



LOS ANGELES COUNTY

PROBATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

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

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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 Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK). Beginning in July 2025, CVK transitioned from use as a Probation-run step-down facility for young people dispositioned to a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) into its current operation as the county's sole detention site for Girls and Gender Expansive (GGE) youth.¹ Since January 2026, all GGE in the county have been housed at CVK. The facility is now serving four distinct populations, functioning as a juvenile hall, a camp, a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), and a placement, despite its construction as an open campus meant to house a single, post-disposition camp population. In the months prior to the inspection, Probation presented a plan to the Superior Court to allow this 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). It was reported that confining Girls and Gender Expansive youth to a single site would facilitate the Probation Department's ability to provide an individualized approach to serving and rehabilitating these young people. At the time of the inspection, CVK had not been approved by the BSCC for use as a juvenile hall.

Key Findings from the 2026 inspection of Campus Vernon Kilpatrick:

- **Once the pilot site for the LA Model, efforts to implement and practice the LA Model have been effectively abandoned by Probation:** Individual officers still working at CVK who were trained in the immersive 2017 roll out of the LA Model appeared to practice aspects of the teamwork-based, trauma-informed approach to services, but cross-departmental training efforts and other LA Model meeting processes aimed at care coordination have ceased. Evidence of cross departmental partnership and rapport-based supervision appeared from individual officers who chose to continue those practices but without support from Probation's Executive Leadership or facility leaders. There were no concrete plans for LA Model training for newer employees nor aspirations to return to the model in the near future.
- **Little differentiation of services for youth with different dispositions and needs:** Interviews and observations showed few differences in services for youth

¹ The term "Gender Expansive" was coined by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) in the 2012 [report](#), Supporting and Caring for our Gender Expansive Youth - Lessons From Our Survey. Per HRC, "The term "gender-expansive" came out of this report to classify youth who did not identify with traditional gender roles but were otherwise not confined to one gender narrative or experience."



in the four different disposition settings and intermingling of post-disposition youth who were previously separated. Mental health services and programs offered were similar across cottages and not targeted, including the cottage housing youth dispositioned to placement to address complex mental health needs. Particular concerns arose regarding the appropriateness of the setting to meet the more complex needs of numerous young people experiencing serious psychiatric symptoms, those diagnosed with or suspected of having developmental disabilities, and those demonstrating other related behaviors that put them and others at risk. It was repeatedly reported by Probation, DMH, and young people that the open dorm setting was not an appropriate fit for many youth because of their mental health symptomology and resulting behaviors. There were reports of youth coping with ongoing trauma and sleep disruptions which affected the whole cottage at night and casual remarks were made about high levels of sleep medication use in comparison to when the facility was utilized as an SYTF step-down for boys and young men.

- **Insufficient identification of and specialized services for Transgender and Gender Expansive Youth:** While the Department has contracted with an out-of-state consultant to assist in setting up a program for gender expansive youth, interviews with staff indicated a lack of subject matter expertise and no communicated plans to provide specialized services to gender expansive youth at the facility and concerns about identification of youth as transgender or gender expansive. The use of a narrow definition of the term “gender expansive” at the facility has undoubtedly resulted in repeated undercounting and underreporting of gender expansive youth.
- **Staffing woes have strained all operations:** It was reported that initial staffing plans incorrectly assumed the ability of a small staff to manage four distinct populations in an open setting. Staff and youth reported and commissioners observed that officers were regularly supervising a cottage of youth alone. Probation officers shared they were at times working 20 hours a day² and restricting food and liquids due to inability to get coverage to visit a lavatory. Inadequate allocation of officers to the site reportedly resulted in disruptions to therapy services, programming, meals, showers, and timely arrival to school. While overtime and an alternative overnight schedule (the “reverse 56”) was utilized to fill some scheduling gaps, the Department reported on a plan to reassign 30 Field Deputy Probation Officers to the facility in the days following the inspection. Significant changes in co-located departments’ staffing was also noted and numerous individuals interviewed were new to the facility or their role and were just beginning to build rapport with youth and colleagues.
- **Grievances:** Multiple concerns arose in reviewing grievances and interviewing leadership about grievances including: grievances that were not addressed for

