



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION**
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY – CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF May 25, 2017

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Eighth Floor, Room 830, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:04 A. M. He informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting would end at 11:25 A.M. and that meeting was being recorded. He asked that all identify themselves prior to making any statements.

The following Commissioners were present:

1st Vice President Jan Levine
2nd Vice President Seaver
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Lowenthal
Commissioner Richardson
Commissioner Yamashiro

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Hoover
Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Saab

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,
Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Daniel Seaver – 2nd Vice President,
Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq.,
Jacqueline Caster, Esq, Jo Kaplan Esq, Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan,
Zachary Hoover, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal (Ret.), Hon. Rex Richardson, Hon. Alex Saab, Esq.

The following staff were present:

Dave Mitchell, Acting Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Carrie Clarke, County Counsel
Andrew Hurley, County Counsel
Patricia Rodriguez
Monica Garcia

The following individuals were present:

Natasha Khamashta
Cookie Lommel
Maureen Pacheco

II. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell provided an **update on the program throughout the camps**. He acknowledged many hours of work have gone into the program development at Kilpatrick which has raised questions about the services at other camps.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell circulated handouts that described programs in Residential Treatment Services Brunch. He acknowledged that this list is not completely updated and therefore some interventions or efforts may need to be added. He wants to return with specifics about which programs are offered at which camps. Scudder, Mendenhall, Munz and Miller have been closed this last year. One issue is that something the Department considers is at what point are youth over programed. There is a point of diminishing returns when they get over programed. Part of the work is to identify the services the Department needs.

Generally, youth are committed to 300 minutes of school, cognitive behavior intervention (Anger Replacement Therapy/Dialectic Behavior Therapy) and substance abuse treatment or preventative and then mental health services. The core services are priority and then the support services are enhancements. The goal is to reduce camps further and want to focus on workforce readiness & graduation.

Right now, camp population is at an all-time low at 325 youth in 11 camps. Girls camp population is at 24 today. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell agreed to return with greater definition of the actual camp program at the various facilities. He recognized that Behavior Management Program and Arts for Incarcerated youth are in all facilities. One concern is that the system needs equity in programs i.e. Gonzales has 20 programs and others only have 2 or 3.

Commissioner Seaver wondered if the Department had any way of evaluating outside groups on effectiveness or quality. He wondered if the Department accepted all who advocate for access and demand attention from camp administration or is there a coordinated response to what the youth need. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell explains that there are both contract providers and volunteers and it is easier to hold a provider accountable to a set of outcomes. Additionally, some camps have Board approved services. The Department will need to take a hard look at who is present at camps and what is needed by youth. The Kilpatrick team has wrestled with program, recreation time, learning time and indeed is working to coordinate services. **Acting Deputy Chief**

Mitchell confirmed that he will return with a revised list of programs in September 14, 2017.

Commissioner Yamashiro shared that the list presented for Residential Treatment Services Brunch is rich per the list and would like to learn what is available to youth in halls. During his last visit to Sylmar, he was disappointed to learn that Alcoholics Anonymous which is an established program is not available. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell stated that often substance abuse or treatment is offered after adjudication to increase effectiveness of service. **There was a discussion about the need to provide greater programing as many youth do stay for months at halls.** The interventions of programs are generally based on the understanding that youth will be at the hall at a short time. Commissioner Yamashiro shared an experience with a small group of girls that had formed their own support group to talk about their issues with alcohol and drugs. Commissioner Levine expressed support for programming for youth who are at the halls for longer periods of time for many reasons including those who await placement. She expressed a view that even one meeting or intervention could have a meaningful impact on youth.

Commissioner Levine asked for confirmation of the update coming on high school graduates. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that today there are 22 graduates total in all camps. The work of programming does impact this population. The Department wants to consolidate the students in fewer facilities to allow for programming designed for graduates. Today there is the girls' camp, Challenger and maybe one other. The Department wants to offer evidence based intervention and then education and mental health services. These are all Department of Justice requirement and everything else is enhancement and must fit into the plan. Commissioner Levine implored the Department to act on behalf of youth in the halls.

