-level, or present in a variety of spaces utilized by youth throughout their day. This included posters for Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Grievances, Youth Bill of Rights and Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson posters. LACOE classrooms in use and the gymnasium did not have posters. The school principal reported that posters were frequently torn down by the young people or taken down by Probation Officers for security reasons. It was shared that on various occasions contraband was found hidden behind the posters and as a result, posters were usually needing to be replaced every two weeks. The principal shared that the new classrooms in the North School, which was under construction with no instruction occurring currently, did have all the posters up in preparation for opening.

Kitchen and Food

The kitchen appeared clean, spacious, and orderly. POC Commissioners and staff were instructed to wear hairnets in order to maintain a hygienic environment. During the inspection of the kitchen, it was noted that all equipment was in good working order and the kitchen staff reported being sufficiently staffed. The recurrent menu comes from a Probation dietician. Menus were seen posted and all meals included vegetables and fruits at each mealtime. It was mentioned that the young people were recently surveyed about food, and the kitchen staff reported regularly tasting the food to ensure high quality and appealing flavors in what is served. Commissioners observed young people eating lunch, which was comprised of a beef burrito, which was the same lunch offering that was served to all employees for young people with dietary restrictions, the alternatives offered included a veggie burrito. All meals took place in the living areas of the units.

School

Two LACOE classrooms and one college classroom were observed during the inspection. LACOE classrooms were described in a range of conditions by commissioners. One classroom visited was described by a Commissioner as clean and orderly, while another was described as “tragic, dim, and outdated” with minimal classwork displayed which was not produced by any of the students actually in the class.

The LACOE classrooms observed were in the summer session, one of which was an English class where six students sat in the room with the lights off while watching a recording of a Rams football game. The environment was quiet and calm, though students did not appear to be engaged in learning.

In one LACOE classroom there were four young people with one LACOE substitute teacher and one Probation Officer. The young people had just returned from the college/career fair. One young person was observed working on class work, the other three were just sitting down, not engaging with any class materials. The educator explained that the class was mainly science, but this was not the only subject being worked on in the classroom as different young people were working on different subjects. The classroom had some of the young people's class work hanging on the wall. Overall, there didn't seem to be academic learning taking place during the observation of this classroom.

The college classrooms were starkly contrasted to LACOE classrooms; they were well lit, spacious, and pleasantly decorated. There were graduation pictures, certificates of completion, and college banners on the wall as well as a poster recognizing two students who had made the Mission College Dean's list. The day of the inspection was the first week of a new semester for a math class, which was conducted virtually "live" via Zoom with students from Campus Kilpatrick. This was a two-hour class with five students supervised by three Probation officers. It was reported that this class was offered three times a week, and the Mission College counselor was available for course planning. The teacher was orienting the students to the class and appeared to be very successful in engaging young people into the class. He was sharing stories, was personable (e.g., "Here's how you can contact me if you have questions"), and affirming (e.g., "Feel free to correct me if you notice I made a mistake"). A couple of the students looked a little bored, but all appeared to be paying attention as much as any other college student. A Probation education services staff member was also in the classroom offering technical and educational support to the young men.

On the day of the inspection, a College and Career fair occurred in the gymnasium co-planned and facilitated by Probation Education Services and LACOE. The organizers of the event were happy to point out each other's contributions and the general atmosphere with the youth was encouraging and pleasant, with everyone appearing happy to be there. Tables included automotive, marines, construction, project rebound, hospitality, and vocational program provider at the facility. The principal referred to the event as a "soft launch" to see how the young people responded, and then a larger more official fair would be planned for the fall. Young people were seen taking turns visiting the fairs in groups and they were walking around to the different tables, asking questions, and indicating interest in the offerings.

Grievances

During the inspection, POC was informed that electronic grievances were no longer collected at BJN-SYTF nor any other facility, as the GMS interface was no longer functional effective July 5, 2024. Since grievances were now submitted only on paper, all grievances were being scanned and stored in Microsoft Teams, which is a cloud-based software platform, and August 2024. Commissioners noted that there were approximately 95 grievances (based on a hand count) written by same young person in the month of July. Leadership reported that they spoke with this young person extensively to resolve these grievances and address his underlying issues and concerns. Leadership also described a conversation in which it was explained to the young person that while they are free to write grievances, false or embellished grievances take up time and other resources that could otherwise be spent improving conditions in the facility. It was reported and observed that grievances from this youth drastically decreased in the following month.

One Commissioner noted that most grievances reviewed were related to phones being shut off during programming periods. In these grievances, the young people described being upset as they adjusted to the new change. One grievance alleged physical abuse from a Probation Officer. This grievance did not appear to have any documentation about the incident, nor was there indication of meaningful follow-up, however it was still within the three-day review period. A commissioner inquired about this grievance, and facility leadership provided additional information, including discussing their review of video of the incident. The commissioner was also given an opportunity to speak with the young person who authored the grievance. It was noted that this grievance was not yet closed, thus additional documentation needed to be completed and attached. The commissioner was ensured by facility leadership that this grievance would be further examined. The commissioner noted that there were other grievances about this same Probation officer, which appeared to have been adequately addressed and resolved.

A commissioner noted review of a PREA related grievance that alleged a Probation officer made a young person uncomfortable when showering. The documentation said that young people in the unit were interviewed, and the investigation showed that the grievance appeared to be retaliatory against the officer. Staff who oversee the grievance process at BJN-SYTF explained that the PREA unit reviewed video footage and confirmed that the accused Probation officer was not working in the unit when the young people showered. The investigation happened within a three-day period, but the grievance remained open because Probation hadn't received an official closure letter needed to resolve the grievance.

Another grievance documented a young person's complaints of sustained breathing issues two days after experiencing a deployment of OC spray. The young person was referred to Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) for treatment and it was documented that the youth was issued medication to improve his condition and breathing. Other grievances reviewed included issues related to unfair school suspensions, collective

punishment, unfair treatment by a supervisor, request for new bedding, clothing-related requests, disputes around losing points for behavior, haircuts, programming, and change of Probation officer.

Grievance response rates ranged from one day up to one month for review, though they are meant to be resolved within three business days per policy. When the review period was exceeded, in a number of instances, email communication documented this as an issue (e.g., "We need a response on this because we are out of the appropriate response period"). One Commissioner explained that of twelve grievances reviewed, five were granted, four denied (e.g., youth wanted a bigger size of clothing and Probation felt they were too big for him), two remained in progress; and one was a mixed outcome, where part of the request was granted, and the other part denied.

It was observed that grievance procedures were scarcely posted throughout the facility, but young people explained in interviews that they knew how to file grievances and felt that the process was useful. One youth shared that he had filed grievances and they resulted in immediate action and resolution to his satisfaction.

Discipline and Positive Behavior Reinforcement

It was reported that in July 2024, BJN-SYTF launched a "task-oriented system" called Developmental Stage System (DSS)[2] as an alternative to Behavior Management Program (BMP), the formerly utilized positive behavior reinforcement program. It was reported that the model utilizes a series of eight stages which build upon each other to encourage prosocial behaviors and skill development, which also enable the "purchase" of material incentives that can be purchased with earned points at the canteen and earn youth intangible incentives such as becoming a unit ambassador, moving to the step-down unit, or being transferred to Campus Kilpatrick, where the DSS initially launched. It was reported that the program was changed in some ways from the way that it was planned and executed for Campus Kilpatrick where it was expected for youth to spend less time than they would likely spend at BJN-SYTF. A core function of the system included and interactive journaling process. It was unclear if the program in any of its iterations was evidence based or had documented success without full implementation of its corresponding model, the Positive Youth Justice Model[3], in other jurisdictions prior to its adoption.

It was reported that all youth and Probation officers received orientation to DSS twice during the roll out to encourage understanding. One officer who received DBT, DSS, and LA Model training previously reflected that they thought all the training was "good, but all staff need to buy into it to reinforce what the youth are learning."

[2] Following the receipt of this report, BJN-SYTF staff provided information clarifying that DSS is a mandate of the DOJ Settlement Agreement which has been in development for use within Probation's facilities since 2019. It was also shared that DSS was developed at Campus Kilpatrick prior to its SYTF designation as part of the LA Model since it was meant to be used in a small group, collaborative, and community-based service delivery model. It was reported that at BJN-SYTF, this model has integrated Credible Messengers and contracted Substance Abuse Service providers.
[3] Positive Youth Justice Model Handbook

It was unknown how Probation was planning to gather or share outcome data regarding the effectiveness of the system. There were no reported plans to fully implement the LA Model at BJN-SYTF, though leadership reported that on goal would be to have a small group model in the future with no more than five youth in any one unit, and no more than 10 youth in a building.

Access to Medical and Mental Health Care

Upon arrival to the medical unit, there was no JCHS supervisor present at the facility, so Probation leadership provided a tour of the newly refurbished unit. At the time of inspection, there were no young people housed nor present in the medical unit. It was reported by Probation that the dental office was functional and that spaces for x-ray and optometry services were currently being worked on and would be functional soon. POC staff and commissioners were informed that a JCHS supervisor was in route to the facility after requesting to speak to them, and it remained unknown whether the absence of a JCHS supervisor was a common occurrence at the facility. JCHS scheduled hours were reported to have 3 shifts with a doctor on-site Mondays and Wednesdays. The BJN-SYTF medical team also had access to consult with Los Padrinos physicians on Tuesdays and Thursdays and have doctor on call after hours for additional consultation.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) leadership at the facility reported that their staffing was comprised of seven clinicians and three case managers. They reported that in order to increase the continuity of care since youth move through housing assignments within the facility, DMH no longer assigned clinicians to specific units. Clinicians are assigned a caseload and are expected to visit their clients wherever the youth is assigned. It was reported that clinicians are assigned to provide Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) groups in 16 week-cycles on specific units, which was rolled out in the weeks leading up to the inspection. Eventually the DBT groups were planned to expand to all units. It was reported that all other group psychotherapy services, including anger management, coping skills, mindfulness and other trauma focused groups had been put on pause until DBT groups are solidly established. There was no anticipated timeline shared for other services to resume. DMH leadership reported that they are leading the DBT groups with Credible messengers as co-facilitators, which was seen as a positive addition to the services by DMH. It was reported that Probation's participation and training in the DBT process was limited.

