



Written Public Comment  
Provided for the LASD Jails Conference  
Hosted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Civilian Oversight Commission  
May 4, 2023

Name	Public Comment
erik rodriguez	<p>I think all jails in each state should be required to add a new integrated office of oversight to routinely monitor the rights of inmates, their behavior, treatment and punishment. Ensure the safety of innocent inmates or at high risk of being targeted by other inmates. Enforce and discipline misconduct by the appointed jail with enough authority to instill change. The role of this office will be to listen in to radio communications, access to the entire jail with a selected officer, access to paperwork under supervision of officer appointed by the jail, create a report and submit areas needing improvements. This office will have a constant rotation of officers that move weekly or bi weekly in rotation from jail to jail in each state. This rotation will run for 3 months at the start of the year, one month in the middle of the year and 3 months at the end of the year. This office would either be state funded employees or federal employees or state employees who report to a federal office specially created for this new feature. This system will ensure the jail system is properly conducting service and continuing its policy on punishment without interfering with officers work unless deemed necessary. The result should create a more relaxed inmate population and offers assurance due to the job designed to rotate its oversight officers.</p> <p>The problem with jails is that many inmates are there because of small charges and can become hostile against the justice system as a result of wrongly incarcerated. The other role this office would serve is to review and consider only those cases deemed substantial in evidence that a conviction was wrongly imposed. Under many government programs and law enforcement resources each inmate considered not a threat to society can be released under probation and required to take appointed classes as a requirement to be fully released.</p> <p>Inmates can also be used to draft any new ingenuity ideas for consideration. Keeping inmates busy will help alot more than worrying about the size of a cell.</p> <p>Jails are not rehabilitating many inmates. This needs to change and win more at that.</p>
Wendy Perlera	<p>Hello, I would like to know if there are any academics and or employment curriculum for inmates are in custody.</p>
Lillian Hansen	<p>When are the inmates that are on physic meds gonna get better care and when are the guards who abuse and kill inmates gonna be held accountable invisible justice for my son who was murdered mule creek state prison. How many sons have to die before justice is prevailed break the code of silence bring in justice for the victims families what's done in the dark god will expose to the light. Justice for John. Rip 32. No more no more</p>
G.S	<p>Is there any way to get rid of the revolving door of parole? They say its not criminal court, but rehabilitation, only it seems the inmates are often times set up for failure. Over medicated, strict timelines and left to travel alone far to a distinct or unknown city, alone, tired, no help. Treated like an animal, unworthy of respect. Its not the best way for hope and a new life. Over and over again.</p>
G.S	<p>too many questions: not allowed to leave the cell for any reason, not being able to order food, told they can't on 7th floor. Freezing with air on cold day. only a vest on. Not often allowed visits. contracting mersa virus in jail. No info given to family, family often treated as they are in jail also! Phones not working or cut off. No clocks or intercom not working, so often visit cut short. Thanks</p>

Gina

I want to share the story of my brother, who has spent most of his life in and out of the criminal justice system due to his mental disabilities and substance abuse issues. Despite having no history of violence, he has been the victim of unimaginable abuse and trauma at the hands of the very authorities charged with protecting him.

My brother is quite familiar with the conditions of LA County Jail and its reception center. With both mental and physical disabilities, he has weathered many difficult conditions and survived appalling circumstances including sleeping while standing due to a fractured spine. Nevertheless, his recent experience was exceptionally traumatic.

On June 14, 2022, my brother was transferred from a local police department to the infamous IRC in LA county jail. Despite his active schizophrenia and being visibly unwell, he was thrown into a small cell with several other irritable inmates who quickly grew impatient with his mental state. As my brother could not control his self-talk, he was attacked by other inmate(s) crushing his head to the metal bench while the deputies turned a blind eye despite being present. When they finally intervened, they fractured his neck in the process, pushing my brother against the wall with great force. This horrific incident happened on the first day of his transfer, despite the handover warning by the Police Department regarding his mental state and the immediate need for medications. The incident was predictable, and they did nothing to prevent it.

My family waited in anguish for my brother's call for days, not knowing what he had been through. We were lied to repeatedly when we called to inquire about his condition, and no information regarding his injuries and whereabouts ever made its way to us. I was told that he was doing fine, was under mental care and he had access to the phones. My feelings that something was wrong were later validated when I finally received a call from my brother on June 24. He was yelling, jumping from one subject to another, very upset and in tremendous amount of pain. He had been transferred to LAC USC hospital, where he stayed for 10 days before being returned to jail with stitches on his skull and a large neck brace surrounding his head, rendering him unable to move. My brother is known to endure pain, but the hospital could not get him through the MRI due to his screaming from the excruciating pain.

My poor brother remained in a neck brace, unable to move for six months. During this time, I became unwell, with sleepless nights, many failures, self-blame and with the vivid nightmare still not escaping my thoughts. It was heartbreaking to see my brother in that condition coming through the back door of the court with the help of a walker.

Since December 2022 my brother has been moved into complete isolation in an effort to "keep him safe" as a result of the IRC incident with the deputies. He has no access to sunlight throughout the day and is separated from all other inmates. He tells me that sometimes he is given the opportunity to go outside on the roof at 6am, but he refuses to do so not only because they just woke him up and it's too cold but also if he does go, he will be by himself, in a cage, not allowed to walk around – yet another counterproductive approach to towards a mentally unwell person.

Today, we are pleading with the court for diversion - to break the cycle of incarceration and provide a path to recovery, rehabilitation, and a better life.

The saying "repeating the same actions over and over again but expecting different outcomes is a sign of insanity," has never been truer than in the case of my brother, and other mentally challenged individuals within our criminal justice system, who keep being sent to prisons. However, even more concerning is when the courts make the conscious decision by choosing to incarcerate them despite the expectation that this is a never-ending cycle.