



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



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2018**

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Kenneth Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, First Floor, Room 140 A, Los Angeles, California 90012.

I. Commission President Joe Gardner called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. President Gardner informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting was being recorded and 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 Daniel Seaver  
Commissioner Meredith  
Commissioner Yamashiro  
Commissioner Caster  
Commissioner Shutan  
Commissioner Butler  
Commissioner Herbon  
Commissioner Quintana

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Kaplan  
Commissioner Martinez  
Commissioner Mitchell  
Commissioner Hoover

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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.), Esq., Randy Herbon, Jessica Quintana

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The following staff were present:

Sheila Mitchell, Chief Deputy  
Dave Mitchell, Deputy Director  
Luis Dominguez, Acting Deputy Director  
Jack Sims, Probation Director  
Patricia Rodriguez, Secretary  
Genesis Cervantes, Staff Assistant

The following individuals were present:

Superior Court Judge, Peter Espinoza, Office of Diversion and Reentry  
Taylor Schooley, Office of Diversion and Reentry  
Brain Baum, Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender  
Cookie Lommel, Union, AFSCME Local 685  
Winston Peters, Public Defenders Office

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Shutan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2018. Commissioner Levine seconded the motion and minutes were approved. Commissioner Seaver abstained.

## **III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND REENTRY YOUTH DIVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT TEAM PRESENTATION**

Judge Peter Espinoza, Director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry, introduced a new program model approved by the Board of Supervisors with the purpose to divert youth involvement from the justice system. Judge Espinoza stated on November 2017, the Board of Supervisors put together a Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) workgroup and were given the task to create countywide structure for youth diversion and development. Judge Espinoza stated it was a fascinating process in which 15 meetings took place. Law enforcement and community activists discussed racial disparity among other issues in the justice system. As a result of those meetings, the Board of Supervisors created a new division under Health Services and the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) to work on youth diversion with the collaboration of the Probation Department. Currently the program does not have any permanent staff but ODR has been working alongside Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and have been up and running since November 2017.

Taylor Schooley discussed the planning efforts to divert youth from the justice system. Ms. Schooley stated that Los Angeles County is part of My Brother's Keeper initiative. The ODR strategic planning was taken from evidence and work collected in 2015 which shows 13,000 youths were arrested in Los Angeles County. Ms. Schooley stated that evidence shows that diversion is most effective when it is done at the earliest stage of contact. Ms. Schooley stated ODR acknowledges there are opportunities to advance

efforts done at later stages but for now the planning effort is hyper-focused on the first point of contact youths have with the justice system and law enforcement. Early intervention efforts can improve education, avoid trauma, and exposure to violence. ODR plans to setup every law enforcement agency in the County of Los Angeles with a community partner to divert youth at the earliest point of contact and improve their outcomes.

Commissioner Seaver inquired if law enforcement agencies have already partnered with community service providers. Ms. Schooley mentioned funding to support this new model will be distributed to community providers in early summer to initiate the program.

Commissioner Seaver inquired if ODR plans to fully divert or partly divert youth? Ms. Schooley stated a law enforcement officer can make the decision to refer youths to a community provider if it is a new arrest, except for a 707(b) offense for youth 14 and older. It is legally possible to connect roughly 80% of youth arrested annually to a community service provider in Los Angeles County. Ms. Schooley stated that 90% of youth who come in contact with the justice system will not become chronic adult offenders in the future. In planning the program, ODR came up with diversion options depending on the youth's situation. Their main focus is to provide youth with an individualized plan of diversion that will be most effective.

Commissioner Seaver inquired if ODR can provide a diversion experience that does not feel stigmatizing. Ms. Schooley stated there are law enforcement agencies that run their own diversion program models, some being more successful than others. It is harder for law enforcement models to be free of stigma and negativity associated with involvement in the justice system. ODR is trying to provide enough evidence on what works in other jurisdictions when diversion is fully in the hands of community organizations who give oversight through a coordinated body and provide youth an individualized diversion plan.

