

Solutions to Depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Promote Compliance with DOJ and BSCC Related to the Global Plan

Overview: The most expedient, safe, and effective way to come into compliance with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), and the Los Angeles County Superior Court (Court) at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Los Padrinos) is to **reduce the population**. Judge Miguel Espinoza directed Probation to do this at the Order to Show Cause hearing on April 18, 2025. The Board of Supervisors has directed Probation to do this through multiple motions¹ and the Board's vision of *Youth Justice Reimagined* and *Care First, Jails Last*. The BSCC has indicated that reducing the population is a key factor in reaching compliance with Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, particularly as it relates to Section 1321, Staffing.

Some of the recommendations, below, also offer alternatives to the Department's proposed Global Plan. At its April 3, 2025 meeting, the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) recommended three changes to the Global Plan: (1) Do not move girls and gender expansive youth to Campus Kilpatrick; (2) Maintain and fully utilize Campus Kilpatrick as the SYTF step-down; and (3) Keep Camp Paige open. The recommendations below, align with those changes but, given the court ruling, recommend a different use for Camp Paige to support depopulation efforts at Los Padrinos.

The POC recommends the following to immediately reduce the population at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall by 100-150 youth in a manner consistent with the goals of Board motions and the directives of the Court, DOJ, and BSCC.

1. **Reassess and return currently detained youth to court to revisit the findings in the initial detention hearing (~60, as reported by Probation)**
 - a. Review the initial detention reports of all currently detained youth, ensuring completeness, factual accuracy, balance, and adherence to the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).
 - b. In collaboration with the Department of Youth Development (DYD), devise supervision plans that mitigate threats to youth and the community and provide suitable support for return to home without detention, and/or the use of the Community Detention Program (CDP or ankle monitoring).
 - c. For youth requiring intensive service components, including restrictions, ensure CDP or field Probation Officers are available and supported by other County partners including DYD, DMH, DCFS, and LACOE as well as city and community-based organizations.
 - d. *4.24.25 Amendment: As recommended by the Zero Now Coalition, develop a system for interagency collaboration for rapid release planning. This strategy requires intensive, real-time coordination between: Public Defenders, the District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Court Judges, DYD, Community Care Teams, Advocates, Credible Messengers, and Probation and the designation of a point person to ensure timely and intentional release planning, consistent communication across stakeholders, and ongoing post-release services and support in collaboration with caregivers, systems partners and other community resources.*

¹ The Board of Supervisors has directed the Department to reduce the population multiple times ([Girls Decarceration](#), [Movement of Post-Dispo Youth Out of LP](#), [Utilization of the Least Restrictive Alternatives](#), [YJR DoubleMotion 2012](#), and [Maintaining a Low Population](#)). The Department has not successfully implemented any of these motions.

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- e. *4.24.25 Amendment: To ensure the successful implementation of intensive service components, field Probation Officers and Community Detention Program (CDP) staff must be supported with adequate staffing levels and resources. The plan should embody a strategic approach that balances facility deployment with community-based support that provides quality supervision, mitigates risks, and upholds the plan's goals.*
2. **Send all post-disposition youth to their placements within 24-48 hours, in alignment with the [Board motion](#) and best practices (~20 youth)**
 - a. Ensure all barriers to movement of youth to other Probation facilities are eliminated.
 - b. Partner with STRTPs, DCFS, and Children's Law Center to expedite moving all 241.1 youth dispositioned to placements out of Los Padrinos within 24-48 hours.
3. **Slow the influx of new youth by immediately reforming the Intake, Detention, and Control (IDC) Division (~25-50 youth)**
 - a. Provide intensive supervision and training of IDC staff to ensure thorough completion of detention reports. Specifically, reports should provide a proper analysis of services available in the community and a more comprehensive analysis of the youth's strength and risk factors including input from their families.
 - b. Ensure IDC recommends the Community Detention Program (CDP or ankle monitoring) and Home of Parent (HOP) release in its detention reports in every case where risk factors are low and community supports are available.
 - c. Examine case factors that regularly lead to youth being released by the Courts to home or CDP after short detentions and make those recommendations at the outset of the youth's case rather than waiting for the Court. This effort should have quick results given that between 150-200 youth come into the facility every month, with many youth going home after short (15-30 day) stays.
 - d. Actively track these efforts to gauge effectiveness (e.g., trainings provided, rates at which CDP or release are recommended and for which types of cases, etc.).
4. **Move Most Pre-Disposition Girls and Gender-Expansive (GGE) Youth to Dorothy Kirby Center (20 youth)**
 - a. The Global Plan notes a desire to create a more therapeutic, homelike environment for GGE. Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) currently provides the most therapeutic, homelike environment in the county in a facility that is centrally located, staffed by highly-trained and effective Probation and partner staff, and currently housing all the GGE post-disposition population. The GGE section of DKC is currently underutilized, with one cottage for 10 being used to house 3 SYTF GGE and one cottage for 10 sitting empty as the rarely-used HOPE center while simultaneously, youth remain at Los Padrinos on a DKC waiting list due to lack of housing.
 - b. Rather than uproot all of the GGE and move them to the most distant facility in the county that was built for and always used for boys and young men

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(Kilpatrick), the POC recommends that Probation move the three SYTF GGE to Barry J. Nidorf where they can receive age-appropriate, long-term services that they need. That opens up 20 spaces in two cottages (the HOPE center and the SYTF cottage) where Probation could move 20 pre-disposition GGE out of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and into DKC. Probation should focus on moving GGE with the most significant needs for behavioral and mental health intervention and those who will likely stay pre-disposition for the longest. This would reduce the population at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to approximately ten GGE.

- c. Moving some pre-disposition youth to Probation's other facilities was a solution recommended various times by Judge Espinoza during OSC hearings.

5. Recommit to Reducing Incarceration of Girls and Gender-Expansive Youth (10 youth)

- a. This is already a mandate of the Board of Supervisors. At the least, Probation should be able to reduce the female population of Los Padrinos by one-third (1/3) utilizing the strategies learned through the grant process with Vera Institute and partnerships with the Court and DCFS.

6. Move Lower-risk Boys to Camp (20-40 youth)

- a. One concept presented in the Global Plan is to separate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall into two groups by working to identify quickly boys who will likely stay detained longer. This is a well-supported proposal and there are many reasons including those presented in the Global Plan and the [POC's Pros and Cons list](#) to support it.
- b. The population of Los Padrinos could be decreased by 20-40 youth by moving boys identified as younger, lower-risk, and suitable to live in an open-dorm setting to Camp Paige, a facility that is operated by highly-trained and experienced Deputy Probation Officers. This would address the Department's goal of reducing the population without displacing the staff currently serving at Camp Paige.
- c. Moving some pre-disposition youth to Probation's Camps was a solution recommended various times by Judge Espinoza during OSC hearings.

7. Amended 4.24.25 - Evaluate the SYTF population at Campus Kilpatrick for release to step-down programs, especially including Pine Grove.

8. Amended 4.24.25 – The Probation Oversight Commission specifically uplifts pre-booking and post-booking diversion as a through DYD and its partner agencies as a county-wide goal consistent with Youth Justice Reimagined and a way to address the rising population in detention.

Conclusion

This can be done, and the Probation Department and the County as a whole must commit immediately to reducing the population at Los Padrinos. While there are several possibilities for moving populations of youth through the various detention facilities available countywide, these suggestions take into account input from youth, families, and various



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stakeholder groups including Probation employees, programming providers, and the public with a focus on minimizing negative impact on all the human beings involved. The POC believes that these recommendations would also cost less, align better with staff needs, and reduce Probation's footprint in a measured, measurable manner.