DMH reported that they participate in crisis intervention at the facilities by assigning a DMH officer of the day who calls the assigned clinician to respond to their assigned clients whenever possible. DMH also reported participation in Probation's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), which is meant to exclusively provide verbal de-escalation during crises, however multiple reports from Probation conflicted with that report and it was repeatedly stated that DMH does not participate in the CIT or respond to crises in the facility but rather waits until after the youth is stable to speak with them.

DMH indicated that while family therapy is offered at BJN-SYTF, there were barriers to successfully conducting services because they would need to take place on a HIPAA compliant device and those have been made unavailable at the facility due to the ban on smart devices that are capable of carrying the appropriate software. It was also emphasized that "Youth sometimes want to do it and sometimes they don't. Only a few are happening". Creative solutions to engaging clients into family therapy processes or chosen support network were not offered at the time of the inspection. It was reported by Probation that six youth are participating in baby bonding programming and that others are fathers but not able or permitted to visit with their children.

Agency Relationships

JCHS indicated that there were improvements in youth's attendance at appointments, which they credited largely to helpful changes in Probation's operations including advanced preparation of the young people, transportation improvements, and collaborative actions from facility leadership. It was reported that these changes influenced the development of "great communication" between JCHS and Probation over the last year.

Description of the relationship between Probation and DMH varied widely. DMH reported communication improvements with some continued room for improvement over the last year, but that sentiment was not shared by multiple Probation staff who indicated lapses in communication, including non-responsiveness and a perceived lack of transparency from DMH leadership. DMH shared that their clinicians have been consistent and that they are facilitating regular programs, while Probation shared concerns about programming cancellations, use of placeholders on the programming schedule, and limited DMH program offerings over the last year[4]. Probation employees interacting with DMH leadership at the facility expressed that professional relationships had deteriorated over the last two years, particularly when Probation began asking for more accountability from DMH in tracking and scheduling services.

DMH noted that as safety improved at the facility since the facility transitioned and stabilized housing only youth dispositioned to SYTF, there has been a sense that "everyone feels more comfortable" which allows clinicians to do their work with less disruption. DMH shared that Probation appeared to be more open to DBT groups and trauma-informed care in the last year. DMH reported: "We've always had great relationships with line staff," which was validated by numerous Probation officers. Other Probation officers did express a desire to see DMH clinicians spend more time in the units, because they saw the clinician as a helpful presence. It was reported that clinicians facilitating groups checked in with Probation officers in the unit to gain understanding of the tone of the unit and any potential tensions they should be aware of before starting. DMH staff noted that they have regular contact with Probation's officer of the day, who

[4] POC audits of programming at BJN-SYTF that occurred since the last Annual Inspection also found that group psychotherapy services to be provided by DMH were not occurring as scheduled according to Probation, DMH clinician, and youth reports.

lets them know of any updates with youth including movements, behavior issues with their assigned clients, and more.

Since the last inspection of BJN-SYTF, a contractor through the Department of Public Health-Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) had ramped up services to provide individual and group substance abuse services to all of the units in the facility. This was a change from the previous inspection where this was a shared task with DMH. During interviews held throughout the day, young people, Probation officers, and Probation leadership alike expressed satisfaction with the change, increased presence on the units, and regularity of the services which helped to build rapport and relationships. There were some concerns expressed by Probation officers doubting the usefulness of substance abuse services overall, but this appeared to have little to do with the specific provider but rather a personally held opinion regarding young people who use drugs and cynicism about change.

There was report from LACOE that in the last several months prior to the inspection, there were lapses in communication and a slowing of progress around shared projects, including the planning and progress toward re-opening and move to the North School. LACOE attributed the slow down to abrupt changes in Probation leadership overseeing the facility. Multiple expressions were made by LACOE toward wanting increased understanding and knowledge of Probation's future plans and desire to be a helpful partner.

Staffing

Remarkable improvements have been noted at BJN-SYTF, with intentional approaches that began prior to the 2023 Inspection and were noted in that report[5]. It was noted throughout the day in various interviews with facility leadership and multiple Probation officers working in the units that there was a science-backed, human development-focused understanding of the youth dispositioned to BJN-SYTF. Most Probation interviewees demonstrated some understanding of the effects of trauma on youth behavior and how that connects to the need for meaningful connections with trustworthy adults.

Many of the professionals at the facility called the youth "the kids" and made statements regarding their understanding that many of the youth may have an adult chronological age but missed critical childhood experiences that prevented expected maturation. Many facility employees interviewed assessed that spending multiple years in detention at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall had primarily impeded prosocial development in many of the youth, which was a core goal addressed with a high level of success at BJN-SYTF. There was a sense of professional pride expressed by officers in the way that they have been able to cultivate more safety at the facility through listening, consistently addressing youth needs, and using positive rapport coupled with verbal de-escalation tactics.

[5] Probation Oversight Commission Annual Inspections: Campus Vernon Kilpatrick, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, and Camp Glenn Rockey

Notably absent from interviews were oft heard narratives that blame youth for facility culture or confuses the need for accountability with a desire to inflict punishment. Statements were also made throughout the day by various professionals in the facility who took pride their cultivation of a managed, safer environment and lamented the chaos of the juvenile hall while reflecting that “These are the very same kids.” Numerous officers and other professionals in the facility regularly talked about youth in ways that highlighted how redeemable they were, praised those youth that had even small successes, and there was repeated emphasis on accountability and forgiveness when problems arise.

Facility leadership shared a strategy currently in place to continue their improvement in service delivery which included a “Leadership Self-Assessment”, where leadership shares their progress/highlights, and outstanding issues are discussed.

It was shared that much of the positive turnaround in the facility relates to the idea that professional culture creates safety, and “employees don’t come to work when it is unsafe”, but everyone wants to come (to work) here”. Facility leadership shared that employee morale depended on employees being able to see career paths within Probation and knowing that they were succeeding in their work as they observe positive behavior change in youth through the course of the program at BJN-SYTF. It was shared proudly that some deployed staff did not want to go back to their original assignment and wanted to remain at BJN-SYTF permanently.

When speaking with the young people, one young person shared that they were “happy with programs, staff are cool, and there is no reason for grievances.” Young people throughout the day expressed general dissatisfaction with being detained and some statements were made indicating continued opportunity for improvement including, “Some staff are disrespectful and will do things to agitate you, but others will try to help calm you down when you’re upset.” Various youth interviewed throughout the day had some positive things to say about Directors and various officers that directly supervise them in the living units. One youth reported, “I feel safe. Staff does what they need to do here. They listen and help you cope. This is better than LP [Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall].” One youth was observed referring to a Director as “Aunty” and youth were observed interacting with officers and directors alike with established positive rapport, with head nods, handshakes, asking for follow up on earlier discussions respectfully, and sometimes just saying “What’s up?”.

Room Confinement

BJN-SYTF has a HOPE Center located in Unit Q which can serve as a permanent housing assignment and a short term cool down space. On the day of the inspection, no young people were observed in any cells in any living unit under room confinement and no one was in the Hope Center.

Programming

Positive changes were observed in the planning, management, and quality of programming at BJN-SYTF since the prior inspection. Having a dedicated programming director at the facility has assisted with providing the young people with programming they want and coordinating events with co-located partners, including working with LACOE to host an Olympics event, and the College Fair observed on the day of the inspection. The programming director shared a planned strategy to encourage young people to participate in vital, albeit less popular, CORE programming, such as Substance Abuse and Seeking Safety, by linking it to Plus programming, which includes more popular music and sports programs that youth actively seek out. The plan included empowering youth to select programming they could commit to for a certain number of months almost replicating selection of classes for a semester of college. This individualized programming plan was reported with an expected launch date of November 2024.

The calendar was full and organized, indicating that programming occurred on every unit every day. The calendar also showed weekly availability of Protestant and Catholic chapel services and bible studies. Vocational programs were also available, which was also confirmed by young people. Probation officers and young people talked about there being an abundance of programs offered, and some of the favorites of young people included Jail Guitar Doors and Give a Beat which focus on music and writing, and Paws for Life which brings two dogs at a time to be cared for and trained in the step-down units before adoption. In contrast to previous years, there were programs offered weekly that specifically catering to young adults only, including “Criminal Gang Anonymous” which is a twelve-step program, and “Victim Impact”. It was reported that previous issues with calendar inaccuracies were resolved in large part by increasing the number of Substance Abuse services provided by the DPH-SAPC contracted provider and incorporating Department of Youth Development (DYD) contracted credible messengers to deliver Seeking Safety.

POC staff and commissioners observed and verified that scheduled programming occurred throughout the day, including a DMH Life Skills group, Seeking Safety, and art programs taking place in the morning for high school graduates. A Commissioner attempted to observe Healing Circle programming in the afternoon and noted that the Healing Circles provider was unable to get in due to miscommunication around their clearance. It was also observed that the scheduled afternoon session of Seeking Safety was delayed significantly because the young people were taken to the pool despite the schedule. Credible messengers expressed flexibility around the change.

All units at BJN-SYTF have access to credible messengers from two different agencies through DYD. As expressed above, credible messengers reported delivering various types of support to young people at BJN-SYTF, including Financial Literacy class, “Beyond Coping Skills” class, Seeking Safety, co-facilitation of DBT with DMH, and provision of specific curriculum on various topics like emotional regulation while visiting units. Credible messengers reported that they visit all units daily to provide support. Youth

interviewed reported varying levels of enthusiasm regarding the credible messengers, and the feedback overall was positive. Concerns were raised by multiple Probation officers regarding what one officer described as "signature gathering the whole unit" after interaction with few youth. Some officers interviewed described the services provided by credible messengers as having a positive impact while others casted doubt about whether the services had any impact.

It was shared that barber equipment had recently been procured by leadership at the facility after many month's delay due to "red tape". As it related to programming, it was also reported that the kitchen at BJN-SYTF was not set up for cooking classes since there are safety concerns due to equipment stored there.