² Staff at CVK are on the “56-hour” work week which requires 16-hour shifts with breaks included and can allow a four-hour extension to a 20-hour day.



three or more days after being submitted, grievance forms lacking follow-up information including some with concerning issues that gave no indication of whether they had been forwarded to a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator, and staff's handwritten responses on many of the grievances forms that were nearly illegible. It was reported that a grievance officer was only present on one of the three weekly shifts at the facility. Commissioners expressed concerns about the frequency of grievance review by site leadership. Leadership reported that CVK returned to the use of the on-line "Grievance Management System," an electronic software available to youth via LACOE laptops, which had previously been discontinued from use by the Department in 2024 after a series of technical problems.³

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 Campus Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK):

- The inspection was conducted on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, from 9:00am to 6:30pm.
- Three POC Commissioners and three POC staff members participated for a combined total of over 42 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

³ See Footnote 18.



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 CVK 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 Director; 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 FOR CAMPUS VERNON KILPATRICK

- **Address:** 427 Encinal Canyon Road, Malibu, California 90265
- **Facility Type:** Juvenile Hall, Camp, Residential Placement, and Secure Youth Treatment Facility **for Girls and Gender Expansive Youth**
- **Housing:** Five cottages with two sides each where youth share an open dorm sleeping area, bathroom, and common area. No individual rooms or a HOPE Center exist at the facility.
- **Rated Capacity:** 72
- **Youth Population:** 43⁴
- **Youth at Court/Medical:** 4
- **Number of Girls:** 39⁵
- **Number of Gender Expansive Youth:** 6⁶
- **Breakdown of the Disposition of Youth⁷:**

Juvenile Hall	Camp	Placement	SYTF
26	13	1	3

- **Total number of Probation employees assigned to the facility (sworn and non-sworn):** 75
- **Probation Officers on day of the inspection:** 25 DPOs (AM) 23 DPOs (PM) and 6 GSNs

FACILITY AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

The exterior and interiors of all the buildings, the walking path up to the pool, the pool itself, the parking lot, and the grassy area used for recreation all appeared in excellent,

⁴ Population data provided throughout the inspection by Probation and other departments reflected multiple different numbers of youth, raising concern for real time tracking necessary in an emergency.

⁵ While the numbers of 39 (Girls) and 6 (Gender Expansive) do not equal 43, these are the numbers the POC received.

⁶ Probation’s daily population statistics for April 1, 2026 report zero (0) “Non-binary” or “Transgender” youth.

⁷ Probation’s daily population statistics for April 1, 2026 report 27 Juvenile Hall, 14 camp, 3 placement, and 3 SYTF. The exact numbers can change during the day based on intakes and releases.



clean, and relatively new condition. Facility leadership shared that all necessary upgrades to the plumbing system were completed; its capacity was expanded, and that plumbing issues reported in years past had been completely resolved.

The cottages looked the same as in past years' inspections with the exception of the urinals being removed. The cottages' physical set up are all identical regardless of population housed. Unlike the units at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC) where the girls and gender expansive youth were previously housed, no private sleeping rooms exist at CVK.

The cottage housing the juvenile hall population was reported by POC inspectors as "more calm" than during previous inspections of the girls' units at Las Padrinos Juvenile Hall. The physical space contributed to that with natural light, open space, and attractive decorations. The population of each unit was also smaller than the units at Los Padrinos. Young people were able to decorate their sleeping area and have their own bedding. In one cottage, a young person hung their poetry about the experience of losing a loved one. Others had artwork and other decorations uplifting significant people and relationships. One had decorations from a celebration of her 16th birthday along with gifts and a dress staff provided for her to celebrate a few days before the inspection.

Young people reported concerns about the open nature of the dorm, noting that it contributed to issues with young people being able to access and damage or destroy the personal possessions of others. Some shared that they "hate" the open setting and "don't feel safe" because there was no sense of privacy. Youth shared that some young people "sleep naked" while male staff supervised.⁸

Young people had complaints about only having access to disposable underwear. Staff reported that the facility was only distributing disposable underwear because some youth had taken to flushing cotton underwear in toilet, per young people.

