



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

**DRAFT**

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

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## 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 2026 Annual Inspections of all of Probation's detention facilities, marking the sixth round 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 from the inspection of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH). LPJH reopened in July 2023 after several years of closure. Since that time, detention levels have climbed and issues related to housing a larger population increased including issues with adequate staffing and violence. In a May 2025 report<sup>1</sup>, Probation presented a plan to the Superior Court related to the movement of young people out of LPJH to lower the population to 175 by August 16, 2025, due to continued findings of unsuitability for the confinement of youth by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). At the time of the inspection, LPJH continued operations despite the finding of unsuitability for the confinement of youth issued by the BSCC in December 2024.

### **Key Findings from the 2026 inspection of LPJH:**

- **Some improvements noted include decreased reports and signs of violence.** Direct reports of violence at the facility and observation of physical injuries were fewer than at any other POC Annual Inspection since the facility's reopening in July 2023. A population decrease<sup>2</sup> coupled with the reassignment of seasoned field officers to the facility, extensive use of LACOE's Opportunity Room, and proactive steps taken by the superintendent to address needed physical plant improvements and decrease unnecessary uses of force may have all played a role in the improvement.
- **Access to grievance processes and concerns with responses to grievances.** Since the re-launch of the electronic Grievance Management System in late 2025, the facility failed to conduct simple quality assurance practices, and it was found by POC inspectors that the installed links for youth access were non-functional.<sup>3</sup> Grievance documentation was significantly improved since the 2025 Annual Inspection, and there appeared to be fewer complaints of violence and threats of violence in comparison to previous years. However, serious issues were noted in the processing of some grievances, including lengthy response times and inadequate responses.

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<sup>1</sup> May 2, 2025: [Probation Depopulation Strategy Response to the Court Order to Reduce the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall Population](#)

<sup>2</sup> January 26, 2026: [POC Examination of Progress and Implementation of Phases 1-5 of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Depopulation Strategy](#)

<sup>3</sup> The POC provided documented concerns about GMS functioning to Probation Executive Leadership following the April 1, 2026, inspection of Campus Vernon Kilpatrick, asking the department to investigate whether technical issues had been resolved with consideration as to whether the system was being used at other sites.



- **A prevalence of youth in detention with significant developmental disabilities, mental health issues, complex trauma, and other conditions that are exacerbated by detention and create significant concerns for their wellbeing and supervision challenges.** The POC's visit to units specifically designated for youth with developmental disabilities and with significant mental health needs, including 1:1 supervision to manage suicidality, found Probation officers supervising youth with care and concern, but not always equipped to address their complex needs.
- **Youth need more access to gender affirming care.** Probation's creation of a separate facility to house gender-expansive youth means that young people who are understandably reluctant to disclose vulnerable statuses now live in a facility where there is a false sense that there are no gender expansive youth, and less training and programming related to LGBTQ+ issues.<sup>4</sup> While leadership and officers working at LPJH receive periodic mandatory trainings to increase individual capacities to work with the population, concern was generated during the inspection about the lack of acknowledgment of the continued need at LPJH to provide affirming services.

## **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 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court, and the public. This report marks the sixth round of annual inspections conducted by this body.

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<sup>4</sup> Polls conducted by [Pew Research Center](#) and [Gallup](#) indicate that approximately 9% of US adults identify as LGBTQ+, with 23% of adults under 30 identifying as something other than cisgender and heterosexual. Pew indicated "71% of gay or lesbian adults, 50% of bisexual adults, and 58% of transgender adults say they were first aware of their identity before age 14. Much smaller shares say they had told someone about it by that age."



## METHODS

### Details about the inspection of LPJH:

- The inspection was conducted on May 4, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Four POC Commissioners and five POC staff members participated for a combined total of more than 49 hours of observations and interviews.
- The POC coordinated with Probation ahead of the inspection to ensure availability and avoid overlapping with other oversight bodies.
- The BSCC does not have a required template for inspections, so the POC developed a detailed facility inspection template that was updated this year and shared with Probation and the BSCC ahead of the inspection. The 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 provided in this inspection 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 numerical data collected was provided to the POC staff by the facility’s superintendent; and directly reported in this report. The findings in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff’s observations made while conducting the inspection.

### GENERAL DATA<sup>5</sup> FOR LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL:

- **Address:** 7285 E. Quill Drive, Downey, CA 90242
- **Facility Type:** Juvenile Hall for Boys
- **Housing:** 21 units with single occupancy locking rooms of varying layout and age. Some rooms mostly in newer buildings have a toilet and sink, called wet rooms. Other units’ rooms do not have toilets and sinks and use communal bathrooms. No HOPE Center exists at the facility.
- **Rated Capacity:** 250<sup>6</sup>
- **Youth Population:** 234
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 23
- **Number of Boys:** 234
- **Number of Gender-Expansive Youth:** 0<sup>7</sup>
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 572
- **Probation Officers on day of the inspection:** AM-92 and PM-94

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<sup>5</sup> See Appendix A.

