LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

August 27, 2026
Published on November 5, 2026

INSPECTION REPORT FOR BARRY J. NIDORF JUVENILE HALL AND SECURE YOUTH FACILITY (BJN)

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 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 the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Secure Youth Treatment Facility (BJN). In the months prior to the inspection, Probation presented a plan to the Superior Court 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). Within that plan, Probation made changes to the use of several facilities. This included the discontinued use of Campus Kilpatrick (CVK) as a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) step-down that resulted in a number of youth being returned to BJN to complete their ordered detentions. In addition, some pre-dispositioned youth were transferred from LPJH to BJN as a means of lowering the LPJH population, while effectively creating the county's third operating juvenile hall. BJN's juvenile hall was previously closed due to findings of unsuitability by the BSCC. On the day of the inspection, the BSCC published a document indicating a staff recommendation to find BJN-SYTF suitable for the confinement of minors, however the juvenile hall remains unsuitable for the confinement of minors.

Key Findings from the 2026 inspection of BJN:

- As in previous Annual Inspections, the POC continues to see positive progress at BJN due to facility leadership intentionally addressing many culture concerns that have appeared to result in improved rapport between youth and officers, less overall violence, and more desirable programming opportunities including vocational training and a work program.
- Youth who are high school graduates and enrolled in post-secondary education, and especially predisposition youth facing transfer and years-long stays in pre-disposition detention, reported limited access to college and laptops. Youth recently moved to BJN from LPJH reported that access was more limited than what was previously offered to them at LPJH. Youth and staff reported that limited Wi-Fi in the units at BJN posed an additional barrier to access to college.
- Programming was sparse for youth with developmental disabilities and for high school grads. While visiting units, many graduates reported few activities to occupy the time other than watching television or using gaming consoles. While more programming was planned to begin in various units on September 1st, some youth reported that since transferring to BJN months ago, they had limited access to CBO led programming options.

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.

METHODS

Details about the inspection of BJN:

- The inspection was conducted on Thursday, August 27, 2026.
- Three POC Commissioners and three POC staff members participated for a combined total of 38 hours of interviews and observations.
- The POC coordinated with Probation ahead of the inspection to ensure availability and avoid overlap 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 August 27, 2026 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 is directly reported in this report.[1] While the inspection and interviews documented in this report was focused on the BJN facility, young people and officers disclosed experiences in contrast to their experiences at other facilities, including LPJH, and others. Information in this report about other facilities was

[1] See Appendix A.

included only as described during interviews and is purposefully kept to a minimum to ensure focus on BJN. The findings in this report are a compilation of POC Commissioner and staff's observations made while conducting the inspection.

GENERAL DATA FOR THE BARRY J. NIDORF FACILITY

- **Address:** 16350 Filbert Street, Sylmar, CA 91342
- **Facility Type:** Juvenile Hall, Secure Youth Treatment Facility, Secure Youth Treatment Facility Locked Step-Down
- **Housing:** 10 living units each with single occupancy, locking rooms, common areas, and bathrooms. Multiple units are located in a gated area called "The Compound" while the other units are located around the perimeter of the facility.
- **Rated Capacity:** 416[2]
- **Youth Population:** 157
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 2
- **Number of Boys:** 157
- **Number of Gender Expansive Youth:** 0[3]
- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn)**: 334
- **Probation Officers on day of the inspection**: 66-AM 74-PM

FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The entrance to BJN had an airport-style scanner and an x-ray machine, but it was broken, so all bags were passed over the top of the x-ray machine and security conducted a visual review of bags. Picture identification was required to enter the facility. There were no canines at the entrance. There is only one entrance to the facility for all staff and visitors to enter and exit. Young people enter through a separate sallyport that is also equipped with a body scanner.

The facility and grounds appeared spacious, clean, and well-kept. There were green grassy areas, benches, exercise equipment, basketball courts, a gymnasium, and a pool on the grounds. Facility leadership shared organizational changes within the facility since the last inspection, which included having assigned a Director over Juvenile Hall operations, and another Director over SYTF operations, both of whom support the facility's Superintendent. This leadership team reported that change requiring them to add a juvenile hall population of pre-dispositioned youth had a major impact on the facility operations and administration in the last year. The return of the juvenile hall population prompted BJN leadership to assign building managers to renew their focus on the operations of the buildings while reassigning administrative duties to Directors. BJN already had units at the facility dedicated to youth who were preparing to step down to Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK) or into a community based Less Restrictive Placement

[2] Data provided by Probation (*See Appendix A*)
[3] Probation's daily population statistics for August 27, 2026 report zero (0) "Non-binary" or "Transgender" youth.

(LRP), so there were fewer changes required to formalize the use of some units as a locked step-down placement within BJN.

BJN facility leadership described the organization of the facility, which has been separated into four distinct "communities" aimed specifically at promoting pro-social behaviors and the adoption of different perspectives:

- **Community 1: Juvenile Hall consisting of young people who were pre-disposition and received light programming.** A new round of programming is starting up for these young people on September 1, 2026.

