



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



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 13, 2017

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Seventh Floor, Room 743, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:11 A.M. He informed the Commissioners and all present that the 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
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Kaplan

The following Commissioners were not present:

2nd Vice President Seaver
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Richardson
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Hoover
Commissioner Saab
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Lowenthal

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 Clark, County Counsel
Andrew Hurley, County Counsel
Monica Garcia

The following individuals were present:

Natasha Khamashta

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No action was taken. President Gardner asked all to review the minutes and identify issues in advance of the next meeting on July 27, 2017.

III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell began his report by **expressing thanks to the Commission for the ongoing support of the Campus Kilpatrick modernization project** and the presence of those that could attend the Grand Opening. It was an incredible day for the County, the Department and all involved. This facility raises the standard for the entire system and has prompted questions about how to replicate the effort. His first thought that day was, "How do we get every facility to look like this?"

In addition to a state of the art facility, the staff went through 5 weeks of training together, there is a research and evaluation component in place, and there is a commitment to begin small and ensure high quality. The speakers at the Grand Opening reflected the enthusiasm for the project and the alignment of mission. They were all wonderful and were consistent in addressing the opportunity to serve youth. He expressed a great desire to continue to work on reducing populations of youth in detention and build support for staff training on LA Model.

Commissioner Kaplan complimented the County and Department on the opening of Campus Kilpatrick. She agreed with Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell that this effort is a "sea change." She shared how important it was for people to be able to feel the difference in approach and asked if the Department was willing to engage with folks such as the Chamber of Commerce to build relationships and engage people in partnership. One of Commissioner Kaplan's guests encouraged a regular visitation effort to increase awareness about the opportunity in the Department to impact lives. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell appreciated the connection and expressed willingness to assist with necessary clearances for one day visits or the process for regular visitors. He shared that guests from the Rotary Club were hosted at another camp recently. Commissioner Kaplan discussed the importance of developing relationships with businesses and advocates to support the changes the Department is working to make. He encouraged Commissioner Kaplan to connect him to the contact and he would follow up. He shared that there is a lot of interest in public-private partnerships and lots

of willingness to do things differently to build greater understanding of the challenges faced by Probation youth and staff.

Commissioner Butler sought greater detail on Kilpatrick Opening. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that Campus Kilpatrick opened with 6 boys and today has 9 youth. They will grow by 3 youth each week until they fill the space for 24. They will stay at 24 for 6 months to allow the research project established. We have skeleton protocols that are being aligned with the LA Model and together will form the manual that can support replication to other facilities. The proposed consolidation of camps will support the culture change as well. Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell confirmed that youth need to be between 15.9 to 17.9 and still be in high school to be part of the random selection that sends youth to Kilpatrick. He also confirmed that by design, there are NO "special" admits; all students eligible get an opportunity to be part of the positive programming that is meant to be able to serve all youth. He reminds all that it is important to have outcomes that support the effort that when staff are trained, and the program is sold, the results of treatment will speak for themselves.

The **Hope Center** update was provided at the meeting from Residential Treatment Services Branch and by email for Detention Services Bureau. Monica Garcia emailed the report regarding Hope Center data at juvenile hall on Thursday, July 13, 2017. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell provided a narrative that support the positive trend in reducing referrals to the Hope Center. He spoke with pride about work done at Camp Rockey, where staff were provided training and tools to address issues with youth. Staff must feel safe and secure to do their work. Positive programming and positive relationships provided the basis to continue this trend. He pointed out that Gonzales had zero incidents resulting in Hope Center visits for 7 months.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell reminded all that when a youth is referred to the Hope Center, Department of Mental Health staff conducts a Behavior Chain Analysis where a youth is supported to understand the actions and decisions that caused the referral and then to assess if a youth is ready to return to the general population. This was an adjustment for staff that were used to isolating youth experiencing issues and now they must deal with the youth. The numbers fluctuate but in general and overall they are going down. LA County had moved away from solitary confinement years ago.

Responses to Inspections Reports were provided by Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell.

At Barry J Nidorf, the Department noted that the food is unappealing for some youth. Morrison is the vendor for the halls, they have two years left on the contract. Staff does ensure that the youth get enough food and that it is available. Additionally, there was a concern that food was being wasted. He shared that the protocol is to make food available for second serving if desired.

