



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION**
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF May 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Room 140, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. President Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

He informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting was being recorded. He asked that all identify themselves prior to any statements.

The following Commissioners were present:

1st Vice President Levine
2nd Vice President Hollopeter
3rd Vice President Seaver
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Mitchell

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Holt
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Hoover

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,
Jan Levine-1st Vice President, Clayton Hollopeter-2nd Vice President, Daniel Seaver-3rd Vice President,
Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq.,
Fitzgerald Jones, Gabriella Holt, R.N. E.J.D. Jacqueline Caster, Esq, Jo Kaplan Esq,
Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan, Zachary Hoover, Betsy Butler

The following staff were present:

Luis Dominguez, Bureau Chief, Residential Treatment Services Bureau
Ed Johnson, Bureau Chief, District 3
Veronica Pawlowski, County Counsel
Tay Alberti, County Counsel
Patricia Rodriguez, Secretary
Monica Garcia, Special Projects

The following members of the public were present:

Natasha Kamashian, Public Defender's Office
Michelle Newell, Justice Deputy, Second District

II. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Commissioner Bureau Chief Dominguez begins with an update about the Board Motion dealing with the **Special Housing Unit**. He reports that both Detention Services Bureau and Residential Treatment Services Bureau are revising policies to be aligned with the Board Motion as well as the technical assistance grant that the Department has been working on.

He states that there are a number of changes coming in the Department reorganization including reassignments of all Bureau Chiefs, with the exception of three. He confirms that all Commissioners received Chief Remington's memorandum announcing the new assignments and offered to answer any questions. Today, he is filling in for the newly assigned Bureau Chief Dave Mitchell who could not be present.

In response to Item 9 on agenda: Bureau Chief Dominguez is also filing in for Bureau Chief Harada who sends apologies for not being present as she had to attend another meeting.

He begins discussing **solitary confinement agenda** item and reiterates that he and Bureau Chief Harada are working together to ensure that camps and juvenile halls are making the desired changes with Board Motion and the Technical Assistance Grant. Central Juvenile Hall, Camp McNair and Scott are the facilities identified in the Board Motion to eliminate or reduce isolation, depending on the interpretation of the motion. Staff is working on getting clarification.

A positive update from **Camp Paige is that the youth fire crew** has been assisting with the fire on the 57 Freeway. Camp fire graduation is coming up and will be sent to the Commission. They did a great job putting their skills into practice and there is video footage as well. The youth take a three week course and are certified through the County Fire Department. The Department is working with the Conservation Corp. as well as Cal Fire. Commissioner Meredith highlights the career opportunity this training provides. Camp Rocky hosted a family engagement day and one will be coming up for Camp Afflerbaugh. Flyers will be distributed.

Commissioners discuss the desired clarification from the Board Motion re Solitary Confinement. It is Commissioner Kaplan's understanding that the Motion eliminates the

use of solitary confinement period. Bureau Chief Dominguez states an answer will be available before the next meeting. Commissioner Seaver underscores that the Technical Assistance Grant is about developing alternatives to solitary confinement and requests a presentation regarding what the alternatives actually are. Bureau Chief Dominguez will share these requests with Bureau Chief Mitchell and further clarifies that for the other camps and facilities, the Motion states that use of isolation will cease by September 30, 2016. At present the technical assistance grant that is in line with Sen. Leno bill which states solitary confinement for 2 hours and 4 hours. Commissioner Seaver requests a presentation of the Technical Assistance Grant with respect to alternatives to solitary confinement. Commissioner Seaver is interested in understanding the impact of developing test sites as opposed to implementing changes at every facility. He further confirms that any youth in the special housing unit is accounted for in the report from Residential Services Treatment Branch. Commissioner Seaver expresses concern that without expressly stating that solitary confinement is eliminated everywhere, it may only be translated at eliminated at the test sites.

Commissioner Kaplan encourages all Commissioners to increase monitoring and make spot visits to the Special Housing Units at Central and other facilities. She advocates for unannounced visits and interviews with staff and youth to inform themselves of the extent of impact of this transition. She feels it is important that the Commissioner are very active in supporting the policy and practice changes that result from the Board Motion. She encourages talking to staff, youth and looking at records.