- **Community 2: SYTF Phase 1 – Youth on DSS Stages 1-3 which included a combination of pre-disposition youth expected to receive an SYTF disposition and post-dispositioned youth.** In these units, young people receive interventions including gang anonymous and mental health services. The reported goal of this community is to work on helping youth recognize and decrease conflict-seeking behaviors, so they are ready for the step-down unit.

- **Community 3: SYTF Phase 2 – Youth on DSS Stages 4-6 and up were housed in locked step-down units.** In these units, youth have the opportunity for additional programming including the ability to join the work program or barbering program, a rap music program, a videography program, and money management classes. Directors at the facility made efforts to increase vocational and programming opportunities available to young people in these units since the option of going to SYTF Step Down at CVK was ended by the Department in 2025.

- **Community 4: Housed young people with specialty care needs, integrating pre-and post- disposition youth.** Specialty care needs included youth with developmental disabilities, medical conditions, and those under Protective Custody, who need thoughtful protection in a smaller group setting to mitigate potential threat of harm from other youth.

Young people recently dispositioned to SYTF had just changed units and entered a unit in Community 2 the week of the inspection. One young person interviewed noted that the transition had been smooth. The young person described full understanding of the potential amount of time he will stay at BJN and was able to articulate his plans to leave the facility to go to an unlocked step-down opportunity.

After exiting the administrative building, inspectors observed several bright "movie-style" posters in the hallway with pictures of young people from actual events and activities put on for them to either bond with loved ones or for general enrichment, including Father's Day, Spa Day, and Work Crew. The pictures were high quality and brightened up the hallway.

Young people at BJN were dressed in a variety of different clothes including; gray shirts, black shorts, pants and black shoes. Many young people appeared to have had recent

haircuts and explained that there were a couple of officers who cut and braid hair in ways that the young people like and look forward to. The haircuts looked fashionable and very much like young people wear their hair in the community.

While visiting a unit housing pre-disposition youth who recently moved to BJN, the young people shared that they are in “need of programming, school, and ways to stay busy.” Young people explained that they felt they were moved abruptly from LPJH and did “not like sitting around with nothing to do.” The young people shared that they had gone to the college bungalow to enroll in classes but were still waiting for those classes to start. In this unit, youth had one tv and no gaming system, though leadership explained they ordered gaming systems, but they only work on Wi-Fi, not with discs, and therefore cannot be used in the units at this time because of the lack of Wi-Fi.

In the unit housing youth with developmental disabilities, there were two high school students who reportedly had left class, refused to return, and therefore remained in the unit. One Probation Officer in the unit engaged positively and skillfully with the youth, easily and rapidly deescalating conflicts and informing inspectors that they had a background working with youth with developmental disabilities in the community and enjoying the challenges and rewards of working with developmentally disabled youth in the facility.

At a different unit, inspectors reported that the atmosphere was relaxed and casual. One young person was watching a movie; others were walking around casually. The mood in the units and between the youth and officers was light. The room had a ping pong table in it and there were many completed, colorful puzzles mounted on the walls.

The step-down unit seemed to offer a greater number of programming opportunities made available to youth. The privileges appeared to help motivate youth and make a difference in their perspectives on future opportunities. Young people reported that they could see their hard work pay off. One young person had been working their program and had their sentence was reduced. After they went to court, they shared their experience with other young people about the importance of following the program. This young person believed that some young people must learn it for themselves and see their work pay off. This young person said that for him, once he started seeing his peers get out and have their time reduced, it helped motivate him to follow their lead.

Youth reported that vocational opportunities like the barbering program helped youth in detention at BJN to cope with the realities of their confinement. One young person reported that participating in the program “felt like a real barbershop with music.” He said it was nice to leave the unit and that it “feels like you’re getting out.” The atmosphere on the other side of the unit felt different. There were only three young people there on the other side. One was exercising, one was watching TV, and another was on the phone. Unlike other units, they didn’t have too much to share during interviews and mostly gave short answers. Overall, these youth were less engaged. The young person on the phone kept walking in and reiterated that he really wants to participate in the rap program in the unit.

KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen appeared very clean and organized; all equipment was operational except for one refrigerator and one freezer. The kitchen had a book of menus, a lot of cereal boxes, basic spices, vegetables in the freezer, milk, and fruit. Everyone was wearing a hair net.

When asked about including more foods that reflect the cultures of the youth detained at the facility, the chef shared that it required special permission because the dieticians have to adjust all other meals/caloric restrictions whenever a special menu item is offered. It was shared that adjustments are made as necessary and an example was given of one young person observing Muslim dietary guidelines.

Young people who had recently arrived at BJN reported that the food was better than at LPJH; better seasoned, served hot, and when not hot, Probation officers often warmed the food for them.

Lunch served on the day of the inspections was two meat and cheese burritos served with rice, salad and cantaloupe. POC inspectors noted that the food served appeared appetizing and fresh. Each young person received three plates each.

One young person mentioned that the food used to be good but the quality and flavor of the food worsened as the population increased at the facility. Foods he recalled being good were French toast sticks and chicken croissant sandwiches. Another young person shared, “They should change the menu. The food isn’t good.”

One young person interviewed had complaints about the food served at BJN and gave the following suggestion for a way to reduce food waste: “I think most people would like to have some say in what they get, so it would be cool if there was a punch card option where we could have at least some choices, because some of the stuff served now is just nasty.”