Commissioner Seaver offered three suggestions: 1) any service that connects a youth to services in the community is important and can be viewed as a real resource to support ongoing health and functioning; 2) any program that includes staff participating in the activity must be supported to increase relationship and morale; 3) programming needs to be led by someone who can control and align efforts from service providers and volunteers to keep all efforts focused on youth and their needs.

Commissioner Caster emphasized the concern for youth that are not engaged and enrolled in programs because they are high school graduates. She asked how staff are motivated and inspired to support culture change. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell explained that most providers come between 3-8 P.M. The Arts for Incarcerated youth network and Mission College classes are available during school hours. Mission College has expanded to Kirby and Scot/Scudder. Still put programing changes needs to happen at sites with the population of high school graduates until we consolidate them on certain camps with programing. We want to increase career and technical training as well. Commissioner Caster encouraged that youth experience be included in any evaluation strategy. She urged that student reflection and interview about what youth liked or what they valued. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell acknowledged that at present there is no evaluation of programs and although the focus of the intervention has been on reducing recidivism, it is important to understand which elements of detention and services have contributed to the overall wellness of a young person.

Commissioner Shutan wanted to underscore the need to provide quality program to youth in juvenile halls. It is urgent that every opportunity to engage youth be pursued. Lastly, he wanted to caution about youth and staff participating in Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) jointly. While some programs may benefit from staff participation, AA is not one of them. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell stated that he is working with LA County Office of Education to explore activities and program that allows staff of Probation, LA County of Office of Education and Department of Mental Health to engage with youth differently.

Commissioner Meredith remarked that the conversation around changing the use of the word camp to campus. He encouraged the mindset change that comes with the change in language. Kilpatrick is Campus Kilpatrick and he hopes the 'campus' concept extends to all campus. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that the investment in Kilpatrick has been significant and the outcome will be a relationship that is not only custodial but one based on treatment and rehabilitation. He expects the small group model will expand and continue throughout juvenile services. He knows that the training of staff and the focus on the relationship is something that can be grown irrespective of the facility. There is great optimism in the learning happening at Campus Kilpatrick.

Commissioner Lowenthal asked if all staff was trained in trauma informed care. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that the following staffs have been trained: McNair, Scott, Scudder, Kilpatrick. Rocky staff has received in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy training. He knows that there is a need to focus on halls. He shared that investing in staff at halls is essential and that conversations with Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell have happened.

Commissioner Lowenthal asked about how many hours were dedicated to each training. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell informed that the trauma informed care training is 2-3 days; Dialectical Behavior Therapy is 5 days. One challenge is how to take staff offline to train and still run the institution. Kilpatrick was a great opportunity since staff were not committed elsewhere. Commissioner Lowenthal wondered about college courses being offered. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that community college courses are available online and some with instructor in classes through Mission College. He agrees that there is more to do with this population. Commissioner Lowenthal wondered if graduates can mentor or tutor other youth. Understanding that Operation Read and Pepperdine mentors are present, the opportunity exists for graduates to become peer mentors.

Commissioner Levine wants to be informed when the hall staffs have been trained in trauma informed care. This is very important. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell agreed.

Commissioner Seaver asked to learn how many of the 22 graduates are traditional GED graduates and how many are AB 216 graduates. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell stated that most the students are traditional GED graduates and are only offered AB216 if they qualify before they leave camp as opposed when they arrive at camp. A discussion followed about the origins of AB 216 and the impact to camps.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell provided a report on the Hope Center that was taken directly from the report provided to the Board of Supervisors. This is all centered

on the Board Motion to reduce solitary confinement. The first highlight of the informative is that the number of Hope Center referrals are falling.