It was observed in one unit that menstrual products were limited to sanitary napkins. When an officer was asked about the availability of other products, they reported that youth could ask for them⁹. One youth complained about the menstrual product availability saying that the tampons were paper and didn't work very well and that the pads didn't have wings so that they needed to wear a tampon and pad. She expressed a wish for other options for managing menstruation in detention.

One youth indicated that she likes CVK better because it's clean, but that "it's hard to always be sharing a room if I am mad or need time for myself." She said the other youth generally mind their own business and that if she feels mad, she can go out onto the patio

⁸ This was reported immediately to facility leadership.

⁹ The June 25, 2024, Motion: [Dignity and Health for People Who are Incarcerated: Ensuring Accessibility to Menstrual Products in the Los Angeles County Jails, Probation Detention Facilities, Patrol Lockups, and Court Holding Tanks](#) explicitly states that the POC ensure, " all barriers to the [menstrual] products are removed, including asking staff for products."



or call her therapist. Her therapist is new since she moved here from DKC, but she “like[s] her a lot.”

As of the date of the inspection, facility leadership reported to commissioners that the BSCC had not yet fully approved the current operations at CVK. It was reported that remaining issues for approval of the juvenile hall included review of changes to windows by the California Fire Marshal and that targeted inspections were scheduled to occur in late June for camp and placement.

Posters for the Probation and OYCR Ombudsperson and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and the monthly program calendars were all posted. The lunch calendar was not observed in all units but was posted in the cafeteria.

The pool appeared to be in excellent condition. There was a regular chain-link fence around the pool and a much taller perimeter fence with anti-climb mesh, approximately 15-20 feet away from the pool fence. Probation leadership reported some undesired behavior had occurred with youth climbing the pool fence. Leadership reported that perimeter fence was to be rebuilt further away from the pool later that month.

The pool was not heated and had not been used since the youth moved here despite unseasonably warm weather. Probation reported they are waiting for the Department of Parks and Recreation to come to provide lifeguard services. Multiple girls interviewed throughout the day expressed a desire to get into the pool. It was reported that two siblings had left their respective units without permission, entered the pool, and remained there until they could no longer tolerate the cold and were returned to their respective cottages.

Young people shared that they like to be clean but that a lack of privacy prevents them from accessing showers as often as they would like. Young people reported that they can shower when they want, but it was confirmed that young people sometimes had to wait until female officers were available to supervise them.

KITCHEN AND FOOD

The kitchen appeared clean and operational. It was reported that since the [2025 inspection of CVK](#), all non-operational refrigerators and freezers were fixed, and the temporary outdoor freezer had been removed. It was reported that the steam kettle frequently used for cooking was not working but that a work order had been submitted.

Kitchen staffing was reportedly continuing at the same low levels as the previous year’s inspection. Kitchen staff work two 14-hour days followed by a 12-hour day and stated: “[w]e have to do the overtime to get the job done.” It was reported that there were ongoing attempts to contract more kitchen staff through the company currently holding the food contract. The kitchen staff identified the location of the facility as a barrier to finding individuals willing to work there. One employee remarked that to avoid a hundred-mile commute home, “[w]hen there is space I will sometimes stay here, too.”



On the day of the inspection, youth in the juvenile hall ate all meals in their cottages which were delivered in insulated bags. Other youth (post-disposition) were able to eat in the cafeteria with a large privacy screen placed between benches to keep youth separated.

It was reported that use of the cafeteria varied daily for “safety reasons” and that there were times in the preceding months when all youth ate in their cottages. Youth in the same units were allowed to speak to one another during meals, but conversation between youth assigned to different units was prohibited.

Lunch was a pulled pork sandwich on a hamburger bun with ranch style beans, and mini oranges and salad. When served, a POC inspector noted the sandwich didn’t look particularly appealing, but that the food all tasted surprisingly good and was satisfying. Young people, however, expressed wanting better food and one stated that “LP food was better.”