EDUCATION – LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION (LACOE)

General Education Data:

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers:** 6
- **Short-Term Substitutes:** 5
- **High School Students:**
  - *In School:* 59
  - *Suspended:* 0
- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs):** 30/59=51%
- **Dual enrollment students:** 0 (Term starts in October)
- **High School Graduates:** 100
- **College Students:** 100
- **College(s) supporting this facility:** Mission College, Cerritos College, and California State University, Northridge

During the inspection, several Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classrooms were observed. In one classroom, inspectors observed young people as calm and appreciative of their teachers and classrooms. Young people shared that compared to LPJH, BJN was “more structured, with more resources, better Probation officers- way better than LP.” Students were actively engaged in a project where they were researching potential vacation destinations and learning how to build itineraries and stay within their budget. The classroom had many colorful posters and motivational and culturally relevant decor. The young people were engaged and interested in talking about what they were working on and the teacher was working directly with a couple of students who needed additional help. Students reported that their regular teachers were usually in class and that they had few substitute teachers at BJN. Students reported that school here was different, with fewer packets assigned than at LPJH and more face-to-face teaching. Young people shared that they loved their classroom.

In another classroom, young people were learning about figurative language. This was a small class, and it was reported that there were no suspensions. The teacher was using lyrics to a popular pop song and all the young people were actively participating, giving examples, and appeared engaged and understanding the lesson. The room was cool and clean. There were only three young people in the classroom because one was at court and some of the other young people housed in this unit were high school graduates.

In another classroom, the teacher appeared to have exceptional rapport with the young people. Students were sitting down watching a YouTube video of a popular influencer known for fundraising and helping less financially fortunate people. Some students were talking quietly to each other while the majority were watching the video. The teacher was enthusiastic about his work and reported that he likes being creative in the classroom. He showed inspectors assignments he gave that taught students such as daily journal prompts and how to take notes. He reported efforts to introduce new instructional practices on exam preparation and was waiting on facility approval to introduce a student store. He said he loves working in the facility and understands the dynamic and needs of the young people he works with. He reported that he was “proud” to work with the young people.

A young person shared that they had been at BJN for one year and felt they had not really seen any changes during this time. He said that other units got more opportunities to move up in the stage (DSS) system. He said he did not get to use the Wellness Center at the school and that when kids want to use it, others aren’t allowed to. He said they get too many writeups in his unit for minor, non-safety related issues like not wearing the right pants. “Why give us these other clothes if we’re not allowed to wear them?” He feels they don’t get enough chances after they’ve made mistakes. Another young person shared that they were not sure about access to the wellness center during school hours: as he didn’t even know there was a wellness center.

In another classroom, students were engaged in watching a video on YouTube, having earned the privilege after completing all of their required school tasks and before returning to school tasks. They had been reading a book by the Central Park 5 authors. One young

person was working on a computer completing certification, explaining that his Probation Officer does construction and that he's interested in going into business with him. The young person reported that he was happy to get the Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification before he goes home. This classroom was a comfortable temperature and beautifully decorated. The teacher shared strong enthusiasm for teaching students in the juvenile court schools and described his role as a calling. The teacher reported that he had not needed to use opportunity room or suspensions anytime recently but significantly appreciated probation's restructures that happen in the hallway outside the classroom and allow students to rapidly return to class. The teacher noted that the students at BJN are levelheaded and consistent. The teacher also noted that “Probation establishes amazing relationships with the kids” which supports the flow of the school day.

A young person shared that the Thursday school schedule which goes straight through to 12:30 was hard for him and others in his unit to tolerate their hunger and would prefer an earlier lunch break that would require youth to return to school to finish the day.

One student reported that he was very much looking forward to graduating from high school and doing the work program at BJN and then going back to the community to play football possibly at community college. Another young person reported having graduated from high school that day. He was thoroughly congratulated by Probation employees and inspectors and he stated he was able to walk in the graduation ceremony that occurred a month earlier.

Inspectors noted that teachers were mostly present in the classrooms, with very few substitutes. Young people shared that school was “way better” than LPJH “where they just throw a packet at you.”

The inspectors observed LACOE’s Opportunity room, which appeared calm and attractive with colorful posters and comfortable sofas. One young person was in the Opportunity Room when inspectors went to see it and the young person reported that, “I was requested to go and I chose to, but you definitely do have a choice. Lowkey it is helpful and it’s only for a short time, and then you can go back to your class and start over.” This room was also sometimes used for training, classes, and special instruction as needed. Due to space sharing, the activities usually taking place in the Opportunity Room sometimes occurred in the Principal’s office.

The inspectors also observed LACOE’s Wellness room, a deescalation space also used for LACOE students when they need to step out from class. There were bean bags and the room was decorated to be inviting. Staff counseling was also offered in the room. The steps before a suspension are as follows:

- Step 1 – Wellness Room
- Step 2 – Opportunity Room
- Step 3 – Suspension

EDUCATION – POST-SECONDARY

Students in college at BJN were provided college classes by Mission College and the institution also reported having partnerships with Cerritos College and California State University, Northridge, as both colleges had students enrolled during detention at other facilities, then transferred to BJN. During the time of inspection, students were on an intermission from summer to fall sessions, thus some were completing their last assignments or working on OSHA certification. It was reported that when students were taking Statistics or Counseling, that Mission College professors would come on site twice per week for live instruction, and that students were able to participate through live a video conferencing platform in their classroom, and after class time the professor would go to the individual classrooms to assist students who needed further instruction. It was reported that the Rising Scholars program was instrumental in providing resources like tutoring for the college students. Mission College Counselors were on site on Thursdays and Fridays to assist students with educational plans, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and any other college-related needs.