Harm Reduction

Interviews with Probation officers and youth during the inspection indicated that contraband continued to be a concern at BJN-SYTF since the last Annual Inspection. Interviews most often identified vape pens as common contraband, though people expressed continued concern regarding the possible entry of illicit pills containing fentanyl. Probation and LACOE alike reported some cases of youth allegedly under the influence of substances over the course of the last year, but both reported the perception of significant decreases in illicit drug use.

POC Commissioners and staff spoke with Probation officers regarding naloxone, a lifesaving opioid overdose reversal medication also called Narcan, and some officers shared that they carried Narcan regularly on their belt. Other officers reported that they would depend on the supply in the office area in the event of an emergency. It was observed that JCHS staff carried Narcan. DMH reported that while their staff was mostly trained on how to use Narcan, they did not carry it in the facility and did not readily have access to it, despite a January 2023 motion unanimously approved by the Board[6]. It was reported by Probation leadership and officers that youth in the facility did not have access to Narcan, despite a March 2023 motion unanimously approved by the Board to ensure this[7].

Commissioners were informed that substance abuse and harm reduction focused programs included a variety of options available to youth available to youth for individual and group substance abuse services (See *Programming* for more information). It was reported by JCHS that substance abuse education was being provided by JCHS educators to Probation staff to increase awareness and decrease stigma.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is available to young people at BJN-SYTF. Through interviews it was implied that the provision of MAT was an interagency coordination amongst JCHS and DMH psychiatry, with JCHS as the lead prescriber, to assess and

[6] January 10, 2023 Motion: Saving Lives by Making NARCAN Readily Accessible in the County's Juvenile Halls and Camps
[7] March 7, 2023 Motion: Addressing Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls

offer the service to young people coping with opioid use and addiction. It was noted that the nurses had the data on the number of young people on MAT, and this number "remained stable from last year". On the day of the inspection, four youth were receiving MAT.

Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

BJN-SYTF continues to keep oleoresin capsicum spray (OC spray) available to all Probation officers as a use of force intervention. There is currently no phase out plan for the facility. Young people interviewed did not express significant concern regarding the use of OC spray at the facility, and officers and youth alike described use of the pepper spray as "rare". One grievance related to a suspected breathing-related injury resulting from OC spray was reviewed during the inspection (see *Grievances*).

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

2024 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

CAMP CLINTON B. AFFLERBAUGH (CBA)
CAMP JOSEPH PAIGE (CJP)
CAMP GLENN ROCKEY (CGR)



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2024

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC), in its mission to oversee and make recommendations to the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation), is completing the 2024 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fourth year of inspections.

The POC has found it of critical importance to provide substantial feedback to Probation, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and public stakeholders after each inspection of the conditions observed within the facilities. This summary presents the key findings from the inspection of the facilities known as the "East Camps": Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh (CBA), Camp Joseph Paige (CJP), and Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR).

Each of these three facilities continues to house 30 or less youth at any given time. They are connected not only by geography but also through the coordination that occurs between them through some shared human resources of multiple departments and shared facility resources including the Hope Center and swimming pool.

FINDINGS

- ***A Recipe that Works*** – Various factors appear to contribute to the main success shared by the three camps: that many youth reported feeling cared for, encouraged, and having positive experiences with Probation officers that supervise them, co-located department staff, and facility leadership. A few of the named variables reportedly having a positive effect include the facility leadership modeled expectations of treatment of youth, the highly compressed work schedule, low turnover, sustained relationships amongst Probation officers, and regular consultation with professionals of multiple disciplines.

- ***Communication from Executive Leadership on the Global Plan*** – The reported lack of communication from Probation Department leadership caused stress for the employees of the three facilities who reported feeling uncertainty about their role or future within the Department. To prevent the proliferation of fear and gossip, executive leadership should communicate plans early and in good faith with the people in the east camps, so that they may prepare themselves and young people appropriately.

- ***Proactive, Youth-Centered Approaches to Harm Reduction*** – Facility leadership at these three facilities took concrete and proactive steps to keep youth safer from risk of opioid overdose despite having received minimal direction from the executive leadership regarding the expectation to do so. In doing so, these three camps have raised the standard of care by empowering youth with tools that will help keep them and their communities safer in the future.

- ***Trauma-Informed Approaches*** – Facility leadership emphasized understanding of principles of youth development and trauma responsive interventions as their expectation for facility supervisors and supervision staff, with positive results reported by youth, Probation officers, and other professionals at the facilities. There were some concerns expressed that more training should be made available to officers to practice trauma-informed exchanges, as not all individuals appeared committed to strength-based, therapeutic, or non-punitive interventions.

- ***The 56-Hour Work Week*** – Probation employees at the three camps work a highly compressed schedule, which was repeatedly acknowledged as a contributing factor for stability at the camps, rapport building with youth, and employee satisfaction.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) was established in 2021 as a civilian-led oversight commission focused on systemic reform of the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation). The POC advises the Board of Supervisors (Board) and Probation about progress and challenges within the Department. The POC has considerable authority and responsibilities directly related to juvenile institutions. Specifically, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1313 (f), requires the POC to conduct annual inspections of the buildings, grounds, and services delivered to the young people detained in each of the County's juvenile facilities on an annual basis. The Board also granted the POC specific authority to "as permitted by law…conduct unannounced inspections of any facility, and its non-confidential records, where any juvenile probationer can be held or where probationers receive services" and "prepare reports on inspection findings" for the Board (LACC Sections 3.80.040(B) and 3.80.050(A)). The POC submits these annual reports to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) by December 31st of each year and shares the report with the Board and the public. This report is the record of the last inspections in the fourth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

METHODS

At the beginning of the 2024 Annual Inspection cycle, Probation ran six juvenile facilities: one juvenile detention center (a juvenile hall named "Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall" or LPJH), three juvenile camps, one locked placement that also serves as the camp and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) for girls and gender-expansive youth, and two facilities solely dedicated to housing young people dispositioned to SYTF, including Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF and Campus Kilpatrick.

- Camp Joseph Paige – This inspection was conducted by two POC Commissioners with the support of three POC staff members. The inspection took six hours to complete.
- Camp Glenn Rockey – This inspection was conducted by one POC Commissioner with the support of three POC staff members. The inspection took seven hours to complete.
- Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh – This inspection was conducted by one POC Commissioner with the support of two POC staff members. The inspection took six hours to complete.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation leadership, leaders from the facility, and partner agencies were aware of the inspection in advance.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report. The POC developed a detailed facility inspection template that was updated this year and reviewed by Probation and the BSCC.
- The POC's inspections template includes key themes to ensure a thorough inspection of both physical structure and environment. The template also highlights the need to examine practices and the treatment of youth at the facility.

It should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" of information recorded on the day of the inspection. The data collected about the "facility's rated capacity," "population" and "staffing" was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Director and these numbers were directly included in this report. The only two datapoints requiring calculation were the "Staff to Youth Ratio" and the "Number of Graduates." The "Staff to Youth Ratio" is calculated by dividing the number of "Total Staff" by the "Total Youth Population". For clarification, these ratios do not reflect the actual staff to youth ratios per shift, but rather a broad staff to youth ratio for each facility. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

FINDINGS

September 19, 2024

Inspection #5 – Camp Joseph Paige (CJP): 6601 Stephens Ranch Road, La Verne, CA 91750
Facility Rated Capacity: 120

Youth Population[1] (Physical) – Males	Youth at Court/Medical	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff [2] (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Staff at time of Inspection / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Line Staff on Duty at Time of Inspection	Total Teachers (LACOE)	Number of High School Students	Number of High School Graduates
25	1	55	45	1:2	15-AM 17-PM	2	15	8

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **6:30AM - 10:00PM**
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **8:00 AM – 8:30 PM** ***plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist***

Facility and Physical Environment

Camp Joseph Paige (CJP) sits on a large campus with Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh. The two camps share a school however they function separately under Probation. To enter CJP, there are two locked gates and a locked door which are operated through the main control center of the facility, and has a clear view through the layers of chain link. Once buzzed through the doors and upon entering the building, visitors and staff walk through a metal detector. It was noted that there is no process or equipment to scan belongings when entering the facility and clear bags were not inspected. POC Commissioners and staff were reminded about the ban on cell phones. Probation officers stationed at the front desk asked visitors to sign in. A new security procedure emerged this year in which POC Commissioners and staff exchanged their identification cards for visitors' passes.

The facility appeared aged but clean. There were black-top basketball courts and a large multi-purpose grass field. The Director reported that high school graduates were encouraged to spend time outside where Commissioners observed Probation officers engaging them into organized or self-directed activities while listening to oldies music. This was observed throughout the inspection, and there were young people exercising and spending time outside playing basketball, volleyball, riding bikes and scooters. Youth reported to POC Commissioners and staff that this was their weekday routine, and they all appeared to be enjoying the time to be outside playing. In a fenced outdoor space far from the youth, it was observed that underground construction was underway. It was reported that new power transformers were being installed.

[1] Physical youth population and High School Student/Graduate numbers are discrepant due to differences in Probation/LACOE data gathering and reporting processes.
[2] Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.

The living unit observed appeared aged but clean. The living area at CJP is made up of an open dormitory with no individual rooms. There are four sections to the dorm, divided by chest-high room dividers. The sections are called Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta and the boys and young men are each assigned to one of the four wings. Each wing of the dorm holds a large number of beds, mostly unoccupied. Each youth has what appeared to be a twin-size bed and a small open bookshelf where they could store a few personal items including books, photos, letters, and any special hygiene products that they had earned through positive behavior incentives. Facility leadership reported that youth are assigned to different wings for safety reasons, including avoiding housing known gang enemies on the same side of the dorm or simply mixing youth who are better acclimated to the environment with a few newcomers to help integrate new arrivals to the culture of CJP faster. Each wing of the dorm had a mounted television. There was a large, communal bathroom in the dorm with numerous bathroom stalls, shower stalls with appropriate privacy curtains, and circular trough-like sinks that enable multiple individuals to wash their hands or brush their teeth at the same time. There were multiple working drinking water faucets in the dormitory.