<sup>6</sup> This number was provided by Probation on the day of the inspection, however, BSCC reports the Rated Capacity of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall as 409 as updated on April 22, 2026 in the following document: [RC-of-Juvenile-Detention-Facilities-Dec-2008-Jan-2026-last-updated-4.22.26-Excel.xlsx](#)

<sup>7</sup> Probation’s daily population statistics for LPJH report zero (0) “Non-binary” or “Transgender” youth.



## FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The entrance to LPJH has a new glass security wall partitioning those entering from those in waiting area. The entry key station for Probation officers was separated from the Community Based Organization (CBO) and partner agency entrance.

The facility appeared aged but not in disrepair. Commissioners remarked after visiting several units throughout the day that the physical environment appeared cleaner than previous inspections with minimal graffiti on the walls and one of the older units was even described as looking “nice” in comparison to previous inspections. It was reported that work orders were submitted over the last year to get rid of graffiti throughout the facility. Replacing windows etched with graffiti continues to be a priority. Other units appeared to have changed little over the last year in decoration and murals and appeared to maintain a standard appearance year after year. The pool appeared clean but not in use due to weather.

Facility leadership shared that units G/H, T/U, and P/Q were having “homelike” environments completed. Facility leadership explained that the definition for “homelike” was the same as on the DOJ settlement. The improvements included new paint, installation of Direct TV, updated plastic furniture, updated flooring, new eye-wash stations, and cold showers for oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, or pepper spray, decontamination. Units G/H appeared to have been renovated; glass windows upgraded with a mesh-like material that had calming nature imagery.

In one unit where renovations were complete, the flooring and furniture was changed. Commissioners noted that the furniture was institutional plastic and bolted down to the floor. The unit had a few colorful tiles on the floor, with off-white and green walls. Room doors were colorful. The individual rooms included desks, toilets, and concrete sinks. The dayrooms had plastic furniture and a table with a chess game painted on the tabletop. Renovated rooms all had a window, colorful room doors, a desk and a bookshelf attached to the wall.

A young person in a newer unit shared that they’d like their unit to improve; they’d like a more “dorm-like” look where there would be more posters, a library, good tables with chairs, and bean bags. In another unit, multiple youth asked for better supplies to clean the space, stating they were willing to clean, and they found the unit to have unpleasant body odor and dirty smells.

Youth with wet rooms reported that the lack of frequent cleaning of wet rooms was problematic and requested access to clean their bathrooms and to have deodorizing options.

Interviews with young people throughout the day and on a variety of units highlighted youth’s desire for hygiene products aligned with cultural norms and personal standards of cleanliness. Youth reported that they were not provided adequate skin and hair care supplies for people of Black, Latino, biracial, and multiracial descents. Youth reported a





need to access products commonly used in the community including Vaseline, cocoa butter, Aquaphor, etc. Youth shared that in a facility comprised almost entirely of Black and Latino youth, they felt that denial of these products was a denial of their culture and ability to care for themselves.

A covered patio area behind medical was added since the last inspection for staff of the Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) to be able to eat lunch or to take a break.

The outdoor recreation areas for the back units had new black pavement with basketball court imagery and new basketball hoops.

Probation reported that general population units were organized by age and charges, while other specialized units were mixing youth with a variety of complex care issues including those with mental health needs commonly requiring 1:1 supervision, youth with diagnosed developmental disabilities, and those receiving Regional Center services.

Specifically in Boys Care, inspectors interacted with youth with serious developmental disabilities and mental health issues. Staff in the unit showed extreme care and concern for the youth, and pride in the work they were doing. Officers noted feeling supported by the supervisor in the unit and the boys and young men interviewed appeared happy and safe in the unit. One young man specifically noted how much he appreciates staff and that he had never had cause to file any grievances. Staff expressed concerns about their well-being in detention and about the opportunities and risks for them in the community.