Commissioner Seaver confirms that populations will still be in the Special Housing Unit, they will be on suicide watch and on special supervision plans. Bureau Chief Dominguez confirms that the Department expects to comply with Board Motion.

With respect to **hiring and training**, Bureau Chief Dominguez shares that the Department continues to hire. Today there is a graduation at the academy at 1 pm. All are invited.

With respect to **Re-entry** that is item 5, Bureau Chief Dominguez reminds all that Dave Mitchell has had oversight of the Aftercare program and will be able to update when he joins the next meeting. Bureau Chief Dominguez informs that in the Residential Treatment Services unit, Multidisciplinary meetings are being held to share information among providers and monitor plans for successful re-entry back to community. Collaboration is strong with LA County Office of Education, Department of Mental Health and others.

Commissioner Kaplan shares that she heard Dave Mitchell state that 50% of youth that leave camp are 18 years old. She was surprised by that fact and urged Commission to increase attention and focus on this population. Bureau Chief Dominguez confirms that information and discusses efforts to coordinate release under **Assembly Bill 12** to allow youth to qualify for services if they have orders for Suitable Placement. Many youth are aging out in camp. Commissioner Kaplan requests a presentation focusing on 18 year olds and services being provided to them. Commissioner Levine also requests information about the youth that do not qualify for Assembly Bill 12. Commissioner Levine also urges re-entry services to exist in Halls as well as camps, including counselors and case managers. She inquires about the services to secure documents such as California identification or birth certificates.

Bureau Chief Dominguez reminds the Commission that Detention Services Bureau only interacts with some youth for a very brief time. Most youth that are detained and adjudicated do receive transition or re-entry services. With respect to documents such as California identification, or birth certificates etc., those items are part of the transition plan developed within Residential Treatment Services Branch.

Commissioner Kaplan suggests that Natasha Khamashian, the representative from the Public Defender's Office can survey her colleagues to assess if youth in fact have documents.

Mr. Ed Johnson, Bureau Chief over District 3 offices and programs, including **citation diversion program**. For many years this was an administrative unit and then became the informal juvenile court composed of attorneys. In June 2012, the Probation Department inherited the responsibility for the program from the Superior Court. Probation has worked to make improvements to the program and put administrative controls in place. The jurisdiction of the citation diversion program comes through Welfare & Institution Code (WIC) 256 which includes misdemeanor, infractions, various municipal codes, fish and game, beaches, harbors & education code infractions involving minors including truancy. We receive these referrals from all agencies, including school police from all over the County. Infractions that are heard, provide an opportunity for the youth that go through the process and learn about responsibility. If the youth admits guilt, then there are a number of options before the youth. If they deny responsibility then they have the opportunity to make an appearance for a hearing. The program has received about 60-80,000 citations. Most months we recover about \$100,000.00 on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Yamashiro asks if there is direction to them that this program was intended to take the place of juvenile traffic court. Dr. Jack Foray introduces himself. He began as an appointment of Judge Nash as Supervising Referee. The informal court before was a part of the Superior Court system. When a hearing officer sits in the function, the hearing officer served as a subordinate of the court; the responsibility was transferred to Probation with all the authority and responsibility held in the Welfare & Institution Code 256.

Commissioner Yamashiro wants the Commission to be aware that this function has been and is a way to divert the escalation of engagement.

Dr. Furay recognizes Commissioner Kaplan as someone who went to camp and cleared cases on a daily bases. Youth were given hours of community services in camp that were then sent to Jack Furay and their case was cleared. The Probation Department started this program over 50 years ago then it became a program of Superior Court. Misdemeanors and infractions were most of the cases that were heard. After the program returned to Probation, the section said "any" infraction which now are on their desk and they will be dealt with. The limitation of this program is no assessment up front and no ability to do follow up. 80-90% of the youth that are seen here are one time visits. Most cases are dismissed with either a fine or alternatives like going to school with good attendance and grades. Fines are imposed if other alternatives are not honored. That fine, if not paid will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles and will bar a driver's license.

