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April 3, 2025

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

FROM: Gabriella Aguilera, Acting Chief Deputy 
Juvenile and Adult Services

SUBJECT: **PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE
USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY (24th REPORT)**

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

The Department is actively working with the California Department of Justice's court-appointed monitor to create a revised strategic plan for phasing out OC spray. This updated plan will encompass an evaluation of alternative de-escalation strategies, and a comprehensive implementation of our behavioral management programs aimed at addressing behavioral challenges. These strategies may involve verbal de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention teams, additional staff training, and various positive reinforcement initiatives. The commitment to reducing and eventually eliminating the use of OC spray remains a priority for Probation.

TRAINING PLAN

As of January 15, 2025, the Department has successfully trained 131 employees in a 2-hour OC Spray course, which includes instruction on policy and decontamination procedures. Additionally, since the implementation of the Developmental Staff System (DSS) reward behavior modification program at the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), 54 employees have completed the 8-hour DSS training course as of January 13, 2025. The Department also provides ongoing refresher training for the Behavior Management Program, currently training has been provided to 134 employees, including

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those temporarily reassigned to SYTF or Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

The Department continues to provide officers with Gracie Survival Tactics training. This training approach focuses on improving physical control while reducing the potential for injury to all parties in a use of force scenario.

OC UTILIZATION

Table 1 documents OC Spray incident totals by month.

OC Utilization by Month

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

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MONTH	BJNJH	CJH	LPJH	MONTHLY TOTAL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
August-23	0	0	46	46	983
September-23	0	0	40	40	1,023
October-23	0	0	51	51	1,074
November-23	1	0	43	44	1,118
December-23	2	0	37	39	1,157
January-24	2	0	23	25	1,182
February-24	2	0	26	28	1,210
March-24	1	0	36	37	1,247
April-24	3	0	48	51	1,298
May-24	1	0	43	44	1,342
June-24	1	0	42	43	1,385
July-24	5	0	59	64	1,449
August-24	3	0	51	54	1,503
September-24	2	0	52	54	1,557
October-24	0	0	52	52	1,609
November-24	3	0	34	37	1,646
December-24	13	0	17	30	1,676
January-25	6	0	23	29	1,705
February-25	3	0	19	22	1,727
TOTALS:	454	530	743	1,727	

Chart 1 illustrates the respective facility OC spray trends.