In one cottage, a Probation Officer brought all the young people lunch from a fast-food restaurant to celebrate the officer’s birthday. The youth had put together a bag full of presents for the staff. They sang happy birthday and watched him open the presents which included funny things like deodorant and hair gel. There was a lot of laughter and camaraderie.

LACOE EDUCATION

- **Number of full-time LACOE teachers: 8**
 - **Assigned: 6**
 - **Long Term Substitutes: 2**
- **High School Students:**
 - **In School: 42**
 - **Suspended: 1 in-school suspension**
- **Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): 22/42 = 52%**
- **Dual enrollment students: 6**
- **High School Graduates: Not provided¹⁰**
- **College Students: Not provided¹¹**
- **College(s) supporting this facility: Mission College**

It was reported that since the opening of the facility there have been significant changes in the educational leadership at the facility. There was a new principal and a new school assistant director.

All eight classrooms at CVK were in use. A young person shared that “Some days there was no teacher.” Young people interviewed primarily indicated that high school was

¹⁰ Probation Education Services staff typically provide post-secondary education data. Staff on site reported not having this information.

¹¹ See Footnote 12.



“good”. One noted appreciation, citing her relationship with her teachers at CVK who she felt were much better than those at her school in the community.

LACOE reported that young people go to school with their units and that they have some concerns about future space needs since they have eight teachers and eight classrooms while noting that there are 10 units in the facility. On this day, one teacher was sent to provide instruction into a unit where there was just one young person. LACOE reported that on occasion Probation’s short staffing led to the need for “cottage school” wherein a teacher provides instruction within a cottage. More often, Probation’s short staffing had resulted in late arrivals to school, but LACOE reported this had improved over the last several weeks.

It was reported that 22 of the 42 high school students currently have an individualized education plan (IEP) and that two more were in the assessment process.

Probation officers working in the cottages followed young people throughout the school day and it was reported that “officers are instrumental in maintaining stability” and preventing violence in classrooms. LACOE leadership explained that there was no room for an opportunity room as commonly observed in other facilities.¹² A school psychologist, counselor, and assistant director or principal worked together to de-escalate youth as needed. There was no report of a formalized role for DMH to support de-escalation at school, though it was remarked that one clinician had been helpful a few times over the previous weeks.

LACOE reported that six youth were enrolled in a culinary dual enrollment program via Mission College. The Culinary program was offered only to high school students through dual enrollment, not to college students, and only to one unit. LACOE expressed some concern about what would occur if youth were to be moved out of that cottage and into another, which was common practice at the facility, and expressed uncertainty about negative impacts to young people’s college transcripts if they are moved out of the unit specific program prior to completion and received a negative “Withdrawal”, “Incomplete”, or poor grade on their college transcript.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

POC inspectors observed five high school graduates¹³ in the college classroom; four taking college classes and one taking a “money smart” financial literacy course. College courses offered through Mission College were Chicano Studies and Child Development. The next college cycle was offering only one Earth Science class.

¹² Opportunity Rooms have been observed in other Los Angeles County Probation detention facilities and typically are staffed by a behavioral counselor who is available to provide counseling and other helpful interventions to students throughout the school day. CVK did not have a behavioral counselor nor an Opportunity Room yet available to youth.

¹³ LACOE reported that there were three high school graduates, the POC is not clear on the reason for the discrepancy in the numbers.



It was reported that the makeshift college classroom, which was the space originally built to be the woodshop, made it difficult for live instruction because it lacked the technology support needed to live stream instruction. There were no plans to return the room to its intended purpose due to space constraints created by housing and requiring separation of four distinct populations.

Young people expressed strong interest in vocational programming like culinary and cosmetology. The work program was only available for camp and SYTF populations. College students asked Commissioners for more programs and asked for clarity related to the work program, while facility leadership shared that Probation was “building the process as we go” for the work program. Probation leadership reported to one POC inspector that pay for participation in the work program varies depending on whether the youth need to complete community service hours for the court or not. Once those are complete, youth receive monetary compensation (an hourly rate) for participation in the work program. Separately, it was reported to another POC inspector that while the work program was available for Camp and SYTF populations, pay differs for both populations with SYTF youth receiving monetary compensation and Camp population earning community service hours. Young people reported that they were not informed of progress with the development of the work program and camp youth reported a desire to earn monetary compensation for their work.