One commissioner and staff observed activities of another unit for youth with developmental disabilities and serious mental health issues during recreation in the gym. During this observation, it was reported that eight (8) youth were on 1:1 observation meaning that DMH has indicated concern for their safety, generally related to self-harm behaviors and/or suicidal ideation. This resulted in ten (10) Probation officers supervising this fairly small group of youth. Most of the youth were standing on the perimeter of the gym alone or in groups of two, while staff were sitting on the stage, leaning on the wall, and some were involved in conversations with youth. Three to four young people played basketball off and on, shooting the ball on each side of the court but not engaged in a game. One youth was walking laps around the gym. It was very noisy due to the echoes of the bouncing ball and music from some of the MP3 music players. Youth interviewed expressed serious concerns about their detention and mental health and were noted to be in different states of self-isolation, quietness, and mild agitation. Some reported having already experienced many months of detention in the facility. Youth reported that phone calls are limited in the specialized unit due to youth's mental health issues. Staff explained that supervision of the unit is a complex balance of individual youth's needs and the needs and safety of others.

Young people in several units asked for better clothes that are weather appropriate as they only had sweatpants and other pants made of a thick material, but no shorts to accommodate unusually warm weather for the time of year. Young people shared that



they only receive shorts during the summer, however, there had been several recent heat waves and they did not have the appropriate clothes. In another unit, young people shared that they received clean pants once a week and that the “shoes are not comfortable, they need to be better, more durable, they need to be comfortable.”

Throughout the inspection day, youth in various units were observed wearing shoes that were in clear disrepair with holes on the top of the toe, broken, and/or separated soles. In a group interview, three of six youth were wearing damaged/broken shoes. In another interview, a young person wearing shoes with a hole in the toe reported having asked for new shoes on several occasions.

In the units where there were only high school graduates or majority high school graduates, the young people were seen watching tv, YouTube, exercising indoors, or playing board games. Young people shared that they disliked having so much free time as they only received two hours of college, one hour in the morning and one in the afternoon and had to wait until the afternoon for programming. In another unit, three high school graduates also said they only have class for about 2 hours per day and otherwise filled the day watching movies and working out. In yet another unit, one young person was watching a music video while another watched an animated movie on a different television in the same day room. Two others were occupied with talking on the wall-mounted telephones.

Young people in units X2 shared that they were having breathing issues because of the dust in the A/Cs.

### KITCHEN AND FOOD

Lunch was observed in one unit where a Probation officer was observed wheeling in a hot cart full of food for the young people. The Probation officer then called the young people one by one, by their name, and provided them with lunch. Lunch included pizza, salad, soup, pineapple, and milk. All the young appeared to eat their food, and when asked how it was several replied, “It’s alright.”

In another unit, young people shared that the food was “trash [because] they are not putting passion in it no more” noting a decline in flavor in the food.

The kitchen was fully staffed. It was reported that kitchen staff reported improvement in access to the facility and had no issues with security or dogs<sup>8</sup>.

It was reported that all kitchen equipment was functional, but some of it was old, worked poorly, and required replacement. New ovens and a steamer were reportedly ordered and coming while food carts used to transport meals to units will need to be replaced within the next year. The air conditioner in the kitchen was fixed since the 2025 POC inspection.

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<sup>8</sup> In the 2025 [Annual Inspection of LPJH](#), kitchen staff reported issues with staff retention and access to the facility.



## EDUCATION – LACOE

### General Education Data<sup>9</sup>:

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers: 32**
  - *Assigned: 26*
  - *Long Term Substitutes: 6*
- **High School Students:**
  - *In School: 168*
  - *Suspended: 5*
- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): 74/168=44%**
- **Dual enrollment students: 16**
- **High School Graduates: 49**
- **College Students: 42<sup>10</sup>**
- **College supporting this facility: Cerritos College**

During one class observation, young people were engaged and reading the book *The Hunger Games* out loud. The classroom appeared clean, with up-to-date classroom technology, and rules clearly posted on the wall. The teacher was actively teaching the class.

It was reported that since the last inspection, Probation regularly brought students to class on time.

LACOE had a new principal who has been in their position for approximately 100 days. The principal reported focusing on normalizing high expectations for students, teaching students about the positive and impactful contributions Latino and African American men make on society, meeting the needs of disabled students, and improving the classroom environment so it feels less like a “jail.” Inspectors observed and LACOE staff explained that credible messengers supported classrooms in North Campus classrooms and the main campus school.

LACOE had an active Opportunity Room at the main campus school which is a temporary, supportive space to help youth regulate behavior and provide intentional, tiered support. A substitute teacher is always assigned to staff the room. The metric for success of the Opportunity Room was fewer suspensions as a result of youth having a place where they can take a break. Use of the room was reportedly limited to 15 minutes. North School students do not use this room, but LACOE staff reported that students were able to use a conference room space in the administrative office for similar purposes. The principal reported that the use of the room had been successful as suspensions had declined since she started working at the facility.

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<sup>9</sup> The POC requests data from the day of the inspection, however data provided by LACOE was prepared from three days prior to the inspection, Friday, May 1, 2026.

