



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



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, August 9, 2018 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, 1st floor, Room 140A, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:16 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:

1st Vice President Jan Levine
2nd Vice President Daniel Seaver
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Herbon
Commissioner Swartz

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Hoover
Commissioner Quintana

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.), Randy Herbon, Jessica Quintana, Gale Swartz

The following staff were present:

Terri McDonald, Chief Probation Officer
Felicia Cotton, Deputy Director
Sharon Harada, Probation Bureau Chief
Luis Dominguez, Acting Deputy Director
Genesis Cervantes, Staff Assistant

The following individuals were present:

Blaine McPhillips
Eduardo Mundo
Vivian Wong
Erica Webster
Lindsay Graef
Maureen Pacheco
Natasha Khamashta
Diana Velasquez
La Carla Williams
Garrett Giffin
Nicole Davis Tinkham

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

President Gardner welcomed new Commissioner Gale Swartz. Commissioner Gale Swartz discussed her background in electrical engineering and stated she is currently serving in various commissions and hopes to bring valuable support to the Probation Commission.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Butler motioned to approve the minutes of February 22, 2018. Commissioner Shutan seconded the motion and minutes were approved. Commissioner Swartz abstained.

Commissioner Butler motioned to approve the minutes of July 12, 2018. Commissioner Meredith seconded the motion and minutes were approved. Commissioners Seaver, Swartz, and Yamashiro abstained.

IV. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Probation Department Update

Chief Probation Officer Terri McDonald updated the Commission on what the Probation Department has been working on. Chief McDonald discussed that the Probation Department has sent a request to the Board of Supervisors to stop the collecting of

juvenile fees. The Probation Department collects \$10,000 of fees monthly from about 200 families. A letter is currently being review and finalized by County Counsel requesting to stop the collecting of juvenile fees. If approved, the Board of Supervisors will give the Probation Department direction on how to move forward.

Chief McDonald stated the Probation Department intends to turn Camp Gonzales into a residential vocational training program. The Ahmanson Foundation has agreed to fund \$900,000 for the renovation of Camp Gonzales. A second foundation will donate the furniture for the facility. Chief McDonald hopes the facility will open in the beginning of next year. The age group for the facility will be 18-25-year-old male youth coming from high risk locations from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), detention, probation, or homelessness. The providers on site will be Los Angeles Trade-Tech College (LATTTC) and L.A. Kitchen. The Probation Department is also considering getting a coding or technology related provider. The Probation Department is in discussion with a United Parcel Service (UPS) representative to provide a pathway to employment for one of the camps. UPS will be visiting one of the facilities to determine whether the Probation Department can work with them and have East Los Angeles College (ELAC) help teach youth what a career in transit looks like and create a pathway for employment at UPS.

Chief McDonald discussed the Kitten Program at Camp Scott in which the female minors are taught by veterinarians from the Department of Animal Care and Control on how to care for and socialize kittens for adoption in hopes of creating a pathway for employment in the Department of Animal Care and Control.

Chief McDonald stated the Probation Department is working with Internal Services and Parks and Recreation to create a pathway to an apprenticeship program for the adult women. Winter is a female training program in which adult women will go into a training program then move to a paid apprenticeship program. The Probation Department wants to provide county jobs with the partnership of Internal Services and Parks and Recreation and support women in nontraditional jobs

Chief McDonald discussed the Probation Department is working on 2 adult programs and 1 juvenile program. One of the programs is to be partnered with the Behavioral Health Center in the Martin Luther King Hospital. The Probation Department and the Workforce Development will take over the basement of the building in collaboration with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for onsite services. A similar program is taking place in the Vermont Replacement Project. The third program is a juvenile program to create a vocational school in partnership with Metro for youth age 14-18.