There were three Probation Education Services staff members onsite and the lead was interviewed. One was a tutor/paraprofessional that had worked at CVK with the previous populations, the other two staff members were new to the facility, one having just arrived on the day of the inspection and the other having begun two days prior. As a result, little information was provided including no information about the number of youth enrolled in college and inspectors were referred to the Probation administrator at headquarters for more information.

GRIEVANCES

- **Total Grievances¹⁴:** Not provided¹⁵
- **Grievance system:** Paper and Grievance Management System (GMS)
- **Emergency grievances:** Yes

Most grievances were in paper form. It was also reported that since late in 2025, the Grievance Management System (GMS), an electronic grievance platform available on LACOE computers, was back in use.¹⁶ GMS was only accessible to youth while they have a LACOE computer and appeared to be utilized sparingly by youth.

¹⁴ 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. Since this inspection was conducted early in the year, the grievances provided and reviewed were from November 2025 onward.

¹⁵ Data was not provided by Probation.

¹⁶ 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. POC learned later that a GMS issue had prevented the timely review and response to grievances at that facility. Due to this history, POC inquired about the use of GMS during the CVK inspection, and leadership was unable to provide information about GMS updates or who in the Department could assist in answering



The POC noted delayed responses to some grievances including:

- An eight-day delay between the filing of a grievance and response from staff
- A five-day delay on a PREA-related grievance that alleged inappropriate touching

Others lacked details that would indicate how the grievance was handled:

- PREA grievances did not include records documenting the referral process
- Many grievances had staff-written responses that were not legible
- Some grievances lacked documentation provided for grievances that were appealed by the youth

Grievance content included themes of youth expressing safety and well-being concerns:

- Multiple grievances described concerns about the wide range of ages of youth in units and feeling unsafe with older/younger youth.
- Young people expressed feeling unsafe due to the lack of Probation officers providing supervision in the units.
- The open dorm setting has caused sleeping issues and made some young people feel unsafe. Expressions of frustrations toward the behaviors and symptoms demonstrated by other youth were common.
- Young people expressed feeling confused about what was happening around movement, going home, and did not understand the transfer to CVK. One grievance stated about the transition, “We have been here for over a month and we don’t have anything in our cottage.”
- Many grievances requested movement to a different unit, sometimes expressing safety concerns. Many of these grievances were granted without explanation.
- One emergency grievance was about a young person not feeling comfortable with a male physician doing their physical, but was told that, “He was the only one available.” No follow up was documented. Another stated that their “medical needs [were] not taken serious.”

DISCIPLINE/POSITIVE BEHAVIOR REINFORCEMENT

There was no evidence of committed, ongoing support for LA Model implementation at this facility. While some officers at the facility were part of the 2017 LA Model implementation and the site was previously dubbed the site of the LA Model, no ongoing efforts to maintain implementation or train newer facility personnel including probation officers, LACOE, DMH, DHS-JCHS, DPH-SAPC, and Credible Messengers were reported during the inspection. It was reported that once newer staff settle, “conversations will begin and we’ll possibly have a workshop.”

There was no planned facility orientation for incoming Probation officers who will be new to the facility or coming back to Detention Services and Residential Treatment Services

questions. After the inspection, POC inquired with Probation executive leadership via email about expanded use of GMS in other detention facilities, how it was being ensured that it was working properly, and whether staff were trained on the system. Probation responded, indicating that a new version of GMS was rolled out county-wide in October of 2025, but there was no indication of any training on the system.



Bureaus after long periods of time working in field supervision and other specialized supervision positions.

It was reported that the Developmental Stage System (DSS) was the positive behavior reinforcement strategy for youth in camp, placement, and SYTF.¹⁷ It was reported that a points-based Behavior Management Program (BMP) was utilized for the youth in the juvenile hall units. Both DSS and BMP offer rewards for youth running their program as expected and those goods are pre-ordered by youth using a form and goods selected are delivered to them in their cottages.