A Probation Education Services supervisor was in the college classroom, and she explained that there were three staff in addition to her, and one contracted Student Nest tutor assisting the college students. The facility had three classrooms for high school graduates where they either worked on their college coursework or Probation Education Services programming. The class time was limited to three hours per week due to space and staffing issues, and it was reported that there were more than 100 college students. Young people reported that they were not able to work on their college assignments in the units the way they did at LPJH because there is no Wi-Fi in the units at BJN.

Inspectors observed a college classroom; staff were very friendly and highlighted the students' strengths to inspectors. Young people were working on laptops, and the inspector interacted with small groups of youth. Three youth interviewed had been detained at BJN for varying times ranging from a couple of months to 2 years. The students reported that they were taking classes including communications, psychology, earth science, and Money Smarts. The youth said they were learning interesting things in their classes and that they particularly liked the budgeting and credit classes. The students were working on laptops and one youth showed inspectors the OSHA safety module he was studying that involved watching instructional videos and a quiz to confirm learning. If students do not pass the quiz, they have to rewatch the video module prior to retesting. An inspector asked one young person what would make things better and he said, "Nothing, this is the best it's going to get." One young person said he wanted more opportunities to do hands-on automotive work but wasn't sure that could be offered at the facility. Overall, the students were engaged, although the work did not seem as challenging as inspectors expected for a college class.

While observing a unit, some high school graduates shared that they had recently transferred from LPJH but were not yet taking college courses at BJN. They explained that they visited the classrooms once to enroll in classes with Mission College. They expressed concern about only having three hours per week for college compared to ten hours when at LPJH. They also unclear about whether they could continue receiving classes through Cerritos College or if they would have to transfer to Mission College.

GRIEVANCES

- **Total Grievances[4]:** 840
- **Grievance system:** Paper and Grievance Management System (GMS)
- **Emergency grievances:** Yes

The facility collected grievances through physical paper forms and electronic submissions through the Grievance Management System (GMS) app on LACOE computers.

Inspectors noted that the paper grievances were extremely organized and responded to with detail. The types of grievances reviewed ranged from facility maintenance issues, requests for unit changes, personal hygiene issues, DSS issues, to young people grieving about the Probation Officers' uses of force. There were multiple grievances about mail and Amazon deliveries – leadership reported multiple incidents of contraband being found in mail deliveries and extra precautions being taken to avoid deliveries from unknown sources to ensure safety. It was notable that there appeared to be far fewer grievances this year about DSS and "made days" compared to last year. All grievances appeared to have been resolved in a timely manner, consistently, and within policy timeframes.

The more serious grievances were discussed with the Director who was clearly familiar with every case brought up, indicating leadership's involvement in the resolution of grievances and tracking of outcomes.

Inspectors observed Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), Grievance, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and Ombudsman posters at eye level and throughout facility; including living units, college classrooms, school buildings, and the front office. Grievance and service boxes were observed with appropriate forms in living units.

Rules and procedures were posted. It appeared that young people understood grievances rules and procedures based on interviews and the number of grievances reviewed.

Young people showed an inspector their on-line access to the Grievance Management System and were able to navigate the system. One young person stated that before the POC inspector asked him to do this, he was not aware that he was able to file a grievance through the computer. The young person also told the inspector he had never had a reason to file a grievance.

PROGRAMMING

An updated programming calendar was provided at the outset of the inspection day. BJN leadership reported that they were focused on getting additional programming set up for the youth who had recently moved into the facility. It was reported that several additional programs would be starting on September 1, just days following the inspection.

[4] 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.

Facility leadership shared that Passports for Learning, through the Regional Center, had a provisional contract to service youth with developmental disabilities at BJN.

Inspectors observed programming and visited facility improvements for future programs. Facility leadership provided inspectors a tour of the new barbering program set to begin in collaboration with Santa Monica College. The program had three sections; an actual barber shop, which was already in use, a classroom with desks and chairs, and a training lab. Facility leadership reported that the space doubles as a therapy room when needed. It was reported that the Barbering program would launch with 12 participants who had to complete applications, interview, and write letters to the state board to participate. The rooms were in the process of being finalized. BJN received funding to professionally epoxy the floors. Inspectors were impressed by the report of intentionally chosen blend of red and blue for the floors which mirrors a barbershop pole. Leadership noted that they advocated strongly for that color choice as a way to signal the shift in thinking from focusing on gang involvement to focusing on their own development and success. The barber shop had couches and attractive signage on the walls. It was reported that per BSCC, if a program is being held outside of the unit, Probation is required to simultaneously offer programming inside the unit. BJN leadership reported that they are working on making sure they have adequate programming to be within regulations.