In addition to the sleeping areas, there were also common spaces in the living quarters. There was an open room that contained couch seating, tables with attached seats, a television, and an air hockey table. There was also an area at another end of one dorm wing that had a ping pong table, and yet another had an additional television.

Posters for the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson, Youth Bill of Rights, and Probation Ombudsperson were observed throughout the facility including in the front entrance, the kitchen, some school areas, and the living units. Most were near eye level, but others were posted so high up they were unreadable. Locked grievance boxes were observed throughout the facility with grievance forms and instructions on how to complete a grievance.

Kitchen and Food

The kitchen area appeared significantly aged, but clean and mostly functional. A dishwasher was in disrepair as there was a vent above the dishwasher leaking large amounts of steaming hot water onto the floor. Kitchen staff reported that they had reported the issue and was told that ISD had determined the issue too complicated and expensive to fix and that they were going to leave it. They also stated that the time required to fix it would be too long and CJP would have to use the Camp Afflerbaugh kitchen – reportedly something no one wanted to do. Staff reported that there was no air conditioning in the kitchen, only a cooling fan. There was a small window air conditioning unit in the kitchen office. Staff had portable cooling fans available to wear around their necks and expressed significant relief about the decreasing temperatures. It was reported that the CJP kitchen was closed for nine months during the last year because of a vent that needed to be fixed, and that kitchen staff used the kitchen at Camp Afflerbaugh during that time. The CJP kitchen re-opened three months ago.

Commissioners observed the lunch meal and noted that the food served appeared unappetizing. The food included meat in a red sauce with rice, and a bowl of fruit. Young people reported that kitchen staff informed them that the menu will not change until the young people stop throwing away food. While observing the meal, youth were observed talking to one another and Probation officers, laughing and relaxed. Some ate the full meal, others threw away food, and one youth was observed mostly eating fresh fruit that his colleagues offered.

School

When the Commissioners and staff observed the LACOE classrooms it was noted that PREA, Youth Bill of Rights, and OYCR posters were posted on the outer walls of the classrooms. It was reported that there were twenty-two LACOE students, eight high school graduates, four of whom were enrolled in college courses.

Students in one classroom were reading “My Brother Sam is Dead” out loud. There were about seven young people in the room, with two LACOE staff and two Probation officers. Young people appeared distracted by the inspection observation at first, but later returned to their popcorn reading due to being engaged and redirected by the professionals in the classroom. No student work was posted on the classroom walls, other than the “Star Family Report” from May 2024. The morning schedule was posted on one of the walls, and informed youth of the morning schedule to include for Anchor Book Reading, Classwork-Cornell Notes, and Physical Education. The classroom did not have any PREA, Grievances, Youth Bill of Rights, Ombudsman, nor OYCR posters.

Math and Science class was observed with eight young people sitting with laptops in front of them. Two LACOE staff and one Probation officer were present. Students in this classroom reported that they currently had a substitute teacher, and they missed their regular teacher who they described as “cool”. The students appeared disengaged; only one student appeared to be working on their laptop, while the rest of the students were drawing, talking quietly, or doing word searches. The classroom walls had Youth Bill of Rights posters, and current student math work was posted on the walls.

Both classrooms visited had LACOE “No Sexual Harassment” posters on walls which included specific descriptions of inappropriate behaviors. The descriptions were written in a way that could be useful for bringing self-awareness to youth about their own behaviors and to help youth identify grooming or other sexually inappropriate behaviors from others.

Commissioners inquired about LACOE’s discipline processes which are intertwined with the Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) *(see Discipline and Positive Behavior Reinforcement).* LACOE explained that for Camps Paige and Afflerbaugh, there is a four-step process before a suspension occurs. The student first receives a verbal warning. Second, if the issue continues, the Education Behavior Tech (EBT) intervenes and attempts to counsel and redirect the youth. The third step is for the Behavior Counselor to speak with the student. Fourth, the student is sent to speak with the principal. Finally, if these steps have not resulted in the student returning to class without further disruption, the youth is suspended.

It was reported that the duration of the suspension depends on the severity of the offense. One example given was that if a student causes an ongoing safety concern, they’ll receive a “block suspension”, where the student is suspended for only that block/class and is allowed to return to the following block of school. Once suspended, the student is escorted back to their dorm. In July 2024, there were nine block suspensions and two all day suspensions due to violent behavior. In August 2024, there were eight block suspensions, and two all day suspensions.

The teachers for Camp Paige were mainly multi-subject credentialed teachers, which included one Special Education credentialed teacher.

It was shared that there was one dual enrollment student with Rising Scholars, as three other recent participants had either graduated or were released after the summer session.

College courses were managed by Probation Education Services. They reported that students attend college virtually. College students were offered two hours of class twice a week. CJP had eight high school graduates, with four of them enrolled in college courses. Probation Education Services reported that due to communication and scheduling difficulties, they chose to have college provided by Los Angeles Mission College (Mission College) during the Summer and Fall A terms. They reported that the Fall B term would be provided by the assigned Rising Scholars school, Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. Sac). The current college course offered for the Fall A term was Administration of Justice, and the upcoming Fall B term had four students enrolled for Study 100, which is a college preparation course.

Grievances

CJP had seventy grievances for January-September 2024, and most of them were in written/paper format as the Grievance Management System (GMS) was shut down effective July 2024 per the Chief's orders. CJP leadership expressed satisfaction with the discontinued use of the electronic GMS process because it was "clunky" and inefficient. No information was known at the facility regarding any plans or communication regarding a new electronic grievance system.

A high number of grievances reviewed pertained to interactions between LACOE staff and youth. It was noted that several grievances from February 2024 had similar PREA-related allegations against a LACOE teacher, and when investigated by grievance officer, the young people retracted their grievances through an affidavit stating that they were "playing" around, denied the allegations, and that the young people apologized and stated that they "really liked" their teacher and did not want any negative consequences against the teacher. Review of the May 2024 grievances revealed numerous grievances regarding interactions between a LACOE substitute teacher and multiple youth. It was reported that the teacher made "demeaning" comments to the students including saying that they were not worried about the grievances that the students made as "nothing is going to happen to me, no one is going to believe you". The pattern of grievances involving the educator was evident during other months as well. Commissioners inquired about this pattern with the facility leadership who reported also observing the pattern, and they took the decisive action to ask LACOE to remove the substitute from their assignment at the school. The letter was documented in the grievance folder, reviewed by Commissioners, and confirmed by the LACOE. Facility leadership affirmed a commitment to investigating and taking all concerns posed by youth seriously and reported no space in the facility for any adult professional undermining that process. Other grievances related to issues of dorm movement, clothing, and food were addressed promptly and resolved within policy time limits.

The facility Director stated that it was important to him that "kids have a voice, and that they feel that they have that voice". It was also shared that CJP holds town halls periodically for the young people to express any ideas or concerns and to feel heard in a general sense.

Discipline and Positive Behavior Reinforcement

It was reported that Probation continues to use Behavior Management Program (BMP), a point-based merit system which encourages youth to earn points through their participation in daily routines and activities. These points can be used to move up a behavior level ladder through which they may "purchase" desired goods using the points they have earned. There are four levels at CJP and once youth reach the fourth level, they may use their points to obtain special hygiene supplies including brand name lip balm and hair gel. It was reported that the budget for BMP only covers snack and hygiene items, though it was noted by the staff running the store that many other supplies would be helpful if the budget would allow for it, including art or other recreational supplies that youth have repeatedly requested.

LACOE uses PBIS as the behavior reinforcement system at school, which allows them to award points to youth as well. These points also count toward BMP. It was pointed out during the day by some Probation employees that they thought LACOE should more readily dock points from youth when behavior does not warrant the receipt of full points. It was unclear what discussion, if any, had occurred between the departments to address the concern.

LA Model training had not previously occurred at this facility, nor have any plans been discussed to begin implementation at CJP in the future despite a March 15, 2022, Board motion indicating that CJP should be the site of the LA Model expansion[3].

Access to Medical and Mental Health Care

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported that the physician was available on-site on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Youth needing x-rays were transported to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall or Central Juvenile Hall. It was reported that appointments are rarely missed, and when this does happen, it is either because the young people refuse, or Probation transportation is unavailable. JCHS staff mentioned that they found the scheduled rotation of the supervising nurse a challenge and that they wanted to have them available on site more regularly.

DMH reported that young people met with their assigned clinician on a "as needed" basis, with a minimum of once a week. They reported that clinicians were open to helping de-escalation efforts alongside Probation and that whenever called, their Officer of the Day routed emergency calls to the assigned clinicians to assist youth. It was reported that there were ten clinicians across two weekly shifts, which included one substance abuse counselor and one housing navigator for Transition Age Youth (TAY). It was reported that there was one young person on a level 2, for which they noted was "rare", and was only being used as a "safety precaution". It was reported that short staffing was never an impediment to meeting with youth, but that it would be helpful to have enough staff available so that youth could consistently meet with clinicians in their offices for maximized confidentiality.

Agency Relationships

LACOE staff noted that "everything runs pretty smooth" because all agencies place the students first. The bi-monthly meetings with the partner agencies keep communication open where "big picture topics" and plans are discussed and as needed, time is taken to coordinate approaches to serving individual youth. LACOE staff shared that they noted the classroom presence of Probation officers inside the classroom recently, which they had been asking for. Related to this matter, LACOE staff mentioned that they would appreciate a standard policy outlining the Probation officer duties during school time.

The agency relationships between DMH and the Probation Department were described by DMH staff as "stable", and there were no notable positive nor negative changes within the last year. It was reported that Probation staff appeared to be "under stress" due to the widespread rumors regarding the pending closure of CJP. DMH staff reported that interagency meetings were a "good line of communication" for the partner agencies. Concerns were expressed related to the growing number of young people given new charges instead of providing youth with appropriate, trauma-informed services by all co-located partners on-site.