Chief McDonald stated the Probation Department just hired a new Administrative Deputy Robert Smythe. The Probation Department will coordinate a date for Mr. Smythe to attend a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner Seaver stated the Commission would like to hear what is the Probation Department 5-year plan. Chief McDonald stated there is a 150-page master plan but

Chief McDonald has put together a reform and implementation team for guidance. The highlights of the master plan will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting. Chief McDonald stated the Probation Department can present the top 10 Probation Department priorities. A date will be announced.

Commissioner Butler inquired about the Probation Department's data systems. Chief McDonald stated the Probation Department has done ProbStats in the past but the data systems really struggle. The Probation Department has requested for a grant from the Productivity Commission for \$300,000 to bring someone in for guidance.

Chief McDonald stated she would like to be advised of inspections reports before the reports are signed in case there is a disagreement or misinformation that needs to be clarified. Chief McDonald asked the Commission to call her with any concerns or advice. Recently Chief McDonald received an inspection report from a third-party. Chief McDonald would like for inspection reports to be sent to her directly by the Commission before the inspection reports are published.

Commissioner Seaver stated that the Commission's protocol when writing inspection reports is that the inspection report is first shared with the Commission President then it is shared with the Probation Commission. Commissioner Seaver stated the inspection report should reflect the visit of the facility and not the discussion had with the Chief Probation Officer.

President Gardner stated that traditionally inspection reports are sent to him and then distributed to the Commission and the Probation Department.

Chief McDonald discussed that it is not the first time an inspection report has been published before being sent to the Probation Department. Chief McDonald stated that it is unusual for a report to not be sent to the Probation Department beforehand for feedback.

Commissioner Meredith stated that traditionally the protocol for the distribution of inspection reports was to be sent to the Chief Probation Officer, Chief Deputy, and the Bureau Chiefs so that they were made aware beforehand. That protocol seems to have changed. Commissioner Meredith addressed the issue that in the past the Commissioner would send reports to media before sending the reports to the Probation Department. Commissioner Meredith recommended inspection reports be sent to the Commission President and for the Chief Probation Officer Terri McDonald and Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell to be copied in the email.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired if it is a Brown Act violation when distributing inspection reports to the public before the inspection report is sent to the Probation Department. Deputy County Counsel Blaine McPhillips stated that under Brown Act regulations any report that is disseminated to a quorum of the Commission is a public document. When a report is created by a subcommittee or less than the quorum there is no Brown Act violation if sent to the Chief Probation Officer before the full Commission.

Commissioner Levine stated she does not find a problem in keeping record of inspection reports and addressed the issue of the Commission not receiving prompt responses from the Probation Department. Chief McDonald asked the Probation Commission to give the Probation Department at least 72 hours for a feedback before making a report public.

Natasha Khamashta asked if the inspection reports could be made available to the public.

Commissioner Seaver stated he would like to share the inspection reports with his Justice Deputy. President Gardner stated it could be done as soon as it is shared with the Commission.

Maureen Pacheco inquired how the public can access the inspection reports. President Gardner stated copies of the reports can be made available at the Commission meetings and hopes the reports can be made available on the Probation Commission website soon. Chief McDonald will follow-up.

Eduardo Mundo inquired why Camp Gonzales was chosen for the residential vocational training program being that it is one of the least accessible camps. Chief McDonald stated the Board of Supervisors asked the Probation Department to look at camps that are closed and determine if those camps can be used for other safety net issues. Camp Gonzales was selected because it is in relatively good shape, it is adjacent to Campus Kilpatrick which allows youth fieldtrips from Campus Kilpatrick to Camp Gonzales, and some youth need a break from the noise and to be pulled out of their neighborhoods. Chief McDonald mentioned the Camp Gonzales residential vocational training program is being run by Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

Presentation on the Camp Community Transition Program

Deputy Director Felicia Cotton presented on the Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP). Ms. Cotton went over the three phases of the CCTP practice model.

Camp Order

- Once a youth receives a camp order, the Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP) Officer is notified within 2 days of the court order.
- In the inventory and assessment phase the field Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) and the Secondary DPO meet with the youth and the family to develop a plan for the youth to be successful when released.
- The initial Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting takes place 10-14 days after camp arrival in which the CCTP DPO participates.
- Engagement with county partners and relevant stakeholders takes place.