A new workout room was observed to be in development. Two Probation Officers and one young person were putting together the workout equipment. The room had weights, resistance bands, and yoga mats. They envisioned that the room could also serve as a space for physical therapy for young people who need it.

The buildings towards the back of the facility had several rooms designated for a public library and college center/vocational training hub. The young men from a step-down unit enrolled in the work program were building out the space.

The dog park was a well-maintained, fenced space with grass and a chest for animal care supplies. While there has been no dog program available at BJN for over a year, it was reported that the facility is actively looking for a program to bring in due to popularity and ongoing requests from youth.

Religious services were offered on a weekly basis. There was a chapel which had a large space that offered different faith-based services. Young people in a step-down unit work program had recently painted it, so it was bright. The facility recently began offering faith-based supports for a few young people who identified as Satanist or Muslim.

Unit X reported receiving no access to community-based organization-led programming and youth complained about the lack of programming at BJN. One youth stated that he had been at BJN for approximately 6 months and said there was little to no programming most days on his unit.

Numerous youth expressed wanting to have “Hoops for Justice” a program they experienced at LPJH. They additionally wanted tattoo removal, more books, and another

television. Young people in another pre-disposition (juvenile hall) unit shared wanting more programs including vocational programming and work out equipment.

One young person brought a program with him that he had been co-facilitating at LPJH. He reported that he is implementing it at BJN with a Deputy Probation Officer/Treatment & Counseling (DPO T&C) to provide groups led by young people in the unit involving topics including mindfulness, anger management, self-forgiveness, and other topics they choose for themselves. The DPO T&C expressed excitement and pride at working with the young man to implement the program and strong rapport with the youth even though some had only recently arrived at the facility.

Young people in post-disposition Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) units shared their appreciation for many programs including: a dance program, Boyle Heights Art, the drumming program, rebirth of sounds, and all the privileges they get like tournaments, and activities. One of the privileges was that youth have their own water bottles in the unit and are allowed to decorate them. One youth said it was “way more convenient” to have your own water bottle to take with you outside of the unit. This young person had graduated high school that year and said he appreciated that they held a graduation ceremony which his family could attend. He said, “I’ve never walked a stage before.”

On another unit, young people were engaged in a program with Jail Guitar Doors. One was recording in a closed room, while a few others were sitting around the table engaged in their work.

One young person shared that he would want more programs on the weekends and more access to the pool. He said he never gets to use the pool and has never been to the barber shop. He just uses the barber who comes to the unit. He reported participating in all the programs that come to the unit.

Facility leadership reported that swim classes will start in September.

Leadership reported that recently it had been too hot to take young people outside for recreation regularly. JCHS lets movement control know when it is too hot for recreation outside. On the day of the inspection, outdoor recreation was canceled as a result of the heat.

One officer interviewed talked about the need for more integration of vocational programming opportunities for young people. From his perspective, young people want things to build with their hands and need opportunities to learn plumbing, HVAC, welding, landscape, gardening, and barbering. He said that while some youth are clearly on a college track, other youth are more interested in anything that connects learning with a building component. He felt that the current programming did not meet what youth are asking for to grow skills that will lead to gainful employment in the future.

DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

BJN had been using DSS with its SYTF population, and with the incoming juvenile hall population, had to also implement a Behavior Management Program (BMP) to minimize disruption to youth. Eventually the facility will pivot away from BMP and will adapt DSS to work for predisposition youth. This adaptation would then make it possible for youth to seamlessly integrate and to maintain any levels or privileges earned during pre-disposition if youth are ultimately dispositioned to SYTF. This would reportedly benefit youth and possibly even support faster reentry to community, as a youth at stage 3 would be one step away from getting into a step-down unit, so this would make it possible for young people to enter an SYTF disposition immediately into a step-down unit. Youth in step down have the most access to programming and vocational opportunities including the barbering program and the work program via PV Jobs.

When asked about DSS, some of the pre-disposition young people answered that they did not understand DSS or the stages and felt like they were starting over even though they had achieved gold status at LPJH. Young people also remarked that LPJH had better snacks than the pantry at BJN did.

The facility launched a new peer mentorship/anger management course with DSS staff and peer facilitated by young people who had graduated from the course. There is a longer-term goal to set up a certification program so the peer facilitators can get actual certification as peer specialists.

No SYTF furloughs have yet been accommodated based reports of concerns for safety and readiness, however SYTF youth in step down units have taken multiple off campus excursions including going to the beach, attending a play, racing go-karts, etc.

It was reported that approximately six young people have returned from SYTF step downs in the community to BJN during the past year.

BJN has a DPOII T&C who works with youth in the journaling portion of the DSS work. It was reported to be an introspective therapeutic process where young people write and consider impacts to their community, victims, and to themselves. Youth opt to participate.

VISITATION

Young people shared that visitation and phone calls were available weekly. Facility leadership reported that special visits are arranged and accommodated for parents who cannot attend regular visitation hours on the weekends and for other visitors. It was reported that although the facility is not specifically monitoring which young people are not receiving visits. Leadership shared that the facility has been tracking visitation for years in a logbook and could be ready to do so when required by policy.

One young person interviewed reported he does not receive visits because travel to BJN is too far for his family. Others interviewed reported no concerns with regular visits and regular special visits.