RTSB HOPE CENTER	4/2015 -3/2016	4/2016 – 3/2017	Change
Total number of referrals	3454	1969	-42.99%
Ave. time in confinement	8:25 (hours)	2:59 (hours)	-64.55

Although the reduction in the number of referrals made is significant, the greater impact is seen in the time spent in confinement. The work is happening with Department of Mental Health. After the behavior chain analysis, which is a cognitive intervention, the therapist makes a recommendation about readiness to return to the general population. Staff has been trained and have accepted this is the new way of doing business. He wanted to point out the work at Gonzales where the average length of confinement was 9:14 (hours) in 4/2015-3/2016 and it went to 1:48 (hours) 4/2016 -3/2017. This progress is evident in all camps; from the highest risk kids at Onizuka to youth on psychotropic medicine at Rockey. They all have benefited from the effort of staff and the new direction of the Hope Centers. Rockey has stabilized at this point. The challenge for Los Angeles County is where will youth with mental illness get care. We have seen that camp is not appropriate for some high needs youth and Dorthey Kirby is full.

Commissioners discussed the needs of youth and opportunities to create greater alternatives of mental health facilities and not necessarily probation facilities. Discussion surfaced need to create small units for some youth; the need to increase spaces and treatment facilities like Kirby. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell spoke about the need to be in partnership with Department of Mental Health offering greater full service in the community. Without support and treatment, youth with mental health needs end up in camp where they deteriorate and are not able to be with the general population at a camp or hall.

Commissioner Yamashiro further explored the need to have alternatives for youth with mental health needs. The discussion continued to explore how the county can work with placement centers - levels 12-14 since the Probation Dept. has physical capacity and the private providers or community based organization or the Department of Mental Health. Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell reminded all that in the work with the Department of Justice, Probation included Mental Health to address kids' needs. In addition to the work done at Hope Center over the last year, there has been more integration of services and deeper understanding of the process of behavior change.

Everyone agreed that differentiation of mental health needs ultimately improves a youth's treatment and overall outcomes. Extended discussion revolved over possible scenarios where facilities, treatment and ongoing care provide an opportunity for Probation and Mental Health to engage early and further reduce any barrier for youth to find wellness through their custody period.

Commissioner Butler raised the concern that during her visit to Sylmar Juvenile Hall, each of the three students were waiting for a transfer to Kirby and that staff affirmed that the absence of that treatment and support were impeding the girls' progress. The urgency exists for more Kirby-like facilities to be able to meet the needs of these girls.

Commissioner Levine expressed great concern that the staff at all the juvenile halls have not been trained on trauma-informed care. She shared her weekly observations of staff very challenged to deal with trauma exposed children. She shared that many are there longer than the 17 days projected in averages in the enhanced supervision unit. Staff must be trained to do their job. She also expressed great concern that the highest need population is not being addressed first. This has been a critical need that has been discussed for over two years. A plan of action is needed immediately.

Maureen Pacheco from the Alternative Public Defender's office emphasized the urgency of this matter. She shared her testimony for the unmet needs of youth. She knows that these youths are the ones that will likely get into further issues for assaulting staff or others because of the absence of training and effective practices.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell acknowledged that this is an area of high need. He shared that some staff have received training. He will find out how many staff have not. He knows that hall staff has not received the same training camp has.

President Gardner offered the Commission's support to Dave Mitchell in his effort to advance the work to build a path for a greater partnership with Department of Mental Health and Probation for our highest need youth.

Commissioner Seaver urged the consideration of elimination of uniforms for Probation staff as is being done at Campus Kilpatrick. Commissioner Meredith expressed the view that the respect the officer has for self and others is far more effective and impactful than the uniform. Commissioner Shutan expressed a need to maintain structures that support the behavior change that may need adjustment not elimination. Commissioner Seaver expressed the concern that if the Department trains youth to only respond to badges and uniforms then that's what they will learn. Commissioner Caster urged the Commission and Mr. Mitchell to review research and inform themselves about best practice before developing conclusions.