Phone calls are provided when youth arrive at the hall and then one call on a weekly basis. Staff is responsible to ensure that youth can make the call.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell asked Commissioners to email or call himself, Dennis Carrol or Sean Porter if they encounter a specific concern. Leadership welcomes notice on anything that is of concern. He shared that there are many programs and when an

incident was reported that a child was not allowed to participate in a religious service due to staffing, that was addressed.

An overview was provided of the services provided by the Department of Mental Health:

DMH screening & Psych referral	Individual Therapy	Group Therapy	Family Therapy (limited)	Anger Management Group
Charlene's Group	Crisis Management	Hope Center Appointments	Targeted Case Management	Discharge Services and Linkage
Self-Referrals				

At Barry J. Nidorff, a mental health clinician has been assigned to each living unit. In addition, the following programs are available:

Center for the Empowerment of Families	Drumming 4 Life	Inside Out Writers	Yoga for Youth
Books Beyond Bars	Cloud and Fire	Armory of Arts	Swan Within Ballet-Merryland Dance Studio
AA/Substance Abuse	Religious Services		

There was a question about waiting DK Center. Right now, it has 8 cottages with 48 youth. There should not be a large waiting list for Kirby. There is a screening process and sometimes youth are unclear about their status in the process.

There is a desire to align the staff training at halls and camps. We are re-writing our safe crisis management plans with trauma informed care at its center. We want to be preventative with early intervention. Traditionally, RTSB has been given different training because youth are there longer. Today, the Department wants to offer staff increased training of trauma informed care, de-escalation, dialectical behavior therapy, case management, family engagement, positive programing etc. This investment in training will support the Department in many ways.

Commissioner Butler emphasized the need to 1) review the process to transfer girls to Dorothy Kirby as she had engaged three girls at BJN 2) review the protocol for allowing girls to be out of their rooms during visiting and 3) protocol for access to second helpings of food. Her encounters were with the girls in the same unit and Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell asked for an email to expedite the review.

Commissioner Yamashiro wanted to understand the issues at Dorothy Kirby Center that caused that facility to have capacity that is not available to youth. Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell offered to have the director attend to discuss in greater detail if that was

desired by the Commission or provide greater detail in writing. He also shared that there were issues related to staffing, hiring and impact of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The discussion continued to discuss challenges and opportunities at Dorothy Kirby Center and hiring in general within the Department. He stressed the importance of accelerating the process of hiring, reflecting the diversity of the community and providing continued training to support the staff.

To begin the response to the **Camp Afflerbaugh Inspection Report, Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell** informed all that the dishwasher repair estimates was \$6,072.46, it was completed on June 30, 2017 and the purchase order is underway. Commissioner Gardener confirmed it was an industrial machine. The lifeguard chair was submitted and a purchase order has been issued and it is pending delivery in 3 weeks. This site will require a new commercial washer. The purchase of the commercial washer is currently in the bidding process with ISD. Most laundry is done off site through a contract provider. President Gardner commented on the continued repair on machines at Afflerbaugh and Paige. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell acknowledged a break in service for two months but it is back on line now.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell acknowledged the inspection template that was used for this report. The standardized report is most helpful as the questions and concerns are clear. If issues are delineated, then the Department can respond.

In the discussion of program and arts partners, Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that for all who want to partner at Kilpatrick, he asks that they consider investing at Central Juvenile Hall as well. He expressed a need for beatification of all facilities, especially Central. Commissioner Kaplan shared that Judge Nash accompanied her to a visit to Central and he had a strong reaction about the condition of the facility. There was discussion that youth and staff present depressed and tense attitudes and behaviors. Everyone agreed that Central Juvenile Hall was in dire need of a both a short term and long term plan to address the facility needs. Commissioner Levine encouraged expanding the painting and clean up used to transform the Hope Center to every unit at Central. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that MSB has a plan in the works to invest in the Central Juvenile Hall facility. Everyone agreed the facility and environment impact the staff as well as the students.

