

Probation Oversight Commission
Staff Informal Inspection of Campus Vernon Kilpatrick
February 26, 2026

POC staff conducted an inspection of Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK) on February 23, 2026 from 3:00pm-6:15pm. The primary motivation to conduct the inspection was to audit scheduled programming offered to girls and gender expansive (GGE) youth housed at the facility. CVK is now operating a Juvenile Hall, Camp, Placement, and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) at the Malibu site¹.

Programming Observations:

There were seven instances of scheduled programming for the hours in which the inspection took place. Four of seven programs (57%) occurred. The three that did not occur all pertained to a single program provider who, per Probation, abruptly stopped coming to the facility approximately one week prior to this inspection. The cancellation of this program left two living units, Alder E and Alder F, without programming for the day. It was observed on the calendar for the full month of February that other units also had no scheduled programming on other days of the week.

Other Observations:

- **Staffing Concerns:**
 - Supervision ratios - It was reported in multiple interviews that over the previous weekend, there were cottages supervised by a single officer. This was observed in one cottage during the inspection. Officers reported restricting water and food intake because of limited staffing relief options for restroom breaks. It was reported that all sworn staff with special assignments, like programming, are working in cottages providing supervision.
 - It was reported that the number of officers assigned to the facility did not accurately consider workplace injuries, callouts, and regular requested time off, leaving a constant shortage of staff required to maintain safety in an open dorm facility with distinct populations that require constant separation.
 - Youth have been restricted from using the facility cafeteria for more than a week to avoid conflicts and because of staffing issues. It was observed that dinner was brought to the cottages.
- **Incidents of violence:** Fights have reportedly occurred between youth in all cottages, exacerbated by what was categorized by officers as “misuse of the facility” in its function as a juvenile hall, placement, SYTF, and camp. Officers reported that without any locked spaces to allow youth to “cool down” during or after incidents, that incidents are occurring more often and in an opportunistic fashion because the youth, “hear on the radios that something happened in one cottage so they make

¹ Campus Kilpatrick was fully renovated in 2017 to provide a therapeutic, open-dorm small group model (the “LA Model”) for boys dispositioned to “Camp”.

their move knowing that the one or two extra staff we have already went to that cottage.”

- **Missed Medical Appointments:** Reports from Juvenile Court Health Services confirm that medical appointments continue to be missed at a rate of one to two appointments each week due to Probation staffing shortages.
- **Decrease in Services for High Needs Youth:** Youth dispositioned to Dorothy Kirby Center-Placement (DKC-Placement) reported several concerns about the decrease in services that they have had since moving to CVK. Multiple youth reported that since coming to CVK, clinical services available to them via their assigned Treatment and Counselor DPO ceased².
 - Youth reported that previously they received counseling from and interacted with this DPO Clinician on a nearly daily basis, especially during and after incidents. Youth also reported that this individual was in contact with their families regularly and facilitated their phone calls. Youth reported that the program at CVK provided less opportunity for programs, less contact with mental health practitioners and substance abuse counselors, and an observation of regression in progress previously made in their use of pro-social coping skills at DKC. Youth reported that they were frustrated that due to the open nature of the campus at CVK, they experienced restrictions due to the behaviors of other youth at the facility which they viewed as less invested in making behavioral change and improving mental health symptoms.

Results:

- The issues reported and observed at CVK during this inspection were anticipated by the POC and shared with Probation and the public over a year ago when the plan for CVK was introduced. Specific concerns about the Department’s ability to sufficiently staff this facility and provide adequate individualized rehabilitative programming to four distinct populations at CVK were outlined in the POC’s [List of Pros and Cons of Probation's Global Plan for the Probation Department's Facilities](#). In the POC’s [Solutions to Depopulate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Promote Compliance with DOJ and BSCC Related to the Global Plan](#), the POC specifically called for GGE not to be moved to CVK after much observation of all affected facilities’ populations and extensive consultation with Probation Officers, youth, facility leadership teams, union leaders, and youth advocacy organizations.
- In particular, the housing of four distinct populations of GGE at CVK has disrupted the expected therapeutic program for youth receiving a disposition to DKC-placement, which is currently afforded to boys receiving the same disposition.

² Chief Viera Rosa confirmed that Treatment and Counseling DPOs did not transfer with the youth when they moved from DKC to CVK during testimony to Judge Miguel Espinoza on February 6, 2026.

Recommendations:

- On April 24, 2025, the POC voted to approve a Depopulation Plan for Los Padrinos that includes the following recommendations that remain applicable:
 - Utilize Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC), which currently provides the most therapeutic environment in the county in a facility that is centrally located, staffed by highly-trained and effective Probation and partner staff for all youth (including GGE) dispositioned to placement.
 - Move the three SYTF GGE to Barry J. Nidorf SYTF where they can receive the age-appropriate, long-term services that they need.
 - Recommit to Reducing Incarceration of Girls and Gender-Expansive Youth. This is already a mandate of the Board of Supervisors. At the least, Probation should be able to reduce the GGE pre-disposition population by one-third (1/3) by utilizing the strategies learned through the grant process with Vera Institute and partnerships with the Court, OYCR and DCFS.³
- **Based on recent inspections, POC staff recommends that the POC take action to formally recommend to the Board of Supervisors and Probation that, at a minimum, Probation immediately move all GGE dispositioned to DKC-Placement back to DKC until such a time that appropriate and equal programs, services, and staffing can be made readily available at CVK. This move should also help alleviate staffing issues and resulting challenges experienced by the youth remaining at CVK.**

³ OYCR, at the February 6, 2026 hearing before Judge Espinoza noted that in order to successfully implement the Department's plans for adequate programming and services for GGE, the population needs to go down.