<sup>10</sup> It was reported that there were seven high school graduates not enrolled in college due to timing, and another youth who was a community college graduate.





It was shared that the school was also undergoing a “rebranding” where classrooms were being remodeled, which included a new Opportunity Room.<sup>11</sup>

LACOE reported that the Opportunity Room had 350 documented “restructures” and 450 “supports” since January 2026 that avoided the need for Probation intervention and suspensions. It was reported that some professionals at LPJH saw the Opportunity Room as a reward for undesirable behavior since it is an intervention and not a punishment. The principal disagreed, reporting that the use of Opportunity Rooms consistently led to students being able to successfully re-enter class without suspension and prevented incident escalation.

It was shared that space was a challenge, and that young people have asked for a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) lab, art and music studio, but there was no space at the facility allocated for this.

A middle school class was observed during P.E; three 2<sup>nd</sup> Call staff were present, two of whom were assigned Monday through Friday for consistency.

In another middle school classroom, POC inspectors witnessed a concerning interaction in which Transportation Services officers abruptly entered a calm classroom in the middle of instruction, loudly yelled out a youth’s name and announced that he needed to go to medical while holding out a folded orange jumpsuit and shackles. The child appeared overwhelmed, and when he did not immediately respond to the officers, they told him he was refusing. The officers left brusquely, at which time the teacher, a Probation officer in the room, and the POC’s escorting officer began to appropriately engage the child in a dialogue encouraging him with all the reasons he should attend his appointment and offering to bring back the officers. The damage of the interaction was already done however, and he did not go to the appointment.

In three high school classrooms, young people were observed engaged by teachers and professionals while simultaneously working on assignments. School staff appeared active and related well to students.

Overall, observations of the classrooms were positive. Environments were calm, and classrooms had a number of support and supervision staff in the room.

A data infographic provided indicated student demographics which showed that 30 students came from foster care settings and 33 were identified as English learners. It was reported that an average of 12 IEP meetings occurred weekly. There were 21 total classrooms.

LACOE’s dual enrollment, which is concurrent enrollment in both high school and community college, indicated that 11 students completed Fall Session 1 and five students completed Fall Session 2.

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<sup>11</sup> See Education-LACOE section



## EDUCATION – POST-SECONDARY

POC inspectors observed post-secondary education taking place in the unit day rooms. The college classes provided by Cerritos College included Business 100, CPR, and Psychology. Probation Education Services indicated there were 42 high school graduates enrolled in college classes and another eight taking courses that included Money Smart, OSHA, or financial literacy. The college classes being offered during this cycle were asynchronous (no live or virtually live instruction) with the exception of the CPR class which was hybrid with the instructor at times coming into the facility to provide class. Students and staff reported that college students received two hours of college access a day; one hour in the morning and another in the afternoon Mondays through Thursdays, and then only one hour on Fridays.<sup>12</sup> Probation Education Services staff, which included Student Nest contracted staff, brought students LACOE laptops to conduct their classwork and were present if the need for assistance arose.

High school graduates were observed during their college class time and in several units. Young people were seen exercising, playing video games or watching television, reporting that they had already completed their assignments. Young people shared that they felt “bored” because they were only allowed to take one class per session, which felt “very limited.” They reported wanting “more computer time” especially when comparing it to “Sylmar where we took like six classes.” No other programming was available for them until the afternoon.

In unit N, high school graduates explained their experiences with college class to inspectors. They were taking a business course and reported only being allowed to take one class at a time. They explained that they watched class videos online, then completed their assignments. Graduates explained that Probation Education Services staff come to the units to assist with their college classes.

Probation Education Services reported that their staff included four Probation employees (three staff and one supervisor) and eleven (11) tutors from Student Nest. It was reported that the Probation Education Services team was only allowed to provide services to young people when Probation officers were present, which was noted as the reason young people were regularly missing class once per week due to insufficient supervision staffing. They also reported an additional challenge to service delivery related to not having keys and needing to wait for Probation officers to let them inside the units.<sup>13</sup>

Overall, visits to the living quarters highlighted a lack of programming available, particularly for older youth who are high school graduates.

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<sup>12</sup> According to Probation’s May 2026 Programs and Services calendar, College & Career Readiness was documented as occurring in units one hour per day on Monday through Thursday and no services were documented for Fridays.

<sup>13</sup> Most non-Probation providers do not have keys to units within LPJH.