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell reported that Central has several high-quality staff and a new superintendent in Dalila Alcantara. This is a high need space where senior staff, experienced in the work and the department are most needed. The Commission discussed the possible strategies to assemble a diverse team at Central with various perspectives, skills and time in the profession. Commissioner Meredith shared experiences with current cohorts and the need to balance academic skills and life experience to be best prepared for managing self and provide services to youth. Lastly, the fountain at Afflerbaugh has been installed and is functioning properly.

Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell shared that two weeks ago, the Department initiated a weekend facility inspection review to increase internal support and review. All managers are being assigned once a quarter and produce an internal document to identify strengths and needs. Chiefs McDonald, Mitchell, Bingham are all participating.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

President Gardner informed all that the letter dated **June 26, 2017 from the Commission to Chief McDonald regarding Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds** had been sent and he awaits her response.

President Gardner asked for a review of **pending items**. He recognized that the communication with the Department and the support for meetings has improved.

Commissioner Yamashiro recommended that the judicial presentation regarding juvenile traffic court be eliminated since work is being done through another committee. He also requested to withdraw follow up to the Kids at Hope presentation.

Commissioner Meredith informed that the contract for the Office of Independent Monitor was not renewed by the Board thus eliminating this presentation.

The following items remain on the pending list:

- Follow-up on a report from Ombudsman Office. Status of submission from youth (motion by Commissioner Caster). The Ombudsman position is vacant now.
- Opinion from County Counsel about teleconferencing Commission meetings and revision of Bylaws.

County Counsel Andrew Hurley shared that the rules are clear on teleconferencing for Commission meetings. It is possible if rules for public notice are adhered to. President Gardner asked for the information in writing. Commissioner Butler asked him to include the option of a commissioner being out of the country and on the phone for a meeting but not able to participate in voting.

Mr. Hurley also informed that the schedule and frequency of meetings is part of the Commission Bylaws and can be changed by the Commission.

- Quarterly update on Hope Center usage from RTSB and DSB.
- Update by LA County Supt. Duardo & Jesus Corral on Aug. 24, 2017
- Use of medication in juvenile facilities by Department of Mental Health psychiatrists, Dr. Damerla and Dr. Thompson on Sept. 14, 2017
- Report back from Chief D. Mitchell re: Project to improve programming through all camps. September 14, 2017

Commissioner Levine asked that regular updates on the work to provide additional **training to the staff at Juvenile Hall** be added as a monthly report back. She wants to stay informed on how many people are trained, how many are yet to be trained, the timeline for any related work. Chief Mitchell shared that it will take 3-6 months to finalize the curriculum. Commissioner Levine asked for a report back on September 14, 2017.

Commissioners asked about the status of the **Proposed Camp Closure plan**. Chief Mitchell shared that four board offices have expressed support and another one still has questions. Information will be shared as it becomes available.

Commissioner Butler asked that an update on the process to provide **California identification cards or Driver's Licenses to youth** returning to the community be scheduled. She is concerned that although this is an identified part of Aftercare/ Re-entry, there are situations where youth leave without this basic tool. Acting Chief Mitchell shared that it is a part of the process for youth in placement and is expected to be identified as a need during the Multidisciplinary Team meeting at camp.

Commissioner Meredith requested a placeholder for a report back in January, 2018 on the **Hiring, Training and Retaining** of staff. The Commission discussed elements of the process that are challenges and opportunities to ensuring a full, capable and supported workforce. He also invites all Commissioners to participate in the graduation in August.

Commissioner Kaplan shared that there was nothing to report at this meeting. for the **Mental Health Committee**. She recruited Commissioner Levine to join the committee.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- California Probation, Parole, & Correctional Association 86th Annual Training Conference, September 12-14, 2017, Queen Mary, Long Beach. President Gardner will confirm that the training being offered can be offered to the LA Commission on another day since there is a conflict with the regular meeting of September 14, 2017.
- Reminder to email activities for Quarterly Recap Submissions. The 2nd Quarter Recap will cover activity from April to June.
- Public Defender's Office and Probation will hold a Holiday Party on December 2, 2017 tentatively from 11 am – 2 pm at Barry J. Nidorff Juvenile Hall. Support in any way is welcomed. Please see Ms. Khamashta for more details.
- LA Sparks will hold a "We are Women" event on August 27, 2017. Commissioner Butler has access to tickets to youth. Last year girls from Scott and Scudder attended.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

President Gardner adjourned the meeting at 11:41 A.M.