Commissioner Caster inquired if the program was intentionally placed in Health Services rather than the Probation Department to avoid stigma. Ms. Schooley stated the program under Health Services would work best as Health Services has a greater network of services available. Ms. Schooley stated creating a data system for youths' records separate from the justice system would also avoid stigma.

Commissioner Caster runs an outreach program through the EveryChild foundation that offers grants and civilian services for diversion. Several police departments are currently working with the Centinela area office. Commissioner Caster would like to know how those relationships relate to the organization. Ms. Schooley stated that all agencies were involved in the planning process in which is reflected in the structure of the model. The flexibility allows agencies to get additional support in certain areas but in terms of contracts and rollout, the implementation will be phased. The first year ODR will begin with 5 to 10 partnerships and then rollout countywide. The reason for a steady start is to have time to expand partnerships. The funding for the program will be distributed by placing a bid. If an organization would like to request more funding, there is an

application process. ODR will be working with partners and see where they can expand and what may work for their organization.

Commissioner Meredith stated his concerns regarding documentation that can affect the youth's future. Judge Espinoza stated there is a digital referral in place and both law agencies and CBOs will be able to access this system. ODR wants to make sure youth's data is placed in their health system at the earliest point of contact, before an arrest, as there will be no record of arrest. ODR is working with law enforcement to find the best ways to protect youths' data.

Commissioner Yamashiro addressed his concern on the standardization across CBOs and the patchwork with no uniformity coming into the system. Ms. Schooley clarified the way that the Health Services contracting process works is that CBOs will receive referrals along with standard guidelines. The core role will be to conduct intake assessments that reflect ODR's standards. Providers must then provide a care plan and must show how they will provide services to the youth. Ms. Schooley stated there are 10 categories of services they must provide. There will be an internal and an external evaluator that will be assessing the organization countywide throughout the year.

Commissioner Quintana discussed her concerns with overlapping and standardization in ODR's organization with law enforcement. Ms. Schooley stated they are working closely with the police departments to see if they can shift current practices and what can be done so youths' cases can be diverted. Commissioner Quintana also mentioned she feels the need for a planning process to take place to see what the case management system will look like. Ms. Schooley stated during the planning process they considered effective ways to keep youths away from the justice system and to integrate the youth back into school during that process. They saw the need for standardization across many communities in Los Angeles, relationships between partners, funding, and training technical assistants which is why the ODR model is setup the way that it is. Ms. Schooley stated in regards to standardization of service providers, they must complete a partnership agreement. Commissioner Quintana would like ODR to follow-up with the youths whose cases can be diverted to ensure successful outcomes.

Ms. Schooley stated that ODR does not overlap with the Probation Department, rather they have partnered to join both of their visions. ODR will continue to communicate openly with the Probation Department and thanked them for being a great financial partner. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated that the Probation Department allocated 12 million dollars to the ODR youth diversion program. Ms. Schooley stated none of the funds will go directly to law enforcement agencies.

President Gardner requested for Ms. Schooley to address questions that were previously submitted by the Probation Commission.

Ms. Schooley stated there are no current service providers. There will be a competitive bidding process and funds will then be awarded depending on the qualifications of the community service providers.

Ms. Schooley stated the first year they plan to have 5 to 10 service providers over the course of a 4-year countywide rollout. Each cohort of 5 to 10 providers is hoping to serve roughly 1,000 youth.

Ms. Schooley stated the clients' perspectives were taken into consideration during the planning process. They will provide space for public dialogue to hear from the youth, clients, and community.

Commissioner Levine asked for clarification on the 80% of youth arrested that would qualify for ODR's diversion program and asked if ODR plans to divert 11,000 youth. Ms. Schooley clarified that those numbers were taken from the youths arrested in 2015 throughout all Los Angeles County. Ms. Schooley stated that the 1,000 youth planned to be diverted is per cohort of 5 to 10 service providers throughout all Los Angeles County. ODR hopes to reach that 80% number once they rollout countywide.