Transition

- An assessment is done to identify youths' strengths, needs, and community goals for individualized case planning.
- Academic/ vocational linkage is made.
- DPOs work on building a community supervision plan and relapse prevention planning.

Community

- Community supervision and care team initiates.
- 90 days prior to the release date a home visit is conducted to ensure everything is prepared for youth's return home, such as school enrollment or job placement.
- There is an initial engagement 1-3 days post release.
- School enrollment is done 2-3 days post release.

FAST TEAM

The CCTP goal is to create a similar MDT for the youth in their community. CCTP wants to ensure youth have resources available to them when transitioning back into the community. Ms. Cotton went over the resources and services with contracted agencies that are offered to transitioning youth. The services are as follows:

- Substance Abuse Prevention Control (SAPC)
- Mental Health Services
- Educational Pathways/ Vocational Opportunities
- Educational Specialist
- Employment Services
- Home-Based Services for High-Risk/High-Need Males/Females
- Family Preservations
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Functional Family Probation (FFP- limited)
- Wraparounds
- Housing (18+)
- Gang Reduction Youth Development (GRYD)
- Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

The Probation Department has a partnership with Workforce Development Aging and Community Services (WDACS), a workforce agency that provides youth with opportunities for paid work experience. Vocational Training is also offered to the youth with employment opportunities at the end of their training. Housing is available for youth that have no home to return to and that are close to aging out.

Probation Bureau Chief Sharon Harada went over the snapshot with the demographics of the CCTP youth as of July 01, 2018. The snapshot reflects the 229 youth in the community that have transitioned from camp:

Ethnicity: 59% Hispanic, 40% Black, 1% Other, and 0% White.

Gender: 90% male, 10% female.

Average Age: 17.8 years.

Top ZIP Codes: Los Angeles 90044, Lancaster 93535, Long Beach 90805, Long Beach 90813, Los Angeles 90062, Los Angeles 90037, Los Angeles 90006, and Los Angeles 90001.

Probation Bureau Chief Sharon Harada went over the snapshot with the demographics of the 39 youth with new camp orders as of June 2018:

Ethnicity: 82% Hispanic, 18% Black, 0% Other, and 0% White.

Gender: 95% male, 5% female.

Average Age: 17.0 years.

Top ZIP Codes: South El Monte 91733, Los Angeles 90042, Los Angeles 90057, Los Angeles 90011, and Los Angeles 90003.

Probation Bureau Chief Sharon Harada went over the snapshot of the juvenile violations and subsequent arrests of the 229 youth. Out of the 229 youth 1 youth was arrested and 4 had probation violations. Out of those 5 youth, 3 had subsequent camp orders, 1.3% of June's total population.

Commissioner Shutan inquired about the 90% success rate of DPOs being present for the transitional MDT and what were the issues of the remaining 10%. Ms. Cotton stated the 90% DPO success rate is a great accomplishment for the Probation Department and reflects face-to-face participation. Ms. Cotton mentioned there could have been issues with the DPOs. There was a road closure due to a fire a few months ago, thus, DPOs participated via telephone. With caseloads being low, DPOs are sent to camp visits every other month and hope to pay monthly visits in the future. Ms. Cotton stated DMH is a partner now and their staff are participating at a much higher rate.

Natasha Khamashta inquired about the efforts that are made for family participation. Acting Deputy Director Luis Dominguez stated DMH has been helping with transportation. Ms. Cotton stated the percentage of family participation can be made available for a future meeting. Family participation is much higher for the transitional youth.

Natasha Khamashta inquired about the results of family participation when there is transportation offered. Ms. Cotton stated there were efforts made that have not gotten families as engaged as they hoped. There is much more family participation and

engagement when there is a DPO visiting the home. The Probation Department hopes to engage more with families through DPOs that will work as case managers.

