



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

# 2025 ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

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Dorothy Kirby Center  
Campus Vernon Kilpatrick-SYTF  
Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF  
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall  
Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh  
Camp Glenn Rockey

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*The mission of the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) is to re-imagine probation services in the County of Los Angeles to achieve accountability, transparency, and healing of the people served by and working for the Probation Department.*

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**March 27, 2025**

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# **INSPECTION REPORT FOR DOROTHY KIRBY CENTER (DKC)**

***Prepared By:***

**Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.**



## INTRODUCTION

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 2025 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fifth 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 on March 27, 2025: the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC). The DKC has continued to maintain the division of the premises into three distinct facilities: DKC-Placement, DKC-Camp, and DKC-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). It has been noted that Probation documents have reverted to calling the DKC-Camp cottage "Camp Scott." 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.

## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Need for full utilization of the facility** – Two cottages sat empty, and the Girls and Gender-Expansive (GGE) SYTF cottage was at less than 50% usage. On the same day as the inspection, there were youth at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) on a "DKC waiting list", fully cleared to be moved into the facility pending the available space to do so. The POC recommends that Probation consider moving the GGE SYTF unit to Barry J. Nidorf SYTF and eliminating the girls Hope Center (Diamond Cottage), which would free up 20 rooms. This movement could eliminate waiting lists and potentially be utilized to move additional young people out of LPJH.
- **Trauma-informed services pave the way for youth reflection and progress** – Youth repeatedly reported that the way they are treated at DKC helps them build relationships with Probation Officers and other professionals at the facility which has positively affected their lives, encouraged them to make good choices, and led to being able to envision a different future for themselves. Youth and Officers' accounts of trauma-responsive behavioral interventions aligned and included acknowledgement of the therapeutic environment supported by mental health clinicians at the facility.
- **Family participation and integration** – Regularly occurring LACOE-led activities bring families in to support their detained loved ones' education and were reported to positively impact youth and their families in understanding educational progress, making plans for the future, and celebrating current successes. Reportedly special visits, in addition to regular visits, supported improved family connections for a number of youth in the facility. Youth reported that having more contact and visits with family made them feel more prepared for the adjustment they will face once released, which professionals at DKC identified as a strength of the program.



- **DKC may not be the least restrictive setting for girls dispositioned to DKC-Camp** – Due to the housing of three distinct groups of GGE youth with diverse supervision needs into a large corner of the facility, the need for safety surpasses the ability to provide the camp population with the least restrictive environment possible. Consideration should be made to provide all youth with more appropriate opportunities to exercise pro-social behaviors and to question whether such strict segregation of boys and girls is necessary when they have similar supervision needs (i.e. girls and boys at DKC-Placement).

## **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 report marks the fifth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

## **METHODS**

At the beginning of the 2025 Annual Inspection cycle, Probation ran six juvenile facilities: one juvenile detention center ("juvenile hall"), three juvenile camps, two facilities solely dedicated to housing young people dispositioned to Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF). DKC is one of those juvenile facilities which houses youth dispositioned to camp, to secure placement, and to SYTF. In 2023, significant changes occurred on the campus. In August 2023, DKC received its first group of girls and young women dispositioned to a SYTF and dedicated one cottage with 10-person occupancy to house those young people. Dorothy Kirby Center also houses 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", and the names appear to now be used interchangeably by Probation. Given these changes, DKC continues to operate three distinct facilities within its walls, and each was inspected on March 27, 2025.



### Information about the inspection of DKC:

- Two POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Two POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- The DKC inspection took seven hours to complete.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation's executive leadership team and leaders from the facility were aware in advance of the inspection.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report, so 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 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. Data about the "facility's rated capacity," "population" and "staffing" (page 2) was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Director or Assistant Director. The only two numbers which required calculation in this report were the "Staff to Youth Ratio" and the "Number of Graduates." The 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.

### GENERAL DATA FOR DKC

- **Address:** 1500 S. McDonnell Avenue, Commerce CA 90040
- **Facility Type:** Placement, Camp, and Secure Youth Treatment Facility
- **Housing:** Ten cottages with single occupancy rooms
- **Rated Capacity:** 92<sup>1</sup>
- **Youth population present at facility:** 65<sup>2</sup>
  - **Boys:** 44 (all in Placement)
  - **Girls and Gender-Expansive Youth:** 22
- **Number of girls in Placement:** 9
- **Number of girls in Camp:** 10
- **Number of girls in SYTF:** 3<sup>3</sup>
- **Youth at court/medical:** 1
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 169
- **Probation Officers on duty at time of inspection:** 36

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<sup>1</sup> BSCC records dated April 22, 2025 indicate a rated capacity of 84 for "L.A. Camp Dorothy Kirby" and eight for "Los Angeles Secure Youth Treatment Facility at DKC".

<sup>2</sup> Probation provided numbers which appear to double count the one youth who was at court/medical, though they were excluded in the total "Youth Population Present at Facility"

<sup>3</sup> Actual data reported by Probation was three girls in SYTF, but the POC observed two girls and one youth who self-identifies as gender expansive.





## FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The facility and grounds appeared spacious, clean, and well-kept. As in 2024, the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) is divided into three separate functions, DKC-Placement, DKC-Camp (also known as Camp Scott), and DKC-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). The whole facility is comprised of ten cottages to house youth, eight of which regularly house youth and two fully equipped cottages which are less often utilized as “Hope Centers.” DKC-Placement reserves use of six of the cottages, five for boys and one for girls and gender-expansive youth (GGE). DKC-Placement is a residential locked placement specialized in meeting the mental health needs of the youth screened by an interagency placement committee for placement there. It was shared that although the screening committee was collaborative amongst partner agencies, the intake process was not, as agencies interacted with the young people separately. Probation DPO II Treatment Counselors conduct the intake process, and the assigned Treatment Counselor gives the young people their permitted phone-calls and supervises those calls.

In the cottages used to house youth in DKC-Placement, there was an average of seven (7) youth per boy’s cottage on the day of the inspection. The girls’ cottage was full. One DKC cottage was used as DKC-Camp, also known as Camp Scott, which holds up to ten GGE youth and at capacity on the day of the inspection. Another cottage was used to house GGE dispositioned to DKC-SYTF. On the day of the inspection, there were three (3) youth in the DKC-SYTF cottage.

Cottages appeared clean but aged. The young people assigned to the cottages appeared to differ significantly in age. Conflicting information was received about the cottage assignment process. Facility leadership indicated that cottage assignment was based on needs, however, partner agency staff shared that cottage assignment was based on space. There were cottages with 13- and 18-year-olds, which multiple Probation Officers expressed mild concern about during interviews.

Each cottage had a communal living space with hard plastic couches and chairs where young people could watch television, play video games, and engage in programs. Each cottage had a refrigerator and folding tables that could be pulled out for meals (which are eaten inside the cottage) to seat all the young people comfortably. All the 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 boy’s cottage appeared to have five televisions, which was reported by staff to help keep the peace amongst youth with varied interests and maturity. The lighting in the common areas of the cottages was observed to be kept dark, which at least one Probation Officer reported to help keep a calm mood in the cottage.

Young people observed and interviewed throughout the day appeared clean and well groomed, though they shared several concerns about undergarments and clean clothes. At DKC, each cottage has a laundry room where youth wash their own clothes and are



not required to wear clothing previously used by other youth<sup>4</sup>. Young people interviewed shared that they received four pairs of underwear, and were allowed to wash only once per week, causing them discomfort in having to reuse dirty underwear multiple times each week. This was of particular concern for girls, citing concerns about their ability to keep themselves clean.

Numerous young people throughout the day shared that they had a positive rapport with Probation Officers and talked about how their preferred staff members go out of their way to understand what youth are going through and to provide guidance. Much of the positive experiences that young people described at DKC was reported in contrast to their previous experiences at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH), though youth were asked questions specifically about DKC and not LPJH. Youth are dispositioned to DKC after a pre-disposition period at LPJH. One youth reported that their experience “was so bad [at LPJH], it makes this place [or DKC] seem like heaven”, which was a sentiment echoed by various youth during interviews. Youth interviewed reported a high level of willingness to participate in programming at DKC (including mental health services such as substance abuse and psychotherapy groups) because of feeling like the people working at the facility were “invested, and really care about us doing something positive with our lives.” This sentiment was echoed by multiple youth during the inspection.

Probation Officers and other professionals interviewed acknowledged the importance and collective understanding that their interventions should be rooted in connection, relationship building, mentorship, and must be trauma responsive. Many Probation Officers interviewed reported that the culture amongst Probation Officers in the facility is to question, “What happened, and to think about why, and not jump to blame” when incidents occur with youth. Various youth reported appreciation for the Probation Officers’ approach as it differed from their previous experiences. Many Probation Officers indicated their understanding that while youth may act out, it is their job to help youth understand what is driving those behaviors and to help youth recognize other behaviors that will better serve them and those around them. Probation Officers interviewed reported their understanding that many youth in the facility have experienced severe trauma, and that approaching youth by trying to understand them, rather than forcing compliance, makes the work easier and creates a positive culture at the facility. Many Probation Officers discussed their work with pride and shared breakthroughs they had with youth that they found challenging. Several Probation Officers also shared stories about youth who were known to call or visit the facility after release, wanting to connect with Probation Officers they knew while detained.

### KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen area appeared clean and well kept. Meals are prepared and plated in the kitchen and then taken to the cottages where the young people eat in a variety of arrangements in the living areas. Sometimes the whole population of the cottage eats together at a fold-out table. At other times, young people eat at different television and

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<sup>4</sup> During the [2024 Annual Inspection](#) cycle, youth at multiple facilities made complaints regarding hygiene, dignity, and other issues related to shared clothing.





video game stations within the cottage. It was reported that Probation Officers are always present during meals, often eat alongside youth, and the young people are permitted to converse during meals. Although the lunch hour was not observed, commissioners did receive a lunch plate which consisted of three double-layered hard shell ground beef tacos with shredded lettuce and cheese. The meal appeared ample, nutritious, and appetizing. Probation Officers noted that the meal servings had recently been doubled due to popular demand from the young people.

Feedback from youth on the food available at DKC was mixed. Some young people shared that they hated the food, threw much of it away, and “have not been asked for feedback” while others reported that they thought the food at DKC was an improvement over other facilities. The kitchen staff reported that there were attempts to get youth input on food choices, providing opportunities for some youth to participate in taste-testing, since they believe that youth want flavors most similar to those they have had in the past. This was evidenced by an example they gave where they had multiple youth try four different types of chocolate milk and were surprised when the youth indicated a preference for a very common and affordable brand versus other options viewed as higher quality and more expensive. Kitchen staff reported that, at times, vendors vary their products without consultation with the facility which results in flavor changes to food.

Kitchen staff reported that the kitchen is short staffed and that they currently have two open positions. As a result of short staffing, overtime is used on a regular basis to provide coverage. The head cook reported that while all kitchen equipment works, there is a need to update various appliances, starting with the grills.

## EDUCATION

- **Full-Time Teachers: 7**
  - **Assigned: 3**
  - **Long-Term Substitutes: 4**
- **High School Students: 61**
  - **High School: 58**
  - **Suspended: 3**
- **Youth with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): 32 (52%)**
- **High School Graduates: 5**
- **College Students: 4**
- **Dual Enrollment Students: 20**
- **College(s) Supporting this Facility: East Los Angeles College (ELAC)**

On the day of the inspection, LACOE was hosting a special event to mark the culmination of a unit of their Road to Success Academy (RTSA). Family members were invited to attend to learn more about the educational opportunities offered at DKC, including RTSA and dual enrollment in community college via the Rising Scholars Program. Various family members attended the event, including one mother who reported that this was her second time attending such an event and that she was pleased with the progress she observed in her student which she credited to her child’s program at DKC. Two students gave a



presentation to the participating families and the POC, including Spanish translation, to discuss education and their perception of the opportunities available to them at DKC. Families were then invited to visit classrooms for additional presentations about what youth were learning.

The students in two of the boys' classrooms appeared engaged and vested in the concept of "Self-actualization." They were able to explain the concept, articulate what it meant to them, and differentiate "self-esteem" from "self-actualization". Not only were the ambassadors engaging, but also the most reticent of students spoke knowingly about the subject.

In another classroom, there were two teaching assistants, one teacher, and a student ambassador who was incredibly thoughtful. Most students appeared engaged, and the curriculum was thought-provoking and culturally relevant. Two Probation Officers were standing in the classrooms, and the young people understood them to be there for security. All classrooms visited were adorned by student work and closely mirrored what one would expect at a school in the community. The teachers and aides appeared to have close and engaging relationships with the boys, and one of the Probation Officer sitting in the classroom reported collaborative and positive relationships with LACOE counterparts in the classroom.

The girls' classrooms did not have the same level of engagement or focus as observed in the boys' classrooms. In one of the girls' classrooms, there were three Probation Officers and two long-term substitute teachers. Commissioners observed the science and math classes, which had young people working either through packets or computer work, but there was no actual instruction observed. The girls interviewed could not articulate the concept of self-actualization when asked though it was the section just completed and the reason for the family visits. In the math class, one girl shared that the work was too easy and that she was assigned to a lower math level because her classmates were behind in math. She reported that she found the work unchallenging and was just going along until she was released. Some students requested to do Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training and another application called Odyssey rather than their math assignments. Throughout these classes, there were technology and password issues on the Chromebooks that delayed the start of work. Girls also complained that restrictions on the use of technology made it difficult to research and gain access to information they needed to complete their work, with one student saying, "I can't get enough information to really learn" and demonstrated the limitations on the search engine software applications.

Despite these issues, there appeared to be obviously positive rapport between the adults and students in the classrooms, and the tone of conversations was respectful, lighthearted, and comfortable.

The three SYTF GGE youth were all high school graduates and appeared restricted to the unit for their educational needs and programs. The Rising Scholars representative shared challenges with providing services including limited access to computers for



school and homework time. Computer access was scheduled on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The SYTF college population can enroll in classes with East Los Angeles College (ELAC). Classes are asynchronous, meaning there is no live instruction (virtual or in person) but rather students view videos and submit written assignments. Interaction with professors is limited to email correspondence on Canvas. This population did not have access to trade or certification courses. A young person shared, “I have to wait until I get out to be challenged.” These concerns were echoed by Probation Education Services staff, who elaborated that security, hours of availability, and dual enrollment issues were obstacles to fully realizing the educational experience of high school graduates housed at DKC. It was reported that due to limited laptop access, Probation Education Services have advocated for students, requesting that professors are flexible to change due dates for assignments. It was also reported that requests have been made for ELAC to provide live instruction, but the college has not yet responded.

There were some reports throughout the day of continued resistance to changes to education services within the facility and that cooperation and acceptance of new programs needed to be embraced by LACOE. It was reported that there was a sense of possessiveness over which students “belong” to LACOE and that Probation Education Services staff would like more access to those pupils to get them interested in college classes.

## **GRIEVANCES**

- **Total Grievances Reviewed<sup>5</sup>:** 33
- **Grievance system:** Paper only
- **Emergency grievances:** None

Grievance rules and procedures were posted throughout the facility, including in all cottages. Interviews with youth indicated that they understand the grievance procedure. All grievances reviewed were responded to within three business days as required by [Probation’s Grievance Policy](#).<sup>6</sup>

Grievances included building issues, basic needs for clothing, programming and services issues, concerns about Probation Officers and partner agency staff, and other issues. No emergency (Prison Rape Elimination Act/Health/Suspected Abuse) grievances were observed. Most grievances noted that young people declined a copy of their grievance. This information was written in on the grievance form, as there was no “declined” option for the young person in the “*Received a copy of grievance*” section. Probation Officers reported their belief that youth did not want to risk being viewed as a “snitch” if they were to receive a copy of the grievance.

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<sup>5</sup> POC generally requests to review all grievances from the current calendar year, unless that number is deemed too small to get a reasonable sense of common grievance themes for the facility. The grievances provided and reviewed were from January 2025 onward.

<sup>6</sup> [Los Angeles County Probation 2020 RTSB Policy Manual](#)



### **DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT**

The facility uses two positive behavior intervention programs: the Developmental Stage System (DSS) and the Behavior Management Program (BMP). The DSS was used for the SYTF population and the BMP for DKC Placement and DKC-Camp. The differences between the two models were not immediately clear, but each cottage had information posted for youth to see how to earn points and to highlight special events that were planned as a reward for periods of time that were “incident-free”. Youth were observed wearing different colored polo shirts at school which they reported were tied to their earned privilege level. The facility had a canteen store where the young people were able to use their earned points from participating in their program as currency to purchase snacks and other brand name personal care items to supplement products provided.

In addition to the desire to achieve new privilege levels and have additional material items, special activities were reported to be regularly scheduled for cottages with the best behavior. These events included the use of the DKC game room in the auditorium which had table games such as air hockey, participation in a classic car show, attendance at the DKC prom, among others. Youth reported enjoying the special events and feeling motivated by them.

What appeared to be one of the most impactful aspects of behavior reinforcement at the facility were youth reports about the way they felt they were treated by the professionals within the facility. Youth reported that feeling respected changed the way they acted. One girl said, “The staff all treat me real respectful; they pull me aside and talk to me when things go wrong because they want me to do good.” Many Probation Officers described their interventions with youth in ways that affirmed what the youth reported. It was reported that one of the first steps Probation Officers take when youth arrive at DKC is to inform them that they are no longer in the juvenile hall and that expectations for Probation Officers and youth are different at DKC. It was reported by youth and Probation Officers that youth are encouraged and empowered to use their voice to self-advocate and resolve problems as they arise by talking with staff first. Many Probation Officers reported frustration that youth labeled as problematic or violent come to DKC and display no such behaviors. One Probation Officer stated, “They are exactly the same kids, the only difference is us.”

### **ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Department of Health Services’ Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported hours of operation from 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., seven days per week including holidays. Youth reported ease of access to nurses and medical services at DKC and that to see the nurse, they usually ask staff to call the nurse, and they are attended to without necessarily needing to write a formal request.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., seven days a week and access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies occurring after-hours. DMH staff provide Dialectic Behavior Therapy (DBT) in collaboration with Probation Treatment and Counseling (TNC) DPO IIs. DMH staff





provide transportation to families for family therapy sessions. DMH staff noted that there were no assigned private offices to provide services at DKC. Services were provided in the administrative conference room which had to be scheduled ahead of time, or in the young person's cottage where other young people and Probation Officers could potentially hear their sessions. Despite space constraints, young people interviewed reported that they had a strong, positive rapport with their therapists. Young people reported feeling respected and listened to by their therapists, and one Probation Officer recounted a story of girls who cried with their therapist on her last day due to the bond they shared, and discussed the attachments made in the therapeutic relationships youth have with therapists and how difficult it is for youth to have those ties severed once a bond has been established.

DMH shared that three young people were on an enhanced supervision level, and the young people received treatment based on their needs ranging from one session per week to several. Youth reported that they were able to meet with their assigned clinicians when they wanted to, and that Probation staff often facilitated contact by calling clinicians as needed.

### AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

JCHS staff described their relationship with the Probation Department as "good." JCHS reported that over the last year, they observed departmental improvements that benefited the young people and the daily operations at the facility. One example was the observation that changes to transportation occurred that resulted in youth receiving prompt transportation to medical appointments outside the facility.

DMH staff shared: "Overall Probation works with us. Although there are monthly interagency meetings, there are no obvious changes in Probation operations." Probation Officers interviewed throughout the day reported positive relationships with their DMH colleagues and found them to be supportive of the creation of the trauma-responsive culture at the facility. Some Probation Officers expressed concern about the loss of clinicians at what some described as a high level of turnover in recent years, especially when youth made behavioral improvements and other therapeutic gains attributed to working with those clinicians. Probation Officers reported strong collaboration with DMH partners in day-to-day tasks, including the facilitation of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) which is an evidence based psychotherapeutic group service offered weekly in each cottage within the DKC Placement. The therapy is aimed at helping youth to cope with intense emotions, impulsivity, and to improve interpersonal functioning.