Commissioner Caster stated that the Miami Dade model is one of the most successful diversion programs. In the Miami Dade standardization, every youth that was brought in went through a central assessment center. Commissioner Caster wanted to ensure ODR investigated effective models, such as the Miami Dade model, to incorporate what works into ODR's model. Ms. Schooley stated they viewed the Miami Dade model among other successful diversion programs during the planning process but the Miami Dade Model involves only one law enforcement agency whereas ODR's model involves multiple law enforcement agencies throughout Los Angeles County. With ODR's model they had to take into consideration what would work best for the geography of Los Angeles and fit the needs of localized partnerships.

Commissioner Caster discussed how all three Los Angeles Police Department Chiefs Patrick Gannon, Bob Greene, and Bill Scott stated "You don't judge a kid by their crime but by the circumstances." Thus, they were allowing wobblers which caused a lot of controversy. Commissioner Caster asked the ODR team if they agreed with the statement and action. Judge Espinoza stated ODR absolutely agrees. Commissioner Shutan clarified wobblers were not 707(b) offenses.

Commissioner Butler asked the ODR team if there would be any sort of record on the youth that go through the diversion program. Judge Espinoza stated there will be a record on ODR's data system that will show if the youth had been diverted. Law enforcement agencies have access to the database, ODR is currently working on what the access will look like and how much access of youths' information will be given.

Commissioner Quintana discussed the need for funding of sector training for officers that come in contact with youth. Ms. Schooley stated that ODR has allocated funding within their budget for officer training, and are in the process of private sector training.

Commissioner Shutan inquired how ODR will provide access to youths' information in case a youth re-enters the justice system. Judge Espinoza mentioned they would track the youths that go through the diversion program in their database and law enforcement agencies would be able to access the information. It would then be up to the agency working with the youth to decide whether to re-enter the youth through the diversion program or not.

Commissioner Seaver requested for Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell to keep the Commission updated on the ODR's diversion program and thanked the team for their presentation.

#### **IV. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION UPDATE**

Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell mentioned the Probation Department has updated their training calendar for trauma informed care. Some locations were changed. All dates remain the same and the updated calendar was provided.

Chief Deputy Mitchell reported the Probation Department had a meeting on Thursday April 19, 2018 with Dr. Monique Marrow and with Probation Department's partner agencies to develop the appropriate pro-dynamic aspects of the L.A. Model in the juvenile halls. The L.A. Model in juvenile halls will look slightly different from the camps, as the youths' length of stay differs. Chief Deputy Mitchell announced a date will be scheduled for Dr. Monique Marrow to attend an upcoming Probation Commission meeting and discuss how the L.A. Model will be implemented for juvenile halls. In addition, the presentation will include a profile being conducted by Dr. Marrow of youths currently being incarcerated in Los Angeles County.

Chief Deputy Mitchell stated her team visited a facility in Santa Clarita County in which they did inexpensive remodeling and hope to incorporate what they learned in Los Angeles County's facilities. Chief Deputy Mitchell mentioned the training at Campus Kilpatrick is finalizing and the next camps the Probation Department will be expanding the L.A. Model to are Camp Paige and Camp Afflerbaugh. Deputy Director Dave Mitchell stated that a 2-week training on the L.A. Model was recently conducted at Camp Rockey. This training was previously conducted at Camp McNair and Camp Scott. The Probation Department is considering what is the most feasible way to train staff as they close and renovate camps. Deputy Director Mitchell stated renovations at the girls' dorms in Camp Scudder have not yet begun.

Commissioner Seaver inquired from the Probation Department what are the outcomes that have been noticed between the 2-week trainings compared to the 4-week trainings. Deputy Director Dave Mitchell stated the Probation Department has trained Detention Services Bureau (DSB) staff with the 2-week trainings model. The Department has seen dramatic reduction of hope center referrals, as much as 80 percent to 90 percent, at Camp Rockey.