## GRIEVANCES

- **Total Grievances<sup>14</sup>:** 234
- **Grievance system:** Paper and Grievance Management System (GMS)
- **Emergency grievances:** Yes

Facility leadership shared that the Grievance Management System (GMS) was being used to collect grievances in addition to paper grievances since it was reintroduced in November 2025. In addition to reportedly providing the ability for youth to make a grievance online, Probation reported that all paper grievances were now being entered into the GMS system for tracking and reporting purposes. It was reported that all GMS technical issues noticed in 2024 had been resolved.<sup>15</sup>

GMS was only accessible to young people through LACOE computers. High school students have access to LACOE laptops during most of the day at school and high school graduates have LACOE computers only during the one to two hours a day on weekdays when they are taking college classes. However, during the review of grievances submitted between January 2026 through April 2026, inspectors did not observe any grievances submitted through GMS, all were paper grievances. In visiting a LACOE classroom and then later in the day a unit with high school graduates doing college work, POC staff asked youth to show them how to file a grievance on their computer. Both youth were easily able to figure out how to do it, but discovered that the link to GMS was broken, and young people were unable to file grievances through GMS. Facility leadership reported no knowledge of issues with GMS and quickly notified their technical assistance team to fix the issue. It was later shared that this malfunction had been occurring on all GMS links on LACOE computers at LPJH.

POC inspectors noted that the grievance documentation process had changed from what was witnessed in the previous year's inspection<sup>16</sup>, and now most grievances had clearly documented resolutions.

Many young people throughout the day shared their distrust in the grievance process.

Grievances reviewed included themes of youth expressing safety and well-being concerns. POC inspectors noted that many grievances related to safety concerns

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<sup>14</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. Since this inspection was conducted early in the year, the grievances requested and reviewed were from November 2025 onward.

<sup>15</sup> It was reported in the [2024 Annual Inspection of Probation's "East Camps"](#) that Chief Viera Rosa ordered a stop to the use of GMS in July 2024. Around that time, POC learned that a GMS issue had prevented the timely review and response to grievances at a camp facility. Due to this history, POC inquired about the renewed use of GMS during the Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK) inspection on April 1, 2026. After the inspection, POC inquired with Probation Executive Leadership via email about the use of GMS in other detention facilities, whether the system was now working properly, and whether staff were trained on using the system. Probation responded, indicating that a new version of GMS was rolled out county-wide in October of 2025 and that all issues had been resolved. There was no indication of any training on the system.

<sup>16</sup> [2025 POC Annual Inspection Report: LPJH](#)



contained requests by young people to move a different unit or specifically to the Boys Care unit.

Some grievances related to programming, food, facility cleanliness, the Behavior Management Plan (BMP), or their case plan.

Concerning grievances included:

- A young person reported use of different pronouns and asked to have their pronouns changed in PCMS. The Probation officer reviewing the grievance referred them to discuss this instead with a mental health clinician and the youth's legal team stating that "only the courts" could make that change.<sup>17</sup>
- A young person at LPJH for 28 days asked for their medications for depression, ADHD, and sleep on 1/2/26. Documentation indicated that the youth received their first appointment more than two weeks later. The documented resolution was that DMH would try to get an earlier appointment.
- A grievance dated December 27, 2025, alleged that a staff assaulted a youth in a room. The grievance was not collected until January 3, 2026. The resolution included the young person saying that he was going to camp and did not want to pursue the grievance, and documentation did not indicate further follow up or referral to Internal Affairs.
- Grievance regarding LACOE shared that a LACOE teacher was being "quick to suspend" with no meaningful resolution.
- Some grievances noted that youth must go through the courts to see an orthodontist or to have an outside medical appointment.
- Several concerning grievances were from young people alleging they were being bullied or that bullying was generally occurring in living units.
- Some grievances indicated that young people were not taken to medical appointments as ordered by judge.

Other non-urgent grievances included:

- Several grievances related to hair in food; Probation's response stated that "hair did not match any of the kitchen staff, we still take this seriously."
- A young person expressed concern over not being exposed to Black history in the school curriculum. The resolution included LACOE adopting a new policy of reviewing nightly news and creating policy on how to teach Black history.

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<sup>17</sup> POC staff asked the facility superintendent about this grievance and were informed that the response was inappropriate, and would be addressed.





- Some grievances were related to air vents needing to be cleaned and malfunctioning air conditioning units. Those grievances were responded to, and vents were cleaned. Some grievances related to concerns with the delay in having a dog program.

### DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

The Behavior management Program (BMP) is used as the main behavior model. Facility leadership shared that Facetime visits with family were used as a BMP reward. They expressed frustration about the court ordering Facetime visits because it impacts the need to “earn it.” It was reported that the canteen would open soon, which had different inventory including frozen food. The BMP was tied to participation in and development of Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) skills.

Young people reported that the BMP process was not completely clear, stating that they were “not clear on how to get to on gold.”