### STAFFING

- **Deployed Staff (AM):** 2
- **Deployed Staff (PM):** 3
- **Callouts by supervision staff (AM):** 1
- **Callouts by supervision staff (PM):** Data not provided
- **Staff on Leave(s):** 33
- **Staff on Overtime:** Data not provided





Interviews at DKC indicated that most considered the facility to be slightly short staffed and that while there were no mandatory holdovers occurring, most shifts relied on people working voluntary overtime to maintain sufficient staffing. A few Probation Officers reported an interest in working overtime due to the financial benefit, while many reported that they were more motivated to work overtime to support the overall environment of safety for youth and their colleagues. During the inspection, many Probation Officers shared concerns about the recently released Global Plan<sup>7</sup>, and how it would affect the facility and facilities around the county. Probation Officers expressed some feelings of learned helplessness, as multiple individuals reported a repeating pattern of disregard for their input, few opportunities for input, and a lack of acknowledgement of their contributions to the well-being of girls at the facility from Probation's Executive Leadership Team. Some expressed frustration about the focused attention, human resources, and money poured into the juvenile hall, and their sense that the positive cultures of DKC and other facilities could be eroded to try to save the juvenile hall. One Probation Officer rhetorically asked, "Can they tell us what we've done wrong to have the girls moved away?" One Probation Officer working in the girl's camp cottage supported moving the camp girls out of DKC, stating: "When we had our own space, I would keep the doors open all day, and we stayed outside a lot. We can't do that here because of the supervision needs of the other girls<sup>8</sup>, so we can't keep the doors open." Some Probation Officer highlighted a desire to see more gender-specific and individualized programming regardless of facility changes. Numerous Probation Officers expressed concerns about the lack of information about upcoming facility changes, timelines, the possibility of reassignment, and impact to youth at the facility. None interviewed openly indicated interest in volunteering to change their worksite.

## **ROOM CONFINEMENT**

The facility had two cottages reserved as HOPE Centers, which may be used as a place for youth to "cool down" or for special housing assignment as needed, with one cottage for boys and one for girls and GGE youth. During the inspection, there was briefly one boy in the HOPE Center. The GGE HOPE Center was empty. No instances of room confinement were observed during the inspection in the cottages.

## **PROGRAMMING**

The programs listed on the facility schedule matched the operations of the day. Commissioners observed Million Little in one of the cottages, where several activities were going on including music making, tie-dying clothes, airbrushing apparel, painting small canvases, jewelry-making, hat-making, shirt-making, and shoe-painting. All the young people appeared to enjoy the program as they were engaged and participating.

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<sup>7</sup> Probation's February 18, [2025 Global Plan overlaps with the later released Depopulation Plan and both have been discussed interchangeably by staff as both plans outline the planned future usage of Probation's detention facilities throughout Los Angeles County.](#)

<sup>8</sup> The reference to other girls includes those dispositioned to DKC Placement and DKC-SYTF.



Reports from young people about their experiences with programming were overwhelmingly positive with youth again comparing the quality and quantity of programming they enjoy at DKC to their experience at the juvenile hall. Youth reported that program providers show up when scheduled and that they had good relationships with the providers overall. Some young people reported that they disliked the credible messenger program. Facility leadership shared that although the facility had access to credible messengers, they currently did not have one due to an incident occurred involving a credible messenger which prompted Probation's facility leadership to request a different credible messenger to be assigned to the facility. The facility was working on finding a replacement through the Department of Youth Development and expected someone to be assigned within the next week or two. Another youth reported interpersonal conflict with the substance abuse counselor, as they felt they had been threatened with consequences for not participating in a group and in turn, the young person did not trust them.

The young people in cottages throughout the facility expressed that they wanted more vocational and trade programming options on a regularly occurring schedule. It was shared that due to the capacity of current available vocational programs, many youth were excluded from participation. Vocational programming was minimal at the facility, as there was only one vocational program offered by East Los Angeles Community College (ELAC).

In one cottage, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) was occurring. Some young people were engaged and participating in the program. The topic of the day was how emotions manifest physically. Out of respect for the seriousness of the conversation, commissioners ended the observation quickly.

## **HARM REDUCTION**

All Probation staff interviewed were carrying Narcan on their utility belts. There was also a Narcan supply inside each of the defibrillator boxes in each of the cottages. Young people were not formally trained to identify the signs of opioid intoxication and did not have access to Narcan.<sup>9</sup> Partner agencies such as DMH shared that Probation leadership at the facility was beginning the process to empower their staff to carry Narcan by arranging trainings, though Narcan had not been distributed or made available yet.<sup>10</sup>

It was reported that after the suspected overdose of a youth and Narcan deployment in December 2024, Probation leadership at the facility was preparing for a series of "Man-down" drills to help all professionals and youth in the facility learn what their roles could look like in the event of a medical emergency.

It was also shared that while illicit substances were not common contraband in the facility, vigilance was high. It was reported that there had been two events in the preceding six

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<sup>9</sup> In the March 7, 2023 Board motion: [Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls](#), Probation was directed to "make Narcan readily and easily accessible to youth".

<sup>10</sup> November 26, 2024 Motion: [Empowering Probation Providers to Carry Naloxone](#) November 26, 2024



months where one or more drones flew over the entrance way of the facility. The Los Angeles County Sheriff Department was contacted and used a device to disable the drones on both occasions. It was reported that despite a thorough search for any contraband after each event, none was found.

### OC SPRAY

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray is not an available use of force option within DKC.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**May 22, 2025**

**Published on October 9, 2025**

# **INSPECTION REPORT FOR CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK- SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY (CVK-SYTF)**

***Prepared By:***

**Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.**



## INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC), in its mission to oversee and make recommendations to the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation or Department), is completing the 2025 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fifth 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 second facility inspected during this annual cycle Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK). CVK has continued to function as an internal step-down Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) for those young people previously housed at Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF with exemplary behavior who have achieved Developmental Stage System (DSS) levels six and higher. In the month prior to the inspection, a plan was accepted by the county courts to allow a change in use to the facility to aid the movement of young people out of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) due to continued findings of unsuitability for the confinement of minors by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Therefore, during the inspection, the POC inquired about the planning process and preparations to shift CVK from housing transition-age males to the proposed function to house girls and gender-expansive (GGE) young people. In addition to the change in gender served, the proposal intends for all GGE to be housed at CVK, facilitating the need to meet the supervision and programming needs of four distinct populations: pre-disposition GGE currently housed at LPJH, GGE dispositioned to SYTF, GGE at camp, and GGE in placement, all of whom are currently housed at the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC).

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:**

- **Trauma-informed services pave the way for reflection and progress** – Years of interdepartmental implementation of the LA Model created a facility environment where rapport-based supervision and trauma-informed interventions helped youth aspire and achieve. Young people at the facility emphasized that being treated with trust, respect, and being afforded more freedom in daily choices and in physical space motivated positive changes in relating to others and personal mood management.
- **Unwanted changes paired with insufficient information** – Probation employees described a sense of success, pride, and cultivated expertise in their work with the male SYTF step-down population, thus questioning why the successful program would be terminated. Many questioned whether an adequate number of experienced staff would volunteer to work there and whether the facility could be made physically ready in the proposed timeline. Staff reported ongoing problems with communication from Probation's Executive Leadership to





employees, partners, and young people. Many voiced concerns about the rushed timeline and foresee safety and health risks that could be dangerous and harmful to young people, staff, and the overall image of the Probation Department. Young people were especially affected by the lack of information and agency over their futures. Moods were low and anxious throughout the facility.

## **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 report marks the fifth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

## **METHODS**

At the beginning of the 2025 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 CVK.

In order to complete the inspection of CVK:

- Two POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Two POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- The CVK inspection occurred on May 22, 2025, and took eight hours to complete.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation's Executive 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, so the POC previously 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 young people at the facility.



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 “Population,” and “Staffing” was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility’s Director; and each of these numbers was directly reported in this report. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

### GENERAL DATA FOR CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK

- **Address:** 427 Encinal Canyon Road, Malibu, California 90265
- **Facility Type:** Secure Youth Treatment Facility
- **Housing:** Five separate cottages with two sides each with open dormitory style living space.
- **Rated Capacity:** 48<sup>1</sup>
- **Youth population present at facility:** 16 boys/young men
- **Young people at court/medical:** 0
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 65
- **Probation Officers on duty on the day of inspection:** 14

### FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

CVK sits in a small canyon in a semi-remote area in Malibu. All facilities at the site are modern and clean. The facility was fully re-built and re-opened in July 2017 to be the launch site of the LA Model, making it the newest and least carceral of any of Probation’s facilities in Los Angeles County.

Upon entry to the facility in the administration building, a security guard was present, items were passed through an x-ray machine, and guests and staff entered through a metal detector.

The grounds included an administrative building which connected to a cafeteria, kitchen, and gym. That building opened up to a large grassy area leading to five cottages and a school building with a sign that reads, “Road To Success Academy.” The grounds offered outdoor exercise equipment, a volleyball court, a swimming pool, basketball courts, and a garden.

Two cottages were used to house the 16 young people present on the day of inspection, all of whom were previous residents of Barry J. Nidorf- Secure Youth Track Facility (BJN-SYTF) and serving a disposition to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF). Three additional cottages housed no young people and had been modified since the POC’s last Annual Inspection to be utilized for different activities and programming including an art studio, a weightlifting gym, and a gaming room equipped with many different consoles

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<sup>1</sup> July 15, 2025 [BSCC Rated Capacity of Juvenile Detention Facilities](#)



and arcade-style games. 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 young people housed there. Young people at CVK were allowed to have their own personal bedsheets rather than the standard county-issued sheets used at other facilities, decorate the walls above their beds, and have keepsakes and photos on their windowsills. The cottages each have two sides, and each side had two separate sleeping areas with three or four beds in it. In the center of the cottage was a living room area replete with a large, mounted television, sofas, and a table in the center. No graffiti was observed in either cottage. Clean bathrooms and showers were observed in both cottages with privacy curtains in place. Each cottage also had a kitchenette and a refrigerator.

As in previous years, POC inspectors questioned why the population of the facility remained at 20 or less despite a rated capacity of 48. There was no clear answer and many staff and youth noted that more young people were already qualified to step down from BJN-SYTF. Staff and youth noted awareness and concern about recent plans<sup>2</sup> to change the use of the facility from an SYTF step down to a multi-use site that would house all GGE young people including juvenile hall, placement, camp, and SYTF populations.

Staff shared multiple issues with the physical facilities including a problem with insufficient sewage capacity. Staff reported that with the current population, the sewage pump is running at 90% capacity. It was reported that when the population was higher, it cost \$10,000 each month to have sewage hauled away. Staff also mentioned the insufficiency of the staff sleeping quarters since the facility was built with just 15 staff sleeping rooms. Probation Officers at the facility work a highly compressed work schedule (the “56”) that typically allows these employees to sleep at the facility, which is helpful due to the remote location and high traffic commute.

The cottage environments were generally calm, but the youth expressed significant concern and tension due to the news that they would soon be moved from the facility. During the inspection, multiple young people asked POC inspectors for more information about the plan, what would happen to them, and also what would happen to the Probation Officers that they had grown attached to and considered their mentors. One young person was observed becoming overwhelmed by emotion given the uncertainty involved. Inspectors observed the Director compassionately taking time to talk to him, helping him regulate his emotions, and offer support. Another young person said he “would like transparency over changes and movements.” Others shared an increase in anxiety due to the lack of information, while also acknowledging their belief that the Director was sharing everything known. All young people interviewed reported feeling comfortable in the living space and in the facility overall, and many discussed how they experienced personal growth at CVK directly due to being granted more freedoms and receiving more respectful treatment than they had at other Probation facilities which young people described as “institutionalized”.

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<sup>2</sup> Probation’s current [Depopulation Strategy](#) and the February 2025 [Global Plan](#)



## KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen area appeared clean and well kept. Meals are prepared and plated in the kitchen, and then everyone eats together in the cafeteria just in front of the kitchen. It was noted that professionals in the facility, including Probation staff, program providers, and credible messengers, ate alongside young people and their colleagues and were seen chatting and laughing with young people and Probation Officers. The dining hall was decorated with colorful boards, posters with information about COVID-19, healthy meal signage, youth bill of rights posters, and complaint forms.

Feedback from young people on the food available at CVK was consistent in that many young people described the food as “okay.” Young people were observed eating burritos filled with chicken, rice, and beans on the day of the inspection and were observed consuming the food enthusiastically. Some young people had hot sauce, and it was observed that a number of condiments were made available to young people by kitchen staff for different meals, including barbecue sauce, ranch, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and other salad dressings. It was reported that eggs were the most unpopular and often wasted food, per kitchen staff.

The kitchen staff reported multiple concerns regarding the changes to the use of the facility, however they had no information about the timeline for the incoming young people. Their concerns focused on insufficient staffing and broken equipment. Kitchen staff reported that the kitchen is so short staffed that they work 14-hour days and must each work one day of overtime weekly in order to serve the current population of 16 young people. Inspectors observed that the large walk-in refrigerator was broken. Staff reported that the refrigerator had been out of order for four or five months without a clear timeline for having it repaired. Staff reported that in order to fix the refrigerator, the walk-in freezer would need to be put out of commission since they run on some shared hardware. Kitchen staff reported that they had acquired and were using an external refrigerator, but could not accommodate food storage for a larger population with the current limitations.

## EDUCATION

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers:** 2
- **High School Students:** 1
  - **Young people suspended:** 0
- **High School Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):** 1 (100%)
- **High school graduates:** 17<sup>3</sup>
- **College students:** 13
- **Dual enrollment students:** 0
- **College(s) supporting this facility:** Mission College and West LA College

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<sup>3</sup> LACOE reported 17 high school graduates, which is greater than the total population reported by Probation. The discrepancy is likely due to delayed communication regarding release or transportation of youth.





On the day of the inspection, there was only one high school student at CVK, who was observed studying in a dedicated Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classroom. The majority of young people seen at the school were working independently in a Probation Education Services supported study hall, a classroom LACOE allowed Probation Education Services to use for college students. In the college classroom, students worked on their class assignments through LACOE-issued laptops, and all were participating in asynchronous, pre-recorded college classes. Youth reported that they had in the past joined live virtual college classes with youth at BJN-SYTF through Zoom. All young people observed in college were working independently on their computers and appeared engaged in their course work. Probation Education Services staff were observed doing one-on-one work with students to ensure comprehension of the material. The classroom was decorated with college banners, Youth Bill of Rights posters, and PREA posters. The young people appeared well dressed in clean shoes, khaki pants, and collared uniform shirts.

The courses offered by the college were not limited, as students had access to the college's full online, asynchronous course schedule. It was reported that four students had graduated from community college with their associates degree and were taking additional transfer courses toward their four-year degree. Probation Education Services staff reported that their staffing was low and that they needed more staff to assist because the workload was heavy for onboarding youth when first arriving at the facility. It was reported that although the facility has a high college acceptance rate, young people typically come in at a high school junior level and they struggle to catch up with academic expectations for college, but eventually there is a shift.

While observing and speaking with the young people about their educational experiences at CVK, it was apparent that numerous agencies, including LACOE, Probation, Probation Education Services, and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) worked together with the young people to get them as much college credit as possible so they could enroll in four-year universities. The young people made it clear that they rarely miss school and that staff helped them work through any issues they encountered. One young person shared that he had received an associate's degree and was accepted to a local university to pursue a bachelor's degree, but he was stressed about the possibility of the pending transfer to BJN-SYTF disrupting his ability to register, go to a community step-down, and attend university classes in August. He was supposed to be released days before the inspection, but the judge's plan to delay his release to consider alternate step-down facilities sent the youth's plans for the next year into jeopardy.

LACOE reported an "amazing relationship with Probation" and they use the LA Model as guidance for interactions where "everyone works together." At CVK the "students are at the center, it is flexible." Staff gave an example about how a student might be struggling with their current educational plan, but the plan could be changed within the same day. It was shared that this year LACOE contracted with PV Jobs which is a vocational program where young people receive career credits for participating in hands on work, and all the young people at the facility participated. The program was held in the woodworking room





which had TV screens up, tables with workstations, and safety equipment. The room also had a grievance box and Youth Bill of Rights posters.

When discussing the anticipated facility use changes in the Global Plan, LACOE reported that they were told by Probation that they would receive three days of advanced notice about the movement of GGE youth to the facility. Concerns were expressed about LACOE's ability to find enough substitute educators to provide services to students until people could be brought on permanently. There was also a need to set up new classrooms at the school that had been unused recently and staff noted that one had sustained damage from a flood.

## **GRIEVANCES**

- **Total Grievances Reviewed<sup>4</sup>:** 17
- **Grievance system:** Paper only
- **Emergency grievances:** None

Grievance rules and procedures were posted throughout the facility including in all cottages. Interviews with young people indicated that the grievance procedure was understood. All grievances reviewed were responded to in three business days as required by [Probation's Grievance Policy](#)<sup>5</sup>. Grievances ranged from facility maintenance issues to relational issues with Probation Officers. The facility maintenance grievances were addressed right away, and the requests were granted by submitting a work order. Grievances related to issues with Probation Officers or other staff were also reviewed (including videos) and responded to in one to two days. Grievance resolutions were based on a case-by-case review. One grievance requested a change in caseworker and after investigation, the request was granted. Another grievance was denied as video did not support the young person's statement. No emergency (Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)/Health/Suspected Abuse) grievances were observed.

## **DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT**

The facility uses two behavior programs: the Developmental Stage System (DSS) and the Behavior Management Program (BMP). The differences between the two models were not immediately clear, but each cottage had information posted for young people to see how to earn points and highlight special events that were planned for the facility. Young people were observed wearing different colored polo shirts at school and were also allowed to wear shirts or sweatshirts specific to the facility. The facility had a canteen store where the young people were able to use their points earned from participating in their program as currency to purchase snacks and other personal care items to supplement products given.

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<sup>4</sup> POC generally requests to review all grievances from the current calendar year, unless that number is deemed too small to get a reasonable sense of common grievance themes for the facility. The grievances provided and reviewed were from January 2025 onward.

<sup>5</sup> [Los Angeles County Probation 2020 RTSB Policy Manual](#)



Young people reported that the most impactful aspect of behavior reinforcement at the facility was that they felt they were treated with respect by the professionals within the facility. It was reported by young people and Probation Officers that young people are encouraged and empowered to use their voice to self-advocate and resolve problems as they arise by talking with staff first. Many Probation Officers reported frustration in their experience that young people labeled as problematic or violent in the juvenile halls can quickly move through a program at BJN-SYTF and come to CVK displaying few antagonistic or aggressive behaviors.

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported hours of operation from 6:30am-10:00pm, seven days per week including holidays. Young people receive physical exams on an annual basis.

The DMH reported hours of operation from 8:00am-8:00pm, seven days per week and access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies occurring after-hours. The Officer of the Day assists during crises, however, DMH staff noted that crisis incidents were very uncommon at CVK.

### AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

A Commissioner noted that the JCHS operations appeared “flawless.” The JCHS staff shared that success in operations is due to a “combined effort” of all the partner agencies, and that the agencies have a “special relationship” where all staff understand each other. Others attributed the teamwork and respect of roles directly to LA Model trainings that all the departments participated in years prior. The JCHS staff mentioned that missed medical appointments were not a regular occurrence. The JCHS staff engaged directly with young people to help prevent unnecessary refusals of medical care; young people have to talk directly to the nurse in order to obtain a medical refusal.

The DMH staff shared that although their current operations ran smoothly due to the agency comradery at CVK, there was anxiety because of the movement rumors. The DMH staff noted that young people expressed feeling anxious, frustrated, and resentful about the possible facility changes. Clinicians planned to have a “warm handoff” to BJN-SYTF clinicians, and expressed an ethical obligation to communicate and make themselves available to the young people upon transfer.