Commissioner Seaver requested an update on integrating the girls at Camp Scott to Campus Kilpatrick. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated the Probation Department has decided not to move the girls to Campus Kilpatrick. The Department is currently working on developing a model for health screenings which profile the girls in camps to determine if the girls are at the camps because they are high need or high risk. The Department will then work on determining which community options are best for the youths. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell mentioned the girls will stay at Camp Scott at this time.

Commissioner Caster inquired about the timeline of the camps that will be receiving the 2-week training model and the expansion of Campus Kilpatrick. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated the Probation Department is currently working on training staff and the integration of youths at Campus Kilpatrick.

Commissioner Caster inquired why the Probation Department has taken so long for Campus Kilpatrick to serve the youths at its full capacity. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell mentioned the next 24 youths will be moved to Campus Kilpatrick on May 20, 2018. As this is a new model for the Department, they wanted to take time to train staff and ensure that staff understands the model. Chief Mitchell mentioned an additional 24 youths will be moved to Campus Kilpatrick by September or November 2018. The capacity for Campus Kilpatrick is for 108 youths, if the number of youths are increased there are concerns there might be consequences. To avoid consequences, the Probation Department is moving slowly and effectively.

Commissioner Caster would like to know what Mark Steward thought about the pace in which the Probation Department is currently heading. Chief Mitchell stated the Probation Department worked with Mark Steward for 3 to 4 years at James Ranch in Santa Clarita before their camp was at full capacity. At the time, there was no trauma element in their training and now there is. Chief Mitchell assumes Mr. Stewart would think the pace is appropriate but could ask him directly. Commissioner Herbon added the pace is slow because it is difficult to add new staff and youths. The staff needs to be well-prepared for the new youths that arrive.

Commissioner Herbon requested a response on the 685 E-Gram letter that was sent out to staff. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated the response will be provided to the Probation Commission as it is a public document.

Chief Deputy Mitchell thanked Commissioner Kaplan for a referral that was provided. On May 17, 2018, the Probation Department will be hosting about 40 committed citizens interested in criminal justice and they have requested for the Probation Department to identify a wish list of the top 20 improvements they would like to see.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **VI. OLD AND CONTINUED BUSINESS**

Commissioner Caster requested a vector control report on pest control from Central Juvenile Hall. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated she will follow-up on the matter.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Deputy Mitchell informed the Commission there is an invitation to a Probation Department Open House at one of the boys' care units, a set date will be announced at a later time for the Commission to join.

President Gardner stated the Chief Executive Office, Probation Entity report was supported by Kathryn Barger. He requested for the Commission to look over the report.

Commissioner Levine stated the Board of Supervisors will vote on adopting the report and encouraged the Commission to inform their Supervisors whether they support adopting the Probation Entity report, as the Board of Supervisors values the Commission's input.

President Gardner discussed the Probation Entity report. He stated there will be permanent staff for the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) to support its operations. Their offices will be located at Kenneth Hall of Administration under the Executive Office. There will be more resources which will include an investigative team, an Executive Director along with staff, and funding. President Gardner stated there might be less Commissioners and an adult component.

Commissioner Levine mentioned a trauma informed care training session she attended on Tuesday April 24, 2018. Dr. Marrow worked with staff and went over what kind of trauma youths were exposed to, youths' brain development, and ways to respond to the youths. Commissioner Levine stated that about 25 to 30 staff attended the training, all of which are going to Campus Kilpatrick. Commissioner Levine stated she felt as though staff were very receptive and were considering everything that was being taught based on the questions they asked. Commissioner Levine stated many officers felt the training could not be implemented at the juvenile halls. The Probation Department discussed creating a different training plan for the officers at the juvenile halls. Commissioner Levine stated most staff seemed to be experienced officers. Commissioner Levine discussed how the Commission has inquired for several years for the Probation Department to offer trauma training at the academies because new staff tend to be placed in very challenging positions.



### **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Gardner announced that on May 26, 2018 there will be an Academy Graduation. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

President Gardner moved to adjourned the meeting. His motion was moved by Commissioner Seaver. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.