[3] Friendly Amendment to Item #10: Preparing for the Closure of the Division of Juvenile Justice: Secure Youth Track Facility Designation and LA Model Expansion

Staffing

Nearly all Probation officers interviewed expressed concern and stress resulting from the lack of communication from Probation leadership regarding the planned closure of CJP[4]. They asked POC staff what was known about the plan and noted that no one at the facility had received any formal information about the closure. Officer concerns related to pending instability for youth, abrupt changes to CJP employee commutes, schedules, and negative effects on confidence in Probation leadership and decreased morale. Questions were posed by Probation employees and individuals from other co-located departments over the course of the Inspection regarding their concern that leadership who had neither visited the facility nor witnessed the work done there could be formulating a plan to close it.

Most Probation officers described enjoying their work at CJP, including interacting with youth and creating their own activities to keep the young people active. These included life skills classes, Officer Bender's Book Club, and exercise classes. Many youth reported that they reasonably got along with officers at CJP, and some interviewed were less enthusiastic, while citing no specific concerns. It was remarked during the day by various individuals that the Department's efforts to roll out trauma-informed service approaches for staff needs to be prioritized, as employees of various departments recognized a divide in approaches that leaves Probation behind in youth development centered interventions.

Room Confinement

The HOPE Center for Camp Paige was located at Camp Rockey, and no young person assigned to Camp Paige was under confinement or housed at the HOPE Center.

Programming

Commissioners were informed that due to the end of the current program cycle, a new cycle would begin in the following week, so there were some discrepancies in the planning calendar. Facility leadership reported ongoing communication with the organizations providing programming and asked them to have differentiated programs for graduates and high school students when possible. It was reported that youth at CJP have had access to a credible messenger program for the last two years that was still running successfully, providing guidance to youth, and supporting staff with de-escalation and early intervention.

Probation Education Services informed Commissioners that they managed several vocational programs in which both graduates and high school students could participate. It was shared that the programs were provided by organizations like the Transitional Partnership Program (TPP), American Jobs California Center (AJCC), and Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). The programming included Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) classes, financial literacy courses, and career zone, where young people explored their career options. Many of these programs paid the young people for participating, and young people would receive their checks upon release. It was reported that last year, 98% of the CJP population were working or in the process of being hired during their detention.

On the day of the inspection, Commissioners observed Homeboy Art and the Youth Council. The Homeboy Art class was held in a LACOE classroom and led by two facilitators. The young people

[4] ADOPTING A GLOBAL PLAN FOR THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT'S HALLS AND CAMPS (ITEM NO.5, AGENDA OF MARCH 21, 2023).

appeared very engaged and showed the commission a shirt and shorts designed with their business logo. The young people expressed enjoying this program, and their plan to participate in Homeboy Art classes upon release. The Homeboy Art facilitators informed the young people about the classes and work opportunities by Homeboy Industries in the community. The facilitators explained that they were completing their last session, and a new cycle would begin next week for twelve weeks.

The Youth Council was led by a Probation officer in the administration employee break room. A POC Commissioner observed six young people participating who were collaborative, supportive of one another, engaged with the activity, and accountable for their participation. It was reported that the Youth Council met on a weekly basis and received food incentives for their participation and good behavior.

Religious services available were Protestant services and Catholic services each weekend.

Harm Reduction

Concerns about contraband continued at the facility at a level similar to what was expressed during the POC's 2023 Annual Inspection. While concerns regarding the possibility of fentanyl entering the facility persisted, the main concern expressed surrounded the belief that most contraband entering CJP comes with youth who are transferred to CJP directly from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Vape pens and nicotine were reportedly the main substance-related contraband found at CJP. Since youth at CJP take randomized drug tests, it was reported that after youth have a positive or "dirty" test, their visits will be "no contact" for a period of time to decrease any likelihood of additional contraband entering the facility.

Commissioners and staff were pleased to learn and witness that CJP Probation officers all carried naloxone on their person, and there was an additional supply in the Supervising officer's desk. Facility leadership shared that they had significant concerns about the well-being of youth who use substances and as a result, took proactive measures to request that the Probation officer who delivers Life Skills programming educate the youth on how to administer naloxone, a lifesaving opioid reversal medication. As a result of the training that took place, nine youth at CJP were trained on how to use naloxone. On the day of the inspection, four of those youth were still at the facility. The Director and Probation officer administering the program reported that there were plans to train another group of youth the following week. While naloxone was not formally or explicitly made available to youth in the facility, it was noted that naloxone was stored with the fire extinguisher and defibrillator box in the open dorm area where youth could possibly gain access if they broke the glass.

JCHS also carried NARCAN and used it on one occasion a month prior to the inspection. After the NARCAN deployment, JCHS called 9-1-1, and the situation was resolved. It was reported that a serious incident report (SIR) was not written about the incident because the Narcan was deployed by JCHS. Probation leadership shared that after this incident, the co-located departments committed to sharing more information that does not compromise the young people's confidential information but would assist maintaining the safety and welfare of the youth.

On the day of the inspection, one youth at CJP was receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). It was unclear where the prescription for the youth's MAT was generated.

A defibrillator and cut down tools were observed within the dormitory.

Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray was not available as a use of force option at CJP at any point since the last inspection of the facility.

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September 26, 2024
Inspection #6 – Camp Glenn Rockey: 1900 N. Sycamore Canyon Road, San Dimas, CA 91773
Facility Rated Capacity: 120

Youth Population (Physical) - Males	Youth at Court/ Medical	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff [5] (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Staff at time of Inspection / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Line Staff on Duty at Time of Inspection	Total Teachers (LACOE)	Number of High School Students	Number of High School Graduates
29	6	73	59	1:1	23	5	28	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**
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **8:00 AM – 8:30 PM** ***plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist***

Facility and Physical Environment

Camp Glen Rockey (CGR) is located at the end of a winding road in the foothills. At the top of the hill approaching the facility, a security guard was standing outside their car verifying the names of visitors from a list and comparing it to visitors' personal identification. Upon entering the facility, Commissioners noted that there was a walk-through metal detector on the right-hand side, though Commissioners were not directed to pass through it and were instead waved in through a locking glass door. Once entering the front office, POC Commissioners and staff were approached by a Probation officer who used a metal detector wand to search each person. It was noted that clear bags were not searched nor were they passed through an X-ray machine, as there did not appear to be an X-ray machine on site.

The CGR living unit observed appeared aged but clean. The living area at CGR is made up of an open dormitory with no individual rooms. There are four sections to the dorm, divided by chest-high room dividers. The sections are called Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta and the boys and young men are each assigned to one of the four wings according to their ranking in the facility's Behavioral Management Program (BMP). Each wing of the dorm held a large number of beds, which were mostly unoccupied. Each youth had a twin-size bed and a small open bookshelf where they could store a few personal items including books, photos, letters, and any special hygiene products that they had earned through positive behavior incentives. Each wing of the dorm had a mounted television. In addition to the sleeping areas, there were also common spaces in the living quarters. There was an open room that contained couch seating, tables with attached seats, a television, and bookshelves. There was a large, communal bathroom in the dorm with numerous bathroom stalls, shower stalls with appropriate privacy curtains, and circular trough-like sinks that enable multiple individuals to wash their hands or brush their teeth at the same time. There were multiple working drinking water faucets in the dormitory.

[5] Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.

PREA, OYCR, Youth Bill of Rights posters were observed throughout the facility in all areas utilized by youth. Locked grievance boxes and Ombudsperson information were also observed throughout. Posters were at eye level and in English and Spanish.

Kitchen and Food

The Kitchen was located inside cafeteria and appeared clean and organized. Kitchen staff mentioned that although all equipment in the kitchen works, they needed a stronger air conditioning system for the summer. Grievances, PREA, OYCR, and Youth Bill of Rights posters were observed in the kitchen. The kitchen also had OSHA and Career & Technical Education (CTE) posters.

Young people were observed having hamburgers, salad, corn, applesauce, oranges and milk or orange juice for lunch. It was noted that all youth at the facility eat together at the same time. Young people were observed talking to each other freely during lunchtime while supervised by Probation officers. One young person mentioned that the food at CGR was “fine, unlike the s*** at LP”. The young people stated that their meals were edible, and they enjoyed the lunch overall, though they would prefer more beverage options.

School

It was reported that on the day of the inspection, there were five full-time teachers, one substitute teacher, and twenty-eight (28) high school students, twelve (12) of whom were preparing for dual enrollment with Rising Scholars. There were nine students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and special education needs. There were four youth identified as “English Language Learners”. One youth at CGR was a high school graduate and zero youth were suspended.

Commissioners observed a math class which included eight young people, one teacher, two LACOE aides, and one Probation officer. Classroom walls were decorated with school-related posters, student classwork, a LACOE sexual harassment poster and Youth Bill of Rights posters. The students appeared engaged as the teacher was discussing exponents. It was reported by students that the math teacher builds rapport by staying after school to help youth, joining them in their dorm for learning support, and playing chess with them. The teacher appeared very enthusiastic while teaching and during schoolwork time, where students were observed helping each other understand the material. The teacher noted that recently there have been more students with higher math knowledge coming into the camp, allowing him to teach more challenging concepts.

College classes for dual enrollment students are held virtually through Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. Sac) via Rising Scholars. It was reported that the upcoming session with Mt. Sac was scheduled to begin on October 28th. Probation Education Services reported that they were down from three full-time staff to one, who reported that they could only visit CGR one day per week as they also provided coverage at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

It was reported that the one high school graduate at CGR was enrolled into Cerritos College and would take courses at Mt. Sac later this year. Planned coursework included: Study 100 Intro to College, Chicano Studies, and Money Smarts. When asked how many youth at CGR have an IEP, Probation Education Services staff noted that they did not have that answer because “that information was not shared with them”, and they felt that “this is an information gap”. They expressed that the Probation Education Services coordinator should know which kids have or had

an IEP and/or have been identified as needing special education. It was reported that due to the shortage of the Education Services staff, Probation officers tasked themselves to create programs including a 10-week financial literacy program where activities included having the young people create a rap song about money. The young people interviewed reported positive attitudes and experiences with their participation in such activities that staff put together for them saying it was a “fun activity”.