### STAFFING

- **Callouts by Supervision Staff: 2**
- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s): 0**
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision: 0**
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime: 0**



During the inspection, many Probation Officers shared their concerns about the recently released [Global Plan](#), and how it would negatively affect the facility and facilities around the county. Probation Officers expressed some feelings of learned helplessness, as multiple individuals reported a repeating pattern of the Department's disregard for their input, not having opportunities for early input, nor acknowledgement of their contributions from Probation's Executive Leadership Team. Some expressed frustration about the wealth of attention, human resources, and money poured into the juvenile hall, and their sense that the positive culture at CVK and other facilities would be eroded to try to fix it. One Probation Officer shared that he spent many years crafting interventions and expertise to work successfully with males and shared that he, and potentially others, wished to continue working with young men. It was also reflected throughout the day by various professionals that Probation's Executive Leadership team should consider that specialized professionals cannot responsibly serve a different population from one day to the next and that decision-making from a distance was a disservice to all of the human beings involved, with an emphasis on the young people. It was also noted throughout the day that the potential dispersal of the CVK staff across other facilities would pose a major challenge to the maintenance of the LA Model culture at the facility.

### **ROOM CONFINEMENT**

Given the open layout of the cottages, there is no opportunity for any type of room confinement at CVK. There is no HOPE Center. It was reported several times throughout the day that when incidents occurred on rare occasions, the professionals in the facility took time to help the youth regulate their mood, provide support, and offer behavioral alternatives that included opportunities to be outside or participate in constructive activities.

### **PROGRAMMING**

The programs on the facility schedule matched the operations of the day, including substance abuse services and music programming. The Programming Director noted that there was 100% participation, which was also observed. Young people reported appreciating the vocational training and the opportunity to learn practical skills that they can use when they are eventually released and living independently in the community. One young person reported that it was important to "catch up on all the things we need to know" since they felt that they had lost many opportunities for learning while detained at other Probation facilities.

### **HARM REDUCTION**

All Probation staff interviewed were carrying Narcan on their utility belts.<sup>6</sup> There was also a Narcan supply inside each of the defibrillator boxes in the locked hallways of each of the cottages. Young people were not formally trained to identify the signs of opioid

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<sup>6</sup> January 10, 2023 Motion: [Saving Lives by Making NARCAN Readily Accessible in the County's Juvenile Halls and Camps](#)



intoxication and did not have access to Narcan.<sup>7</sup> Co-located partners such as DMH and credible messengers shared that Probation leadership at the facility had discussed making Narcan available to them, though Narcan had not been distributed or made available yet.<sup>8</sup> The LACOE teachers were all trained in the use of Narcan and were able to access it in the school office.

### OC SPRAY

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray was not an available use of force option at CVK on the day of inspection. The question of whether OC spray would be used once GGE are brought to the facility was raised since at the time of the inspection, OC spray was being used regularly on GGE at LPJH. It was reported that the use of OC spray had not been discussed during any planning meetings for the future of CVK.

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<sup>7</sup> March 7, 2023 Motion: [Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls](#)

<sup>8</sup> November 26, 2024 Motion: [Empowering Probation Providers to Carry Naloxone](#)



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**June 10, 2025**

**Published on October 9, 2025**

# **INSPECTION REPORT FOR BARRY J. NIDORF-SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY (BJN-SYTF)**

***Prepared By:***

**Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.**





## INTRODUCTION

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 2025 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fifth 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 third facility inspected during this annual cycle: Barry J. Nidorf-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN-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:**

- ***Facility staffing is limited, and operations are dependent on mandatory holdovers, deployments, and overtime with the current population level*** – Many units visited had Deputy Probation Officers and Group Supervisor Nights (GSNs) working overtime. On the day of the inspection, 17 Probation Officers were there on a holdover or overtime, and 24 Probation Officers were there on deployment. It was reported that staffing has been strained since population increases occurred in Fall 2024. Young people reported that short staffing affects their ability to participate in programming scheduled to take place outside of the living unit and the quality of supervision in the unit and during visits.
- ***Data on outcomes is needed to verify the efficacy of the piloted Developmental Stage System (DSS)*** – The detention of young people within the juvenile justice system must be rehabilitative<sup>1</sup>. Over the last year, Probation has implemented DSS to increase pro-social behaviors in young people detained there. While anecdotal feedback within the facility appears to support neutral and positive behavioral outcomes for young people, the Department had no outcome data points to support the efficacy of the model. If the system is evaluated to be successful, it should be fully implemented and applied consistently across facilities.
- ***Clarification of DSS for young people*** – It was reported that youth learn about DSS during their orientation to the facility, however the number of complaints expressed by young people during the inspection and within the facility's grievances indicate a need for simplified and repeated review of the DSS guidelines with young people.
- ***Decreased illicit substance use and related contraband found in the facility*** – This improvement was prominent during the visit, in reports, and observations.

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<sup>1</sup> [California Code, WIC 875.](#)



No youth appeared intoxicated during the inspection, and it was reported that while vape pens and chargers required power, they are still making their way into the facility. Other illicit substance contraband found during searches has declined over the last year. Multiple individuals at the facility advocated for the installation of an airport-style body scanner at the main entrance to further stem the flow of contraband and continue to harden opportunities for illicit substances to enter BJN-SYTF.

- ***The tone among facility leadership and in the units reflected continued improvement of the culture in the facility toward the promotion of mutual respect and pro-social behaviors*** – While some complaints about Probation Officer behavior remained, many youth reported feeling that they were treated fairly and with respect by most Probation Officers. Concerns were expressed throughout the day by youth and Probation Officers alike that the population changes planned for the facility may change or strain the improvements made in the facility culture which many attribute to the quality of the relationships cultivated by professionals with the young people in detention.

## **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 report marks the fifth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

## **METHODS**

### **Details about the inspection of Barry J. Nidorf-Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN-SYTF):**

- Three POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Three POC staff members provided support during the inspection.



- The BJN-SYTF inspection was conducted on June 10, 2025 and took eight hours to complete.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation's Executive 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, so the POC previously 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 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 on the day of the inspection. The data collected about the “Rated Capacity,” “Population,” and “Staffing” was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Assistant Superintendent; and each of these numbers was directly reported in this report. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

## GENERAL DATA FOR BJN-SYTF

- **Address:** 16350 Filbert Street, Sylmar, California, 91342
- **Facility Type:** Secure Youth Treatment Facility
- **Housing:** Single occupancy rooms in unit. Some units are designed with centralized day rooms with individual rooms around the outside of the day room. Some units have a day room or two and offices with the individual rooms in a hallway.
- **Rated Capacity:** 414<sup>2</sup>
- **Youth population present at facility:** 102
- **Number of boys/young men:** 102
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 0
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 187
- **Probation Officers on duty at time of inspection:** 55-AM, 36-PM

## FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Entering the facility was more complex than in previous inspections. The entry process included an initial security review of belongings, then those items passed through an X-ray machine while people walked through a metal detector. Each visitor then presented their identification at an enclosed window and their entrance was registered. This process differed from other facilities and was more comprehensive. Commissioners noted that in addition to the multi-step entrance process, security did not allow metal water bottles, and those conducting the inspection were informed that their county identification badge was

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<sup>2</sup> [BSCC Rated Capacities of Juvenile-Detention Facilities, June 2025](#)



insufficient as a form of identification. A driver's license or state-issued identification was required to enter the facility. Commissioners remarked that they would like to see every facility have a similar process to prevent the inflow of contraband, increase consistency for visitors, and to reduce the number of times one needs to return to their car prior to entering the facilities.

The facility and grounds appeared clean and well-kept. The units visited were clean, some with new colorful flooring. Facility leadership shared that "homelike environment" renovations were wrapping up in the final units, however Commissioners remarked that even with the improvements, units did not feel warm or like a "homelike environment" as what was envisioned by the supporters of Senate Bill 823<sup>3</sup>, the state bill that led to the closure of Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and realigned youth to their counties of origin to finish their commitments in Secure Youth Treatment Facilities. The day rooms in "the compound," the gated buildings in the center of the facility in which the renovations were complete had nicer, more comfortable chairs and tables though it was noted that the overall look was still carceral. When visiting the compound, Inspectors were pleased to note that the razor wire that had previously topped the chain link fences had been replaced with roller bars. Two buildings outside the compound were being used as step-down units for youth who were able to achieve and maintain a DSS level of four or above.

While young people and Probation Officers at the facility were mostly neutral or optimistic in their opinions about the current operations and functioning of the facility, many expressed concerns about the changes identified in the Probation Department's Global/Depopulation Plans.<sup>4</sup> Concerns included: an already stretched-thin staff with the current population of approximately 100; unintended consequences and restrictions that might be caused by mixing young people with different supervision needs; the facility's history of unsuitable conditions as determined by the BSCC;<sup>5</sup> and a lack of communication from the Probation Department's Executive Leadership team on timelines or a response to proposed staffing plans. These unaddressed questions left many young people and employees in the facility with uncertainty that arose throughout the inspection.

While Probation Officers and partners discussed pride about the continued progress made with stabilizing the young people and decreasing serious incidents over the past year since the [2024 POC Annual Inspection](#), responses to questions about the future elicited a sense of frustration and helplessness from those expressing deep personal investment in maintaining the positive gains in tone and culture in the facility. Many individuals predicted serious disruption and asked rhetorical questions of the POC like "How much more can we do?" or "Why are they going to mix us with the kids from LP, like it's a set up?"

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<sup>3</sup> [SB823](#)

<sup>4</sup> In the weeks prior to and following this inspection, plans were shared by Probation's Executive Leadership team which were identified by several different names despite being very similar. At the time of the inspection, the existing plan was called the Global Plan, which was then replaced by the Depopulation Plan. [Depopulation Strategy](#).

<sup>5</sup> August 2024 [History of Suitability at the Central, Barry J Nidorf, and Los Padrinos Juvenile Halls, Los Angeles County Probation Department 2018 – Present – BSCC](#)





## KITCHEN AND FOOD

Lunch took place in the common area of the unit, where Probation Officers brought wrapped food plates in carts to young people. Servings appeared ample, nutritious, and appetizing. During the observation on one unit, each young person was given two plates of food; one plate had a turkey sandwich with a side salad, fruit, and milk, and the second plate had another turkey sandwich with chips. Condiments were available to dress the sandwiches according to the preferences of the youth. Young people were permitted to converse during the meal and were observed doing so. Young people interviewed reported that the food “could be better”. One young person who had returned from DJJ remarked that “in the pen it was so much better, you get a choice card”, which meant that each week he received a card with the food options for the following week and was able to select from a limited menu presented on the card which would be turned back in to the kitchen staff. Many young people throughout the day reported a desire for more options at mealtimes. One young person remarked that “the worst meal is porcupine meatballs”, though when asked for a description, could not describe what was in that food other than meatballs.

Probation Officers were present and supervised all meals. It was reported that Probation Officers were given the same meal as the youth from the cafeteria or they brought their own food from home. In past inspections, signs were up in the entry way indicating that it was no longer allowed to have food delivered to the facility due to contraband; however, those signs were no longer displayed.

## EDUCATION

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers: 7**
  - **Assigned: 4**
  - **Day-to-Day (not long-term) Substitutes: 3**
- **High School Students: 33**
  - **In School: 32**
  - **Suspended: 1**
- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): 13 (39%)**
- **High School Graduates: 65**
- **College Students: 60**
- **Dual Enrollment Students: 0<sup>6</sup>**
- **College(s) Supporting this Facility: Mission College**

Several LACOE classrooms were observed. The first classroom appeared very dirty, and the floors appeared not to have been swept or mopped in some time. There was a clogged sink and exposed wires. Probation Officers shared that the LACOE janitor had been off for two months. The students were playing Jeopardy, and they appeared to have an excellent rapport with the teacher. One student shared that he “loved this class” and the teacher, Mr. Banks. The students were assisted by multiple adults in the room; a

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<sup>6</sup> Due to the inspection taking place between terms, the enrollment number was zero.





permanent assigned LACOE teacher, a paraprofessional from Thrive Academics (a tutoring service contracted through LACOE), and a one-on-one aide for a student with special needs. In a different classroom, all students were observed on computers with no active instruction. Students there also spoke highly of the school staff.

The college classes observed were being held in a bungalow by the south school. The inspection occurred during the last week of classes, and most youth had finished the semester the day prior. Those in the classroom were finishing final exams and make-up assignments to close out the semester. College students had the option of taking Oceanography and Communications classes this semester through Mission College and some young people were also working on Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certifications.

Young people in college explained that they get to choose how many units they take each term. They have a limited amount of time during the week to do classwork and homework because they do not have access to the laptops they need for school except when they are in the classroom. Some expressed reluctance to enroll in college classes and staff explained that they sometimes have to find ways to motivate young people to take advantage of the college classes and to build up their confidence with their ability to pass the classes. It was reported that most students received A's in their college classes.

A few young people already have earned their associate's degree and were working on transferable classes. One student was taking Calculus live on zoom. All others were enrolled in asynchronous, non-live classes this semester. No Mission College staff come to BJN-SYTF to support the students. This is a change from last year's inspection when some students were participating in live, virtual instruction with a professor and a representative from the college was on site.

College students were supported by Probation's Education Services staff who provide access to the classroom and laptops needed to access classes. They also support students with their college coursework as they are completing classes. This support is limited because there were only two Probation Education Services staff assigned to BJN-SYTF at the time of the inspection for 60 college students, and it was reported that one was going on leave the following week and would not be replaced during her leave. Staff and students reported concerns about their ability to successfully complete college classes without enough support or access to the classroom and computers.

Young people and staff reported that sometimes they have assignments on YouTube or other platforms that are blocked on their LACOE-issued computers. Probation Education Services staff have one administrative computer that they can use to pull the assignments and videos up and show on a screen in the classroom. Young people are not allowed to take computers back to the living area to work on homework or classwork. Probation Education Services staff shared that they were working on a pilot to make that possible for youth to have more educational access.

Inspectors noted that the classroom was unusually warm. Probation Officers turned on the air conditioner after this was mentioned.



## GRIEVANCES

- **Total Grievances<sup>7</sup>:** 229
- **Grievance system:** Paper only
- **Emergency grievances:** Yes

Grievance rules and procedures were posted throughout the facility including in all units, and outside the school classrooms. Interviews with youth indicated that the grievance procedure was understood. A small group of young people said that “no one” speaks to them about grievances. During another group interview, young people said that they felt that grievances were not taken seriously at the facility overall. One of those young people reported that after a very dissatisfactory experience with the grievance process, the facility’s Assistant Superintendent instructed him to appeal the grievance directly to him for resolution. The young person reported that since doing this, he felt more satisfaction with the process which his peers did not express.

All grievances reviewed were responded to in three business days as required by [Probation’s Grievance Policy](#).<sup>8</sup> Grievances ranged from building issues, basic needs for clothing, programming and services, and concerns about Probation Officers and partner agency staff interactions with young people. Multiple grievances reviewed were regarding one Probation employee’s interactions with various young people. Facility leadership noted that they were aware and had taken steps including coaching and having one-on-one conversations to guide the Probation Officer. Three emergency grievances (Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)/Health/Suspected Abuse) were reviewed, and it was noted that all were addressed immediately and resolution followed. Two grievances were related to young people not feeling safe in their assigned unit, and those youth were moved. One grievance was related to PREA, but the young person who authored the grievance denied writing it, so the grievance was closed.

Many of the reviewed grievances were related to the *Developmental Stage System* (DSS) behavior management program and the occasions in which young people felt that they deserved to be moved up or were inappropriately moved down to a lower DSS stage. Young people often expressed that they disagreed with or did not understand the expectations and process of DSS in the same way that facility leadership did. POC Commissioners and staff discussed this with site leadership, noting that the number of grievances about the DSS system is a positive development indicating that youth are “bought in” to the model and demonstrating that the rules and stages should be repeatedly clarified to young people since losing the achievement of a higher stage appeared to be something many took seriously enough to grieve. Young people specifically articulated feeling frustrated with the lack of transparency with respect to “made days,” or the days that moved them closer to the next DSS stage through full program participation or that they felt they were unfairly docked “made days” in response to incidents where they were

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<sup>7</sup> POC generally requests all the grievances from the current calendar year, unless that number is deemed too small to get a reasonable sense of common grievance themes for the facility. The grievances provided and reviewed were from January 2025 onward.

<sup>8</sup> [Los Angeles County Probation 2020 RTSB Policy Manual](#)



not involved or not at fault. Staff indicated a desire for more flexibility or discretion in the system, acknowledging that it can sometimes feel unfair. A majority of the grievances were resolved, and the young people were not, in fact, moved back a stage, and it was explained that if, upon review, procedure was not followed correctly, the consequence of losing days can be overturned.

Although this concern was not observed in the written grievances, when interviewing young people directly, there were multiple mentions throughout the day that there were not enough clothes available. Some young people shared their perspective that perhaps there were more available clothes, but that Probation staff were not willing to give them to youth. Young people reported that during the warmer months of the year, changing clothes after exercise seemed like a basic hygiene standard that they should be afforded. Some young people also stated a request to be able to shower and change after coming in sweaty from recreation time.

### **DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT**

BJN-SYTF has implemented the *Developmental Stage System* (DSS) behavior model which requires youth to complete a number of tasks and programs within a certain time period in order to move forward. These activities are meant to motivate young people to attain a higher level for more privileges, and many young people interviewed reported that they were in fact motivated to climb the DSS ladder to earn the incentives. The stages rank from one through eight. Young people may also be demoted or moved down a stage if they are not meeting behavior goals or if they participate in unsafe or prohibited behaviors like fighting.

Many young people expressed complaints and misunderstandings about the DSS including a sense that decisions to lower a person's level were too subjective and overly influenced by Probation Officers who they felt were unfair or targeting them as retaliation after an incident. Young people articulated feeling frustrated with the lack of transparency about "made days" and stages and felt that dropping back a stage or losing days was often unfair. Young people on DSS stage three shared that they wanted and felt they should be entitled to more benefits associated with their stage including FaceTime calls with their family. It was reported that they get to stay up 30 minutes longer in the evenings before bed and have better snacks available to them through the canteen.

Numerous young people were also frustrated about the planned discontinuation of Campus Kilpatrick (CVK) as an SYTF step-down option, as this was a highly coveted incentive that was widely touted as a motivator for adherence to norms in the facility. A few young people interviewed reported that they had achieved the necessary stage to be moved when the news came that the option would no longer be available. The current housing plan is to house young people on DSS stages 1-3 within the compound and those on stages 4-8 would be moved to an outside unit. Since many young people at the facility had achieved higher levels without being able to be transferred to CVK, two units were used as the step-down units and an additional one was used as an "intermediate step-down".



Discussions with facility leadership regarding the implementation of the DSS and its perceived effectiveness dovetailed into a wider recognition that there is a need to gather data to evaluate the system. Facility leaders and Probation Officers in the units had varied levels of enthusiasm regarding the use of DSS as a tool to increase pro-social functioning in young people and facility tone improvement. It was shared that having Probation gather and provide analysis of specific data points could help to obtain additional buy-in amongst everyone in the facility if the system is shown to contribute to a positive and safe environment at BJN-SYTF. These ideas included needing data that could at a minimum show correlation between stage achieved and decrease serious incidents including any youth-on-youth violence, attempted assaults on staff, and assaults on staff. Other suggested data points for analysis would be: recording a youth's stage at the time of release and relate that to any future recidivism, study the stages of youth sprayed during Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray incidents, and study the stages of youth suspended from school. This level of basic data gathering should be a key consideration for data driven decisions around the department's consideration of expanded use of the DSS.

A large number of young people were interviewed throughout the day and a variety of opinions expressed regarding the youth experience of Probation Officers' attitudes and interactions with young people. Some young people reported that "staff do help and they do try to explain procedures but sometimes they threaten us with too many write-ups." Other young people showed preferences toward specific Probation Officers that they found willing to listen and understand issues facing young people in detention. Youth noted that these Probation Officers exemplify this using their words and tones that communicate respect of the young people. A few young people throughout the day reflected that staff interactions were better when no incidents had occurred, but that after incidents, there was more tension between staff and youth. Some young people asked for more respect and transparency from staff. Some youth stated that communication overall was lacking, and that at times youth are punished in ways they found arbitrary and unfair. Some young people demonstrated awareness of the power imbalance and expressed that "Probation Officers are able to treat us any way but we are expected to be perfect." Young people reported that they wished that some Probation staff would be "more mature" and that recently they had staged a peaceful protest in the day room, requesting to talk to the facility leadership about their concerns, which was eventually accommodated.