A young person shared that Saturday visits have gone very well, including opportunities to talk privately and enjoy sufficient time with visitors, while no hugs were allowed at regular visiting.

Young people shared that they may have FaceTime visits facilitated with family members every week dependent upon good behavior, current DSS level, and avoidance of having a write up. The Facetime calls happen in the supervisor's office with their iPad. Facility leadership noted that many young people who have achieved a high DSS level have an iPad which gives them the agency to make FaceTime calls to pre-approved individuals nightly. One young person interviewed reported that “Seeing your family shouldn’t be tied to anything, it should just be a right to see your family. It should be easier to see them.”

Parenting youth detained at BJN have access to a baby bonding room which was a well-lit, inviting play space. The room was decorated with functional items to support bonding with children of various ages, including nice rugs, a clean bathroom, clean, diverse toys, a step stool in the bathroom, changing table; child sized table, refrigerator, and couch. Even the lighting appeared intentional: there were pastel-colored papers hanging from the lights which softened the lighting in the room overall with a colored tint.

When asked if they were able to contact their attorneys when requested, one youth responded “sometimes” whereas several other youth interviewed said they had not requested a call but thought it would be granted if they did ask, based upon how responsive they felt officers were to other requests.

Young people described receiving an orientation to SYTF when they arrived, though youth said they only received an orientation from Probation, and were less sure remembering whether other co-located departments participated.

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. Medical doctors were on site three times per week. JCHS reported short staffing, and that they need two additional nurses per shift. Nurses reported that in the months preceding the inspection, approximately two to three appointments were missed each week due to Probation staffing issues, stating that the most common appointment missed was for nurse follow-ups.

When youth are transported to court or to outside appointments, they wear a standard Caltrans orange jumpsuit and are shackled at their hands and feet. Several young people objected to the practice and said they “hate it.”

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days per week with on-site psychiatric services five days a week. There was also access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for emergencies after hours. Clinicians meet with each young person on their assigned case load at least once per week, but it was understood that some youth were seen more often based on youth request, mental health enhanced supervision needs, and other expressions of mental health symptomology leading to referrals.

On the day of the inspection there were zero youth on enhanced supervision levels it was reported that youth were still getting adjusted to new clinicians since transferring from LPJH.

DMH assigns a rotation of crisis response officers of the day to help during crises.

There are designated locations for individual therapy sessions in every unit at BJN. There is not a designated location for family therapy sessions, which take place in the visiting center or virtually, but are rare. It was reported that Probation does provide staff to support family therapy when it does occur.

At discharge, DMH provides young people with a document describing the services they received in addition to referrals for community-based services. DMH Psychiatry refers youth's prescriptions to a pharmacy near their home.

During an interview with three young people in a pre-disposition unit, they reported receiving better mental health services at BJN than at other Probation detention facilities. These young people reported that clinicians at BJN came to the unit more.

AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

LACOE shared that they had "great relationships" with partner agencies, and they regularly witnessed strong relationships between Probation and young people. LACOE described "little phases of instability" throughout the year as they have needed to have teachers on standby and classrooms prepared for abrupt incoming movements of large groups of youth. Despite any difficulty, it was reported that the positive culture that has been installed at BJN has helped to noticeably regulate youth. The installation of a more supportive culture has also exerted positive influence via peer pressure for youth new to the facility to conform with behavioral expectations. LACOE reported that they saw leadership at the facility anticipate adjustment needs of incoming youth and that many steps were taken intentionally to help youth adapt quickly, including giving an informal assignment to some youth as a helper for others integrating into BJN.

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported that over the last year they continued to see positive shifts in operations in the facility as staffing and observed interventions were reportedly more consistent than in recent years. A reflection was made about officers treating young people in age-appropriate ways and treating them as "normal". All individuals interviewed expressed a feeling that relationships were strengthened by

communication channels established at BJN, including weekly meetings of all co-located county partners.

Department of Mental Health reported strengthening relationships over the last two years, which was notably improved by weekly meetings.

There appeared to be concerns about space throughout the facility, that at times causes conflict between county co-located partners. The dedication of office space to co-located partners that appears to be regularly unused was a topic of interest in many units.

Inspectors had an impromptu conversation with representatives from Welcome Home Oasis, Amity, and HDA, community-based organizations who they encountered while walking the grounds. Each of them spoke highly about the level of collaboration they experience with leadership at BJN. They felt like the presence of the newest Director had made a positive difference because he “makes things happen.” The Director shared that he has made a point of going to the less restrictive programs (LRPs) in the community and speaking with young people who left BJN to find out from them what services and activities they wish had been offered while they were there, and recommendations for how to improve the facility.

STAFFING

- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (AM):** 10
- **Callouts by Supervision Staff (PM):** 6
- **Supervision Staff on Leave(s) (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 35
- **Deployed Staff Providing Supervision (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 0
- **Supervision Staff on Holdovers and Overtime (AM and PM Shifts Combined):** 1

Reports about staffing at BJN included that the facility has sufficient staff to run the facility safely, but that planned overtime is a significant part of reaching those staffing levels. Reports from leadership indicated that officers choose to stay for overtime, including that on some days, people are turned down from doing any more overtime shifts.