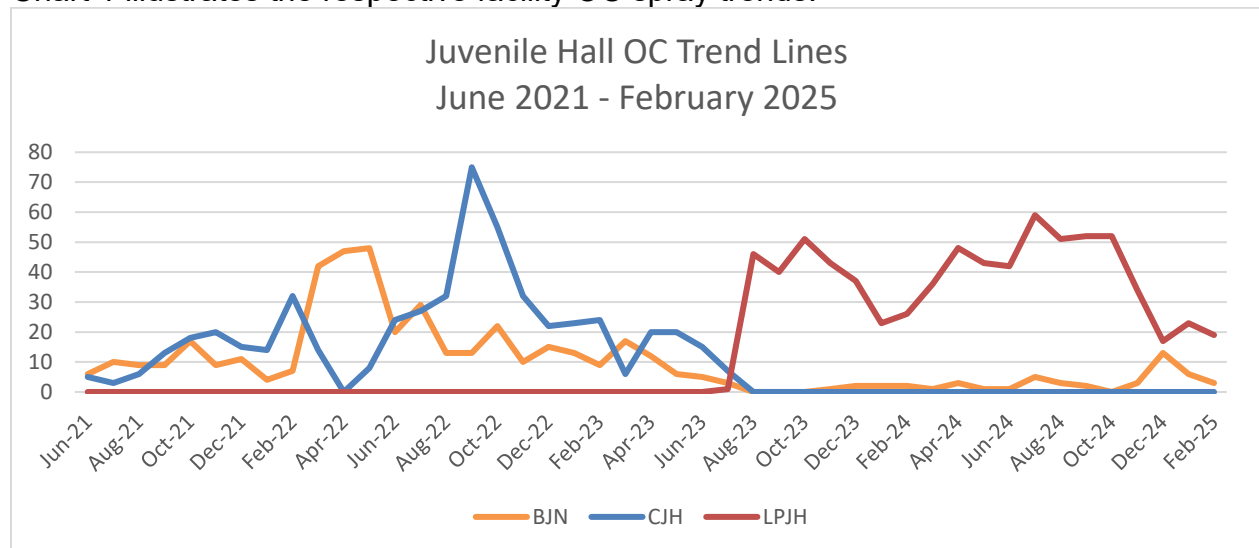
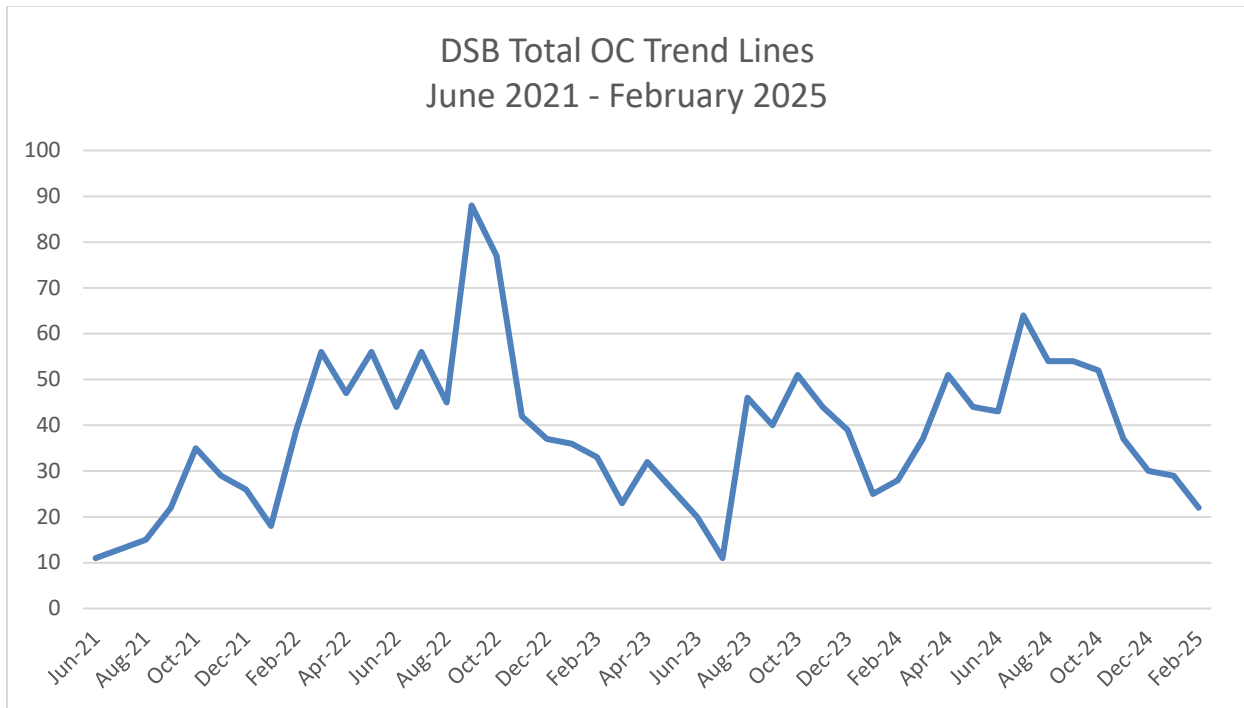


Chart 2 illustrates the combined total OC Spray trends for both SYTF and DSB facilities.



TIMELINE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF OC SPRAY

The Department continues to collaborate with the California Department of Justice’s court-appointed monitor to develop a revised strategy for phasing out OC spray. There is a strong commitment to reducing and eventually discontinuing the use of OC spray, and efforts are ongoing to create a comprehensive plan. Based on current trends of youth-on-youth violence, protocols to methodically reduce OC spray in specific units are being considered. The Department anticipates identifying which units’ reduction may occur by the end of the fourth quarter of 2025.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (562) 922-5830.

GVR:GA:ab