### **ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported having twenty-four (24) hour coverage. The hours of operation include three shifts; 6:00am-2:00pm, 2:00pm-10:30pm, 10:30pm-6:30am seven days per week including holidays. Young people reported having access to the nurse or medical services as needed.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 7:00am-7:00pm, seven days per week and access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies after-hours. DMH staff shared that they meet with young people depending on their level of need and indicated that multiple sessions occur each week for young





people assigned to an elevated supervision level, and for young people not on a level, the session will typically occur once a week. DMH staff noted that telehealth, or virtual meetings enhance family therapy opportunities as it offers flexibility for families.

### AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

JCHS staff reported that the overall relationship with the Probation Department improved over the last year. This improvement was attributed to several Probation-led operations including constant and frequent multi-agency meetings. It was reported that although there was an average of three missed appointments per week, operations were much smoother because of the open communication between both Departments. JCHS staff reported that they were waiting on additional details from Probation to accommodate the appropriate staffing for the influx of youth expected as a result of the Depopulation Plan.

DMH staff shared that the overall relationship with the Probation Department improved due to increased communication. Bi-weekly meetings enhanced the operations, as all agencies share, discuss, and work together on concerns. It was reported that there were “not many barriers to service delivery,” as there was significant space and flexibility for therapy sessions, including telehealth options for family therapy.

In preparation for the expected influx of youth, meetings with Probation leadership were occurring two to three times per week to discuss the Depopulation Plan. DMH staff noted high confidence in a successful movement and delivery of services related to the Depopulation Plan, though it was strongly and repeatedly suggested that the transfer of youth be staggered to ease the transition for all young people. Movement of small cohorts of seven to ten youth with a one-week adjustment period was described as optimal based upon years of observation to allow for successful and safe adjustment and acclimation of incoming youth.

### STAFFING

- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (AM): 8**
- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (PM): 1**
- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s) (AM and PM Shifts Combined): 19**
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision (AM and PM Shifts Combined): 24**
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime (AM and PM Shifts Combined): 17**

Facility staffing was sufficient but limited, and it was reported that operations are regularly dependent on mandatory holdovers, deployments, and overtime with the current population level. Many units visited had Deputy Probation Officers and Group Supervisor Nights working overtime, on holdovers, or were there as deployed staff from the field. It was reported that staffing has been strained since population increases occurred in Fall 2024.





Young people reported that short staffing affects their ability to participate in programming scheduled outside the living unit and impacts the quality of supervision in the unit and during visits. In conversations with Probation Officers, they noted that they were understaffed, and that the deployment of field Probation Officers remained an issue for the continuity and consistency that benefits Probation Officers and youth alike. Deployed Probation Officers reported feeling demoralized and frustrated that in some cases they were deployed to the facility multiple times in the last year. POC interviewed one Probation Officer who reported that she was supposed to be at the end of her third deployment, expecting to return to the field office, but that she had received an email that same day that she would be reassigned permanently to the facilities. She reported deep concerns about the emptying of the field office due to deployments including short- and long-term effects of insufficient community supervision on individuals who had repeated domestic violence and/or sexually violent charges in the past.

In preparation for the planned addition of pre-disposition youth to the facility, it was reported that staffing plans had been provided to Probation's Executive Leadership team with estimates of the additional staffing needed to appropriately supervise on multiple occasions. As of the date of the inspection, the facility had not received any estimates of the staffing that would actually be allocated to BJN-SYTF to support the supervision of pre-disposition youth.<sup>9</sup>

## **PROGRAMMING**

The programs on the facility schedule matched the operations of the day. The paid work program was in high demand as young people were incredibly invested and interested. The youth demonstrated great rapport with the Probation Officers and were learning valuable skills through maintenance projects such as painting and buffing floors. Young people talked about the program favorably and described some of what they had learned including professional painting and flooring techniques. The Probation Officer leading the program was dedicated to running the program during the school day, which made it consistent and accessible to the many high school graduates. Some youth interviewed throughout the day expressed a desire to see the work opportunities expanded and expressed disappointment that the work crew worked as a cohort of ten youth for a period of ten months. Overall, many young people expressed the desire to participate in hands-on, vocational opportunities, including barbering, cooking, construction, electrical, and plumbing in addition to the existing program.

During the inspection, programming was observed and young people were interviewed about their programming preferences. Some younger youth expressed frustration about missing the Million Little program offered earlier in the day on their unit, as it was offered during LACOE school time. There was a mix of feedback regarding programming, with some young people expressing that there were "too many talking programs" or art

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<sup>9</sup> The Department of Youth Development ran a series of in-person community townhalls beginning in May 2025 to inform the community about the Depopulation Plan. During these meetings, Probation repeatedly stated that while youth would be moved out of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, staffing levels there would be maintained in order to bring the facility into BSCC compliance.



focused offerings. Many young people stated that they wanted access to music programs, silk screening and design, and other skill building options that would be considered vocational. Young people referenced the need for the programs appropriate for their age and interests, though many reported that they simply go along with any programming offered, whether they feel it benefits them or not, so that they get a good report for court. Given the tone of uncertainty throughout the day about what the future will look like at BJN-SYTF, one youth housed in the facility took the opportunity to propose an idea for the ongoing housing of youth committed to running the program, saying “those of us who want to do programming should be put in the outside units because when we force some people to participate in the groups, they just go off and talk in the corner and then it causes problems for those of us that actually want to do it.”

Young people interviewed throughout the day reported that they typically were taken outside for recreation time, which held high value in their opinion. It was reported that at times of very limited staffing, youth were required to have large muscle exercise inside the unit, but this was an occasional occurrence. Young people shared that they disliked having recreation time inside the units and reported that they were “desperate to be on the grass.”

When asked about planning for the future and life after BJN-SYTF, many young people expressed excitement to leave, however the overall information youth had about step-down facilities was limited. Many youth specifically reported not feeling excited about Pine Grove Fire Camp stating that it “doesn’t feel like an option” for a lot of them. It was reported that youth housed at BJN-SYTF are not able to tour a step-down before they commit to it.

## HARM REDUCTION

All Probation staff interviewed were carrying naloxone (Narcan), an opioid overdose reversal medication, on their utility belts.<sup>10</sup> At the command center which providers walk through to visit units, a medium size cardboard box full of naloxone carrying cases was stationed with a clip board made available for the programming providers in the facility.<sup>11</sup> On the day of the inspection, it was observed that three providers chose to check out and carry Narcan on them. It was reported that youth at the facility had not been offered training to help them identify the signs of opioid overdose, nor training in how to administer Narcan, and no young people at BJN-SYTF had access to naloxone.<sup>12</sup>

It was reported that in the last year, the contraband found related to illicit substances was primarily vape pens and chargers, and that facility leadership had observed a steep decrease in the number of pills found. The POC noted that during the inspection, no youth were observed to be intoxicated which had been a common observation in the last several

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<sup>10</sup> January 10, 2023 Motion: [Saving Lives by Making NARCAN Readily Accessible in the County’s Juvenile Halls and Camps](#)

<sup>11</sup> November 26, 2024 Motion: [Empowering Probation Providers to Carry Naloxone](#)

<sup>12</sup> March 7, 2023 Motion: [Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls](#)



years at the facility. Inspectors noted one airport-style scanner in the area of the facility where youth are admitted which is primary used when youth return for court or are transferred from the juvenile hall to the SYTF. Facility leadership and Probation Officers in the facility believe the scanner helps keep contraband out by adding an element of assurance as a safety measure. Many in the facility reported that they would like an additional scanner to be added as soon as possible to the main entrance where Probation, co-located county employees, providers, and visitors enter.

### OC SPRAY

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray is a use of force option available at BJN-SYTF. It was reported that OC spray was seldom used at the facility over the course of the last year, and when it was deployed, it was used to stop fights. It was reported that young people are placed in the shower immediately after a deployment to decontaminate. There was no current plan to phase out or at minimum, to restrict the use of OC spray on vulnerable populations, including youth with developmental disabilities.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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# **INSPECTION REPORT FOR LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL (LPJH)**

***Prepared By:***

**Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.**



## INTRODUCTION

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 2025 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fifth 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 third facility inspected during this annual cycle: Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH). 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.

This inspection was conducted on August 28, 2025. The POC understands that changes and some improvements have occurred at the facility since that date and encourages the Department to respond to this inspection explaining those changes.

**The following represents the key findings from the inspection of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall:**

- ***Continued alarming levels of violence*** – While several findings could be written about staffing challenges, the severity of grievances, unengaged supervision practices observed, safety concerns related to crowding, the continued use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray on all youth, including girls and youth with developmental disabilities, and the precarious physical and emotional well-being of youth, Probation Officers and all others working in this facility, almost all concerns relate back to one ultimate issue: violence. The levels of violence, anticipation of violence, and inadequate management of violence in this facility pose a safety risk to all that enter.
- ***Probation must focus on continuity in its core responsibilities – supervision and rehabilitation*** – Two years since its reopening, during which LPJH has been led by six Superintendents, the operation of Probation's largest facility fails to provide a measurable level of rehabilitation to youth, with no practice model in place and no clear path to strength-based and interpersonal approaches that are seen elsewhere in Probation and other child and family serving county departments. Also lacking is planning to implement a small group model and other strategies that center the well-being of human beings and utilize the expertise of youth and the Probation Officers that directly supervise them. The Board should call for the activation of county partners to assume or contract all possible roles within their expertise, including mediators, educators, program providers, child development experts, and case managers, to provide Probation the ability to move all available sworn staff into direct supervision roles to increase focus on legally required tasks. Immediate support is needed to support the facility's operative functioning to disrupt cycles of harm to young people and Probation Officers that generate continued liability for the County of Los Angeles.





## **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 Los Angeles County 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 31<sup>st</sup> each year and shares the report with the Board and the public. This report marks the fifth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

## **METHODS**

### **Details about the inspection of LPJH:**

- Five POC Commissioners conducted the inspection, attending in two separate blocks to prevent a quorum of Commissioners from being together at any point. Three POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- The LPJH inspection was conducted on August 28, 2025, and took nine hours to complete.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation's Executive Leadership Team and leaders from the facility were aware in advance of the inspection.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for the inspection report, so the POC previously 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 information below depicts data gathered directly from the LPJH 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 "Rated Capacity," "Population," and "Staffing" was provided to the POC staff directly by the facility's Superintendent and support staff; and each of these numbers was directly reported in this report. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.



## GENERAL DATA FOR LPJH

- **Address:** 7285 Quill Drive, Downey, California 90242
- **Facility Type:** Juvenile Hall
- **Housing:** Single occupancy rooms in unit. Newer units are designed with centralized day rooms with individual rooms surrounding the day room. Older units have a day room or two and offices with the individual rooms in a hallway.
- **Rated Capacity:** 409<sup>1</sup>
- **Youth population present at facility:** 258
- **Number of boys:** 222
- **Number of girls:** 35
- **Number of gender expansive youth:** 1
- **Youth with Developmental Disabilities:** 30
- **Youth with Commercial Sexual Exploitation histories:** 3
- **Youth with active Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS):** 30
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 28
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 313
- **Probation Officers on duty at time of inspection<sup>2</sup>:** 114-AM and 97-PM

## FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Upon entry, all visitors and staff were required to pass through an airport-style body scanner. The security team was efficient in moving visitors through the screening process and it was observed by Commissioners that everyone appeared subject to the same security procedures. One individual who appeared to be an administrator was not allowed entry to the facility due to having a cellular phone and a black pouch in their clear backpack. One Commissioner interacted with a security officer who, fully unsolicited, engaged the Commissioner in conversation and made disparaging comments about people in the transgender community based on a televised news report about a recent school shooting.

The facility grounds appeared outdated but well-kept. The outdoor pool was reportedly not in use during the summer due to a lack of lifeguards. Many grassy areas were observed around the facility where youth receive recreation time. It was reported that the units use the same areas for recreation each day, which was meant to decrease the movement time to get to recreation and to attempt to keep young people from different units separated to prevent violent incidents. Some youth complained that this led to repetitive activities determined by the space allotted, i.e. basketball courts, volleyball courts, or open space.

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<sup>1</sup> [BSCC Rated Capacities of Juvenile Detention Facilities, June 2025](#) was higher than the rated capacity reported by Probation at 389.

<sup>2</sup> Probation Officers on duty is more than the total number of staff assigned to the facility due to the presence of deployed Probation Officers.



Pop up awnings were observed in various areas of the facility used to conduct weekend visitation outside of units. Some youth interviewed during the inspection reported no issues with visitation, however multiple others posed a myriad of issues including administrative barriers resulting in no visitation for them. One young person had specific complaints about having to have visitation “outside in the hot sun” during the summer. Another young person reported that “[he] don’t get visits because [his] mom has a disability, and they told her she can’t come in with her big knee brace and walker.” He reported that after she was turned away the first time, he and his mother “gave up on visiting.” Another young person shared that “My sibling is at Dorothy Kirby and has visiting at the same time and day as me so I don’t even get visits because I rather they have it [the visit].” He reported that no efforts had been made by Probation to accommodate the overlap. Young people shared that special visits were very challenging to obtain as they had to make several requests in order to have them considered. The young people felt that the “supportive adults” list was too limited, as it excluded non-custodial family members, mentors, and significant others. Young people also mentioned that they were not allowed to hug or eat together during any visits with their parents.

Several units were observed during the inspection. Most units appeared clean, but some older units still had extensive graffiti on the walls and furniture. Probation staff reported that the newly appointed Superintendent<sup>3</sup> launched a clean-unit inspection initiative to methodically and systemically paint over graffiti in the units, and use cleanliness inspection results as the basis for youth incentives.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) posters, Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson posters, and Youth Bill of Rights posters were clearly visible throughout the facility in areas frequented by youth. Unit décor appeared inconsistent, as some units had beautiful murals on the walls while others were left blank. In one of the girls’ units, the furniture appeared very clean, more comfortable and the paint was colorful with bright lighting. Youth from various units shared issues with units feeling crowded which affected the mood, noise level, and increased tensions leading to fights, specifically in older buildings. The older buildings also had day rooms that appeared to be less than half of the size of newer units. It was also reported that there were ongoing issues with the heating and cooling systems in the buildings at LPJH, with young people reporting that the air conditioning was out for four or five days recently in the middle of summer.

Young people in many units repeatedly expressed concerns about unit assignments mixing the ages of youth. In one of the girls’ units, two girls reported that they felt it was inappropriate that they as 17-year-olds were being housed, going to school, and sharing bathrooms with girls that were just 13 years old. They reported feeling concerned that the Probation Department was creating an unsafe environment where if a younger person initiated a fight with the 17-year-olds, Probation could bring new charges against the 17-year-olds and keep them detained longer or transfer them to the adult system, which youth reported that some Probation staff prematurely made threats and comments about

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<sup>3</sup> Since the reopening of LPJH in July 2023, there have been six Superintendents, which was acknowledged by many during the inspection as a detrimental and that consistency in leadership was necessary to stabilize conditions at the facility.



new charges, longer detention periods, and possible transfers to the adult detention systems to the detained youth. Concerns were also expressed in multiple units by older youth for the safety of younger youth, those they perceived as easily influenced or manipulated, and housing assignments which placed youth and staff at risk.

Various young people interviewed throughout the day discussed their experience at the facility as overwhelmingly negative. One girl with a low mood asked during an interview, “What about this is supposed to help me? People are fighting all the time, there’s nothing to do, so we get into trouble. My mental health is way worse now than it was when I came in here. How are we supposed to go out and be normal after this?” Other youth interviewed expressed their experience and treatment received at LPJH as ongoing, daily punishment. In another unit, the POC observed a 12-year-old sitting alone with a single Probation Officer in one of the smallest dayroom spaces to keep him separated from the rest of the older youth in the unit. A 19-year-old in that same unit expressed that he viewed the younger boys in the unit as younger brothers and tried to mentor them, but was concerned for them.

A dedicated baby bonding room was observed in an administrative building. Young people shared that they found the space too small and hot to comfortably accommodate visits, especially with babies beginning to walk. Young people also stated that the room needed more toys and age-appropriate amenities. During the inspection it was reported that the baby bonding room is utilized four times a week. When asked about the number of parenting youth in the facility, the LPJH administrators estimated that two girls and three boys were verified parents and acknowledged that there could potentially be others.

During the inspection it was noted that multiple units housed youth that were monolingual Spanish speakers or early English learners. Other bilingual youth and Probation Officers with strong Spanish skills were tasked with translating for them to monolingual English-speaking professionals.

### **KITCHEN AND FOOD**

Meals in the facility took place in the shared living space of each unit. Kitchen staff rolled heat-controlled carts of pre-cooked meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner to the units where youth ate all meals in the units’ day rooms.

Lunch was observed in several units and consisted of a burger patty, potato salad, corn, milk, and condiments (ketchup and mayonnaise). The hamburger patties shown to Commissioners looked unappetizing, one patty looked undercooked while another looked overcooked. One Commissioner noted that the food was not appetizing because the burger patty was two colors; brown and light brown, and the serving size was not substantial. After observing lunch, a Commissioner observed a food tray that was left out to feed birds, but there were also rat bait stations nearby. Young people complained about the quality of the meals and shared that they did not like the food at the facility in general. One young person was observed “doctoring” their meal or mixing it together to make a new meal because they disliked the original meal. When asking young people about the





breakfast they had been served earlier in the day, they described it as “nasty” as they were given grits and “two ugly sausage links”.

The kitchen appeared clean, and it was reported that new ovens were ordered and expected to replace the outdated ovens, and the HVAC and electric systems were in the process of being worked on to accommodate the new ovens.

It was reported that kitchen staffing was a major challenge for a variety of reasons. The Kitchen Manager reported that five people were in the process of being hired, but there were regular challenges with getting applicants through the background process. It was reported that it would be advantageous to the kitchen operation to be able to temporarily utilize other Morrisson employees cleared for other Probation sites to be able to come to LPJH to do overtime or to fill in for brief time periods. It was reported that the kitchen operation was running on significant amounts of overtime by a small number of people, short staffing, undesirable work schedule all leading to high turnover rates. Other concerns about the ability to hire and retain kitchen staff had to do with the rigorous security procedures for employees taking breaks outside of the facility. Employees who smoked tobacco vapes on their breaks found security, including the dogs, to “be too much of a hassle”. This included one employee who reportedly had a dog signal on them after vaping tobacco on a break and was sent home.

## **EDUCATION**

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers:**
  - **Assigned:** 7
  - **Day-to-Day (not long-term) Substitutes:** 8
  - **Long-Term Substitutes:** 9
- **High School Students:**
  - **In School:** 213
  - **Suspended:** 1
- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):** 78 (35%)
- **High School Graduates:** 44
- **College Students:** 33
- **Dual enrollment students:** 9
- **College(s) supporting this facility:** Cerritos College

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## **High School Students**

Several Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classrooms were observed during the school day. Wide variations existed between the classrooms related to the engagement of students. In some classrooms nearly all of the class was engaged in the subject matter, and other classrooms demonstrated low levels of student participation and focus. Young people, Probation Officers, and other supportive staff interviewed in the classrooms of highly engaged students reported multiple factors that influenced the environment. Some highlighted factors that contributed to the high classroom engagement were higher numbers of contracted support staff in the classroom working





with students one-on-one or in very small groups and the positive rapport built by LACOE teachers in those classrooms.

It was remarked by adults in one class that while the classroom was calm and functioning at the time of observation, the mood often shifts and verbal and physical altercations between youth are disruptive and commonplace. Another classroom only had two students, and there were several books in the classroom library including bibles, while no other religious texts were noticed, raising concern for religious expectations placed on young people in the facility. In another classroom, Commissioners observed students working in two groups of five on a writing assignment. The engagement was lacking, and little work was being produced while students discussed off topic issues. The students shared that the work was not challenging for them because they found the lessons redundant or repetitive, and that their schoolwork was weighted too heavily when considered in court. It was reported that due to the inadequate number of Special Education teachers, regular LACOE teachers were allowed the ability to structure their classrooms to accommodate diverse learning levels.