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell appreciated the discussion and suggested that one of the reasons the elimination of the uniform is not implemented countywide is that the absence of uniform is one element of change that includes culture, treatment, training and interaction. In his view, it will be very important to learn from the effort at Kilpatrick and move quickly to implement the entire vision as quickly as possible.

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell agreed to discuss this conversation and the desire for an enhanced partnership with Mental Health in a dedicated facility with Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell and return to the Commission with a recommendation to continue to explore this concept. President Gardner agrees to return this concept to a future agenda.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Caster asked Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell to stay for the conversation under New Business. President Gardner advised that his understanding was that the topic was a discussion among the Commissioners and not with Department

leadership. Commissioner Caster expressed a desire to discuss her lack of satisfaction with the responses she received regarding the New Direction program.

President Gardner asked Commissioner Caster to present the item listed as **New Direction Discussion and Action for consideration**. She reminded the Commission of the previous discussions about her concerns about the funding allocation from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act of \$8 million dollars for 240 youth which is \$33,333 per child. She understands there are other programs that service youth for \$1,000 per child. Instead of continuing to implore the Department to be clear and transparent on this funding, President Gardner asked if she was seeking an official statement from the Commission stating the concern with this program and the absence of adequate response. Commissioner Caster shared that she did get some response about the First District pilot under Supervisor Gloria Molina where the program serves 71 youth. Commissioner Caster re-stated that there are differences between the New Direction First District pilot and the program under Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act.

President Gardner and Commissioner Butler acknowledged that new leadership are not responsible for the past actions and are working to correct, but that a letter documenting the concern is necessary and responsible.

Commissioner Yamashiro expressed support for a letter that would contextualize this specific case as a part of the larger issue. He confirms that no commissioner sits on the JJCC – Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council. Commissioner Yamashiro has communicated to Mark Delgado who informed him that the Probation Department chooses who is on the committee. Commissioner Yamashiro expressed concern if the Probation Department selects who sits on the allocation subcommittee JJCC – Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

Commissioner Caster shared that RDA- Research Development & Associates, is doing a study that includes Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). She added that the other issue that the letter must address is the lack of transparency on this issue and the poor quality of responses from Department staff.

Commissioner Butler moved to send a letter to Chief McDonald, Commissioner Meredith seconded this motion. Commissioner Meredith explained that the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CCJCC) is the larger organization where Mark Delgado is the Executive Director. Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) is the subcommittee of Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee,

After discussion of desired impact, **Commissioner Butler restated her motion to send a letter to Chief McDonald, copy Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell and Mark Delgado asking for: 1) status and timeline of Research Development Associates - RDA study pertaining to Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JCCPA) with a request for an update every two months; 2) look at the concerns around New Directions; and 3) express interest in participating in Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC).**

The motion was passed unanimously. A subcommittee of Commissioners Butler, Levine and Caster was accepted as a friendly amendment to draft the letter.

Commissioner Meredith asked County Council if they had any objections to the proposed motion and no objections were raised.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Item was tabled.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Shutan moved approval of the minutes of **April 27, 2017**. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion, minutes were approved. Commissioner Seaver, Levine and Richardson abstained.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kilpatrick Grand Opening ceremony will be on June, 30, 2017
- California Probation, Parole, & Correctional Association 86th Annual Training Conference, 9-12, Queen Mary, Long Beach
- Reminder to email Monthly Recap Submissions
- Monica Garcia stated that after consulting with President Gardner, she informed Bureau Chief Harada, Deputy Chief Cotton and Assistant Chief Mitchell that Ms. Harada did not need to attend as the discussion on New Business was meant to be among the Commissioners. Ms. Caster stated that she would like this item to be on the agenda at the next meeting and requested that Assistant Chief Mitchell and Bureau Chief Harada be at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Yamashiro reiterated his request for a presentation by the Department on the immigration policy as it pertains to juveniles. He noted the request has been made several times. Monica Garcia responded that a new schedule is expected by Friday. President Gardner committed to share the schedule as soon as it is available.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Seaver moved to adjourn the meeting. President Gardner seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 A.M.