Staffing plans for BJN included many adjustments over the course of the last year, including the current expectation that BJN will receive new officers graduating from the Academy. Facility leadership expressed that they are doing “fairly well” with staffing. Site leadership has developed their own training unit and program for new officers, required updates for existing officers, and remediation when needed. The facility reports that they have hit their targets on training. On-site officer trainings were happening in the old camp headquarters trailer which is on grounds, but not part of the campus, so it allowed officers more ability to focus on their training.

It was reported that there were 12 callouts on the day of the inspection. It was also reported that BJN lost five officers during the week of the inspection to other law enforcement agencies including other Probation departments, Office of Inspector General, and Federal Bureau of Prisons. It was reported that the facility felt stable even with the new Probation officers as more experienced officers were helpful.

During the inspection, inspectors interviewed Probation Officers and asked about their experiences:

- One officer who was not on overtime reported that they worked a compressed 40 scheduled, which they explained meant that they could not work overtime because they were maxed out at 16 hours on his shift. The officer appreciated the compressed 40 and stated, “It's been a part of the reason for staying on the job”. The Probation officer asked why the staff sleeping quarters at Camp Scott and Camp Scudder were not made available to help officers volunteering for copious amounts of overtime.
- A newer DPO currently working a 5/40 schedule was interviewed in the unit with developmentally disabled young people. The officer reported having a background (before Probation) working with young people with autism as a Certified Behavioral Technician. They expressed care, concern, and significant understanding about the needs of the young people in a specialized unit for those with developmental disabilities.
- In one unit an officer reassigned from the field expressed concerns about the ability of the Department overall to maintain facilities with current stress, staffing attrition, and mandatory overtime. The officer expressed openness to working at BJN and described duties that he felt are being neglected in the field including monitoring high-risk individuals in the community. The officer described the duality of his experience of wanting to be positive about his current role and responsibilities while simultaneously experiencing low morale overall and the perception of disconnection from the Department and its Executive Leadership. They reported that although some people will continue to volunteer for overtime, many officers are tired and appear to deal with or are near burnout. The officer also noted that they were looking forward to BJN receiving the bulk of new probation officer graduates due to the recent population increases and because the facility had lost many officers over the previous months.
- A Probation Officer who had been permanently reassigned to BJN from Camp Paige explained that the population at BJN was significantly different as the young people they were accustomed to working with at Paige were facing less serious charges and shorter detentions. He reported that at BJN, young people were sometimes “wound up and stressed out about the unknown,” which affected the way he felt he needed to interact with young people.

BJN designated a liaison for the youth with developmental disabilities. The BMP position is vacant and in recruitment.

Numerous young people interviewed throughout the day expressed positive views of the officers that supervise them. Youth expressed gratitude to having officers that they felt cared about them and their success in the program, while others felt gratitude for the vocational programming offerings. A few young people who had complaints about officers reported that they felt that some officers had been too strict with write-ups that prevented them from achieving a higher DSS level. The majority of young people reported that officers helped them get everything they needed on a regular basis, and when an officer

could not help, facility leadership was reliable in resolving their needs for things like clothes, phone calls, shoes, clarity around BMP, etc.

ROOM CONFINEMENT/HOPE CENTER

There is no HOPE center at BJN. It was reported that all staff were trained in crisis intervention.

HARM REDUCTION

Contraband at BJN had not been an issue at the facility within the last year. The main contraband point of entry was described as intake from LPJH, meaning youth carried contraband from the other juvenile hall when transferred to the facility. The most common illicit contraband found was vape pens, though recently matches and a note were found that may have been thrown over a facility wall.

BJN has a drone prevention system in place. BJN uses K-9's to conduct searches after receiving drone alerts, and it was reported by facility leadership that alerts have been triggered by drones commonly operated by a private corporation monitoring the trains that pass on tracks located just outside of the facility. It was reported by facility leadership that no contraband was tied to a drone drop since before the POC's 2025 Annual Inspection of BJN. It was reported that approximately two weeks prior to the inspection, someone manually threw contraband over a facility wall and that person was detained by law enforcement and the contraband thrown over the wall was found and confiscated by law enforcement.

Probation officers were observed carrying naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal medication also known as NARCAN, on their belts, and all but one officer asked had naloxone on their person. There have been zero deployments of NARCAN in the past 12 months. JCHS reported that their staff members are trained in identifying opioid intoxication, use of NARCAN, and are empowered at the facility to carry the opioid overdose reversal medication if they should choose to do so. While conducting the inspection, facility leadership could not find the box of naloxone kits and sign out form meant to empower co-located county partners and programming providers to carry it if they chose to do so.[5]

POC attempted to gauge harm reduction availability at the facility available via JCHS including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), however JCHS reported not having the information readily available.