LACOE classroom décor also varied with some classrooms displaying youth work and artwork, and other classrooms having very little on the walls. Commissioners noted that there was a need for graffiti removal in some LACOE classrooms. Young people attending LACOE school wore new forest green uniform t-shirts or sweatshirts to school that looked very much like traditional school uniforms. The youth had an opportunity to help design the LACOE uniforms. Probation and LACOE staff noted that the uniforms contributed to the classroom environment and helped staff distinguish between high school students and graduates during the school day. LACOE classrooms had PREA, OYCR Ombudsperson, and Youth Bill of Rights posters at eye level in English and Spanish.

Inspectors interacted with staff from Second Call in the classrooms, noting that their presence was calming and appreciated by the youth and that they reported being able to assist with movement to school in the morning, ensuring that youth got to school on time.

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### Students in Units During School

During the school-day portion of the inspection, Commissioners also visited units to observe youth present in the units during school hours. In unit Y1, young people were observed watching television, walking around quietly and orderly, or working on college coursework with staff. In unit N/O, two young people were completing college coursework, and another was laying down watching TV in the same small day room. The young person laying down shared that they remained in the unit because they had been suspended from their high school classroom. In another unit, youth reported that they had not been to school in the last week due to the lack of teachers, so they were focusing on completing their schoolwork packets.

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### High School Graduates

Probation Education Services staff reported there were forty-four high school graduates with thirty-three taking college classes, and no college graduates. All college classes



offered were asynchronous, meaning youth were offered only pre-recorded classes with no live or in person component, and contracted Student Nest tutors assisted students with coursework. It was reported that to cover the 20 open housing units at LPJH, which could potentially house college students, there were ten contracted Student Nest tutors and three Probation Education Services staff covering the units. The laptops used by the college students were issued by LACOE. Staff explained that LACOE's computer monitoring firewall, Imperil, was described as "more secure" than the firewall on the Cerritos College laptops. Young people reported that often the firewall kept them from being able to access content necessary to complete their classes on the LACOE-issued laptops.

It was reported that the LACOE laptops were not only monitored by Probation Education Services staff during use, but also LACOE Risk Management at LACOE headquarters. Reported challenges include:

- **Time restrictions** – College-level learning was limited, as college students were only allowed to use the laptops for two and one-half hours per day (1:15 in the morning and 1:15 in the afternoon).
- **Unit distractions** – Distractions like YouTube in the units created issues with focus and noise.
- **Fundamental education deficits** – Many youths arrived with fundamental education deficits which made service delivery challenging. Most young people needed one-on-one support and only about five out of all the college students could complete their assignments independently.

Most college students shared that they were content with their academic work but wanted more session courses and scheduling options. They reported that they were only offered the ability to take one course per session. One young person shared that graduating from high school three months prior meant that they lost status and activities they had in high school having reached the role of youth ambassador. The young person shared that they were currently taking psychology in college and emphasized that they participated in whatever programs they could to keep busy as they attempted to do something productive with an anticipated lengthy stay at the facility. Young people also reported needing more interaction with their professors, and one youth stated that the professors "don't reply" to their messages or requests for assistance.

## GRIEVANCES

- **Total Grievances<sup>4</sup>:** Approximately 600
- **Grievance system:** Paper only
- **Emergency grievances:** Yes

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<sup>4</sup> The POC generally requests all the grievances from the current calendar year, unless that number is deemed too small to get a reasonable sense of common grievance themes for the facility. The grievances provided and reviewed were from January 2025 onward. Since the number of grievances at LPJH was too large to count by hand, it was reported by the Grievance Officer that there were approximately 600 grievances recorded for January 1, 2025 to July 30, 2025.



The majority of grievances reviewed related to the safety and treatment of youth. This caused alarm for POC Commissioners and staff as the severity of concerns related to violence and potential abuses of youth was remarkably greater than observed in grievances at other Probation facilities and in those reviewed during the previous two years at this facility<sup>5</sup>. Many grievances reviewed included young people expressing fear for their safety amid threats of violence made directly toward them, reflected the level of violence they witnessed in their living units, and observations of not being kept safe by Probation staff when violence occurred. Multiple grievances included explicit requests from youth to be moved to different units due to fights, fear, and complaints of “pack-outs”- a term referring to a fight where one victim is attacked by a group of individuals all at the same time, and expressions of mental distress and the development of mental health symptoms. One grievance reviewed included a young person’s plea to be moved into the medical unit because he reported that due to an existing traumatic brain injury and the level of violence in his unit, he was fearful of sustaining further brain damage.

Some of the grievances indicating mental distress included allegations that were PREA-related such as fear of sexual violence, verbal threats of rape, being called homophobic slurs, and other bullying based upon perceived sexual orientation. This included a grievance where it was reported that a Probation Officer was watching while a youth “played with himself,” but the Grievance Officer wrote that “the youth did not want to follow up” with no indication of further efforts to ensure safety for that youth or others potentially at risk when investigating this grievance.

Several grievances were related to staff concerns, where young people felt aggrieved by Probation Officers or LACOE staff’s behaviors toward them. The grievances related to Probation Officers noted that there was an “abuse of power”, Probation Officers were “acting racist” as access to programming was restricted including the Behavior Management Program (BMP) and scheduled Community Based Organization (CBO) programming, and room confinement was used as a disciplinary method against youth. In some grievances, young people named LACOE staff as the malefactors and alleged that young people were punished arbitrarily, as they did not understand why their daily points were deducted since they had completed their assignments.

Commissioners reviewing grievances noted that grievances came from a variety of units over the course of the year, indicating that these events took place across different points in time, different young people, different Probation Officers and other staff. The severity of grievances was not an anomaly, but an indicator of a facility culture entrenched in violence without the ability to provide physical or emotional safety to multiple youth.

Commissioners noted that the Grievance Officer needed additional staffing support. One Grievance Officer was handling approximately 60 to 100 grievances per month. As a result of this understaffing, the POC expressed serious concern while reviewing the grievances that follow-up documentation was not included with grievances, particularly for those grievances that warranted calls to law enforcement, the County’s Suspected

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<sup>5</sup> [Probation Oversight Commission 2024 Annual Inspection Report](#)



Child Abuse Hotline, and/or Probation's PREA Coordinator. It remained unclear to Commissioners whether these emergency grievances were addressed in a sufficient manner due to a change in process from years past and a lack of documentation about follow-up attached to the grievance form. It was noted that the response time for many grievances was not in compliance with Probation's policy.

### **DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT**

LPJH uses a Behavior Management Program (BMP), or points-based reward system, where youth are assigned points throughout the day based on their participation in various activities and prosocial behaviors like getting ready for school and 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 the BMP "store". 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. LACOE participated in the system by allowing students to accrue points during the school day from their Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system.

As reported in previous inspection reports of LPJH, over the last two years, Probation leadership 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 practice model, what that model is called, or what it might entail. It was reported by facility leadership that there have been unit by unit trainings of Proactive Youth Supervision, though Probation Officers interviewed during the day were not able to elaborate on a plan, its name, or information about the installation of a new behavioral/practice model beyond BMP. Previous years' discussions about dividing the facility into smaller, focused communities had not been implemented.

As noted in previous years' inspections, interviews conducted with Probation Officers and youth indicated that Probation Officers demonstrate a wide range of behaviors when it comes to interactions with youth. Most youth interviewed had at least one Probation employee they found positively impactful, with a few young people referencing the Probation Officers as people they related to "like family" and had strong bonds with because of the ways they felt supported by those Probation Officers. During those discussions, many young people reported that they found most Probation Officers to be "okay", meaning having neither a positive or negative effect on their well-being, but that there were consistently "one or two staff that just want to make life hard". When asked what that looked like, youth on various units explained that some Probation Officers over-threaten write ups and new charges, speak to youth in a demeaning way, or antagonize them.

In an interview with one girl, two other girls encouraged her to disclose her interactions with a particular Probation Officer. They shared: "I don't know why she doesn't want to tell. This staff treats her so mean for no reason like every day. It's not right." It remained





clear that individual Probation Officers providing direct supervision continue to approach interactions with young people from a diversity of approaches and not a cohesive, Department-wide, implemented strategy as noted in previous inspections of the facility.

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported 24-hour coverage at LPJH. The hours of operation are 8:00am-5:00pm, seven days per week including holidays. JCHS occupied two areas of LPJH, a medical unit in the administrative building and medical module located in a regular housing unit in the facility which is used to house incoming, sick, or medically fragile youth. It was reported by JCHS that although transportation services availability was improved for appointments and other incidents requiring transport outside of the facility, 35% of internal medical appointments were missed as a direct result of inadequate Probation staffing to adequately supervise the number of youth detained in the facility. JCHS reported no pregnant girls at the facility on the date of the inspection.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 8:00am-8:00pm, seven days per week, with access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies after-hours. The DMH leadership shared that clinicians meet with young people depending on their level of supervision. Multiple sessions occur each week for young people assigned to an elevated supervision level, and for young people not on a level, the session will typically occur once a week. It was reported that there were six youth on level three, meaning that a mental health clinician placed the youth on one-on-one supervision due to risk of harm to self, others, or expressed suicidal ideation. It was reported that an additional three youth were currently on level two supervision, requiring them to be re-evaluated every 72 hours in order to eventually be released from having additional supervision. It was reported that in response to issues of alleged physical and sexual abuse in Probation settings, the DMH was supporting their clinicians to identify and report inappropriate behaviors by sending them to trainings for grooming and boundary setting in addition to the regular mandated County trainings about mandated reporting. Young people interviewed during the day generally knew who their unit clinician was and reported that they were able to see someone from mental health when they needed to.

### AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

DMH reported continued improvement in the relationships of clinicians and Probation Officers over the previous year. It was reported that while changes in facility leadership had posed difficulty in establishing rapport and having continuity, leadership changes were seen as necessary for improving conditions at the facility. It was also shared that clinician turnover had decreased over the last year and that some units with more stable Probation staffing helped facilitate better relationships between Probation and DMH employees.





A CBO programming provider shared that their relationship with the Probation Department had been smooth, and they expressed appreciation for the Department embedding the organization into the unit.

LACOE reported that regular interagency meetings, including all co-located departments, were the most helpful aspect in maintaining partnerships. It was reported that there were also weekly workgroup meetings for planning the depopulation of LPJH. Various co-located department employees emphasized that communication challenges were ongoing, including being provided with last-minute information with little time to prepare for changes, but many felt that communication was somewhat improving with the newly installed Superintendent.

### **STAFFING**

- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s) (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 187
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 56
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 22
- **Callouts by Supervision Staff:** 12-AM, 11-PM

Staffing levels at LPJH continued to be a major challenge as staff attrition, both of retiring Probation Officers and those new to the Department, were reported by remaining Probation Officers. The Probation Officers who were interviewed reported anecdotally that the new hires often leave within a few months of starting at LPJH. Probation Officers from one unit shared that consistent staffing was key to having daily operations work appropriately. All Probation Officers from that unit were deployed from the field to assist in the juvenile halls on an agreed rotation schedule but had not been rotated since March. One Probation Officer expressed his frustration about not being able to tend to his field caseload, understanding the Department's staffing issues, but having no desire to continue working at LPJH. A Probation Officer in a different unit mentioned that he had been at LPJH for five years and was able to build relationships with the young people. He exemplified a positive rapport with the youth by speaking to them with kindness and firmness, actively listening to them, and acknowledging their strengths as well as areas for growth.

It was shared that communication among Probation Officers related to grievances was poor. During the review of grievances, numerous grievances which were resolved by other Probation Officers, not the Grievance Officer, appeared to have resolution documentation missing.

### **PROGRAMMING**

With the single exception of one provider arriving late, programming occurred as stated on the programming schedule. Credible messenger programs were scheduled and made available to both boys and girls in the facility. A specialized credible messenger program for youth with developmental disabilities was highly regarded in one unit and was reported



by youth and Probation Officers to have a positive effect to help manage violence in that unit through relationship and skill building. The program was limited to one unit despite youth with developmental disabilities being housed in a variety of units within the LPJH.

Young people shared their appreciation of one sports program which they described as having a positive impact on their lives and functioning. Youth said that the program providers were helping with their social, emotional, career, life skills, and spiritual development. In another unit, Commissioners observed a music program taking place with six young people participating. All participants were engaged by the providers and were actively answering questions. The program facilitator played the young people music beats and then paired them with lyrics about resilience, self-esteem, leadership, and skill sets. In another unit, an art program took place using minimal supplies as the provider was not allowed to bring in paints and markers due to ongoing concerns of illicit substances entering the facility despite increased security measures or ability of Probation to provide and store the appropriate supplies. A few young people participated intently while others were unengaged by the simplicity and repetitive nature of using transfer paper to trace printed images onto blank white canvasses.

Young people relayed requests and wishes related to programming. They missed a weight-lifting program that abruptly ended and asked for its return. Youth repeatedly shared that they wanted more concurrently ran programs since many popular programs can only engage a few youth at a time, stating that it always leaves someone out if there is only one program going on at a time. Youth asked for hands-on, skill building vocational activities like cosmetology, barbering, hair braiding, construction related training, with a mindfulness of wanting to be able to transfer those skills to gainful employment opportunities to reduce their chances of recidivism. They reportedly wanted fewer programs based upon talking and listening and more interactive opportunities to do things, learn, and to create. Young people in most units repeated that they felt bored and relied heavily on screentime in the dayrooms to occupy themselves. Young people and Probation Officers alike indicated that more activity-based programming with consistent providers would help support the need to engage young people, which they believed would help occupy youth and serve as motivation to prevent fights or other serious incidents.

## HARM REDUCTION

Interviews with Probation Officers and youth indicated that illicit substances related contraband had recently decreased at the facility since a major event occurred in April 2025. In a single morning in July 2025, multiple youth and staff members were suspected to have come into contact with a substance suspected to be an opioid, and multiple Naloxone doses were reportedly deployed on each affected individual. Reports indicated that contraband issues are uneven across the living units. It was shared anecdotally throughout the day by Probation Officers 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 June 2024, 16 doses of Narcan, a life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication, were deployed in various incidents. Narcan was seen in each living unit and in areas of the facility that youth visit including the Medical Unit and chapel.

During the inspection, three of eight Probation Officers were asked about Narcan being carried on their person. Most Probation Officers indicated that the nearest Narcan supply was available in the lock box with the unit defibrillator or in a drawer in the locked office. Youth at LPJH do not have access to Narcan, nor receive education to recognize signs of opioid intoxication or overdose. A couple of young people who were at the facility for an extensive time period reported that they had a training on how to deploy Narcan about a year ago, but no other youth indicated having such training.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's-Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) Provider facilitated most of substance abuse and prevention services while DMH clinicians continued to integrate the work into mental health sessions as needed. DMH psychiatrists and JCHS pediatricians at the facility have the ability to prescribe medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid addiction. There was a defibrillator in every living unit, and cut down equipment was found in the centralized Probation Office in each of the living units. It was reported that there were seven attempted suicides and four suicide incidents<sup>6</sup> since the POC's previous Annual Inspection.

### OC 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 and gender-expansive (GGE) youth, those with documented histories of commercial sexual exploitation, and youth formally diagnosed with developmental disabilities despite the 2022 Board Motion<sup>7</sup> requiring the Department to end all use of OC spray.

Most Probation Officers interviewed throughout the day reported that there was no known plan to eliminate the spray or to implement strategies to reduce the use or prevent the need for OC spray. Probation Officers reported that OC spray was a critical intervention tool needed to operate given the current staff to youth ratios and regular occurrences of violence in the facility. It was reported by Probation's facility leadership that there was a phase out plan in draft for this facility, which included training staff in proactive supervision

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<sup>6</sup> Probation defined a "suicide incident" as when a youth with a history of suicide attempts engages in self-harm behaviors, for example scratching the skin, that the Department does not deem to constitute a suicide attempt.

<sup>7</sup> [December 20, 2022 Motion: Phase Out of Oleoresin Capsicum \(OC\) Spray at Central Juvenile Hall](#)



and Gracie Jiu-Jitsu. It was reported that part of the phase out plan<sup>8</sup> was already in effect, as there were Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) assigned to each unit, and in a moment of crisis, the teams assemble and assist unit staff.

While conducting the inspection, POC staff observed a verbal altercation taking place between two girls outside of a unit wherein one youth was walking upstairs with her unit to enter an upstairs unit and a youth walking on the path dozens of feet away. As the girls cursed and threatened each other, the girl on the path continued her approach and multiple Probation Officers began to yell over the girls to stop. The girl on the path was more than 20 feet from the stairwell, yet a Probation Officer ran towards her holding up and shaking their OC spray canister and readying to deploy despite the lack of physical violence between the girls (as the girls were nowhere near one another). Another Probation Officer was able to engage the youth by not yelling and successfully de-escalated the situation before deployment occurred.

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<sup>8</sup> Weekly OC Spray Deployment Reports provided by Probation contradict the information received from Probation facility leadership at the inspection of an existing or partially implemented OC phase out plan. Weekly reports, including the report from the week of the inspection, indicate that LPJH is currently in a phase out stage of "Non-Applicable (N/A): Period of time prior to implementation of the phase out stages".



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**September 8, 2025**

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# **INSPECTION REPORT FOR CAMP CLINTON B. AFFLERBAUGH (CBA)**

***Prepared By:***

**Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.**





## INTRODUCTION

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 2025 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fifth 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 third facility inspected during this annual cycle: Camp B. Afflerbaugh (CBA). 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 Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh (CBA):**

- ***A rapidly increasing population strains the facility's long-running successful functioning*** – Since the closure of Camp Joseph Paige (CJP), the number of youth had steadily increased at CBA, with staffing numbers increasing only slightly. A small number of youth transferred from CJP, and the numbers of youth dispositioned to CBA from Los Padinos Juvenile Hall continued to rise, placing strain on youth already there, decreasing the amount of time and energy Probation Officers could dedicate to each youth's transition into the facility, straining the supervision abilities of a small number of officers, and creating need for more supportive programming in the facility.
- ***Probation Officers need support during transitions*** – The integration of CJP, increases in population, and reports of a highly stressed staff indicate that the Probation Department needs to provide Probation Officers with more than the basic check-box training, but to communicate regularly with staff to their employees and respond to their professional needs.

## 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 Los Angeles County 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 31<sup>st</sup> each year and shares the report with the Board and the public. This report marks the fifth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

## **METHODS**

### **Details about the September 8, 2025 inspection of Camp Afflerbaugh:**

- This inspection was conducted by two POC Commissioners with the support of three staff members.
- The inspection took seven 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.

The information below depicts data gathered directly from the Camp Afflerbaugh inspection. It should be noted that the data is a “snapshot” of information recorded only on the day of the inspection. The data collected was provided to the POC staff by the facility's Director; and each of these numbers was reported as received. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

## **GENERAL DATA FOR CBA**

- **Address:** 6631 Stephens Ranch Road, La Verne, California 91750
- **Facility Type:** Camp
- **Housing:** Open dorm sleeping quarters
- **Rated Capacity**<sup>1</sup>: 105
- **Youth population present at facility:** 47 (1 released during inspection)
- **Number of boys/young men:** 47
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 7
- **Youth with DCFS services:** 5
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 103
- **Probation Officers on duty at time of inspection:** 20-AM, 18-PM

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<sup>1</sup> [BSCC Rated Capacities of Juvenile Detention Facilities, June 2025](#)



## FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The entrance of Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh (CBA) had two locked gates and a front lobby door that were buzzed open for visitors. There was a metal detector at the front door of the facility, but it was not turned on, and searches did not occur as POC inspectors entered the facility. The facility buildings and the grounds in general appeared aged but well-kept. There is a large grassy field in the center of the facility with shade structures, sports equipment and courts for recreation. The facility had an outdoor pool, though it had not been used since July 19, 2025, due to expired certification.