Young people from one unit shared that “FaceTime is court-ordered. They say that if we behave, we’ll get it, but they don’t give it to us, look at our records.” Another youth said, “Everybody behaves and we don’t get them, especially with the new supervisors.”

In another unit, staff motivated youth by creating a modified BMP program called the “Nacho Program” where young people received different themed parties each quarter based on good behavior, school attendance, and program completion. Young people appeared excited about the upcoming Nacho Program party, and they collectively brainstormed other ideas for rewards.

A young person in a specialized unit reported that his experience in another general unit was “terrible...but now I love it here.”

In one unit, young people shared that they were grateful to their AM supervisor and most Probation officers, but they did not like the PM supervisor because he “threatens us with write-ups for anything.” The POC observed the AM supervisor advise young people to give the PM supervisor a chance, as he was new to his assignment.

In another unit a group of youth reported that “most of the staff is good, but they do talk down to us” and “some of them just really sit in a corner and fold their arms”, indicating a lack of engagement from some officers.

In a different unit, the tone appeared calm with active engagement between officers and the young people who were observed were picking up after themselves and asking for permission to wash their hands. A commissioner observed that it appeared that Probation officers in that unit had a positive, rapport-based relationship with the young people. In this unit, officers expressed their concerns for youth in LPJH stating the “biggest challenge was education being offered that meets the youth’s needs.”





Young people in another unit shared that “staff is too strict”, while in a different unit they shared that communication with “staff is rough”, indicating that some officers and supervisors reassigned from the field were quick to threaten negative write ups.

### VISITATION

Young people interviewed throughout the day shared that “regular visits usually go smoothly”, but a few youth reflected issues with parents being turned away because of the dog. One youth stated, “The dogs always sniff something on my dad’s wheelchair or my mom, but they don’t have anything, and they get turned away...My parents keep coming back to visit, but they still deal with those issues.” Another young person shared, “For the most part, the phone calls are good.”

Various young people reported wanting Probation to support connections with their siblings. One youth reported that separation from their siblings was the “hardest part about being locked up.”

It was reported by Probation that unit supervisors “should be having conversations with youth who do not get visitation.” LPJH Superintendent shared that special visits go through each unit supervisor and that court ordered special visits are challenging to accommodate because they, at times, authorize large groups which create staffing and supervision issues. A unit supervisor shared that for special visits “we generally look for a court order, but if not, then we work with the attorneys.”

Special visits take place in one of the seven privacy pods in the chapel, the same used for attorney visits. During a visit to the chapel, various visits were occurring at the same time and there were still open pods available. It was reported by an officer that approximately three times a month all pods are simultaneously occupied.

One youth stated, “The supervisor always says they’re going to check for my special visit, but they never do and don’t get back to me until the next time I say something.”

One young person shared that he’d like visitation to improve as they have family that want to visit but they live far. He also stated that he needs visitation with his girlfriend and three-year-old daughter.

LPJH has a small baby bonding room available. It was reported that the room is used about four times a month. Officers believed that there are approximately seven or eight known fathers detained at the facility.

There are staff dedicated to moving young people from their unit to the chapel and vice versa for visits. One young person shared that he had a court ordered special visit from his older brother and daughter every week, that he had received that visit two weeks ago, and was still working with the unit supervisor to schedule another one.



One young person reported that he was detained for two years and had seen visitation improve a bit over time. He voiced concerns with family members getting picked on because of their clothing when they come for visitation. He said family members feel profiled if they have “smoked weed” and get alerted by the dog.

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported that nursing was present seven days a week, 24 hours a day. It was reported that youth were brought to medical and transported outside the facility for appointments as required, and short staffing did not prevent any medical appointments. It was reported that when the population had been higher or if a large incident occurred requiring medical attention to multiple youth, JCHS sends a nurse to the unit to ensure timely response.

A young person in a newer unit shared that he could “not see” as his glasses had broken. He reported putting in requests for medical and asking for new glasses for “a while.” The young person was upset that his issue was receiving attention at the time of the inspection and had not received attention before. A Probation Director was observed informing the young person that he took note of his needs and would follow up.

A young person shared that they were having lung issues because of the dust inside the air conditioning vents but had not submitted a grievance. A commissioner confirmed that the youth knew how to submit a paper grievance.

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days per week and access to an on-call psychiatrist after 5:00 p.m.

Youth reports of satisfaction with DMH services were mixed. Young people expressed appreciation for their assigned mental health clinician while others expressed a lack of rapport and connection. One young person shared that “they don’t really get us” when asked about his experience of services. Few clinicians were observed to be present or participating in units during the inspection.