Maureen Pacheco inquired if the Probation Department has considered moving up the date of the home evaluation. Ms. Cotton agreed and stated the referral to home based services should be done during the assessment of the initial home and camp visit. Ms. Pacheco suggested more details about the list of CBOs and would like to know where the services are located.

Vivian Wong stated her concerns about delayed services. Ms. Cotton stated services do not normally take 3 months to initiate and if there is a waiting list, families are referred to another service. Currently there is not a waiting list for services and delays could be caused by a late referral.

Vivian Wong inquired if the services are offered only to the CCTP youth. Ms. Cotton stated the services were designed for the CCTP youth. The Probation Department is currently working on providing these services for the youth transitioning from the juvenile halls and plan to go live by September 2018 beginning with Central Juvenile Hall.

Commissioner Butler inquired what happens if youth's parents do not want the youth back. Ms. Cotton stated the Probation Department looks for placement or housing for the youth. Acting Deputy Director Luis Dominguez stated youth are referred to the Family Finding Unit. This unit seeks other relatives who can become the youth's caregiver. Commissioner Butler inquired if there is any evaluation for the program or contractors. Ms. Cotton stated there is a plan to evaluate the program through the Accountability Bureau and there is contract monitoring. Commissioner Butler inquired if the Probation Department makes recommendations for court orders. Ms. Cotton stated the Probation Department has no say in court orders.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about the subsequent arrest data including juvenile or adult arrests. Ms. Cotton stated the subsequent arrest data provided to the Commission reflects juvenile arrests. Ms. Cotton mentioned she received the adult data and there were 14 subsequent arrests of CCTP youth over the age of 18 out of the 229 youth previously mentioned. Probation Bureau Chief Sharon Harada stated the average time of the subsequent arrest is 5 months after release.

Commissioner Meredith requested a presentation from the Family Finding Unit for a future Commission meeting.

Deputy Director Felicia Cotton plans to provide information on how youth are placed in the community with jobs, internships, etc. for a future meeting.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eduardo Mundo stated the Probation Commission should be provided reports from the juvenile units. Mr. Mundo stated the CCTP report should include data on the number of youth that are arrested and the ratio of minors and Probation Officers. Mr. Mundo stated the Commission does not have access to manuals or Probation directives and advised that the Probation Department provide the Commission with these reports.

VI. OLD AND CONTINUED BUSINESS

The Probation Department confirmed the Placement Service Bureau will present on the number of group homes, including population totals for youth housed and an overview of procedures surrounding the oversight of group homes for the August 23, 2018 meeting.

The Probation Department will provide an update on the final Welfare and Institutions Code (W.I.C) 210.6 policy approved by the County Counsel.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Gardner announced the L.A.C.D.P.O Union's 15th 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.

There will be a Use of Force Training for Leadership, coordinated by Deputy Director Dave Mitchell. Set dates will be announced in September or October.

President Gardner reminded the Commission on completing inspection reports.

Commissioner Meredith announced that he will be conducting an 8-hour ethics course on August 10th, 2018 at the Probation Academy and welcomed all to attend.

Commissioner Meredith announced on August 24th, 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of the loss of 7 inmate firefighters and a firefighter in Glendora at St. Lucy's. Commissioner Meredith is working with the 5th District on recognitions.

Commissioner Herbon requested the Commission be provided the updated Probation Department roaster. Acting Deputy Director Luis Dominguez will provide an updated roaster.

Commissioner Butler inquired about the changes at Central Juvenile Hall. Acting Deputy Director Luis Dominguez stated Dalila Alcantara was promoted to Bureau Chief and Bernardo Nieto is the new superintendent.

Commissioner Seaver asked President Gardner for the directive on the distribution of the inspection reports to be emailed to the Commission.

Natasha Khamashta inquired if Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall has a new superintended. Acting Deputy Director Luis Dominguez stated there was a reassignment of Daniel Moreno as the superintendent.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Seaver moved to adjourned the meeting. Commissioner Meredith seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 A.M.