



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



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 24, 2018**

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, May 10, 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 President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:04 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Daniel Seaver  
Commissioner Meredith  
Commissioner Martinez  
Commissioner Yamashiro  
Commissioner Kaplan  
Commissioner Shutan  
Commissioner Herbon  
Commissioner Quintana

The following Commissioners were not present:

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jan Levine  
Commissioner Caster  
Commissioner Mitchell  
Commissioner Hoover  
Commissioner Butler

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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.), Randy Herbon, Jessica Quintana

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The following staff were present:

Sheila Mitchell, Chief Deputy  
Dave Mitchell, Deputy Director  
Felicia Cotton, Deputy Director  
Catherine Avila, Probation Staff  
Patricia Rodriguez, Secretary  
Genesis Cervantes, Staff Assistant

The following individuals were present:

Tyson Nelson, Deputy County Counsel  
Nicole Davis Tinkerhim, Public Defender's Office  
Winston Peters, Public Defender's Office  
Cookie Lommel, AFSCME, Local 685

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Shutan made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2018. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Commissioner Shutan made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2018. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion and minutes were approved. Commissioner Meredith abstained.

Commissioner Seaver made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2018. Commissioner Yamashiro seconded the motion and minutes were approved.

Commissioner Seaver made a motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2018. Commissioner Quintana seconded the motion and minutes were approved. Commissioner Shutan abstained.

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

### **W.I.C 236 Report Back**

Chief Deputy, Sheila Mitchell discussed the W.I.C. 236 programming's focus was to work with youth in schools who are at high-risk. The Probation Department has taken into consideration research that suggests working with youth that are not on probation may lead youth deeper into the justice system. Thus, the Probation Department has decided to phase out working with high-risk youth and instead have school based staff focus on the youth on probation. Chief Mitchell stated at the end of April 2018 Probation Officers were pulled out of middle schools and by the end of June 2018 Probation Officers will be pulled out of the high schools. The Probation Department is working with the Office of Diversion to determine what can be done to prevent high-risk youth from entering the justice system. The Probation Department is meeting with schools and are

looking at a nonprofit organization based in Chicago and their effective model for youth diversion. School principals will be flying to Chicago to look at that model.

Commissioner Shutan requested a snapshot of the research that suggests Probation Officers working with youth that are not on probation may lead youth deeper into the justice system. Chief Mitchell stated the research will be shared with the Commission.

Commissioner Herbon stated his concerns with the removal of school based Probation Officers in light of recent school shootings. Chief Mitchell stated there is no intent to remove Probation Officers from schools, rather Probation Officers will no longer service high-risk youth and will only focus on youth on probation. The Probation Department has met with schools and discussed the issue of schools being understaffed. Additional aid from the Probation Officers was helpful but there was a consensus that law enforcement should not fill that role.

Commissioner Yamashiro discussed the need of services high-risk youth require but agreed with the Probation Department's decision to remove Probation Officers from those services.

Commissioner Martinez discussed his two W.I.C 236 reports. Commissioner Martinez observed staff and youth were not engaging in the program. Commissioner Martinez stated he would share his two reports with the Probation Commission. A response from the Probation Department is set for June 28, 2018.

Commissioner Quintana stated her support on the phasing out of the W.I.C 236 programming and stated funds should go to afterschool and preventative programs.

Commissioner Shutan discussed his concerns with high-risk youth during the transition period of phasing out the W.I.C 236 programming.

#### Probation Department's Report Back on How It Tracks Youths' Outcomes

Chief Deputy, Sheila Mitchell provided the Commission with current operational metrics reports of the Juvenile Field Services Bureau and the Residential Treatment Services Bureau. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated the Probation Department reached out to the National Council of Crime and Delinquency to conduct an evaluation at Campus Kilpatrick. A template of the evaluation will be provided to the Commission to be implemented at the other facilities. Chief Deputy Mitchell asked the Commission to review the metrics data and input whether there are any other data points the Commission would like included.

Commissioner Herbon inquired the reliability of the metrics charts provided to the Commission and the public. Deputy County Counsel, Blaine McPhillips stated every document provided to the quorum of the Commission is a public document. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated none of the data provided to the Commission is confidential. The Probation Department has been working on the metrics data and are planning on making it available to the public on the Probation Department website.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired how the Probation Department uses the data to determine what is effective. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated the Probation Department looks at the key metrics to identify where improvement is needed. The Probation Department then comes up with an action plan for improvement in a given area.