Young people were trained to use NARCAN and received certificates of completion, and young people do have access to the opioid overdose reversal medication at the facility.[6]

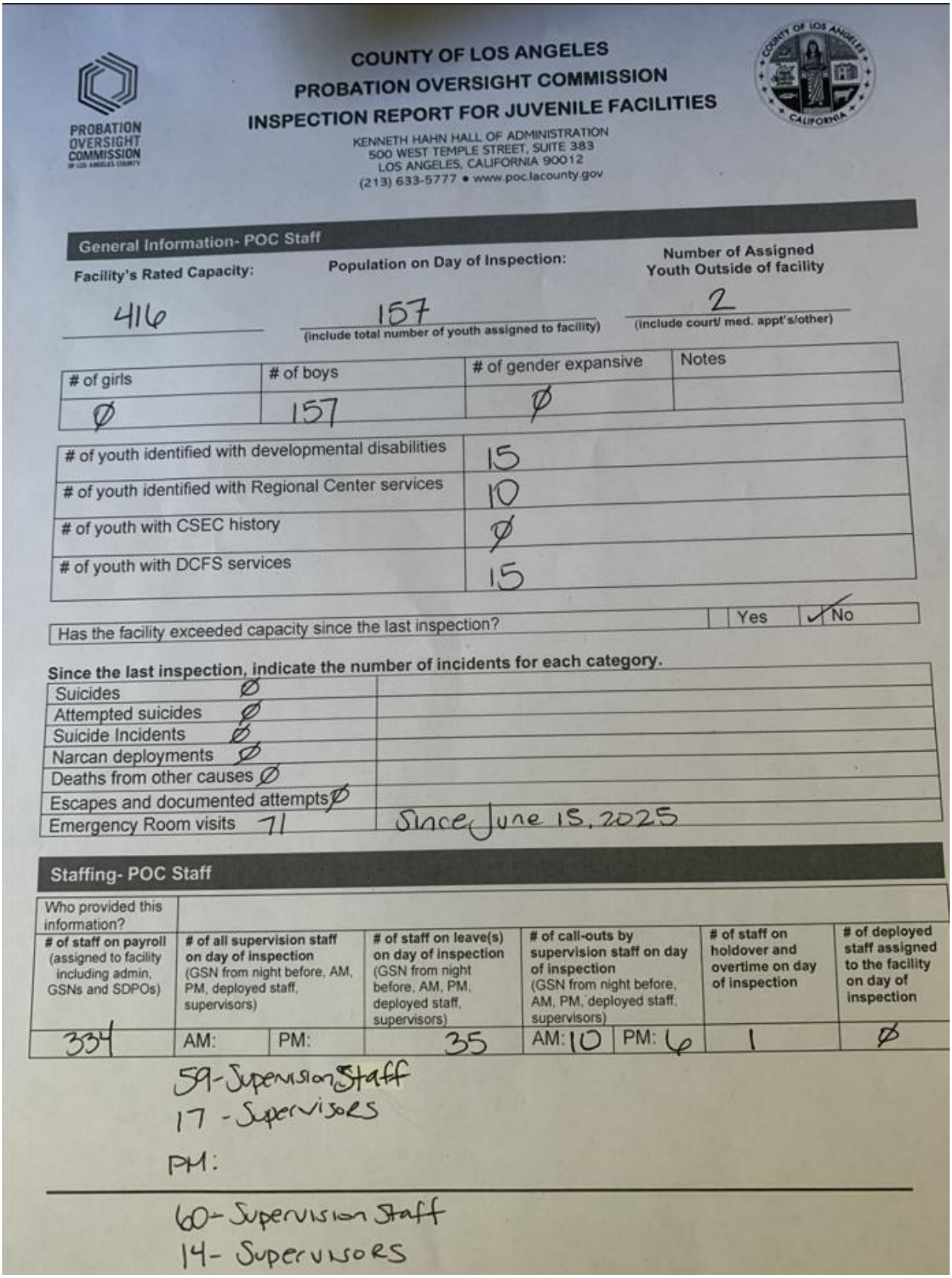
[5] November 26, 2024 Motion: Empowering Probation Providers to Carry Naloxone
[6] In the March 7, 2023 Board motion: Addressing Emergent Illicit Substances and Contraband Entering the Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls, Probation was directed to "make Narcan readily and easily accessible to youth".

OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY

OC spray was an available use of force at BJN. There was no OC phase out planned at this facility, and there were no restrictions of use on particularly vulnerable populations, including youth with diagnosed developmental disabilities.[7] It was reported by facility leadership that while uses of force were down 38% from the previous month, recent uses of OC spray increased.

[7] December 20, 2022 Motion: Phase Out of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray at Central Juvenile Hall directed Probation 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.

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:	Population on Day of Inspection: (include total number of youth assigned to facility)	Number of Assigned Youth Outside of facility (include court/ med. appt's/other)
416	157	2

# of girls	# of boys	# of gender expansive	Notes
Ø	157	Ø	

# of youth identified with developmental disabilities	15
# of youth identified with Regional Center services	10
# of youth with CSEC history	Ø
# of youth with DCFS services	15

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?	Yes	✓ No

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

Suicides	Ø
Attempted suicides	Ø
Suicide Incidents	Ø
Narcan deployments	Ø
Deaths from other causes	Ø
Escapes and documented attempts	Ø
Emergency Room visits	71

Since June 15, 2025

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	# of deployed staff assigned to the facility on day of inspection
334	AM:	PM:	35	AM: 10	PM: 6	1	Ø

59- Supervision Staff
17 - Supervisors
PM:

60- Supervision Staff
14- Supervisors