The facility director shared that the camp was currently housing boys between the ages of 14 and 19. The facility had no CCTV inside but had three cameras in front of the facility for security. Due to the consolidation of CJP, it was reported by the facility Director CBA received half of the population and half the Probation Officers from CJP while the other half were sent to Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR). It was reported that the facility was previously short staffed, but the small number of staff reassigned there helped to alleviate that shortage. It was reported that in the previous week five youth were sent from LPJH which led to fights and conflicts at the facility. Officers reported that the transition time for youth is critical and that it is difficult to successfully integrate more than a couple of youth at a time due to the environment of the juvenile hall that youth adapted to. Officers and co-located partners expressed concerns that they could tell almost immediately which young people spent more time in the juvenile hall as it related directly to aggressive and violent behaviors expressed by youth.

The sleeping arrangement in the dorm consisted of a camp-style layout where young people do not have their own rooms, rather they shared the space and wings were separated via walled partitions that do not reach the ceiling. The dormitories were divided into four wings (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta) with mixed populations. The wings were historically divided by behavior-based stages, but this changed due to uneven groups that resulted from the recent influx of youth. The sleeping quarters felt like they had sufficient number of Probation Officers who were spread out while supervising the dorm, and the tone was very comfortable and relaxed. Each young person had a cabinet next to their bed in which they could store books, journals, pencils, photographs, mail, hygiene items, and snacks awarded from the Behavior Management Program (BMP). One young person showed the POC his high-quality artwork on display on the cabinet next to his bed.

Head call was observed, during which the young people have a 20-minute break from school at about 10:00a.m, where they can use the restroom and rest before returning to school. The movement and mood during the break were organized and relaxed. One young person shared that this facility “feels more structured” than others they had been at previously, including the juvenile hall. They stated that they clearly understood and could follow the rules of this facility and therefore were allowed more independence which looked like young people having the ability to walk freely around the campus with Probation Officers keeping close track of them. This made the environment feel significantly less restrictive than Probation’s other facilities and contributed to the relaxed overall tone of the facility.



Young people explained that they receive one phone call per week, and they go to the main office to make their phone calls. Probation Officers dial the phone and supervise phone calls. Young people can call their lawyer at any time; they just must inform staff of their wish to do so. Visitation happens on Sundays. One young person noted that they do not receive visits because, “it’s too far and too difficult to get here”. Visitation usually occurs in the gym but was also sometimes occurring in the dining hall “because it’s cooler” per young people. Parents and young people sit across from each other in chairs. It was reported that no hugs or contact was allowed during visits. One youth shared that “visitation here is only one hour” and they missed the longer visitation hours that they had in juvenile hall.

In the middle of the inspection Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) was observed taking a young person away from the facility. Commissioners asked about this incident, and facility leadership explained that these incidents occur rarely. It was explained that when this does occur, there is not a clear policy about when to call the youth’s attorney and that sometimes that is left to the discretion of the Probation Officer of the Day and the law enforcement agency.

### KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen at CBA was out of service due to renovations and all food was prepared in the CJP kitchen (at the adjacent facility). The mess room (cafeteria) at CBA was still available and used for congregate meals. Inspectors walked over to the Camp Paige kitchen to interview staff and watch the process. The Camp Paige kitchen appeared “very clean”. Young people were then observed having lunch in the mess hall. The lunch meal consisted of teriyaki chicken with rice, carrots, cabbage, broccoli, fruit salad, and milk. Probation Officers passed out food as young people entered the room, and provided extra portions whenever requested. Commissioners observed that Probation Officers were provided the same lunch meal. Young people were allowed to speak to one another and officer upon finishing their meals, as Probation Officers supervised and some interacted. After finishing their lunch, two young people in the kitchen program cleaned up, and the facility Director along with other Probation Officers gave youth a pep talk, encouraging and acknowledging good behavior in the camp. Young people expressed few complaints about the food during interviews. Young people reported that they received plenty of food, but are not fans of some of the meals, and would like juice as a drink option other than milk and water. It was noted that a meal schedule was not posted in the dorm, so young people do not know what meal or programs to expect daily.

### EDUCATION

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers: 4**
  - **Assigned: 2**
  - **Day-to-Day (not long-term) Substitutes: 2**
- **High School Students:**
  - **In School: 41**
  - **Suspended: 0**





- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): 7**
- **High School Graduates: 5**
- **College Students: 5**
- **Dual enrollment students: 0<sup>2</sup>**
- **College(s) supporting this facility: Mt. San Antonio College**

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## High School Students

Several Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classrooms were observed during school time; most classroom settings appeared outdated but clean, with student work and education-related posters decorating walls. Although Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombuds flyers, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) poster, and Youth Bill of Rights posters were not inside classrooms, they were clearly visible and posted at eye level in English and Spanish in front of the school administration building. All classroom environments appeared calm, and young people were not distracted with POC observations. Students on stage 3 or higher wore polo shirts. Probation Officers did not sit in the classrooms but were stationed outside closed classroom doors. The outside stationing of Probation Officers was an arrangement made by the facility director as “it creates more of a classroom atmosphere”. It was reported by LACOE administration that they preferred to have the officers inside of the classroom, but there was ongoing disagreement about what the best practice would be to minimize disruption to the learning environment.

Classrooms differed in teaching approaches. The art class observed had a football game on the screen while students worked on their artwork, and the math/science class had young people watching a YouTube video of the UNESCO top heritage locations while working to complete unrelated assignments on their laptops. Both classrooms had substitute teachers with one to two student aids. In another classroom, there were 10 students with one teacher and one paraprofessional. All were working on math worksheets together. In the fourth classroom, there were 10 students, one was laying on the floor but returned to their seat when asked to do so by the facility Director. The rest of the students were attentively watching educational videos and subsequently wrote a paragraph related to what they watched. The classroom temperature felt cool and comfortable as it was hot outside, the tone was relaxed, and everyone was paying close attention.

The LACOE wellness room was observed, with inspectors noting it was “lovely and calming”. It was reported that because there were three young people detained at the facility who are parents, the LACOE behavior counselor was creating baby bonding classes and a fatherhood program. It was reported that there was no substitute to fill in for the LACOE counselor who runs the wellness programs during LACOE’s mandatory summer break session, so these services stopped when the counselor was out on the mandatory three-week break. Young people explained that their experience with LACOE at CBA was positive in relation to what was experienced during their juvenile hall detention

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<sup>2</sup> It was reported that the term for dual enrollment would not start until October 2025 and no students were enrolled yet.





by reporting that “they actually try to teach you”. Some youth reported the positive rapport they held with teachers and other aides who support them in the classroom.

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### High School Graduates

Probation Education Services occupied a LACOE classroom for the five college students who were being served by Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC). Probation Education Services reported that young people were able to work on their college courses twice per day. Students were divided into two groups, and each was assigned to a morning and an afternoon session. The two morning sessions were from 9:00-10:30am and 10:30-11:45am, and the two afternoon sessions took place from 1:00-2:30pm and 3:00-4:30pm. It was reported that extra time for students to complete their work was available if necessary. College students were able to take Occupational Safety Health Administration (OSHA) classes and money smart courses during their allotted time in addition to college and shared that they “would like more classes” as they were limited to taking a single college class per term. Young people shared that only students “who are behind go to the afternoon sessions”. The money smart program was scheduled to run from 3:00-4:30pm which coincided with another popular program offered simultaneously to the rest of the facility.

The college students had just completed “Study 100”, a standard class for first time college students, during the summer session and were currently taking psychology. A student expressed that although they had enough help and time to complete their class successfully, they did not have access to some required videos or other assignments because of the security firewalls on the laptops that block their access. Probation Education Services reported that when this issue arose, they would help contact the professor and explain the issue, and then youth would generally be excused from those assignments. The college student said that when they were not in the college class, they were typically reading or sleeping. One young person had already finished the OSHA program and was earning money through the facility’s work program. The student reported having the opportunity to meet with the representative from Rising Scholars to support next steps once released and was ready to attend East Los Angeles College (ELAC) upon going home.

### GRIEVANCES

- **Total Grievances<sup>3</sup>:** 14
- **Grievance system:** Paper only
- **Emergency grievances:** 0

Grievance rules and procedures were posted throughout the facility, including inside the dormitory. CBA reported fourteen grievances for calendar year 2025 to date. Interviews with youth indicated that they understood the grievance procedure. All grievances

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<sup>3</sup> POC generally requests all the grievances from the current calendar year, unless that number is deemed too small to get a reasonable sense of common grievance themes for the facility. The grievances provided and reviewed were from January 2025 onward.



reviewed were responded to, often on the same day and always within three business days as required by Probation's Grievance Policy. Grievances included building issues (television damage), basic needs (shoes, toothpaste, food) and sleeping quarter changes. No emergency (Prison Rape Elimination Act/Health/Suspected Abuse) grievances were observed. The grievance officer was available at the site Monday through Thursday, they reported reviewing all five grievance boxes on the campus and there were two other officers that provide coverage while the primary grievance officer's days off. It was reported that the grievance officer would be receiving a new GMS training the following day. Young people reported having little need to write grievances but also expressed limited faith in action being taken to resolve larger issues long term, like with any staff behaviors or getting better hygiene products which they believed would cost the department more money. Young people also shared that "no one calls the [Probation] Ombudsman because staff say they don't care about consequences". In addition, young people shared that during visits from OYCR and other oversight visits "no one talks to them, because they just walk around in tuxedos" indicating a barrier that youth see for communicating with those they find difficult to approach due to formality.

### DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

Camp Afflerbaugh facility leadership shared that they relied on the Behavior Management Program (BMP), where points are allotted to young people for good behavior and school/program participation which can then be exchanged at the BMP store for snacks, and a quasi-Developmental Stage System (DSS), where young people increase in stage (1-4) for good behavior, and included rewards and privileges like field trip opportunities. Young people expressed a mix of experiences with the officers at CBA, including positive mentor-like relationships held between some youth and officers. Various young people also commented that they felt that "staff threaten too much" or treated them unfairly during a frustrated moment. One young person shared that while on ordered bedrest, an officer ordered him to participate in programming. The youth reported that he advocated for himself and asked the officer to call JCHS, but the officer ignored his request. The youth reported that he was threatened with having his personal items thrown away, complied and went to the program, and came back to find his personal items gone. The youth reported that the officer later learned of his bedrest, but his items were never returned, and he continued to resent the actions of the officer. Multiple young people remarked during the day that the discipline and treatment they receive differed between shifts with one youth sharing how impressed he was that the facility helped another youth attend the birth of his child. Young people reported that they learned the behavior of staff and attempted to change their behaviors between shifts and individuals just to get along.

LACOE also managed their own positive behavior reinforcement program called the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). PBIS uses a point system which rewards good behavior, where students receive snacks for good behavior and work completion. PBIS standards and the schedule for the day were written clearly on the board in classrooms and young people explained fully understanding that PBIS points were earned based on the quality of work they did in the classroom and their behavior. Students explained that they could move up stages through positive behavior and other



accomplishments. One of the rewards included wearing polo shirts that indicate their stage which also makes them eligible to participate in the work program. One young person shared that they were ready to participate in the work program, but waiting on a Social Security card.

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported having twenty-four (24) hour on-call coverage. The hours of operation on site are 6:30am-10:00pm, seven days a week including holidays, with a physician available on site on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 7:00am-7:00pm, seven days per week and access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies after-hours. DMH staff shared that they meet with young people weekly and when possible, any time that youth indicate need. Multiple youth reported that they would sometimes ask a Probation Officer to call so they could be seen by a mental health clinician but that sometimes Probation would say that there was a shortage of DMH clinicians that day and that they could not be seen. DMH reported that they were only short one clinician and were surprised that Probation was allegedly choosing to not call. It was reported that Probation's staffing shortages caused some difficulty for being able to see youth in the mental health offices since there must be an officer dedicated to sitting in the building so that sessions can occur. DMH reported that there is insufficient staff each Sunday to have office sessions. When there was no available Probation staff to supervise, DMH reported holding sessions outside in the open grassy areas. It was reported that it was extremely rare for youth at this facility to be placed on an elevated supervision level, and no youth were on DMH enhanced supervision during the inspection. DMH staff noted that at the time of inspection only one youth in the facility had family therapy within the last month.

### AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

JCHS staff shared that their relationship with Probation was "good," and medical operations had improved in the last several months. JCHS credited regular multi-agency meetings and increased transportation staffing for the strengthened relationship with Probation. It was reported that previous strain in the relationship was due to youth missing medical appointments because of Probation transportation issues, but that Probation's operational changes resolved the issue this year. JCHS shared that since Probation addressed the issue, on average just one appointment was missed on average each month. JCHS noted that the consolidation of camps did not hinder their functions.

LACOE reported positive relationships with Probation overall and expressed that they would like Probation to locate officers inside of classrooms.

DMH reported that while relationships were good between clinicians and Probation Officers, significant concerns existed for the well-being of youth and officers at the facility



and how DMH could continue to effectively support the camp under stressful and rapidly changing conditions. Out of concern for youth and staff, DMH interviews included ideas about how to make the environment less stressful with more opportunities for deescalating conflict before it leads to violence. This included the idea of having a higher wall between the four parts of the dorm and having additional space for youth self-separation and cool off. It was also reported that optimally, the camp population should be lowered since it was observed over the last year that longer amounts of time in detention at the juvenile hall negatively affected youth behavior, including initially displaying violent behaviors that required a longer period of adjustment to shed than observed in previous years. DMH interviews expressed that the ripple effect of the juvenile hall on the youth population added stress to all aspects of life at CBA.

### **STAFFING**

- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (AM and PM): 1**
- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s) (AM and PM): 13**
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision (AM and PM): 0**
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime (AM and PM): 4**

It was reported that staffing at CBA was slightly short, though Probation Officers banded together to complete necessary tasks and to sign up for overtime as needed. The overall feel for the facility was calm, with a sense of respect amongst the young people and the Probation Officers.

It was reported that while staff was sent to CBA from CJP, full integration had not yet occurred and that there were some fundamental differences in the ways that officers from one facility interacted with youth compared to the other despite being on the same campus and having the same director over both camps for more than a year. It was reported that CBA had historically utilized more compliance-based approaches and that CJP used more rapport-based approaches, so there were ongoing disagreements between officers and shifts about how to approach daily interactions. When interviewing young people about their experiences with Probation Officers, they mentioned that they were treated differently depending on the shift. It was explained that the Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday shift “treats us like shit... totally different from the other shift.” Another youth said, “The Director is cool and some staff, too, but just like one or two make it bad”, and when asked further about what is done that makes it bad, the young person replied, “They just threaten us too much and too fast. Like if you don’t do everything right away, they tell you ‘Do this or get a refile’, and I don’t see how I can get refiled just for not jumping up right when they say. It’s too much.” The same young person suggested that some officers should get training to address being overly emotional during conflict and to learn better de-escalation approaches. Co-located partners expressed concern for Probation Officers and reported that officers needed help and training to depersonalize the behaviors of young people and that supportive training for preventing burnout and coping with vicarious trauma is critical for improving coping strategies. It was acknowledged by partners that many officers put considerable effort into their work and that many were skilled at de-escalation, but stress and higher populations challenged





even the most patient officers. It was reported by Probation facility leadership that all staff had been trained in Gracie Jiu-Jitsu.

While observing the dormitories in the afternoon, the tone also seemed calm. There were a few new staff that came in on shift. Probation Officers are on the 56-hour shift, but there is some overlap which allows for some fresh folks to come in while others can take some kind of a break. During this overlap, an arriving staff member brought in a box of ice cream bars, which they shared only with other and with one youth. This did not seem to cause stress to the young men, but appeared odd to POC inspectors to see staff enjoying a cool treat right in front of all the youth and just one youth receive a special treat.

### HOPE CENTER/ROOM CONFINEMENT

CBA used the offsite Hope Center at Camp Rockey for young people to decompress after an incident or due to medical fragility. It was reported that there were two young people there during the inspection for a fight that had happened a couple of days prior.

### PROGRAMMING

The programming schedule provided matched what was occurring at the facility. All programs occurred as scheduled. The program provided by Affirmative Athletics drew the most attention, with a large number of youth engaged and participating. The photojournalism program occurring at the same time had one participant, and this was attributed to the overlap, not to a lack of interest in photojournalism. Young people also expressed they wanted more programs, in particular workforce training and the opportunity to learn vocational skills to transition to jobs upon release. The young people and staff mentioned their interest in bringing back a program with a carpenters' union that was previously at CJP. Probation Officers also provided an exercise program for youth. While in the sleeping quarters, the credible messenger program, Amer-I-Can, was observed with four young people very engaged in a discussion with the credible messenger at a table in the unit.

It was reported that religious services and programming occurred on Sundays and Tuesdays. It was reported that three vocational programs were available for the young people, including OSHA and all were managed by Probation Education Services.

One young person noted that they "loved art class with LACOE", and that art teacher had made a big difference for them, but that they had been transferred out of art class and were hoping to get back in.

### HARM REDUCTION

All Probation Officers interviewed were carrying Narcan and had received training on opioid intoxication and overdose in county trainings and via a fellow officer trained on the subject.





JCHS staff shared that they were empowered by the facility leadership to carry Narcan and were provided Narcan training. JCHS staff had not deployed any Narcan since the previous annual inspection and always carry it on their person. It was reported that two young people at CBA were receiving Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT), where one arrived with a prescription, and the other was prescribed the treatment while at camp. It was reported that 45 out of the 48 young people at the facility received some kind of psychotropic medication, many of which included sleep medication. JCHS staff provided significant health education to youth one-on-one, in particular about the use and impact of the medications as well as the need for them to get activity.

### OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY

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



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**September 16, 2025**

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# **INSPECTION REPORT FOR CAMP GLENN ROCKEY (CGR)**

***Prepared By:***

**Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.**



## INTRODUCTION

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 2025 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the fifth 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 third facility inspected during this annual cycle: Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR). 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 Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR):**

- ***A rapidly increasing population and plans for other facilities strains the facility's long running successful functioning*** – Since the closure of Camp Joseph Paige (CJP) earlier this year, the number of youth steadily increased at CGR, with staffing numbers that may decrease in 2026 due to the expiration of a yearlong contract with a handful of officers. The number of youth dispositioned to CGR from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall continues to rise, placing strain on youth already there, decreasing the amount of time and energy that Probation Officers can dedicate to each youth's transition into the facility, and straining the supervision abilities of a small number of officers.
- ***Probation Officers need support during transitions*** – The integration of CJP youth, increases in population, and the intensive needs of young people coming to this facility indicates that the Probation Department needs to provide their officers with more than basic training. Staff need two-way communication, consideration of their expertise, and response to their professional needs.

## 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 Los Angeles County 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 31<sup>st</sup> each year and shares the report with the Board and the public. This report marks the fifth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

## METHODS

### **Details about the inspection of Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR):**

- Two POC Commissioners conducted the inspection. Two POC staff members provided support during the inspection.
- The CGR inspection was conducted on September 16, 2025, and took six hours to complete.
- Dates for the inspections were coordinated with Probation's Executive 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, so the POC previously 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 information below depicts data gathered directly from the Camp Glenn Rockey inspection. It should be noted that the data is a "snapshot" of information recorded only on the day of the inspection. The data collected was provided to the POC staff by the facility's Director; and each of these numbers was reported as received. The findings stated in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff observations made while conducting the inspections.

## GENERAL DATA FOR CGR

- **Address:** 1900 N Sycamore Cyn Road, San Dimas, California 91773
- **Facility Type:** Camp
- **Housing:** Open dorm sleeping quarters and a Hope Center with individual locking rooms
- **Rated Capacity:** 125
- **Youth population present at facility:** 52 (1 released during inspection)
- **Number of boys/young men:** 52
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 0
- **Youth with DCFS services:** 4
- **Youth with developmental disabilities:** 1
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 112
- **Probation Officers on duty at time of inspection:** 23-AM, 18-PM



## FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Upon entering front building door, Probation Officers were present and managing the front door scanner and using a wand as an additional security precaution which all visitors were observed being cleared through during the day. The facility structure and outdoor structures were aged but clean and well kept. The campus has a full grassy field where young people reported having physical education and participating in sports with Probation staff, especially on weekends. Young people reported that they liked the outdoor openness of the environment at the camp. Grievance information, Youth Bill of Rights, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) posters were mounted on walls in sleeping quarters, the dining hall, and throughout buildings.