Privacy concerns for sessions have continued as reports that therapy services regularly take place in the unit outside of DMH offices and within earshot of others have persisted at LPJH since its reopening.

### AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

Interviews with Probation, LACOE, JCHS, and DMH indicated positive perceptions of relationships between professionals at the facility.

LACOE staff shared that they worked with Probation officers regularly, which included having weekly meetings with the appointed Probation liaison and meetings with unit supervisors. LACOE reported that DMH was responsive to calls for assistance at the school.



Monthly interagency meetings occurred with the superintendent, DMH, and others to discuss high-profile issues or the approach to working with certain young people whose behaviors may need to be interpreted by mental health to be better understood and to consider approaches to intervention.

### **STAFFING**

- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (AM):** 7
- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (PM):** 12
- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s):** 115
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 0
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 20

It was reported by facility leadership that staffing is “better” than at the 2025 Annual Inspection of LPJH. They reported a slow transition for the new hires. Deployed officers were permanently reassigned to LPJH. They reported that call out rates have also improved. On the day of the inspection, there were eight holdovers. Recently before the inspection, 23 new supervisors had been reassigned to the facility. Leadership reported that they all received a week of training at the Probation training center. It was reported that some reassigned staff decided to retire instead of working at LPJH out of concern that they could not keep up with the demands of the job.

Due to the phase out of the Group Supervisor Night (GSN) position in the Probation Department, it was reported that some officers were promoting, and that those without a college degree who could not promote into the role of DPO I would remain as GSNs at LPJH.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a mix of different ranks of Probation officers and DMH staff who respond to crises and other incidents as needed. The school has their own crisis intervention system, and communicates with CIT.

A Probation officer shared that “I would be happy to keep this level of staffing.”

### **PROGRAMMING**

In the afternoon, New Earth Flow was on the program calendar for one unit. It was not observed in the day room because it was held inside the LACOE classroom rather than in the shared living space as it was a LACOE-organized program. Student Nest was observed assisting students with their college work, and DMH staff were also observed providing a life skills class in another unit that was highly engaging to the young people. Juvenile Giants, an exercise program, was present in a unit, and young people were very engaged in exercising. There were several activities taking place as some were doing push-ups, others were lifting water weights, and others were playing basketball. The young people appeared to enjoy the activities. Boyle Heights Music was observed. Young people were very engaged and appeared to enjoy making music.



It was shared that coding was a new program which the young people were excited for, however this program did not occur. Young people on another unit reported positive experiences with Alma House services, though no programming was observed at the time reported on the program calendar.

Young people in a specialized unit were observed to be engaged and participating in the activities put forth by DMH related to coping skills. The young people filled out surveys about their emotions, and shared their experiences

Young people reported a desire for more programming in general and to be offered options that may lead to skills that can be used in gainful employment. A young person in unit R1 shared that they wanted to work. A young person shared “[w]e rarely get programs we like.” A young person in another unit shared that they are “just sitting around for 6 hours after school” while another said there was “nothing to do when school was out.” On yet another unit, youth said that they were often bored.

In another specialized unit, a young person shared that “rec is every other day” indicating that they do not get to go outside to recreation daily.

In one unit, a group of youth reported that they did not get haircuts regularly enough and needed barbers and other culturally appropriate hair interventions, including help accessing protective styles. One youth reported, “I feel less confident, I feel dirty in here when I can’t have a haircut.” The rest of the group agreed and various youth in the group were observed to have uneven, ungroomed hair. Other youth advocated for durags or other silken hair caps to be made available to young people.

### ROOM CONFINEMENT/HOPE CENTER

There is no HOPE Center at LPJH. Youth who need to be isolated for various reasons can be confined to their rooms with supervision. Youth with physical injuries who need protection (e.g., to avoid fights that could exacerbate an injured hand or wrist) are held in the medical unit when needed.

### HARM REDUCTION

Contraband has decreased with new security measures according to facility leadership. A drone detection system was placed above the facility which prevents contraband drops. Community Safety and Security Officers do perimeter checks and are notified by the drone detection system regarding a possible drop.

Body scanners and bag X-ray machines are in use at the public and youth entrance to the facility and K-9 checks occur of all visitors entering. Facility leadership believe that the new systems act a deterrent, keeping contraband out at higher rates rather than resulting in higher detection. Leadership and inspectors report and observed that the number of young people who appear to be high has decreased.





Probation officers were observed carrying naloxone (brand name NARCAN) on their belts and all officers asked had the opioid overdose reversal medication on their person. JCHS staff also reported carrying naloxone. The facility empowered other co-located departments and program providers to carry NARCAN by offering it to check out at the front entrance of the facility.

