



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



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 8, 2018**

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, March 8, 2018, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Room 140A, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. Commission 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Levine welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. She informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting was being recorded. She asked that all identify themselves prior to making any statements.

The following Commissioners were present:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jan Levine  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seaver  
Commissioner Meredith  
Commissioner Caster  
Commissioner Shutan  
Commissioner Butler  
Commissioner Yamashiro  
Commissioner Herbon  
Commissioner Mitchell

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Hoover  
Commissioner Martinez  
Commissioner Saab  
Commissioner Kaplan  
Commissioner Quintana

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**Commissioners**

Joe Gardner-President,  
Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Daniel Seaver – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Alex Saab, Esq., Randy Herbon, Jessica Quintana

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The following staff were present:

Jack Sims  
Luis Dominguez  
James T. Johnson  
Patricia Rodriguez

The following individuals were present:

Kevin Obanion, Probation Department  
Wendy Smith, Children's Commission  
Cookie Lommel, AFSCME, Local 685  
Ramon Quintana, Public Defender  
Tyson Nelson, County Counsel  
Celeste Freeman, Witness LA

## **II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Commissioner Levine announced President Gardner had a death in the family therefore he is absent and she will be conducting the meeting. Commissioner Levine requested a moment of silence to provide our thoughts and prayers to President Gardner and his family.

## **III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE**

### **Response of Issues from CJH Inspection Report by Commissioner Caster on January 17, 2018**

Acting Deputy Chief Dominguez reported on the youth allegations matter at Central Juvenile Hall. As stated in the last meeting, the Probation Department cannot disclose or discuss the matter. The matter is being investigated and addressed; there are mandated reporters that need to follow reporting procedures and policies. Commissioner Levine inquired on what the standing rules are. Acting Deputy Chief Dominguez stated as mandated reporters, whenever they receive allegations of child abuse, they are required to follow-up with a report to local law enforcement agency or Department of Children and Family Services, (DCFS). Once an allegation is made, they file a suspected child abuse report. Internal Affairs handles the investigation; once they finalize the investigation a confidential report is made.

Mr. Phillips from County Counsel stated the Commission can file a JP537 and go through the regular office as any other organization seeking juvenile records but there is not a numerated exception to 827 that will allow the Probation Commission to access the file.

Mr. Tyson Nelson of County Counsel stated there is a debate if the Probation Commission of Los Angeles County qualifies as a Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). Commissioner Levine would like to have a response to the allegations based on Commissioner Caster's conversation and inspection report.

As Commissioner Meredith recalls, the Commission is not entitled to any matter that is under investigation whether the outcome is sustained or not sustained. Commissioner Shutan asked the Commission to obtain clarification on the matter.

Commissioner Levine asked for this matter and further discussion to be tabled for the next meeting. Commissioner Levine requested for a committee from the Commission to communicate in the next two weeks. Commissioner Levine made a motion to create a committee to review the matter and have Commissioner Yamashiro, Commissioner Shutan, and Commissioner Seaver to serve on the committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seaver and approved.

### **Central Juvenile Hall Inspection on Rat Traps**

Mr. James Johnson, Administrative Services Division Manager for Management Services Bureau, reported there is no rat issue at Central Juvenile Hall. The Probation Department has taken preventive steps to control vermin at the facility. They have purchase covered trash cans and have increase the frequency in service. The reason there is several rat traps is to prevent vermin from entering and breeding inside the facility. The next day after Commissioner Caster visited the facility, the pest control company reposition the rat traps. The pest control indicated that there were some activity and they reposition some of the traps to less visible locations. There are some areas where the traps where not moved to a less visible location and that is how vermin enter the facility. The traps are there to prevent rodent issues in the facility and not because there is a vermin issue. Commissioner Caster requested the number of traps in the facility and how many there were at the time of the inspection.

Commissioner Levine inquired if the pest control provided other measures of prevention. The facility has been informed not to leave trash at night and cover the trash cans with the covers provided.

Commissioner Caster asked where the rats are coming from. Mr. Johnson will inquire. Commissioner Yamashiro inquired if the Probation Department knew there was a vermin issue or if it was just a measure to prevent them. Mr. Johnson stated in the past there were issues with vermin precisely with rats and that adequate measures were taken.

Commissioner Levine inquired if there is a rat problem at the other Detention Services Bureau (DSB) facilities. Mr. Johnson stated there are no other vermin issues at other facilities, but it is a matter of educating staff and taking preventative measures. Commissioner Caster asked what the Probation Department defines as a rat problem.