On the day of the inspection, CGR housed young people ages 13-19. Prior to this year, the camp was primarily used to house younger youth, but in the last several months since the closure and integration of Camp Joseph Paige (CJP), attempts to separate youth with wide age differences were abandoned due to a rapid increase that nearly doubled the camp's population. POC inquired about the upper limits of population based on available staffing and it was indicated that to continue operations with the current number of staff, the population should remain at 60 or under.

Young people reported that they were oriented to the rules and procedures upon arrival and received refreshers periodically. New young people also received peer mentoring from other motivated youth to assist with camp integration. The peer mentoring model was included with orientation due to the increase in fights, tensions, and other serious incidents following the increase in new arrivals from Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH).

Visitation took place every Sunday from 1pm-4pm. It was reported that accommodations were made for those families that were not available during regular visitation hours, which included Probation's standard of offering special visits to ensure that youth were able to maintain important family connections before release. It was reported that Probation's canine unit was used for security purposes during visitation on Sundays. It was also reported that youth and parents were allowed to share a hug and have other monitored physical contact which had not resulted in contraband issues nor illicit substance use at the facility. It was reported that Probation Officers were able to monitor any physical contact. There appeared to be recognition among the facility's leadership and various officers interviewed about the positive impact that physical contact with a parent or grandparent has on young people.

Young people receive a minimum of one phone call per week which are supervised by Probation Officers. It was reported that young people who had worked up to a higher reward level for being able to follow the program and behavioral expectations of the facility earned the ability to have FaceTime calls, which were also monitored by the young persons' assigned Probation Officer.





Facility leadership shared that there were many young people on a Special Supervision Program (SSP), and all young people in the facility received at least three multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings while at CGR. The first meeting was expected to occur upon entry, where partner-agencies, parents, and the young person meet to discuss the plan for the young person's stay, the second meeting then adds Credible Messenger partners who work closely with the young person, and the third meeting includes all mentioned above to plan for transition into release from the facility. MDT meetings could also be held as needed, including to address any ongoing behavioral or mental health issues posing a barrier to the young person struggling to adapt to some part of the CGR program. A young person was interviewed just prior to being released on the day of the inspection. They shared that they had recently had their last MDT and were informed of who their assigned field Probation Officer was. The young person shared that they were planning on attending a construction trade school and finishing their driver's test as they had only completed the written portion with the assistance of their current Probation Officer. The young person explained that their stay at Camp Rockey "was good... it went by quick... the staff were good" compared to their stay at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) where they "could do whatever we wanted".

The sleeping quarters for the young people was a camp style multi-occupancy unit with a day room facing the west side upon entrance, and the washroom with urinals were on the northside. Beds were divided into four sections; Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. The facility preferred to house youth in the wings of the dorm according to behavior stage whenever possible (See *Discipline/Positive Behavior Reinforcement*). Young people in the sleeping quarters shared that they had a hard time falling asleep due to the night lights.

### KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen appeared clean and well-kept, with all machinery in good operation. The meal menu was posted on the wall which also had a list of young people with dietary restrictions who signed after receiving their special meal. The kitchen had two young people in the kitchen program, who were assisting with cleaning, passing out food, and other kitchen related work. The kitchen program was a paid program through the American Jobs Center of California (AJJC) and considered a vocational program.

During the lunch hour, the youth assigned to each wing of the dorm were escorted to the dining hall and entered one-by-one, in a very orderly and calm way. As young people were entering, Probation Officers provided them with lunch, and it was noted that young people were offered the option to have additional portions. It was reported that Probation Officers eat the same meal as young people unless they bring their own food to work. Seating in the cafeteria was assigned by unit. Young people were allowed to converse quietly once they finished their meal. Probation staff were present and supervised, and interacted with young people, answered questions, joked, and were seen listening to the expressed concerns of young people. Lunch consisted of hot dogs and condiments, including mustard and ketchup, coleslaw, potato salad, watermelon, and milk. Food appeared



ample, nutritious and appetizing. A commissioner sampled the lunch and had no complaints.

## **EDUCATION**

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers: 6**
  - **Assigned: 4**
  - **Day-to-Day (not long-term) Substitutes: 2**
- **High School Students:**
  - **In School: 47**
  - **Suspended: 0**
- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): 20**
- **High School Graduates: 5**
- **College Students: 1**
- **Dual enrollment students: 0**
- **College(s) supporting this facility: Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC)**

A LACOE math class was observed, where there were four LACOE staff including a paraprofessional, principal, math teacher, and a special education teacher along with two Probation officers sitting in. The classroom was clean, bright and decorated with educational posters and student work. The young people appeared engaged, as the teacher was able to regain their attention from the distraction caused by the inspection and they participated in the class activity. It was reported that the math teacher had been awarded LACOE teacher of the year. Posters for grievances, Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), and Youth Bill of Rights were not observed in LACOE classrooms, nor on the outside of LACOE administration building.

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## **College**

Probation Education Services managed college operations delivered by Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) at CGR. It was reported that there was a community helper that assisted with bringing laptops, workbooks, and school materials to the student. It was reported that in accordance with what was required for the Rising Scholars program, The Mt. SAC counselor visited students, though it was noted that a regular visiting schedule had not yet been established for ongoing counseling. The college student reported taking one course at a time, currently Psychology during the summer A-session term, and then planned to take Sociology during the summer B-session. All college classes were asynchronous, with lectures available through a web-based learning management system, Canvas, and professors were willing to virtually meet with enrolled students on a monthly basis. No tutoring services were provided by Mt. SAC, and it was reported that Probation Education Services staff were ready to assist when the current college student did not understand course material. Probation Education Services shared that there were several obstacles in providing college courses at the facility including not having a designated classroom and having to work in the sleeping quarter's day room where there



were several distractions. The distractions were described as “constantly trying to compete with video games and movies”.

In addition to managing college operations, Probation Education Services also managed programs such as Money Smart - a financial literacy course, Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), Career Zone, paid work programs sponsored by AJCC for graduates, and other paid work programs sponsored by LACOE for high school students.

## **GRIEVANCES**

- **Total Grievances<sup>1</sup>:** 29
- **Grievance system:** Paper only
- **Emergency grievances:** 4

Grievance rules and procedures were posted throughout the facility, including in the dormitory. Interviews with youth indicated that they understand the grievance procedure. All grievances reviewed were responded to within three business days as required by [Probation's Grievance Policy](#).<sup>2</sup> Grievances included concerns about rights violations, services, concerns about Probation Officers and partner agency staff interactions, and other issues. Four emergency (Prison Rape Elimination Act/Health/Suspected Abuse) grievances were observed. All PREA related grievances were responded to immediately as required by policy and indicated steps taken to follow up including referring the complaints to Probation's PREA coordination team. Some grievances noted that young people declined a copy of their grievance. This information was written in on the grievance form, as there was no “declined” option for the young person in the “*Received a copy of grievance*” section of the form. All grievances reviewed had documentation support attached to the original form, which clearly displayed the steps taken to resolve the grievance.

## **DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT**

Facility leadership indicated that the camp used a combination of a Behavior Management Program (BMP) also utilized at the juvenile hall, in addition to the casework model which included journaling which is used at the Secure Youth Treatment Facilities. It was reported that Probation generally made bed assignments for youth in accordance to their achieved “level” for four quarters of the dorm, Alpha, Beta, Charlie, and Delta. Those sleeping in Alpha were generally on stage one with an approximate average length of stay of seven days. Bravo was for those on stage two with an approximate average length of stay of at least 14 days, Charlie was for those on stage three and an approximate average length of stay of at least 21 days, and Delta was for those on stage four and an approximate average length of stay longer than 21 days. With each level achieved, youth receive additional positive behavior reinforcements.

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<sup>1</sup> POC generally requests all the grievances from the current calendar year, unless that number is deemed too small to get a reasonable sense of common grievance themes for the facility. The grievances provided and reviewed were from January 2025 onward.

<sup>2</sup> [Los Angeles County Probation 2020 RTSB Policy Manual](#)



Interviews with young people at the facility indicated that the Probation Officers' demonstrations of empathy and consistency yielded positive results for all. Young people reported that they felt that most officers were fair, tried to understand them, and provided helpful, honest guidance. Various officers throughout the day discussed having understanding for the behavior of young people while helping them to address and change some of those behaviors. Many officers repeatedly remarked that they could immediately tell which youth spent extended time at the juvenile hall by the level of violence they attempted when arriving at CGR. Officers expressed concern and understanding for the trauma of that experience and reported that they would work intensively with some youth to "get the LP out of them" so they could successfully function at the camp.

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported hours of operation from 6:30am-10:00pm seven days per week including holidays. They reported that a physician was available on-site on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and medical services at LPJH could be utilized for after-hours care, or, depending on the urgency, young people were taken to directly to a hospital.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 7:00 or 7:30am to 8:00pm, seven days per week and access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies after-hours. DMH reported full staffing and expressed concern about the rapidly rising population numbers as continual increases would eventually cause workload strain. It was reported that in addition to individual therapy services, DMH was conducting approximately 10-15 family therapy sessions a month for youth when clinically indicated. It was reported that participating youth and their family had one to two sessions a month and that when family was available to do therapy in person, DMH provided transportation to the camp. Family therapy was also offered via virtual teleconference or over the phone if needed.

Young people reported having easy and regular access to medical and mental health services as needed and whenever requested without needing to write a formal request. Young people reported that they only needed to ask Probation Officers in the dorm to call their JCHS or DMH counterparts to be seen with minimal wait. Young people reported feeling heard and respected both by DMH and JCHS employees. DMH reported concern surrounding the complex and profound effects of trauma on youth dispositioned to CGR in the last year and reflected that childhood experiences, whatever brought the young person into detention, and the effects of detention itself were seriously impairing youth functioning and well-being to the extent that mental health professionals questioned why some youth were not sent to The Dorothy Kirby Center instead<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The Dorothy Kirby Center has historically been Probation's residential locked facility providing intensive mental health services and psychiatric care to youth who go through a multi-pronged clearance process assessing level of need.





## AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

JCHS staff shared that agency relationships had recently improved but indicated that more improvement was needed. It was reported that issues with Probation transportation services to get youth to scheduled appointments outside of the facility was a source of tension that had recently resolved. JCHS staff shared that although there had been improvements in transportation, there were still communication issues amongst both Probation and JCHS because nurses found it inappropriate to treat young people in the dorm, citing privacy issues and lack of medical equipment, which they reported prevented them from being able to deliver the best care possible.

DMH reported that they felt that the relationship with Probation was at an all-time high. This was largely attributed to the long-term and stable relationships between mental health clinicians and Probation Officers who worked side by side to support young people who were often struggling with serious mental health symptoms. It was reported that ongoing and casual consultation between officers and clinicians helped improve the camp environment and served as a way to support Probation Officers' understanding of how trauma looks when it manifests into behavior. DMH reported they were pleased to see the facility fully staffed and expressed concern for young people and their Probation colleagues as the population of the facility continued to climb upward.

It was reported by both DMH and JCHS that there were multi-agency meetings every Wednesday, which representatives from both agencies found helpful and helped to keep communication fluid between all co-located departments and partners. It was also reported that all partners participated in the Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings which were used to plan transitions for each young person.

## STAFFING

- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (16-hour shift): 6**
- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s) (AM and PM Shifts Combined): 16**
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision (AM and PM Shifts Combined): 0**
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime (AM and PM Shifts Combined): 0**

Probation Officers shared that they were content with their assignment at Camp Rockey, and numerous officers indicated that facility leadership fostered a positive work environment and that collaborative relationships with LACOE, JCHS, and DMH colleagues brought a sense of teamwork. Probation officers cited having “enough” coverage as a positive feature at Camp Rockey, where they usually had about 18 officers working and 25 during overlap days. The current coverage was attributed to the deployed staff with one-year contracts, which meant that overtime was “rare”, and holdovers did not occur at the facility. There was significant concern however about what would happen when the contracts expire in February 2026, as most predicted that the items would be sunk into the efforts to bring the juvenile hall into compliance.





Leadership and Probation Officers at the camp expressed a great deal of pride about their ability to work with and deescalate young people in a way that minimized violence and disruption to their lives. Officers talked about the young people in ways that exemplified the understanding they had about the complex histories of young people and lessons they learned and regularly applied to be able to establish rapport and provide mentorship. While officers acknowledged the challenges of having a more crowded population at the camp, they expressed grit and positivity in facing that challenge. Many young people reported that they had at least one Probation Officer at the camp to whom they felt “very connected”. When discussing their favorite staff one youth said, “Some staff connect different but I got a lot of support here, and here is where I’ve been able to put together my goals. The best thing I ever learned was here, and that’s routine.”

However, there was disappointment with the lack of career mobility, as it was shared that those in the DPO I position were rarely given the opportunity to promote. It was reported that some Probation officers had been a DPO I for more than twenty years without the opportunity of promotion. Various Probation Officers also remarked that the widely promoted bonuses offered for officers to transfer from other jurisdictions was demoralizing while they consistently show up with years of experience and “We can’t get promoted, can’t get a 24k bonus, and aren’t recognized by Downey.”

### HOPE CENTER/ROOM CONFINEMENT

Camp Rockey had a Hope Center in the facility for young people to decompress after an incident or due to medical fragility. Four young people were housed in the Hope Center with two from Camp Afflerbaugh (CBA) and two from CGR. It was reported that youth from CGR rarely used the Hope Center as a result of the de-escalation approaches used by the officers. It was reported that while youth regularly come from CBA to the CGR Hope Center, in the last year, youth were staying for less time and the CGR officer felt that the administration and supervisors at CBA made positive changes in communication and planning to take youth back to that camp more quickly. Officers noted that CBA often picked up “late night fighters” who stayed the night in the Hope Center between 7:00-7:30am the following day. No youth in the Hope Center were in room confinement nor self-separation. Due to the dorm setting, room confinement in the dorm at CGR is not possible.

### PROGRAMMING

All programs on site matched the program schedule and were occurring at their reported time. Commissioners observed young people participating in the Substance Abuse group programming provided by DMH. The group appeared engaging as young people were focused and actively participating. Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) was also observed taking place in a classroom, and those young people appeared engaged and enjoying the program content. Young people reported their wishes for programming to “have more visual arts, more vocational”. One youth said, “We could just use more programs, but it’s alright right now.” High school graduates were able to rotate participation in a transitional work program where they were paid to complete domestic



tasks in the dorm, kitchen, and laundry. Young people reported having good relationships with the regular programming providers and trying to make the most of their time and the opportunities at CGR. It was noted that during programming time at the facility, a no phone call and no screens rule was implemented.

### HARM REDUCTION

CGR facility leadership shared that contraband had not been a major issue at the facility at any point since the POC's last Annual Inspection. It was reported that regular searches only found "excessive personals", like having too much food, pens, etc. as contraband, but nothing else. The staff at CGR have never had to deploy Narcan, a life-saving opioid overdose reversal medication. It was reported that there were no concerns of contraband either thrown into the facility or being dropped by drone. All Probation Officers interviewed throughout the day were observed carrying Narcan on their uniform belts, which they reported were inspected daily as a part of a standard uniform check. It was reported that young people were trained on the identification of opioid intoxication, and in how to access and use Narcan in case of emergency. It was reported that trainings for youth took place during their orientation to the facility and there was a weekly opportunity to refresh those skills. Youth also had access to Narcan at the facility since a dose was stored in a defibrillator case on the wall of the dorm.

Facility leadership empowered partner agencies to carry Narcan and offered training. DMH and JCHS staff were trained by their own departments, but it was reported that LACOE declined to participate though LACOE did reportedly have Narcan in the main office.

Facility leadership reported that Department of Public Health-Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (DPH-SAPC) was set to begin delivery of substance abuse related services in October, and to assist the facility with substance use related matters, including the potential to provide training and consultation in addition to service for youth. It was reported that in order for DPH-SAPC to start, they required space and so the facility was planning to install a trailer over the existing sand volleyball area.

### OC SPRAY

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



**PROBATION  
OVERSIGHT  
COMMISSION**  
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**WENDELYN JULIEN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, SUITE 383  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 633-5777 • [www.poc.lacounty.gov](http://www.poc.lacounty.gov)

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS

HOLLY J. MITCHELL

LINDSEY P. HORVATH

JANICE HAHN

KATHRYN BARGER

December 22, 2025

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell  
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM:

Wendelyn Julien  
Executive Director

Sarah Gongora, Psy.D.   
Project Director

**SUBJECT: 2025 INSPECTION CYCLE OF THE PROBATION OVERSIGHT  
COMMISSION**

The Los Angeles County Probation Oversight Commission (POC) takes care to write each inspection report to stand on its own - as each facility functions independently and has distinct strengths and challenges. After completing the inspections, the POC compiles the reports and works with Commissioners to highlight the most critical findings for each site.

This year, the POC staff also noted a throughline that may help readers understand a bigger picture issue facing the Department.

Youth, Probation Officers, Facility Leadership, Mental Health Clinicians, Mental Health Supervisors, and program providers reported that detention at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH), especially for extended periods of time, is detrimental to the mental and emotional well-being of young people and is impacting the other facilities.

While the LPJH inspection findings detailed concerns about the culture of violence that has been apparent since the re-opening of the facility in July 2023, this year, Probation Officers at camps and Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTF) and other professionals repeatedly remarked that they can immediately tell when a young person has spent an extended time at LPJH because of the hypervigilant and combative state they arrive with after disposition. Far beyond the regularly expected adjustment periods, Probation professionals and other stakeholders with deep investment in this work acknowledged that more extensive and intensive interventions have become necessary to help young

people function appropriately in other facility environments. Reports from officers made clear that they believed violent behaviors cultivated at LPJH are seeping into other facilities that for years had protocols that effectively managed and minimized violence.

Interviews also unearthed concern that leadership's laser-focus on LPJH and uneven distribution of resources poured into LPJH could ultimately lead to destabilization of the rest of the Department as related to maintenance of appropriate staffing, programming, and facilities.

The concerns at LPJH are widely known. This analysis is shared to express our concern that the conditions at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall are also impacting safety in the other detention facilities.

Please contact me at (213) 308-8373 or [wjulien@poc.lacounty.gov](mailto:wjulien@poc.lacounty.gov) or my colleague Dr. Sarah Gongora at [sgongora@poc.lacounty.gov](mailto:sgongora@poc.lacounty.gov) with any questions.

WJ:sg

c: Guillermo Viera Rosa, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department  
Edward Yen, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Eric Bates, Inspector General, Office of Inspector General  
Justice Deputies, Board of Supervisors  
Commissioners, Probation Oversight Commission

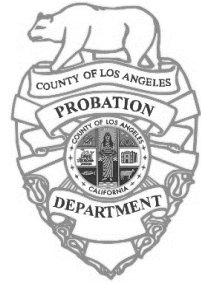


**GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA**

Chief Probation Officer

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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



September 29, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director  
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa  
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S  
MAY 22, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR CAMPUS  
VERNON KILPATRICK**

On September 19, 2025, we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) May 22, 2025, Annual Inspection Report for Campus Vernon Kilpatrick. The Department appreciates the POC's comments about the creation of "a facility environment where rapport-based supervision and trauma-informed interventions helped youth aspire and achieve." The report notes that the POC inspectors questioned why the population of the facility remained at less than 20 youth when approved for 48 youth. The facility physical infrastructure actually has an operational capacity of 72 youth and is based on small communities in a homelike therapeutic environment which provides the flexibility to successfully and safely accommodate any population and modern trauma-informed program.