It was reported that naloxone training had occurred for youth in three units in the facility, a best practice for juvenile detention facilities, however the spray was not made available to youth.<sup>18</sup> It was reported that the BMP coordinators would be tasked with training youth throughout the facility.

The POC attempted to gauge harm reduction availability at the facility available via JCHS including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), however it was reported that no information was available on the day of the inspection.

### OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY

OC spray is an available use of force option at LPJH despite the 2019 and 2022 Board motions requiring Probation to phase out its use completely and began the phase out in units housing girls, gender expansive youth, and youth with developmental disabilities.<sup>19</sup> Facility leadership shared that they were not implementing a Department-wide OC Spray phase out plan, and reported and shared an internal plan to reduce usage at LPJH by promoting deescalation.<sup>21</sup>

It was reported that the CIT team, which includes DMH and Probation supervisors are the first step to dealing with a crisis incident, and that this has led to a decrease in OC deployments. In the classroom, an officer may call for CIT intervention, or LACOE can use the Opportunity Room and other resources before calling for CIT.

It was reported that there had been issues OC decontamination at the facility due to the inability of individual units to control water temperatures, as hot temperatures appropriate for showers are inappropriate for decontamination and can cause injury and prolong the painful, burning effects of pepper spray.

It was reported by facility leadership that March had 38 incidents where OC was deployed and April had 14. The Superintendent reported that they found the number of OC deployments in March to be “high” and took steps to decrease officer use by creating a directive memo to staff to address OC use and promote the use of other interventions

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<sup>18</sup> March 7, 2023 Motion: Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls [Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls](#)

<sup>19</sup> December 20, 2022 Motion: [Phase Out of Oleoresin Capsicum \(OC\) Spray at Central Juvenile Hall](#)

<sup>20</sup> The [Phase Out of Oleoresin Capsicum \(OC\) Spray at Central Juvenile Hall](#) process was to start by eliminating deployment of OC upon identified youth with vulnerabilities including those with diagnosed developmental disabilities, histories of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and Department of Children and Family Services.

<sup>21</sup> Weekly OC Deployment reports, including the [May 4, 2026 OC Spray Deployment Report](#) corresponding to the week of this inspection, indicates N/A under the category that describes OC phase out stages.



and more verbal deescalation tactics before deployment. It was reported that supervisors were to review the memo with their supervisees and that each person was required to sign to verify participation in the discussion, which included a script. One young person in unit S1 shared that they had arrived in January and had not experienced or witnessed an OC spray deployment.

Youth interviewed during the inspection reported that in some units there were drills to prepare them for imminent OC use. One young person reported “they make us do practices with it, where they yell it at us and we have to get down.” Another youth interviewed reported, “Staff just yell OC warning when anything starts up.”

DRAFT



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

## APPENDIX A



PROBATION  
OVERSIGHT  
COMMISSION  
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORT FOR JUVENILE FACILITIES

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



#### General Information- POC Staff

Facility's Rated Capacity:

250

Population on Day of Inspection:

234

Number of Assigned  
Youth Outside of facility

23

(include total number of youth assigned to facility)

(include court/ med. appt's/other)

| # of girls | # of boys | # of gender expansive |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 0          | 234       | 0                     |

|                                                       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|
| # of youth identified with developmental disabilities | 30 |
| # of youth identified with Regional Center services   | 29 |
| # of youth with CSEC history                          | 0  |
| # of youth with DCFS services                         | 19 |

|                                                               |     |   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection? | Yes | x | No |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|----|

Since the last inspection, indicate the number of incidents for each category.

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Suicides                        | 0                           |
| Attempted suicides              | 2                           |
| Suicide Incidents               | 0                           |
| Narcotics deployments           | 6                           |
| Deaths from other causes        | 0                           |
| Escapes and documented attempts | 1                           |
| Emergency Room visits           | 389 278 (2025) / 111 (2026) |

#### Staffing- POC Staff

|                                                                              |                                                                                                              |        |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |        |                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Who provided this information?                                               |                                                                                                              |        |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                       |        |                                                          |
| # of staff on payroll (assigned to facility including admin, GSNs and SDPOs) | # of all supervision staff on day of inspection (GSN from night before, AM, PM, deployed staff, supervisors) |        | # of staff on leave(s) on day of inspection (GSN from night before, AM, PM, deployed staff, supervisors) | # of call-outs by supervision staff on day of inspection (GSN from night before, AM, PM, deployed staff, supervisors) |        | # of staff on holdover and overtime on day of inspection |
| 572                                                                          | AM: 92                                                                                                       | PM: 94 | 115                                                                                                      | AM: 7                                                                                                                 | PM: 12 | 20                                                       |

EM: 58

EM: 8