LACOE was involved in the positive behavior reinforcement programs by being a contributor of tallying points for young people through their attendance and participation in school.

Young people reported positive impact from no longer being housed at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. One youth said the environment at CVK was more lenient which made the young people more “comfortable to talk to staff” to address their personal problems. The young person shared “staff can calm me down... staff here try to de-escalate.” Other youth reported that it was obvious that the staff do not get a lot of sleep and that they are often tired and that because some of the girls are “hard to deal with” they [staff] get frustrated.

In discussing the orientation process, some youth said that they were given envelopes with written documents about schedules and expectations and processes that were very helpful. Officers explained to them how to file grievances and about facility expectations.

VISITATION

Facility leadership reported facilitation of visitation open for all youth on both Saturdays and Sundays. Some youth reported that they had received visits because their parents are able to drive to Kilpatrick. One young person had seen her parents four to five times since moving here and another a few times.

Per facility leadership, a rideshare program was occurring for families meeting at LPJH, and this weekend another shuttle was set to begin offering a ride from DKC. Young people shared that Probation’s ride share program was not accessible to their families due to distance and lack of disability accommodations. Some young people were unaware of the transportation option from LP, others reported they did not want to inconvenience their family with the commute.

¹⁷ At other facilities that utilize DSS, including Barry J. Nidorf and the Dorothy Kirby Center, journaling with assigned Treatment and Counselor DPOIs, who are either training and unlicensed clinicians or licensed mental health providers, are an integral part of the program. CVK had no Treatment and Counselor DPOIs assigned to the facility to work with youth in the DSS.



Youth suggested an “optional FaceTime call” as an alternative for youth not receiving visits. Some young people shared that there were connectivity issues with virtual platforms used at the facility.

It was reported by facility leadership that families are allowed to hug after the visit, though youth shared that “certain staff lets you hug family.”

Young people reported regular access to phone calls, including calls with family and attorneys.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Department of Health Services-Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) reported that nursing was present seven days a week and at least until 10:00pm. The JCHS staff member interviewed reported that since it was their first day, they had no further information regarding access to medical services, missed appointments, or culture of the facility.¹⁸

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported hours of operation from 8:00am-8:00pm, seven days per week and access to a 24-hour on-call psychiatrist for psychiatric emergencies after hours. It was reported that due to a variety of factors, DMH clinicians were needing to work several hours later than usual to assist in deescalation efforts multiple times a week before girls could be safely reintegrated in their units. DMH staff shared that they meet with young people depending on their level of need and indicated that multiple sessions occur each week for young people assigned to an elevated supervision level. For young people not on a level, the sessions typically occurred once a week. DMH staff noted that telehealth, or virtual meetings, enhance family therapy opportunities as it offers flexibility for families.

AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS

DMH reported a high level of empathy for the experience of Probation officers working at the facility and reported solidarity through side-by-side deescalation efforts. It was reported that the combination of managing behaviors and mental health symptomology in the open setting led to the perception that “there are too many kids for the [Probation] staff to do the same work,” as they had with the male SYTF step down population. It was noted that the using the setting for four populations caused disruptions to individual therapy and groups, but that clinicians were tolerating it with the perception that Probation officers “feel abandoned and unsupported but show up with good hearts and trying to have good days.”

The high level of turnover and new employees at the site left an absence of information about agency relationships since many individuals had only been on site a matter of days

¹⁸ See *Grievances*



or several weeks, including LACOE, Probation Education Services, JCHS, and DMH clinicians.

Because the JCHS employee on site had little information, it could not be confirmed during the inspection if medical appointments continued to be missed on a regular basis,¹⁹ if Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) was offered and occurring at the facility, or the quality of partnership between JCHS and Probation. It was reported that medication distribution procedures at the facility were unorganized and inefficient due to the manner in which Probation provided information via PCMS. It was reported that within the electronic system, youth should be organized into groups by cottage, not alphabetical order by last name. The former is reportedly the standard operating procedure by their experience at other large facilities. “This is not a camp, this is a juvenile hall with units and changes need to be made to be efficient.”