Grievances

There were ten (10) grievances filed for the calendar year, and they were provided through either the Grievances Management System (GMS) or in paper form. None of the grievances were emergency, PREA, health, or suspected abuse related. Most of the ten (10) grievances were about LACOE staff, school, and school-related procedures. All grievances not made anonymously were signed by young people upon resolution. All grievances were resolved in a timely manner. All anonymous grievances resulted in a town hall for young people to express their concerns and desired resolutions. It was noted that one young person appealed the results of their grievance, and facility staff then implemented the appeals process as directed by policy.

Discipline and Positive Behavior Reinforcement

CGR uses the Behavior Management Program (BMP)-Policy RTSB-600 to incentivize youth to complete their court-appointed programs with pro-social behaviors through a point system where they can buy snacks and participate in excursions. The BMP has four stages: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta. The beginning two stages, Alpha and Bravo, include young people newer to the program with fewer accumulated points or those with challenges that prevented them from earning the points needed to enter the higher stages. Youth in these stages of the BMP may use their earned points to buy snacks from the canteen. The advanced two stages (Charlie and Delta) are for the more senior, better behaved young people who receive a burgundy polo shirt to distinguish themselves and may also earn the privilege to participate in outdoor trips and excursions. LACOE was reportedly the only partner agency participating in this program with Probation. It was reported that LACOE uses Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), where students earn points by completing classwork and maintaining good behavior. School staff then keep record of points on “EPIC”, a computer point system, and at the end of the day this point record is printed and given to the students’ Probation officers.

It was reported by facility leadership that there had been previous communication about a plan to roll out the Developmental Stage System (DSS) with LA Model at the facility, but that no formal plan or launch date had been determined.

Access to Medical and Mental Health Care

JCHS was available from 6:30 AM to 10:00 PM seven days a week, with a physician in the clinic onsite on Tuesdays and Thursdays. X-rays were performed at Central Medical Hub and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. It was reported that there was a doctor on call, and young people would be transmitted to LAC+USC hospital for after-hours care. It was reported that young people meet with the dentistry department upon admission and also receive these services at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. It was noted by the nurse that the most common injuries included nasal fractures and fractures to the hand. JCHS reported that it was uncommon for youth to miss their appointments as “the staffing shortage isn’t a critical issue at Camp Rockey”. The nurse stated that they observed some progress since the 2023 Inspection of CGR as Probation interacted with

JCHS more and it was reported that virtual meetings were held once a month to discuss and resolve any issues. Youth interviewed reported that they could see a nurse anytime by asking Probation to call the nurse, putting in a written request to see the nurse, or asking the nurse directly when they see them on the CGR campus.

DMH provided mental health services onsite seven days a week from 8:00am to 8:30pm. It was noted that DMH staff retention was "really strong"; all have reportedly been working at CGR for at least six years as "they love the work". DMH reported that clinicians met with young people on their assigned caseload individually at least twice per week but had the freedom to meet with clients more as needed. It was reported that in addition to traditional talk therapy, many clinicians participated in various rapport building activities with youth that encouraged the youth to engage meaningfully with the services. It was reported that additional sessions could also be scheduled to include parents into family therapy, which half of the therapists were engaging their clients into. DMH continued to facilitate group substance abuse counseling. Young people reported that they had regular contact with their mental health clinicians and could see them whenever they needed to by asking Probation to call. This was confirmed by the DMH supervisor who reported that approximately ten (10) referrals for services were generated a week, but most commonly officers will reach out informally to request support. DMH reported that they have access to their own transportation team to assist youth at CGR and the other east camps to include family into Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings and family therapy sessions.

It was reported that there was a need to encourage some Probation officers to not pass judgment on a youth's verbal request to be seen by a mental health professional. It was reported that on occasion, a Probation officer will deny a youth's verbal request to see a mental health professional. It was reported that officers made statements like, "they seem fine" or "they don't really have a problem" indicating a lack of belief in the youth's expressed need for support, though to DMH it seemed inappropriate and outside the scope of practice for a Probation officer to make that determination. DMH reported that Probation was encouraged to always refer when a youth asked for services. It was reported that the issue had been addressed but reoccurred occasionally.

Agency Relationships

JCHS reported satisfaction with the relationships they had with other partner agencies. It was reported that improvement in these relationships was due to biweekly interagency meetings. JCHS staff expressed a desire to have these meetings more often. An area where JCHS staff hoped to see improvement was in communication between Probation staff and young people as it relates to health concerns. JCHS staff reported that at times, young people expressed a concern or health issue but were not able to communicate them clearly, leading to the concerns being "brushed off or not taken seriously". JCHS staff advised that Probation officers could be better listeners to help ensure youth get prompt treatment.

DMH reported positive and collaborative relationships with Probation as a whole and with individual officers. There was acknowledgment by DMH on the need to provide support to officers due to the perception that officers received minimal support from the department's executive leadership. DMH was working on creating a drop-in support group for officers to encourage meaningful exchanges and discussion of challenges facing the professionals working with youth with significant mental health diagnoses, trauma histories, and to continue to support positive rapport between clinicians and officers.

LACOE staff described the relationship as “phenomenal” as Probation was a “team player”, and the Probation officers worked very well with school employees and know how to intervene with youth. It was also reported that the weekly interagency meetings were very productive, as all agencies met virtually, to discuss their processes, and all held the students as their primary focus. LACOE staff stated that during the interagency meetings, Probation was always receptive about partner agency concerns, and amenable to make changes. One example given was when classrooms were in disarray at the end of school, LACOE then reached out to the Probation Director for assistance with having students pick up after themselves, and ever since then the classrooms are left organized at the end of the school day. LACOE staff mentioned that there were clear lines of communication with Probation, not only through the weekly interagency meetings but also through email. It was repeatedly expressed that Probation was “exceptional” to work with, and it was a “blessing and an honor to have them in the classroom”.

Staffing

Probation officers at the camps work on a schedule called the “56”, which is a highly compressed work schedule spanning three days. It was reported that the schedule helps with staff retention because it allows for a long restful period between shifts which officers said supports a healthy work-life balance.

Officers expressed positive emotions and feeling “good” about coming to work because they felt “safe and supported” by the facility’s leadership. Probation officers mentioned that different activities and events in the facility helped build rapport amongst the officers and the youth. One key theme echoed through interviews with many Probation officers throughout the day was the mention that they felt “heard” by their facility leadership which boosted their morale and made them feel more invested in collaboration because their experiences and opinions were considered. Facility leadership stated that they worked with their staff and made it a “priority” to “have the staff's needs met”, as they felt that having Probation Officers well supported meant that the rest of the operations would run appropriately. It was mentioned that they had no call-out issues and regularly had rapport building events, including a monthly taco day where youth and staff were treated to tacos.

During interviews, many Probation employees reported a lack of connection and communication with leadership at headquarters, mentioning that they wished that leadership would visit the facility to gain an understanding of their accomplishment in maintaining high quality supervision provided to young people year after year. Interviews with Probation and co-located partners alike indicated that CGR Probation employees were very prideful of the environment they had cultivated through partnership, intentional practice behaviors considering youth development, and ample programming provided for young people. While numerous individuals recognized the problems facing other facilities as executive leadership’s priority, and words like “overlooked” and “ignored” were heard throughout the day. Staff desired appropriate recognition for their accomplishments in addition to wanting to serve as a possible model for other sites. Various individuals expressed that staff are frustrated with the lack of transparency around promotions despite workplace successes. There were concerns voiced throughout the day that that new leadership appointments have been made available to individuals from outside of Los Angeles County that were not advertised to current Probation staff. While all employees at CGR reported good morale within the facility, the perception of executive leadership’s reception of these employees was less good.

Some young people interviewed stated that they “like this camp” because “staff were respectful” and they felt that staff talk to them “like a person”. It was also noted that young people described their Probation officers as “very involved” and “awesome”. The various youth expressed the sentiment that all the staff at CGR were invested in their success and one youth called the staff “Tremendously caring”. Young people mentioned that they felt the same about Probation officers from all shifts. Youth reported that write-ups were only done when necessary and were not used as a threat. The young people mentioned that they enjoyed the recreational time every day and were overall satisfied with their stay at CGR.

Room Confinement

Camp Rocky has a HOPE center, which is also used by Camp Afflerbaugh and Camp Paige. It was reported and observed that there were two young people in the HOPE center on the day of the inspection, with one youth there for medical isolation, and the other due to a Special Supervision Plan (SSP). Both young people had a one-on-one Probation officer.

LACOE reported that while young people were housed at the HOPE Center, they provided a laptop for CGR youth but only provided work packets for young people from Camps Paige and Afflerbaugh because of the time required to transfer their information from one camp computer system to another. It was reported that Camp Paige used the HOPE center regularly, and recently there was an increase in usage from Camp Afflerbaugh in the weeks preceding the inspection.

Programming

All scheduled programming on calendar occurred as expected on the day of the inspection. The schedule appeared to be a typical day at the camp as compared to other days on the calendar. There was a wide variety of physically and mentally stimulating activities, programs, and services offered. During the school day, Commissioners observed the young people engaged in a “speed walk” relay race in the outdoor area. CGR staff reported that these activities are coordinated by LACOE and young people participate in outdoor team races on the last Thursday of each month. LACOE and Probation staff cheered on young people as they raced each other. Young people seemed to enjoy the activity and while some were laughing and making jokes, others were focused on winning.

Tech Thursday computer training program arranged by LACOE occurred. The young people appeared engaged, the class was described as a “good tech class”, and it included additional teaching staff for special education students. The young people appeared to be very involved with their learning.

Wolf Connection was provided by Probation Education Services in a LACOE classroom after school, and it was the last class of the current session. It was mentioned that Monday was the official last day, however some of the young people missed the class because they were on an excursion to Marina del Rey with Probation. As a result, there were just three young people in the class, and they were watching video modules and answering questions related to those modules. Young people were observed attending a Substance Abuse psychotherapy group held by a DMH clinician in the afternoon.

