

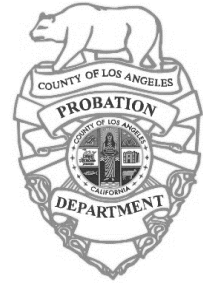


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June 02, 2026

TO: Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director
Probation Oversight Commission

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa 
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION'S 2026
ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT FOR CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK**

On May 7, 2026, the Probation Department (Department) received a draft of the Probation Oversight Commission's (POC) 2026 Annual Inspection Report for Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK), along with a request to submit corrections by May 21, 2026. Corrections and suggested edits were provided and a second draft incorporating some of those changes was shared prior to the report's scheduled publication on or about June 4, 2026. This response further corrects inaccuracies, provides necessary context, and advises of improvements made after the POC's inspection.

As the POC's report acknowledges, its findings are based primarily on a snapshot of conditions observed and information provided on April 1, 2026. The Department transitioned from having the Girls and Gender Expansive Youth (GGE) population at Los Padrones Juvenile Hall and Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) to having them all reside at CVK starting in January of this year. Because CVK was initially designed as a small group treatment facility for youth to specifically support a trauma responsive environment, the Department believes housing all detained GGE youth at this site will facilitate its ability to create a more consistent and therapeutic pathway for them from the point of arrival through treatment. The Department acknowledges that since transferring all GGE youth to CVK in January 2026, some adjustments have needed to be made and will continue to be made to ensure the safety and security of the GGE youth at CVK and provide them with a pathway that emphasizes stability, individualized services, rehabilitation and improved long-term outcomes.

Facility and Physical Environment

CVK is in Malibu within the Santa Monica Mountains. Unlike any other juvenile facility in the County, it was designed by juvenile justice architects with direct input from youth to provide the most therapeutic and home-like environment possible -- from ceiling height to window placement to restroom design. It was reopened in 2017 as a model facility focused on therapeutic, holistic, small group treatment. While it was originally built to house post-dispositioned boys, it was modified to house all GGE youth in 2025. In addition to necessary structural changes and upgrades necessary to comply with state regulations for the housing of pre-dispositioned youth, the Department did more than simply remove the urinals: privacy doors to unit showers were raised,¹ a youth lactation room was added, and a baby bonding room was created.

All juvenile facilities are challenged with providing safe and home-like environments for detained youth. Small group living settings such as those at CVK are considered best practice. In its report, however, the POC criticizes the open dorm setting at CVK for lacking “private sleeping rooms” as found at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP) and DKC. The Department respectfully but firmly disagrees with the framing of private sleeping rooms as an unambiguous improvement. Youth justice advocates and reformers have described similar rooms in juvenile detention settings as “prison cells,” “cages,” and “carceral” environments. The POC itself noted in its 2025 inspection report of Barry J. Nidorf-SYTF that units there “did not feel warm or like a ‘homelike environment’” and that “the overall look was still carceral” -- despite modifications made in close coordination with the Department of Justice to fashion an environment which their monitor agreed would qualify as “homelike” within the confines of a safe and secure facility. The POC also noted the age and condition of DKC’s cottages in its 2025 report of that facility. It is worth noting the POC advocated in April 2025 for transferring SYTF GGE youth to BJN-SYTF and is currently advocating GGE youth with placement dispositions be transferred to DKC, a 65-year-old facility where youth sleep in locked rooms. On the other hand, the POC’s own report on CVK mentions that “[t]he cottage housing juvenile hall population was reported as more calm during inspection than at LP,” that “the physical space contributed to that with natural light, open space and attractive decorations” and that youth reported “there has been a positive impact from no longer being housed at LP.” The Department finds these positions difficult to reconcile.

The Department recognizes that some youth are adjusting to the transition from LP and DKC, and that individual needs vary. Almost all detained youth have complex trauma and issues that factor in to how well they sleep and function. However, they are absolutely in the best juvenile detention facility the County has to offer and facility leadership is actively working to ensure that all youth receive appropriate services. The Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), in fact, recently confirmed to the Board of Supervisors (Board) that they are now fully staffed and the services they are providing at

¹ See attached photos taken in 2026. The photograph of the Cottage Lounge Area shows the raised shower doors.

CVK are “robust.” An eight-page matrix documents the full scope of mental health services DMH provides to each population at the facility.

Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth

The POC expressed concerns about how transgender and gender expansive youth are identified and whether they receive specialized services. While it is correct to note that the daily population statistics provided to the POC and others do not include how many of the youth being detained identify as transgender or gender expansive, the Department is currently working with the Information Technology Team that compiles the daily population statistics to be able to add that information to their daily report. They have identified the technical issue and anticipate being able to accurately pull the data from Probation’s Case Management System (PCMS) in the next couple of weeks. While the information is not yet included in the daily population reports, the POC was advised by the facility on the date of the inspection that six-gender expansive youth were housed at CVK.

The Department disagrees with the POC’s statement that the Department uses a narrow definition of the term “gender expansive” at CVK which results in repeated undercounting and underreporting of gender expansive youth. There are several ways in which gender expansive youth are identified and youth have a number of opportunities throughout their detention to report whether they identify as gender expansive. While youth may be reluctant to report that they identify as gender expansive at intake, if they subsequently report the information to medical, mental health or probation staff, the information is input into PCMS. The relevant questions youth are asked at intake or thereafter on this topic include the following: “Have you ever used another name? If yes, what name?;” “Which gender do you identify with?;” “Do you have an Intersex condition?;” “Which [sexual orientation] do you identify as?;” “Do you feel that you are at risk of being bullied, attacked, or abused by other youth?;” and “Are there any other reasons why you would be concerned for your safety while you are in this facility?” Staff are also asked to answer the following questions: “Do you think other residents will perceive this youth to be gender non-conforming?” and “Do you think other residents will perceive this youth to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual?” These questions are asked specifically to ensure youth safety, identification as gender expansive and access to appropriate services.

Currently, the Department is also actively working with County partners to strengthen the safety net for LGBTQ+ residents and system-involved youth in alignment with the Board’s Care with Pride motions. This includes developing a framework, timeline and implementation plan to collect data on the experiences and outcomes of justice-involved LGBTQ+ youth under its care and supervision with the goal of identifying service gaps and ensuring equitable, responsive treatment.

All staff at CVK also receive training on how to communicate effectively and professionally with youth, including youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or gender-nonconforming. It was accurately noted in the POC report that the Department is working with a consultant on supporting staff development regarding gender responsive

care. However, it is inaccurate to state that the consultant will not be interacting with officers directly. The consultant has offered to train staff both in person and online/virtually. On the date of the inspection, facility management shared the 8-Module course the Department has been working on with the consultant.

Staffing

The POC report concluded there were staffing woes which have strained all operations and that staff shared they were at times working 20-hour shifts. While the Department has been in compliance with BSCC and DOJ mandated staffing ratios, facility management has reassessed schedules to better balance them and forecast vacancies to ensure they are filled. In addition, approximately 25 officers have been reassigned from the field to CVK since the POC's inspection. This reassignment will facilitate more flexibility to ensure youth are able to attend programming and Probation staff are promptly relieved during needed breaks.

Staff at times do work 20 hours a day as reported, but this is permitted by both policy and their union contract. Staff at CVK work a highly favored 56-hour work week where working more than three hours during their sleep time (and sometimes after a 16-hour shift) earns them double-time pay. As a result, many staff voluntarily accept these additional posts. This is not an indicator of dysfunction; it is a feature of the compensation structure that many employees value.

Grievances

The POC reported late responses and glitches with the electronic Grievance Management System (GMS) available to youth on their Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) computers. Most grievances were in paper form, but the POC was concerned that a previously identified issue with GMS which had prevented the timely review and response to grievances had not been addressed. The technical issues which previously contributed to a delay in responding to grievances were fixed and the new version of GMS was rolled out to all facilities in October of 2025. Nonetheless, due to the low number of electronic grievances received by youth at CVK, Probation has been working with LACOE to ensure that their computers all have an updated link to the improved electronic grievance system. On May 29, 2026, facility management in collaboration with LACOE staff were able to confirm that students have access to the electronic grievance form through the student portal on their laptops. Regardless, paper grievance forms are always readily available to youth throughout the facility and are submitted by youth on a regular basis. With respect to the POC's concerns regarding the quality and timing of the responses, those issues were well-taken and are being addressed by management who review grievances to identify trends or issues that recur to ensure they are handled correctly.

With respect to the complaints reported to POC staff that some youth slept naked while male staff supervised and that they received only disposable underwear because some youth flushed cotton underwear down the toilets, the Department already responded to

the POC but is including the information in this formal response as suggested because not included in the report.