STAFFING

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

All Probation officers in the facility were reportedly on a 56-hour work week schedule except for the superintendent, director, assistant directors, and clerical staff. Staffing changes put into place on March 15, 2026, consisted of a rebalancing of the three 56-hour week shifts because one shift reportedly had heavier staffing.

As reported in various corresponding sections of this report, staffing at CVK was observed and reported as insufficient since its re-opening in November 2025 which had negatively affected operations including causing the need for “cottage school” wherein a teacher provides instruction within a unit, late arrivals to school, disrupted psychotherapy and other scheduled programming, and limited access to showers and recreation time. Youth noted in interviews that they understood that the low staffing level levels mean youth cannot do regular activities.

Staffing shortages at the facility were a recurrent theme in interviews with a variety of concerns expressed by youth, officers, and co-located partners. During conversations with line staff, they shared that the lack of staffing was a “significant issue” and that the working conditions were causing “burn out.” It was observed and reported that “some cottages have one staff, but some have two.” Facility leadership and officers providing supervision acknowledged that officers were regularly working 20-hour shifts on consecutive days and that the facility needed to use overtime to attempt to keep

¹⁹ POC published a [report of an informal inspection of CVK](#) that took place on February 23, 2026, when it was reported that medical appointments had been missed at a rate of one to two appointments per week due to Probation staffing shortages.



operations running at the facility. Youth in the facility were highly aware of the exhaustion faced by the officers and several youth made supportive, empathic statements about the officers including advocating for them to receive pay raises.

It was observed in one cottage that as POC entered with a Probation escort, an officer needed to be relieved to use the restroom immediately.

It was reported that 30 officers were reassigned from the field and would report to the facility four days after the inspection. Facility leadership shared that some reassigned officers sent in biographical statements and resumes ahead of their arrival and expressed willingness to work at the facility. A new trailer ordered to house the new officers was set to arrive in five days. There was no planned facility orientation for incoming Probation officers.

It was shared that the current sleeping quarters were contributing to burn out and low morale, because the current trailers were “small, a struggle to get in, and there was no privacy”. Staff compared the trailer to “coffins” due to how small and narrow they were. Probation officers shared opposition to the elimination of the Group Supervisor Nights (GSN) position, as they felt that they were in high need of those items at CVK. Some officers shared that low morale was affecting them due to changes in hiring practices for supervisors, reporting that in the past the supervisor items were for internal departmental postings only, and now they are open competitive, meaning that upward mobility for Probation Officers was narrowed by outside applicants.

Due to the phase out of the GSN position, approximately six officers at the facility agreed to take on a schedule being referred to as a “reverse 56” in which officers work two 16-hour overnight shifts from 10:00 PM to 2:00 PM and one eight hour shift from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM, or a 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Officers on this schedule sleep at the facility from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

PROGRAMMING

Programming and the variety of providers appeared limited. When asked about commitments made by Probation’s Executive Leadership to specialize or individualize programs and services to meet the unique needs of girls and gender expansive youth, facility leadership referenced an out-of-state consultant, but no information regarding an existing plan or timeline to implementation. It was reported that the consultant would be supporting staff development regarding gender responsive care but not interacting with officers directly.

On the day of the inspection, most programming scheduled was led by credible messengers who were already scheduled to be on site all day. None of the credible messenger programs were observed to be occurring at the time they were scheduled.

One provider interviewed shared that they were having significant challenges with programming due to the lack of communication and a point person within Probation. It



was reported that they had not been notified of a program cancellation until they arrived at the facility; there were times when they arrived only to be told to leave because there had been an incident. It was also shared that they would like to follow the young people they are assigned to when the young person is moved to another unit, but that the program is only allowed to work in one cottage. Another concern shared was that there was a constant battle for the young peoples' attention; it was shared that providers are in competition with other programs and the television, as it is usually left on during their scheduled program. This provider reported working at CVK briefly, though they had worked with young people on field supervision, and this is their first time working inside the facilities.