An Iron Man competition was observed after lunch with young people in the yard exercising under the facilitation of a Probation officer. The exercise program had military-like features where the young people saluted and exercised in a synchronized manner. The young people appeared to

enjoy following the program and commands of the Probation officer.
LL Math was another program observed in the living unit, where a LACOE instructor worked with young people who opted for additional math assistance.

ADVOT was a performance-focused program observed with five young people participating in the session. All the young people appeared engaged as the ADVOT facilitators included them in conversation, speaking exercises, and physical activities. The young people were laughing and appeared to enjoy the program.

Two young people from Delta informed Commissioners that they were members of the student council, which was a privilege reserved for Delta and Charlie-level youth. They spoke positively about a recent excursion when they went to Marina Del Rey and learned how to kayak and paddle board. On the excursion, youth also received a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) lesson. It was shared that some of the youth had never been to the beach before and were excited about the opportunity to be exposed to a new environment.

The two young people said council members met regularly to discuss ways to motivate their peers to do better. They talked about having to “orient” new kids who come from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and who struggle to adjust to Camp Rockey initially. Since council participation is exclusive to the two highest levels, it is composed of more seasoned young people who’ve been in camp the longest. The two young people both indicated that they were being released within the next 90 days; one already had an MDT meeting and reported that he knew who his field Probation officer was and that LACOE had worked with him and his parents on a school transition plan. He said he felt informed and included in the planning process.

Various Probation employees at the facility expressed frustration with not having enough support in terms of programming from executive leadership and it was reported that as a result, CGR officers have had to create their own programs. One officer created a car detailing programming to pique the interest of young people interested in automotive career opportunities. Various statements were made by employees who expressed their sense that the “Camps are forgotten in the shadows of the halls”.

Harm Reduction

Concerns about contraband continued at the facility at a level similar to what was expressed during the POC’s 2023 Annual Inspection, which warranted vigilant awareness about drugs though little illicit substances were suspected or discovered during searches. While concerns regarding the possibility of fentanyl entering the facility persisted, it was reported that monthly drug tests for all youth were consistently returned negative for all substances. A nurse from JCHS reported that all nurses received Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) training, however no youth at the facility was receiving MAT at the time of the inspection.

Commissioners and staff were pleased to learn and witness that CGR Probation officers all carried opioid overdose reversal medication, also known as Narcan or naloxone on their person as part of their uniform requirement, and there was an additional supply in the supervising officer’s desk. It was reported that there had never been a deployment of naloxone at CGR. It was reported that youth were not trained in identifying opioid intoxication, how to administer Narcan, and Narcan was not readily available for youth to use if needed. Facility leadership was immediately interested in these questions about training youth and were provided follow-up information on

recent Board Motions[6]. Facility leadership reported that these directives had not been communicated by executive leadership and that they would plan to take swift action to be in compliance with any requirements.

A defibrillator and cut down tools were observed within the dormitory.

Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray was not available as a use of force option at CGR at any point since the last inspection of the facility.

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[6] March 7, 2023 Motion: Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls

October 9, 2024
Inspection #7 – Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh (CBA): 6631 N. Stevens Ranch Road La Verne, CA 91750
Facility Rated Capacity: 120

Youth Population (Physical)[7] – Males	Youth at Court/ Medical	Total Staff (Payroll)	Total Active Staff [8] (DPO's and GSN's)	Staff to Youth Ratio (Number of Staff at time of Inspection / Youth Pop.) rounded to whole number	Line Staff on Duty at Time of Inspection	Total Teachers (LACOE)	Number of High School Students	Number of High School Graduates
30	3	60	45	1:3	10	4	24	3

Access to Medical and Mental Health Services

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **6:30 AM-10:00 PM**
Department of Mental Health (DMH)	Services Offered: 7 days / week	Coverage: **8:00 AM – 8:30 PM** ***plus 24-hour access to on-call DMH psychiatrist***

Facility and Physical Environment

While approaching the outside of the facility, a security truck with a guard stationed to interact with visitors waved POC Commissioners and staff in but did not verify identification. Once parked, the entrance procedure to the facility included two locked security fences, where staff buzzed the fence open. There was a metal detector machine, but POC Commissioners and staff were informed that it was only used for family visitation on Sundays. It was reported that a hand-held metal detector was used for other visits. POC Commissioners and staff were asked to sign in, and provide an identification card, which was copied. Commissioners and staff alike noted that their clear bags were not searched nor passed through an x-ray machine.

The facility appeared aged but clean and well-kept. Sleeping quarters for young people appeared dorm-like as beds were next to each other. The dormitory was shaped like an "X" as it was divided into four sides named Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta. The wings of the dorm were not aligned with the Behavioral Management Program (BMP), and it was reported that bed assignment was based on safety and needs. POC Commissioners observed four televisions, a functioning foosball table, and an air hockey table in the living room area of the dorm.

The majority of the CBA campus was comprised of a sprawling and well-kept outdoor space that included a baseball diamond, a volleyball court, basketball courts, and a gated swimming pool. The pool was shared with the other east camps including Camp Rockey and Camp Paige.

Required posters including PREA, OYCR, Grievances, Youth Bill of Rights, and Ombudsperson were all posted in front lobby areas, kitchen, cafeteria, and living units. Most posters were at eye level and posted in English and Spanish.

[7] Physical youth population and High School Student/Graduate numbers are discrepant due to differences in Probation/LACOE data gathering and reporting processes.
[8] Probation's reports of Active Staff and Line Staff on Duty includes individuals with work hardening, or light duty.

Kitchen and Food

The kitchen and cafeteria appeared aged but clean and organized. Kitchen staff noted various issues related to their work that they raised to POC Commissioners and staff including short staffing in the kitchen and reportedly being denied overtime. It was reported that the swamp cooler in the kitchen did not work properly, which was especially challenging for cooking in the summer and early fall months when temperatures peak. It was shared that the Internal Services Department (ISD) was in the process of beginning renovations which included installing a new air conditioning system, roof, electrical system, and pipe system as the current ones had collapsed. Kitchen staff informed POC Commissioners that some of the ovens were not working properly for various reasons including that some of them were broken which made them physically unstable and others did not maintain consistent heat temperatures when programmed to do so. Kitchen staff also found it problematic that they did not have access to filtered drinking water at work and were expected to use faucet water for drinking purposes.

Kitchen staff reported that they received regular complaints from the young people at the facility about the menu as the young people felt that the menu had too much chicken, and would prefer a wider variety of meats and dishes served. Kitchen employees reported that they are required to serve the menu according to the Probation nutritionist despite complaints. Commissioners observed the youth having lunch which included a roast beef sandwich or provolone cheese sandwich with potato salad, apple, milk, and chips. While the meal was observed, young people were permitted to converse with each other while being supervised by Probation officers. Food servings appeared ample and nutritious. Young people interviewed reported a generalized opinion that the food was better at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall for reasons including the food in the camp not being sufficiently seasoned and that there was too much chicken served throughout the week.

School

LACOE school administration informed the POC that there were four full-time single subject credentialed teachers, including one that had a CTE/graphic arts credential, and no long-term substitute teachers. It was reported that there was one suspension for the day, which was a block suspension, meaning that the student was suspended from one of three school day blocks, while each block consists of two classes. LACOE administration stated that full day suspensions were given for safety issues such as violence, but they were not common and only occurred when a young person had received four opportunities for reconnecting set forth by the discipline guidelines utilized by LACOE. Commissioners inquired about LACOE's discipline processes which are intertwined with the Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) *(see Discipline and Positive Behavior Reinforcement).*

The LACOE behavioral counselor reported a high level of involvement with the school's de-escalation process, which included youth visiting the "Wellness" room. The behavioral counselor managed the Wellness room which appeared welcoming and calming, was perfumed with a pleasant vanilla scent, and had water sounds coming from a small waterfall. In the middle of the room there was a table with a sand tray, a fishbowl with a live goldfish, and there was a bean bag for young people to use.

During classroom observations, Commissioners were greeted by two student ambassadors who spoke about what it meant to be an ambassador and what they were currently learning. The student ambassadors were "incredibly engaging" per Commissioners in explaining their role and

classroom activities. This classroom had three LACOE support staff, one teacher, and nine students. Student work and other school-related décor was posted on the walls. Students appeared very engaged with the teacher and their work despite the Commissioners' visit. Students were popcorn reading out loud and discussing the book "The Fifth of March" which was set around early US history. The teacher translated outdated terms used in the book with terms used now by young people, and made the youth laugh at some points while ensuring that they could understand what they were reading. Youth clearly enjoyed the culturally relevant connection which also kept them focused and waiting for the next lines of the book. The teacher had good rapport with the students which was heightened by her use of English, Spanish, slang references in both languages that youth use, and making space for youth to make their own interpretations of the material.

Commissioners also observed the Math/Science class, where there was one teacher, one support staff for an English Language Learner (ELL), and one teacher's aide. The classroom walls were decorated with student work and other school décor. The students were watching a video on chromosomes, where the teacher stopped the video periodically to explain things and ask questions. Students appeared engaged with the class content and corrected one another when inappropriate language was used. When speaking with the students, they expressed that the "Teachers are straight" meaning that students generally approved and liked them.

The Commission then observed the CTE graphic art class, where there was one teacher and four students. The classroom walls were decorated with student artwork, the Youth Bill of Rights poster, and the LACOE sexual harassment poster. Students were very engaged in their artwork; they were not phased in any way by the entrance of the Commissioners and remained highly focused on their individual tasks, which they all seemed to take pride in. The students then presented their current and recently completed artwork, showing different skills they had developed using a variety of graphic art software. Commissioners were informed that not all students were offered this class, and that since it was an elective, it was only offered to youth who had sufficient English and Math credits, or were specifically short on elective credits.

Probation Education Services managed college classes for students. It was reported that there were three high school graduates, and one was enrolled in college. The college enrolled student received classes from Cerritos College as they had recently transferred from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall where Cerritos College is the primary college course provider. Probation Education Services noted that Mt. Sac was the primary college course provider for this facility which was planning to begin to offer classes such as Counseling 100 (3 units) on Tuesdays and Fridays in the coming weeks.