Mr. Johnson detailed they must review previous reports. When the vendor inspects the traps, they will notify specific Directors or manager if they see an issue with vermin that would require additional traps or if other measures need to be taken.

Commissioner Herbon inquired if the Probation Department has communicated with County USC and discussed if there is some vermin issue and if they have the same types of traps. Do the traps have poison bait on them and die somewhere else or are they trapped in a trap? Are they at the camps as well? Mr. Johnson stated the Probation Department has not talked to anyone in USC regarding the problem. The traps are stick controlled, the ones with glue, they do not use poison. They remove and replace the traps twice a week. Commissioner Seaver asked for a report on what type of traps are at other facilities and how many are at each facility. Commissioner Caster is request information on where the rats are coming from.

### **Training Update**

Acting Deputy Chief Dominguez reported on the last update in January 2018, 420 staff were trained. As of March 2018, there has been 493 staff trained. The Probation Department finished the second meeting with the Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) model training team. To provide a safer environment for the youth, they are focusing on all training initiatives including Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) This information is only for the juvenile halls. Line staff and DMH partners are the staff currently being trained. The Probation Department is planning on training all staff. They are viewing the Georgetown model and implementing that framework. They want to provide staff with trauma-informed training, just providing training it will not get the Department where they need to be. The Probation Department needs to be strategic about the training in the trauma-informed classes. The camps began training before the juvenile halls. They were using a different vendor at the time. Commissioner Seaver requested a brief training update of the camps.

Commissioner Herbon inquired if the Commission can attend the eight-hour training. Acting Deputy Chief Dominguez confirmed they can attend and added there was a four-hour training on PREA. The trainer at the camps is Monique Morrow and at the juvenile halls it is Dr. Brittany Curry. This initiative is part of the Los Angeles youths in custody practice model. They will incorporate all the training together as they bring all the initiatives to the institutions. They are currently providing training to identify the triggers and deal with some of the youth who have experienced trauma, but do not have the skill set that they need. The plan is to bring an extensive comprehensive training to the halls as part of custody practice model.

Commissioner Levine requested a monthly update of training that shows the progress in developing the strategic approach. Acting Deputy Chief Dominguez provided a brief background on how they are using the approach of the custody model. The Probation Department is currently conducting a full assessment of the current programing on what is being utilized in the facilities and how the department is engaging with the youth. They are visiting all the juvenile halls to ensure that the department is being consistent at all the locations. This program is being conducted at all the juvenile halls not the camps. They are focusing on all three juvenile halls and are still in the assessment process; once they finalize the assessment process they will identify the critical areas, where they are being deficient, and where they have a significant need. After, they will

start addressing those areas and a plan will be implemented. It is a strategic approach that will take time to develop. Acting Deputy Chief Dominguez will bring the assessment team from the youth incarcerated practice model to provide the Commission with all the information on what experience they had with the Probation Department and where the Probation Department is headed.

Commissioner Levine requested for the training dates schedule to be given to Ms. Rodriguez, she will then provide it to the Commission.

Commissioner Seaver has requested a daily population report for the juvenile halls to include how many youths are in the Hope Center. Commissioner Herbon requested to include the pepper spray and view the use of force report, with the number of how many youths and staff were involved. Commissioner Seaver would like the same information from the camps.

Commissioner Levine received a report in response to the concerns of the welfare of the youths at the camps system and cultural issues in the facilities. The response was from a letter submitted by Commissioners Yamashiro, Gardner, and Butler. The report had issues of sexual abuse with an inmate youth. The report was not received in time to be placed on the agenda and decimated to the Commission. The report will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Commissioner Priorities**

The Commission discussed the priorities for the year. Commissioner Yamashiro suggested to send out an email to all Commissioners, he would like all to review and return their response to Ms. Rodriguez and President Gardner with the most important to the least important issues to discuss for the 2018 year.

Commissioner Yamashiro made a motion to have the status report from the Board of Supervisors on the reorganization of the Probation Commission. The motion was second by Commissioner Seaver and the motion was approved.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Meredith would like to receive notifications from the Probation Department of incidents of significant consequences like a civil disturbance or when staff or youth get injured; there has never been a protocol. Chief Sheila Mitchell has been working on the matter.

Commissioner Levine stated at a previous meeting the Probation Department reported on the matter and stated the Commission will not receive the notifications as they do not want the issues to be made public. Commissioner Meredith stated if the article goes to the press, the Commission should be notified.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Levine adjourned the meeting at 11: 55 A.M.