#### Subcommittee Update

Commissioner Seaver provided an update on the motion that was passed on the meeting of May 10, 2018 to reconvene a subcommittee of the Commission to meet with the Probation Department to clarify exactly what agenda items the Commission requested to be addressed. Commissioner Seaver proposed the Probation Department give a presentation at the beginning of every Probation Commission meeting on the items that will be addressed in the next 30 days.

Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated a list of items of what the Probation Department will present on is sent to President Gardner. Chief Mitchell suggested this list be merged with the Commission's top priorities list. This will help the Probation Department present on points of interest and set potential dates.

Deputy County Counsel, Blaine McPhillips advised that the list, of what will be presented, must be made public and should be attached along with the distribution of the agenda.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cookie Lommel, AFSCME, Local 685 discussed in regards to the W.I.C. 236 programing that a few weeks ago, several principals, counselors, and parents sent in letters to Local 685 confirming their positive experience with school based Probation Officers and praising their work. The main point discussed in these letters was that although the counselors should fill the role of the school based Probation Officers, Probation Officers are the ones that go to youth's homes to make sure they are attending school which is something counselors are not doing. Ms. Lommel discussed she had a nonprofit organization that recruited Latino and African American youth for a trip to Israel. The youth were recruited through Probation Officers which was always successful.

## **V. OLD AND CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **Submitted Questions to the Probation Department**

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about the percentage of youth in the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings.

Commissioner Shutan inquired who is cooperating at the MDT table.

Commissioner Yamashiro requested progress data on the Office of Diversion and Re-entry.

Commissioner Kaplan requested further explanation from the Probation Department regarding the new legislation, Assembly Bill No. 12.

Commissioner Herbon inquired the following:

- What are the expectations of Deputy Probation Officers for pre-release and post-release?
- Is there a manual that shows Deputy Probation Officers expectations and can it be provided to the Commission?
- What are the Deputy Probation Officers expectations when conducting home visits?
- At what point prior to the pre-release process will the Deputy Probation Officers be working with groups of youth?
- How has the Probation Department evolved video technology placed in schools?
- Is the Probation Department exploring non-traditional partnerships for youth when released?

Commissioner Quintana inquired about the action plan for working with youth during the transition period after youth are released.

### **Discussion Plan for the Motion to Author Letter for Dedicated Mental Health Facilities**

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired if the Probation Department had any sense when the completion of the universal level-14 placement will be implemented across the board. Chief Mitchell stated with Assembly Bill 403, group homes are required to be accredited and must have a mental health overlay. By 2019 group homes must be certified in order for the Probation Department to use their services. There are already several group

homes certified and others in the process. A list of the status of the group homes will be provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Kaplan withdrew her motion to author a support letter addressing the need for dedicated mental health facilities.

Commissioner Kaplan requested an action plan for dedicated mental health facilities from the Probation Department.

Commissioner Kaplan discussed her visit at a drop-in center and although it worked well, there is a need for a live-in facility. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated the Probation Department recognizes there is a need for a dedicated mental health facility not run by the Probation Department but by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). The Probation Department is currently discussing this with the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Kaplan thanked the Probation Department for opening its doors at Central Juvenile Hall on May 17, 2018 when 40 citizens visited the facility. Commissioner Kaplan stated she received positive feedback and hopes the Probation Department continues opening its doors to the public.

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Deputy Director Dave Mitchell announced the new use of force policy training will be rolled-out to Executive Staff and extended an invitation to the Commission to attend. A date has not been finalized.

Commissioner Seaver will provide the Commission with a draft letter for the Board Supervisors in support of providing resources for school based services.

Commissioner Kaplan will submit the Dual Status Youth motion by the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Martinez thanked Cookie Lommel, AFSCME, Local 685, for attending the Probation Commission meetings and extended an invitation to every union represented by the Probation Department.

President Gardner made the following announcements:

The Juvenile Court Schools Academy Bowl will take place on May 30, 2018 from 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Autry National Center, 4700 West Heritage Way, Los Angeles 90027. A flyer was provided.

Commissioner Shutan's retirement party will take place on June 1, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. A flyer was provided.

The Operation Graduation Ceremony will take place on June 21, 2018 at 4:00 P.M. at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 South Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012. RSVP is required.

The L.A.C.D.P.O Union's 15<sup>th</sup> annual scholarship and awards banquet will take place on August 10, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City.

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council meeting will take place on May 29, 2018 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. at Grace E. Simons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park Drive, Los Angeles 90012.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Seaver moved to adjourned the meeting. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.