Commissioner Yamashiro confirms that all the petitions can be referred to the District Attorney. Dr. Furay shares that over his time, he has referred about 200 cases and not more than 5 were accepted by the DA. Commissioner Yamashiro states that in places like Miami and San Francisco, there are significant outcomes that support the diversion offered by the programs.

III. BROWN ACT TRAINING

Veronica Pawlowski, Senior Deputy County Counsel introduces herself and makes herself available for any and all questions or concerns related to the work on the Commission. She is assigned to support the Probation Department and the Probation Commission.

Deputy Counsel Tay Alberti provided an overview of the application of **the Brown Act** as it pertains to the Commission. We reviewed appropriate action, communication, establishing ad hoc committees, penalties and remedies.

Commissioners clarified meetings governed under the Brown Act and impact to their discussions.

IV. TRANSPORTATION FOR FAMILIES TO CAMPS AND HALLS

Monica Garcia provided a response to the question on **transportation**.

The Department is interested in improving and increasing transportation as a service to families.

- 1) The Department had a special holiday visitation program for camps in December. Parents and approved visitors were invited to visit for an additional day of visitation with transportation provided. This was provided for families from District 1 and 2 to Challenger and Scott/Scudder. For families from the Antelope Valley to Eastern camps. We phone called every family and informed them of the opportunity. If they registered with us, then they met at one of the Halls to go to the camp.
- 2) Parents Living with Purpose is a program for parents sponsored through a partnership with LA County Office of Education. Probation and Dept. of Mental Health Services coordinate and fund the transportation to the camps. Series one was provided at every juvenile hall and Gonzales, Miller, Munz, Mendenhall and will be expanded to Dorothy Kirby Center. The families get this information via phone call and information is posted at the facilities. Families are asked to register and are transported in vans. 655 families have participated over the last year.

- 3) Department of Mental Health also offers a transportation for youth that are receiving services. When appropriate as a service to assist or advance the youth, a Mental Health clinician can arrange for a special visitation.

There are other programs for parents at the halls and camps but not necessarily with transportation.

Commissioner Seaver asks about follow up to the conversation around organizing an effort to influence moving bus lines to serve every facility. He also expressed knowledge that Board offices are interested in the topic. President Gardner suggests forming an ad hoc meeting to follow up on this item. Several Commissioners expressed support for continuing the discussion.

V. RE-ENTRY

Commissioner Seaver requests that this item be continued to explore the current effort, the effectiveness of the effort and the plan to support the youth's transition back to the community. The Commission confirmed that this item pertains to the re-entry of youth into their families, their community and their placements.

Item was tabled to future meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Levine requests that the Department take initiative to register youth to vote who will be 18 before the next election. There are 10 days left in this cycle to register to vote. For next meeting, she would like to see a motion to direct the Department to create a voter registration effort.

Commissioner Meredith would like the Department to present on the Adult side of the house as well. He reminds Commission that they have responsibility for both Adult and Juvenile Services.

Commissioner Kaplan requests that the Citation Diversion – Juvenile Court stay on the pending item list. She would also like to add Nutrition and Personal items to the progress report list for Commissioner Caster.

Commissioner Levine requests information about the number of youth that are in custody that have earned a diploma and therefore are not attending LA County Office of Education and what programs and services are available.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

VIII. COMMISSION/ COMMITTEE INSPECTION REPORTS

No reports submitted.

X. FOLLOW –UP INSPECTIONS REPORT – 30 DAYS

President Gardner requests to note the outstanding responses from the Department. Commissioner Hollopeter created a list from minutes re the 14 questions that were identified and still need responses. Bureau Chief Dominguez agrees to send around the responses to the original requests. If the questions have not been answered then he assured the Commission that they will be answered.

Commissioners discussed possible strategies to track requests and responses from the Department. President Gardner requests that all Commissioners send him an email with anything that has not been answered so that he can develop a comprehensive list.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Seaver moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.