- **Sleeping naked while male staff supervise:** Facility leadership looked at closed-circuit television video (CCTV) for multiple nights and confirmed that youth do not sleep naked while male or female staff supervise. Youth are provided with t-shirt gowns at orientation and are instructed that they are prohibited from sleeping naked. Many of the youth, however, opt to sleep in their sweatpants instead of the gowns provided.
- **Disposable underwear only due to flushing:** This allegation is inaccurate. Youth were flushing *disposable* underwear -- not cotton underwear – which caused plumbing issues. Once identified, facility leadership communicated with staff by email with photographs and directed them to instruct youth not to flush the disposable underwear. Youth continue to be offered multiple underwear options, including boxer briefs, disposable panties and non-disposable panties.

With respect to the availability of menstrual products, facility leadership has taken corrective action to ensure all menstrual products are consistently available to youth and stored in areas accessible to youth without requiring a request.

Education-LACOE

The POC reported that Mission College was only offering one Earth Science class the next semester. This is incorrect and requires some clarification. The following college courses were offered to CVK youth:

- **Spring Session A:** Child Development, Chicano Studies, and Culinary
- **Spring Session B (Current):** Chicano Studies, Earth Science, and Culinary
- **Summer Session:** African American Studies, Anthropology

The Culinary class is a dual enrollment course which means it is open to both high school and postgraduate students. Due to safety concerns LACOE has expressed regarding having postgraduates in the same classroom as high school students, the facility conducted a safety assessment of the postgraduates and determined that only one of them qualified to attend the class.²

Regarding the work program, what was reported is not entirely accurate. The Work Program Reimagined is a new concept that is currently being implemented in real time at CVK and other facilities. Through this initiative, youth are no longer simply assigned busy work. Instead, they participate in a process that mirrors the full employment cycle they are likely to encounter in the community upon reentry. Under the new framework, positions of need are discussed and subsequently posted. Youth submit applications and

² With respect to the number of post-graduates at the facility, there were five at the time of the inspection as observed by the POC and that number has remained relatively constant.

resumes, and candidates participate in interviews. Following the interview process, youth receive either offer letters or “not at this time” notices. Once selected, they begin their assignments, receive performance evaluations, and, where applicable, compete for promotional opportunities. There will be staff assigned to discuss all ongoing opportunities and troubleshoot employment related matters.

The goal of this approach is to provide youth with practical, real-world experience navigating the expectations and procedures associated with obtaining and maintaining employment in the community after release. This initiative is being rolled out countywide to ensure consistency and structure across all facilities. Within the next 30 days, the new framework is expected to be fully implemented so that every youth participating in a work assignment at any facility will receive this reimagined programming experience. It should be noted that funding sources for work programs vary by program. As a result, hourly pay rates may differ depending on the source of the funding and their minimum wages.

Conclusion

The Department values the POC's oversight function and recognizes the important role it plays in accountability. Where the POC has identified genuine concerns, the Department is committed to addressing them. Where the report contains factual inaccuracies or presents an incomplete picture, however, the Department has an equal obligation — to the youth in our care, to staff, and to the public — to ensure the record is accurate. We remain open to continued collaboration as we work toward our shared goal of safe, equitable, and effective care for all detained youth.

Attachment

GVR:SW:RA:dt

CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK 2026



Outdoor Recreation



Indoor Gym



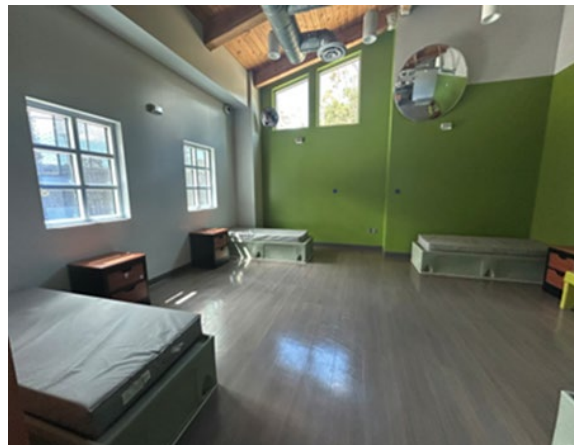
Baby Bonding Room



Cottage Lounge



Cafeteria



Cottage Sleeping Quarters