Commissioners observed an animation program led by a community-based organization in one cottage. Youth were very engaged and excited to share with commissioners the work that they are doing. While observing another program, commissioners observed transitional support and positive affirmation toward youth by program providers. Positive relationships and established rapport was observed between Credible Messengers and young people throughout the day.

Due to concerns that some programs do not engage youth fully enough to get continued buy-in, the Superintendent recently surveyed young people to incorporate their expressed programming needs. The Superintendent reported referring organizations to the Department of Youth Development (DYD) for programming in preparation for transition when programming for all of Probation's detention facilities will be contracted solely through DYD.

ROOM CONFINEMENT/HOPE CENTER

One unit in Sycamore cottage was used as for intake and a place to separate youth from others based upon their behavior/symptom expression. During the inspection, one young person was housed at Sycamore A.

HARM REDUCTION

It was reported that contraband had not been an issue at the facility. The only issue had been with youth at intake with contraband, mostly vape pens.

Probation officers were observed carrying naloxone, also known as Narcan, on their belts, and all officers asked had naloxone on their person.

POC attempted to gauge harm reduction availability at the facility available via JCHS including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), naloxone practices, protocols for emergencies at the facility, however the nurse reported that it was their first time working at the facility outside of attending an orientation at the site previously. They reported limited knowledge of the youth and practices at the facility. It was reported that they had been told to report to CVK since there was no other nurse to cover the shift, and they were alone.



OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) SPRAY

OC spray is an available use of force option for the first time since the reopening of CVK in 2017 and despite the 2022 Board motion requiring Probation to phase out its use against girls and gender expansive youth and other vulnerable youth.²⁰ There was no reported plan for phase out at the facility²¹ and no clear plan to avoid the use of OC spray on youth who may be at risk of serious harm from the effects of OC spray including those with asthma, pregnancy, or other vulnerable statuses including those with developmental disabilities. Facility leadership reported that there were no identified groups for which use of OC would be off limits and that a single policy existed for all populations.²² It was reported that officers were not allowed to carry OC spray on their person, but that spray is locked in an armory and available only with supervisor approval.

Since the facility opened in November 2025, there have been two OC spray deployment incidents. In one incident, several youth fought at school. In another, facility leadership reported that a deployment took place after a placement-dispositioned youth climbed onto a small chain-link structure connected to the pool area and would not get down.²³

Some young people mentioned that although they had not experienced OC spray at CVK, they had at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Young people dispositioned to placement, camp, and SYTF previously housed at DKC were not exposed to OC there as it was not an available use of force at that facility.

There were OC decontamination kits in each unit.

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

²¹ In the line describing the OC Deployment incident on March, 21, 2026 at CVK, the [Weekly OC Deployment Report](#) indicates N/A under the category that describes OC phase out stages.

²² 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.

²³ While the verbal report at the facility reported the deployment of OC spray as a refusal to climb down, the Department's corresponding [Weekly OC Deployment Report](#) listed the reason for deployment as "Attempted Escape".



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:

72

Population on Day of Inspection:

~~45~~ 43

(include total number of youth assigned to facility)

Number of Assigned Youth Outside of facility

1 Medical
3 COURT

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

# of girls	# of boys	# of gender expansive	Notes
<u>39</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	

# of youth identified with developmental disabilities	<u>3</u>
# of youth identified with Regional Center services	<u>2</u>
# of youth with CSEC history	<u>9</u>
# of youth with DCFS services	<u>11</u>

of young people brought in the last 24 hours? 2

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

Yes No

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

Suicides	<u>0</u>
Attempted suicides	<u>1</u>
Suicide Incidents	<u>0</u>
Narcan deployments	<u>0</u>
Deaths from other causes	<u>0</u>
Escapes and documented attempts	<u>1</u>
Emergency Room visits	<u>4 (allergy I.L.A. (2), cast procedure)</u>

Staffing- POC Staff

Who provided this information?	# 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
<u>75</u>	AM: <u>25</u> PM: <u>23</u>	<u>4</u>	AM: <u>1</u> PM: <u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>

GSN 4

GSN 1