Since the inspection, all 16 of the male youth have been transitioned out of the facility as part of the Department's Depopulation Plan to provide better services for youth in their care. Half the youth were released to community supervision housing programs and the other half were safely transferred to Barry J. Nidorf (BJN) to continue their Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) step-down program. To prepare the youth for their movement, a Probation Executive met personally with all of the youth, explained what was happening and asked for suggestions from them on their transition to BJN. The facility also held a townhall for the youth with partner agencies in attendance and two townhalls with their parents. It was with their suggestions in mind that the Department identified which BJN building would be used for youth who were transferred to BJN. A Probation Executive also met with Probation staff informally on two occasions and a Probation Director was on site to answer their questions.



With respect to several of POC's facility concerns identified in the report:

- The freezers have been repaired, and the facility has sufficient refrigeration, freezer, and dry goods space.
- The wastewater system now has a rated facility capacity of 260 people. The Department of Public Works has a current wastewater system replacement project that will be completed before the end of 2025. The modern system will maintain the existing capacity.
- The classroom water damage has been repaired, and water mitigation has been made. Probation is also working with the Department of Public Works on a campus-wide storm water mitigation project.

Since the POC's inspection, Probation initiated significant renovations to convert Campus Kilpatrick from a male facility into a female and gender expansive facility, including physical enhancements to ensure the safety and security of pre-disposition, camp adjudicated, and SYTF youth. Campus Kilpatrick will maintain its small community model with housing units configured with a maximum of eight youth on each side of a cottage and the facility, as a whole, will have a maximum population target of 50 youth, not to exceed 60 youth. Work has already been completed on BSCC mandated renovations specifically to address juvenile hall related operational and safety requirements. These projects included the installation of juvenile hall rated furniture, polycarbonate sheets to reinforce windows in the cottages and the dining hall, the build-out of an intake unit, establishing a baby bonding room and a youth designated lactation room, the removal of urinals, the adjustment of shower partitions to provide additional privacy, and the installation of CCTV cameras.

By populating the camp in the near future with all female and gender non-conforming youths in the county, the Department is able to make better use of the facility's capacity. Moreover, the Department can consolidate and leverage its resources for this population into a single campus, develop a comprehensive and cohesive gender responsive and trauma informed program, and consistent with its plan to depopulate Los Padrinos, move the pre-adjudicated female and gender non-conforming youth from there to Camp Kilpatrick.

The POC's concerns regarding the distance of the camp to families wishing to visit and staff who will be assigned there are being addressed, and the Depopulation Plan will be continuously monitored, allowing for adjustments as new information becomes available.

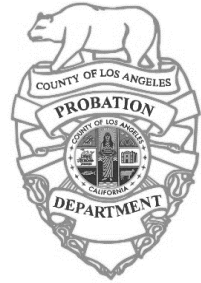


**GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA**

Chief Probation Officer

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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



September 25, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director  
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa   
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S  
JUNE 10, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR BARRY J.  
NIDORF – SECURE YOUTH TREATMENT FACILITY**

On September 5, 2025 we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) June 10, 2025, Annual Inspection Report for Barry J. Nidorf – Secure Youth Treatment Facility. The Department has been working diligently to improve the culture, conditions and safety for the youth at the facility so appreciates the POC's observations during the inspection regarding the promotion of mutual respect and pro-social behaviors, the decrease in use of illicit substances, the decrease in serious incidents, the youth's access to medical services, and the improved relations between probation staff and outside agencies that provide services at the facility.

Of particular importance to improving conditions for youth at the facilities has been your immediate feedback after the inspections during your out-briefings. By providing us with immediate and thorough feedback, the supervisors at the facilities are able to take immediate corrective action where appropriate and can also correct any misinformation gathered throughout the day and address any possible misperceptions. With respect to your BJN-SYTF annual inspection, however, the most significant feedback we received is that many of the issues of concern raised in the report were not addressed with supervisors at the out-briefing. This prevents the Department from providing more thorough feedback when a draft of your report is received. It also prevents the Department from immediately addressing issues and from conducting prompt inquiries into the concerns raised to assess whether the issues are systemic, isolated instances, exaggerations, or simply inaccurate. Receiving the report three months after the inspection together with changes in management at the facility have also contributed to the challenge of responding or providing feedback to some areas of the report.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the Department agrees with the recommendation that data be collected to verify the efficacy of the piloted Developmental Stage System (DSS). At the time of the inspection, DSS had been in effect for less than a year so not a lot of data was available. The Department has been keeping internal data on DSS and is in the process of incorporating the data into their case management system. DSS, including the orientation process, is one which was recommended, created and implemented with the approval of and assistance from the Department of Justice's (DOJ) monitor. Youths are provided with information about DSS guidelines during their orientation and thereafter meet with a case worker who delves more deeply into the process and guidelines. Supervisors at BJN are confident that youth who are not new to the facility are very familiar with DSS guidelines and have a good understanding of how it works. If some youth spoken to by your staff or commissioners did not, it is possible they had only recently transitioned to the facility, or their behavior or lack of participation in programs has prevented them from benefiting from moving up the DSS ladder to gain more privileges and benefits. The Department will continue to work with the DOJ monitor to evaluate the guidelines and continually improve them to ensure its efficacy.

The Department disagrees with the statements in the report regarding the facility not satisfying the homelike environment envisioned *by the supporters of SB 823* and the overall look being carceral. This language is both subjective, overbroad and neglects to include the fact that the Department worked very closely with a DOJ monitor in fashioning and approving an environment which they agreed would qualify as "homelike" within the confines of a safe and secure facility. The facility looks nothing like the carceral environment youth were previously housed in through the state Department of Juvenile Justice. While at the time of the inspection two units were still under construction, the construction has since been completed and the entire facility has now been upgraded to a "homelike environment" per the DOJ renderings which the Department adopted. I was advised that the statement about the facility not meeting the homelike environment envisioned by the supporters of SB 823 and the overall look being carceral came from a single commissioner who declined our request to remove this language from the report. In response, we ask that it be made clear in the report that the language came from a single commissioner, that our request to remove or modify the language was denied, and that the POC include the information above about our collaboration with the DOJ monitor.

With respect to the section on harm reduction/security, since the inspection more than three months ago, the Department installed the additional airport style scanner at the entrance where employees and service providers enter and has also increased their use of K-9s to detect contraband. When paired with current K-9 protocols, the Department has been successful at reducing the risk of contraband and illicit substances being introduced into the facility. In addition, facility searches including those of the perimeter are conducted daily. If the use of an illicit substance is suspected, additional resources are called in and the Department has pursued criminal charges against both employees and visitors when illicit substances are discovered during an investigation, search, screening, or visit. The Department requests this additional information be included in the report.

Since the inspection, Probation Education Services has increased staffing by six positions and is in the process of adding more computers for asynchronous classes to allow youth to work independently without relying solely on instructor-led classes. The Department requests this additional information be included in the report.

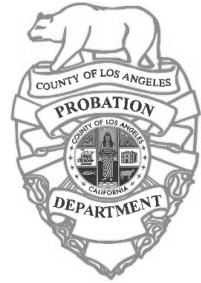
The Department indicates that there is plenty of clothing available for the youth at the facility. Due to the time elapsed since the inspection, it is difficult to address any clothing related issues which may have been brought to the commissioners' attention. However, had any clothing related issues been brought to the Department's attention at the out-briefing, the Department would have promptly addressed the issues with the youth and/or staff and could also have shown your staff and commissioners where the clothing was kept so they could see for themselves that there was plenty of clothing at the facility.

With respect to the step-down facilities, it is correct that the youth are unable to tour the facilities before committing to them. However, there is an interview process involved when a step-down facility is being considered. Prior to a final determination on which step-down program to attend, the providers from the step-down facilities come into BJN and conduct a presentation for the youth outlining the services that will be provided at each step-down facility and are available to answer their questions.



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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



**GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA**

Chief Probation Officer

December 08, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director  
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa   
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S  
AUGUST 28, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR  
LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL**

On November 14, 2025, we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) Annual Inspection Report for Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) based on a nine-hour inspection on August 28, 2025. Your observations and feedback are greatly appreciated and assist us in our joint goal of improving conditions and operations at LPJH. As indicated in your report, changes and improvements have occurred since the inspection. While not all changes and improvements to the facility are noted below and not all observations are commented upon, this response focuses on some of the more significant ones.

## **Improvements Relating to Violence and Core Responsibilities**

It is first and foremost important to note that there were significant decreases in both use of force (UOF) incidents and youth on youth violence (YOYV) incidents from 2024 to 2025. When comparing the first 10 months of each year, LPJH experienced a decrease of 17.28 percent in UOF incidents and a decrease of 39.44 percent in YOYV incidents. Moreover, approximately 80% of all YOYV incidents were resolved by Probation staff without the use of any force. A number of violence reduction strategies are currently in place which we expect will continue to result in a reduction of both use of force and youth on youth violence: (1) weekly meetings are conducted with all youth who were in multiple fight incidents to collaboratively develop a plan with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education to reduce violent youth behavior; (2) weekly meetings are conducted to review use of force incidents to provide training, identify trends, and address performance concerns; (3) staffing has been adjusted to ensure youth who are involved in recent altercations or are exhibiting concerning behavior, are placed in appropriate housing to prevent further

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escalation; (4) veteran staff have been assigned to high incident units to strengthen supervision and support youth in de-escalation; (5) our critical incident team (CIT) has been expanded in collaboration with DMH to assist in de-escalating a situation before it rises to crisis levels; and (6) management conducts debriefings with supervisors to review emerging issues and address any YOYV or UOF concerns.

The Department of Justice's Deputy Monitor for LPJH has in fact recognized these improvements. In his report after a week-long inspection period in August of 2025, the monitor noted the Superintendent's engagement and leadership and commended her for her presence in the units which appeared to be making a positive difference. The current Superintendent has been at LPJH since April of 2025 and has been acting as the Superintendent since July of 2025. During the Deputy Monitor's two-week inspection period in November of 2025, he attended the use of force incident review process and commended the process which he believes will continue to improve practice.

With respect to the staffing levels at LPJH, they remain sufficient to meet operational and legally mandated requirements. Probation staff are effectively managing supervision responsibilities and available resources are already aligned to support safe and consistent facility operation. Hence, the POC's asking the Board of Supervisors to "call for the activation of County partners to assume or contract all possible roles within their expertise" . . . "to provide Probation the ability to move all available sworn staff into direct supervision roles to increase focus on legally required tasks" is ill-advised and unnecessary.

### **Facility and Visitation**

The report accurately points out the efficiency and consistency with the improved security protocols and outdated but well-kept grounds. With respect to graffiti observed in some older units, this issue has since been addressed. The Deputy Monitor from the Department of Justice has visited the facility a number of times since the POC's inspection in August and reported that "not only were all units and areas clean and sanitary, but there has also been a focus on reducing clutter and organizing supplies and equipment. The new entry security, which includes scanners and dogs, is a vast improvement, and graffiti is greatly reduced throughout the facility." With respect to the screening of visitors and visitation protocols, the Department is currently working on developing a uniform visitation policy based on both the POC's recommendations and those of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration.

### **Access to Medical/Mental Health Services**

The report indicated that although transportation services for appointments outside of the facility had improved, JCHS advised that 35% of internal medical appointments were missed as a direct result of inadequate Probation staffing to adequately supervise the number of youth detained in the facility. This issue was not mentioned at the out briefing, so it is difficult at this point to verify whether or to what extent missed appointments were due to inadequate staffing. In order to eliminate this issue and ensure youth receive timely

medical treatment, the following practices have been put in place: (1) a Joint Medical Transportation Plan was created with Probation, DMH, JCHS and the CEO's Office which meets bi-weekly to discuss and resolve transportation issues; (2) Probation meets with JCHS and DMH at 1:30pm and 8:30pm every day to learn about and address any missed appointments; (3) an Internal Medical Appointment List was created to track all clinic appointments and walk-ins so that they are accounted for; and (4) all Internal Appointment Logs are uploaded into a Teams Folder to allow Probation employees to access and assist with making sure that youth are transported to their appointments.

### Grievances

The report noted concerns with follow-up documentation relating to grievances and the need for additional staff to handle grievances. These issues have since been addressed and corrected. A formal process is in place to ensure the grievance log is updated with detailed information as grievances are closed out. The log is now reviewed on a weekly basis. In addition, management followed up on the POC's concern regarding whether emergency grievances were addressed appropriately. It was determined that most emergency grievances were responded to in a timely manner but a couple originating from female units were delayed due to supervisor turnover. The issue has since been resolved, and all units are now properly staffed with both a supervisor and a manager. In addition, to strengthen the grievance process, an additional officer has been assigned to support the current grievance officer. As of October of 2025, a supervisor has also been assigned to oversee the grievance system.

On the issue of room confinements, an email was sent to personnel in July directing that only the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Director on duty may authorize Room Confinements and Suspension of Standards. In order to re-emphasize the rules and regulations relating to Room Confinements, staff received additional training and information in August. Since then, the number of room confinements has dropped dramatically.

### Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray

As the POC reports, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion in 2022 relating to ending the use of OC spray in juvenile facilities. The Board motion directed the Department to create an implementation plan to phase out the use of OC spray in the housing units with developmental disabilities, girls and gender expansive youth. The Department is committed to downscaling and ultimately eliminating the use of OC spray in all juvenile facilities. Currently, probation officers do not carry OC spray on their persons at any of the camps. However, at LPJH, the use of OC spray fluctuates daily. Staff are not mandated to carry OC spray but are issued a canister upon request as an additional tool to either prevent or deescalate violence. The Department continues to collaborate with the Department of Justice's court appointed monitor to develop an updated OC spray phase out strategic plan as directed by the Board.

The report additionally states that a POC staff member observed a probation officer run toward a girl holding up and shaking an OC canister readying to deploy it despite the lack of physical violence. The girl had been engaged in a verbal altercation with another girl. Another probation officer was able to engage with the girl and successfully deescalated the situation prior to the deployment of the OC spray. This incident was brought to the attention of the Superintendent as a concern at the debriefing. Upon first review of video footage capturing the incident, the Superintendent believed the item in the probation officer's hand was a radio. However, after speaking with the POC staff member who asked for another review, a second angle of video footage was located which confirmed the item in the officer's hand was an OC canister. The Department appreciates the POC's engagement on this issue and has gone over the incident with the employee which will be followed up with a worker/supervisor conference..<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The report also mentions a commissioner heard a security officer make "disparaging comments about people in the transgender community based on a televised news report about a recent school shooting" at some point during the inspection. After receiving a copy of the draft report with this information, the Department asked for more information about the incident in order to take appropriate action but was advised that POC staff had already reported the incident to the County Equity Oversight Panel.

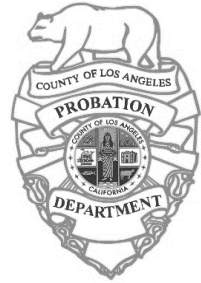


**GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA**

Chief Probation Officer

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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



December 04, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien. Executive Director  
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa *Wendelyn Julien*  
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR  
CAMP CLINTON B. AFFLERBAUGH**

On November 25, 2025, we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) September 8, 2025, Annual Inspection Report for Camp Clinton B. Afflerbaugh. (CBA) Department appreciates the POC's recognition of Camp Afflerbaugh's "long running successful functioning" as well as its observations regarding the environment at CBA being structured yet less restrictive than other facilities. As the POC's report notes, the environment at the camp contributes to the relaxed overall tone of the facility with youth allowed more independence and an ability to walk freely around the campus with officers keeping close track of them. During the debriefing, one of the POC staff even commented that the camp felt like a normal High School environment with a respectful atmosphere overall.

Because the camp recently combined youth and staff from two camps, one whose culture was more compliance-based and the other whose culture was more relationship-based, we acknowledge that full integration has not taken place and has led to some differences in culture between shifts. The Director at CBA has been working hard at moving toward a relationship-based culture without compromising the safety of the youth. The Department further recognizes that working with youth and hearing about the trauma youth have suffered prior to ending up at the camp is arduous and stressful. The Department has a Wellness Plan, and the County has a Wellness Program to support employees with both on-duty and off-duty stressors. The Department also offers courses that cover vicarious trauma for those willing to participate and recently approved a class entitled "Vicarious Trauma: Recognition, Recovery, and Resilience." We hope to be able to include the class in next year's annual training plan.

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As the report noted, there was a youth who reported to the POC during the inspection that his visitation had been limited to one hour. That is not the norm. An inquiry into this allegation was made by the Director who determined that visitation had been cut short for some on an unusually hot day in September during a heat wave which lasted several days. The supervisor on shift moved visiting to an air-conditioned location which could not accommodate all the families who showed up to visit their loved ones. The supervisor on duty decided to cut some of the visitations short to accommodate all the families. The Director has instructed staff that if the situation presents itself again, one of the air-conditioned classrooms should be utilized instead of cutting anyone's visitation short. The Department is appreciative of having the issue brought to our attention so we could take corrective action.

With respect to the observation that one of the youths was taken away from the facility by a law enforcement officer in the middle of the inspection, the Director confirmed that this rarely occurs but indicates that the removal was based on an order from the court accompanied with an arrest warrant. While a youth's attorney may not be called in advance of the removal, both the youth's attorney and parent or guardian are called upon the youth's return. The arrest warrant for the youth who was removed during the inspection concerned an incident which occurred prior to his detention at CBA.

Lastly, we acknowledge the section of the report indicating that a youth reported being threatened with having his personal items thrown away if he did not attend scheduled programming and then upon returning from programming finding his personal items were gone. Such behavior is not tolerated and violates Department policies. However, this incident was not documented in a grievance to allow for a prompt investigation and the taking of corrective action. Since the POC's inspection, staff has nonetheless received reminders on Abusive Institutional Practices, including the prohibition of threatening youth and taking their personal items.

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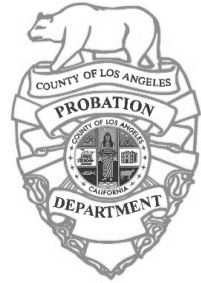


**GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA**

Chief Probation Officer

## **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

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



December 03, 2025

TO: Wendelyn Julien. Executive Director  
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa   
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025, ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR  
CAMP GLENN ROCKEY**

On November 25, 2025, we received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) September 16, 2025, Annual Inspection Report for Camp Glenn Rockey (CGR). The Department appreciates the POC's recognition of Camp Rockey's "long running successful functioning" as well as the uplifting of some of the youth's positive experiences at the facility. The Department agrees with the POC's assessment that probation officers assigned to CGR have demonstrated empathy and consistency which has yielded positive results for all. Probation officers assigned to CGR are provided with more than basic training. All incoming probation officers receive one week of in-house training at CGR where they review an Orientation Handbook, Building Emergency Plan and policies and procedures with their supervisor. All probation officers at CGR have also been offered the Department's 40-hour mandatory training. This training must be completed by June 30, 2026, but we anticipate probation officers at CGR will be able to complete their training by the end of this year. This training includes, but is not limited to, refresher training on use of force, report writing, gender responsive training, training on trauma informed care, working with developmentally disabled youth, and training on understanding and addressing bias in the Juvenile Justice system, child abuse prevention, first aid, and suicide prevention.

The Department appreciates the POC's concern about the changing population and future staffing. However, the Department will ensure that the staffing remains sufficient in the future to continue providing all youth at CGR with appropriate support, programming, education, and access to timely and appropriate medical and mental health treatment.

Lastly, after receiving and reviewing the report indicating concerns relayed to the POC by Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) staff that nurses found it inappropriate to treat youth in the dorm due to privacy issues and a lack of medical equipment, management spoke with the Nurse Manager. It appears that there may have been a miscommunication. Youth are not treated in the dorm. The JCHS office is in the dorm so youth can be brought inside their office for treatment. The staff person spoken to may have been referring to the HOPE Center. The HOPE Center is where youth are temporarily housed for room confinement, cool downs, or specialized supervision plans. If a youth is housed in the HOPE Center and there appears to be a safety concern with taking the youth to the JCHS office in the dorm for treatment, probation personnel may ask for them to be seen in the HOPE Center. However, this does not occur on a regular basis and JCHS has been provided with space in the HOPE Center for some medical equipment to be stored for these occasions. The Nurse Manager also reported that missing outside appointments had not been reported to her by the nurses. If they occurred in the past, they may have been isolated instances.

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