



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

January 16, 2025

PROGRAMMING REPORT FOR LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL

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The Probation Oversight Commission (POC), in one of its priorities to guide reform of the Los Angeles County Probation Department (“Probation” or “Department”), has monitored the programming and services available to youth in detention across Probation’s locked facilities. Since the opening of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in July 2023, the Commissioners and staff of the POC have observed and reported on concerning trends observed in relation to programs and services in the facility including inaccuracies of the calendars.

Probation informed the POC that in October 2024, administrative staffing changes occurred to support the facilitation of programs and services delivered in the facility which included a focus on improving relationships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), improvement in the accuracy of the calendar, and putting a more robust offering of programs together to address the diverse needs of young people.

On Thursday, January 16, 2025, the POC conducted a full day inspection of the scheduled programming and services from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Utilizing weekly and monthly calendars provided by Probation, the POC put together a single calendar to document all of the scheduled programming by hour such that it would be possible to visit all units with programming scheduled to occur in any given hour of the day and observe whether it was occurring. Most scheduled activities were scheduled to start and end precisely on the hour (i.e. 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.). Some programs were scheduled to start slightly before or end just after the beginning of the hour. Due to capacity limitations, inspectors checked on those programs only once to verify they were occurring. Programs scheduled for two full hours or more were verified once for each hour.

Once the calendars were distilled down into a digestible inspection plan, there were a total of 60 hours of programming that the POC identified from Probation’s calendars, taking place from 8:50 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Of the 60 programming hours, the POC verified that 44 hours of programming occurred as described on the calendar, for a 73% accuracy rate. The POC also found two instances of additional programming that occurred despite not being listed on any of the calendars provided by Probation. This result represents a significant improvement over previous inspections geared at auditing programs and adherence to program calendars.

The POC observed various circumstances which contributed to the results, including:

- **Call outs** – Three scheduled programs did not occur due to the call out of a single provider who was a credible messenger. It was reported and observed that the coordinators informed the units when a program provider calls out. POC inspectors wondered why an alternate credible messenger was not available to fill in to prevent the cancellation of programming¹.
- **Impromptu schedule changes** – Two programs did not occur as scheduled, though they were observed occurring at different times or on different units with no specific reason offered. In another instance, a two-hour program was upended because of a unit search that took place right as the program providers were scheduled to begin. They were asked to leave the unit. POC inspectors received conflicting answers from two sources about why the search occurred during programming. One Probation employee stated that the search was scheduled, while another reported that the search was necessary because specific contraband was suspected.

¹ A recommendation was made to Probation regarding the issue of granting clearances which would allow for a substitute whenever possible to prevent the cancellation of programming within the September 2024 [CBO Listening Session](#) report.



- **Programming facilitated by Probation Education Services** – 20 of the 60 programming hours were “College & Career Readiness”, which is facilitated by on-site Probation Education Services staff. During this program, young people have the option of doing their college coursework, an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification, or a financial literacy course.

Other observations:

- **Placeholders** – In past inspections, POC inspectors have encountered listings of programs that both Probation staff and detained youth reported to be non-existent. During this inspection, the POC found no such placeholders in the calendars, and staff and youth alike appeared to have awareness and expectation of programming directly related to what was reflected on the calendars.
- **Late starts** – During the day, the POC observed that various programs started after the start time on the calendar. One program started almost 30 minutes late, only after being prompted by a director. Another started twenty minutes late due to delays resulting from Probation’s school movement after lunch.
- **Limited provider access to engage youth** – One Credible Messenger interviewed in the lobby reported that they showed up on time but was initially denied access to the unit to engage the youth per Probation’s report that the youth “refused”². Eventually, a Director allowed them to enter the facility. This near miss was particularly concerning given the report that the provider was there to deliver gender affirming garments requested by a transgender youth.
- **College & Career Readiness** – The POC observed that few units had engagement between the facilitators and youth during this program, while in most units, youth worked alone on laptops while watching videos on YouTube or playing video games. It was also noted that this program occurred during the same hours as LACOE school, and was therefore not offered to youth attending high school.
- **Exercise** – Certain activities included on the calendars provided by Probation were not included as part of the inspection, including “Outdoor Exercise”. However, on numerous occasions throughout the afternoon, the POC noted outdoor recreation activities taking place according to the calendar.
- **Leadership location** – The three programming coordinators are located on-site at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, and their Director reported a pending plan to re-locate from Probation headquarters to be on-site. Having the programming team on-site likely contributes to the improvements the POC observed in the program calendars and to the understanding of how programs are received and executed in the facility.

² A recommendation was made to Probation regarding the issue of allowing providers to directly engage youth into programming whenever possible to prevent the cancellation of programming within the September 2024 [CBO Listening Session](#) report.