Grievances

Commissioners and POC staff reviewed fourteen (14) grievances filed between January 2024 and September 2024. Commissioners noted that grievance rules and procedures were posted throughout the facility, and that young people demonstrated understanding of the rules and grievance procedures during interviews. All grievances reviewed were responded to in three business days as per Probation policy. During this review, there were no grievances that were PREA or suspected child abuse related. Most grievances were about food and service requests such as replacing a broken television. It was noted that there were two grievances that did call for further attention including one grievance that reported that a LACOE teacher had threatened a student to shoot them with their "357" or a type of gun, for which documentation demonstrated that Probation met with LACOE and discussed the grievance, and Probation then documented

that after further investigation the allegations were deemed false. The second grievance reviewed for further information was one where a young person from Barry J. Nidorf messaged another youth to say hello through the grievance system, this grievance was denied and closed. The grievance officer documented this glitch and shared this information with Probation headquarters via email.

While not a written grievance, young people at CBA made complaints to POC Commissioners and staff regarding the clothing they were issued and expected to wear. Youth reported that they did not get fresh clean clothes often enough, and they stated that due to lack of clothing during the hottest times of the year, they had been hand washing their shorts and pants, and then hanging them to dry. Youth reported that while Monday was laundry day, the washed clothes that they received many times had stains or were ripped, and they found this unacceptable, especially when receiving undergarments that reportedly had permanent fecal and urine stains. Multiple youth pulled up their pant legs and showed ripped, shredded socks and socks with no elastic remaining. Some of the youth's shoes were also clearly damaged with the sole separating from the upper part of the shoe. Youth expressed that wearing old, damaged, and soiled clothing, undergarments particularly, left them with a sense of indignity and disgust.

Discipline and Positive Behavior Reinforcement

CBA continues to use Behavior Management Program (BMP), a point-based merit system in which youth are incentivized to complete their court-appointed program with appropriate behavior through the participation in daily routines and activities. Points accumulated can be used to move up a behavior level ladder through which they may "purchase" desired goods, which is mostly comprised of snack foods highly desirable to young people. There are four levels at CBA, and once youth reach the fourth level, they may use their points to obtain special hygiene supplies including brand name lip balm and hair gel.

LACOE uses PBIS as the behavior reinforcement system at school, which allows them to award points to youth as well. LACOE explained that for CBA and CJP, there is a four-step process before a suspension occurs. The student first receives a verbal warning. Second, if the issue continues, the Education Behavior Tech (EBT) intervenes and attempts to counsel and redirect the youth. The third step is for the Behavior Counselor to speak with the student. Fourth, the student is sent to speak with the principal. Finally, if these steps have not resulted in the student returning to class without further disruption, the youth is suspended. As a result, it was reported that block suspensions were more common than full-day suspensions, and were given for using inappropriate language, or persisting behavioral issues not related to safety. It was reported that suspensions were not included in the young person's transcripts or exit packet.

Access to Medical and Mental Health Care

Youth interviewed reported that it was easy to see a nurse any time that they needed at CBA. Youth reported that they could ask an officer to call the JCHS office, write a request, or see them informally around the campus. JCHS reported positive relationships with facility leadership and Probation officers. It was reported that in the last year there were some issues with short staffing that resulted in transportation issues and trouble with getting youth to external medical appointments, however the issue had been completely resolved. It was reported that JCHS implemented a system of advanced reminders via email to Probation regarding transportation needs. JCHS reported that they enjoyed working with the young people and enjoyed playing a supportive role to young people who they identified as living with "a lot of trauma and have been

through too much." One nurse was referred to as "Good Job" by young people because the nurse praised young people "just like I would to my own kids."

Youth at CBA reported that they were able to see their assigned mental health clinician as often as they chose. Young people knew and named various ways to request to see their clinician including having Probation officers call the DMH office. It was reported by DMH that it would be their preference if Probation was able to send a staff member more regularly to the DMH office so that youth may be seen in designated therapy rooms. DMH reported that sessions were never missed as a result of the flexibility of clinicians who are willing to conduct their session with youth outside as needed.

On the day of the inspection, POC Commissioners became concerned about an observed situation where a young person was clearly experiencing emotional distress, and it was found that the youth's mental health clinician had not been alerted, even after many hours and exhibiting behavioral issues. At the beginning of the day, Commissioners observed this youth storm out of his school classroom while cursing and upset, which caught those who knew him well off guard. It was later discovered that neither the LACOE behavioral counselor nor the youth's DMH clinician was called at that time and the youth was suspended from school. Commissioners informed the behavioral counselor, who at lunch shared that the youth had received bad news from home. The youth was observed during the day to be agitated and upset. In the afternoon when DMH was interviewed, a POC Commissioner and staff learned that neither the DMH supervisor nor assigned clinician had been made aware of the youth's distress.

Agency Relationships

LACOE Administration informed the Commission that the relationship between LACOE and Probation was "fine". However, they did share that they preferred having Probation officers in the classroom, which was not occurring at CBA, but it was occurring at Camp Paige. LACOE administration shared that Probation was making progress with improving agency relationships. The behavioral counselor explained that when she first arrived two years ago, she received negative feedback from Probation staff about using non-punitive practices when working with young people who were having behavioral issues. Now Probation officers consulted with her regularly for advice and assistance in regulating and calming down young people.

DMH interviews indicated that the overall relationships between DMH and Probation were positive. DMH reported concern for the morale and well-being of Probation staff at the facility because of the noted lack of communication between executive leadership outside of the facility and everyone working in the facility. DMH reflected that the apparent disconnect left many officers with a "great deal of uncertainty" and created stress for everyone.

JCHS reported positive relationships with facility leadership and Probation officers at CBA.

Staffing

Probation officers at the camps work on a schedule called the "56", which is a highly compressed work schedule spanning three days. It was reported that the schedule helps with staff retention because it allows for a long restful period between shifts which officers said supports a healthy work-life balance, prevents call outs, and was believed to contribute to the stability in staffing at the facility.

Concerns arose regarding the uncertainty felt by officers at the facility about the future of the camp. People expressed that not knowing if Camp Paige would eventually be closed was stressful for the staff at CBA as well, with a widely held belief that CBA might need to absorb a substantial number of the youth from Camp Paige. With CBA and Camp Paige now under the same Director, employee concerns about the future use of the two facilities remain intertwined. Co-located partners also remarked that the lack of planning or expressed vision from executive leadership left the staff in limbo which was affecting morale. One co-located partner expressed concerns about the development of a parallel process where Probation officers begin to exhibit behaviors toward youth that they were experiencing from executive leadership, including decreased opportunities to make choices.

Youth reported having generally positive opinions of the Probation officers who supervised them. Some youth named officers they particularly liked and called for them to receive raises. The youth reported that they felt that most staff were there to be helpful, and that they liked the activities that staff organized. Youth appeared to have appreciation for many of the staff. One youth said, “Probation staff are generally cool… they’re doing their job, they’re doing the most that they can, we don't get written up unless we do something that is inappropriate”.

Room Confinement

The HOPE Center for CBA was located at Camp Rockey, and no young person assigned to CBA was under confinement or housed at the HOPE Center on the day of the inspection.

Programming

All programs on schedule occurred today, including scheduled Math and Literature enrichment courses from LACOE. During the Literature course, young people were very engaged as the teacher had begun the class by asking about their day. Once all had shared, they begun to discuss their course material. The students were reading “The House on Mango Street” and they had a very productive and collaborative discussion about the book with the teacher. The Commission also observed BAM, a music program by Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory (BHAC). It was reported that the music program usually occurred on Wednesdays and Saturdays for two hours each day, and students were paid $20 an hour to attend. During this class, two young people attended, and they participated in different music-related work; one young person was rapping, and the other young person was helping with the sound system by ensuring correct sound system set-up and sound output. Both young people were very engaged, and they expressed loving this program because they could “express themselves through music”. The student who was rapping was scheduled to perform his music to the whole camp during the upcoming weekend.

Harm Reduction

Concerns about contraband continued at the facility at a level similar to what was expressed during the POC’s 2023 Annual Inspection. While concerns regarding the possibility of fentanyl entering the facility persisted, vape pens and nicotine were reportedly the main substance-related contraband concerns at CBA. Since youth at CJP take randomized drug tests, it was reported that after youth have a positive or “dirty” test, their visits will be “no contact” for a period of time to decrease any likelihood of additional contraband entering the facility. It was reported that the previous Saturday a vape pen was found amongst library books in the dorm, so the facility was conducting more searches both with K-9 dogs and without, there was an implementation of weekly drug testing, and youth were given regular reminders about testing to discourage substance use.

During Commissioners' observation of the living area there were Probation officers and cleaning staff searching for possible contraband. It appeared that a power outlet had burned and there was a burn smell within the living area. Later, POC Commissioners and staff were informed that contraband (two vape pens) were found located inside a bucket filled with cleaning solution and it was placed in front of the burned outlet. A member of the cleaning staff reportedly saw the youth drop the vape pens into the bucket and reported it to administration.

Facility leadership shared that they had significant concerns about the well-being of youth who use substances and after the discussion that took place at the inspection of Camp Paige weeks prior, took proactive measures to educate the youth in the facility on signs of opioid intoxication and how to administer naloxone, a lifesaving opioid reversal medication also known as Narcan. As a result of the training that took place, fourteen (14) youth at CBA were trained on how to use naloxone. It was reported that there was one use of Narcan since the 2023 Inspection of CBA. POC staff asked Probation officers whether they carried Narcan on their person, and three out of four asked did. The person who did not have it on pointed out that they had access to the medication in the living quarters in the supervising officer's desk and also stored with the defibrillator in the dorm. The director and Probation officer administering the program reported that there were plans to train the rest of the youth in the facility, though a date had not yet been set to do so. While naloxone was not formally or explicitly made available to youth in the facility, it was noted that naloxone was stored with the fire extinguisher and defibrillator box in the open dorm area where youth could possibly gain access if they broke the glass.

On the day of the inspection, no one at CBA was receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), though JCHS reported that it was available to youth as needed.

Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray was not available as a use of force option at CBA at any point since the 2023 inspection of the facility.

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