



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



MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, September 13, 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 10:05 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 Yamashiro
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Herbon
Commissioner Swartz

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Hoover

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, Gale Swartz

The following staff were present:

Sheila Mitchell, Chief Deputy
Dave Mitchell, Deputy Director
Luis Dominguez, Acting Deputy Director
Felicia Cotton, Deputy Director
Tiana Murillo, Chief of Staff
Genesis Cervantes, Staff Assistant

The following individuals were present and signed in:

Alisa Williams
A.J Young
Erica Webster
Lindsay Graff
Winston Petters
Natasha Khamashta
Maureen Pacheco

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of December 14, 2017 were tabled for next meeting for additional revision.

Commissioner Seaver motioned to approve the minutes of January 25, 2018. Commissioner Levine seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. Commissioners Swartz, Commissioner Seaver, and Commissioner Caster abstained.

Commissioner Swartz motioned to approve the minutes of August 23, 2018. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion and minutes were approved. Commissioner Caster and Commissioner Seaver abstained.

III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Progress Report on the Probation Department's 5-year Plan

Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell discussed that Chief Probation Officer Terri McDonald has asked the CEO's office for assistance in developing a master plan. The Probation Department has met with the CEO's office and plan to bring a consultant on board in early October 2018 to discuss a 5-year plan for probation facilities that relate to adults and youth. The consultant will be working along with the Probation Department on the 5-year plan. The Probation Department will be working on cosmetic changes for now and expects to have the 5-year plan ready by the end of 2018 or early 2019.

Chief Mitchell discussed updates on camps and stated that about 4 years ago the Probation Department received funding from the Board of Supervisors for the renovation of Camp Scott. The Probation Department will be finalizing the design of

Camp Scott on September 14, 2018. The Probation Department plans to roll-out the L.A Model at Camp Paige and Camp Afflerbaugh next. Chief Mitchell stated that the current camp population is 260, the lowest it has ever been.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired if the Probation Department's consolidation plan is to strategically close camps for repurposing. Chief Sheila Mitchell stated that the Probation Department has looked at the needs of the community when it comes to repurposing camps. The Probation Department has seen that transitioning youth have a need for employment and housing, thus, the Probation Department brought forth their plans for Camp Gonzales to the Board of Supervisors to repurpose Camp Gonzales as a residential vocational training for young emerging adults. Chief Mitchell mentioned there will be a similar effort in District 5. Chief Mitchell stated that the camp consolidation plan has been shared with the Commission in the past and the Probation Department is ahead of schedule with camp closures.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired if there is a plan for repurposing any facilities for the youth who would have gone to the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Chief Mitchell stated that years ago, the Probation Department received funding to address the needs of the kids that would have gone to DJJ. The youth who would have gone to DJJ have stayed at Camp Onizuka in Challenger. The Probation Department has found with the diversion efforts the youth that remain in custody are the youth that are entrenched in the juvenile system. The Probation Department has met with the courts to address the youth's needs but the county does not have the capacity to take on DJJ youth at the moment. Chief Mitchell stated that the capacity and prospect resources for DJJ youth does not fit into the 5-year plan.

President Gardner inquired what the DJJ population is. Deputy Director Dave Mitchell stated it is about 125. Deputy Director Mitchell added the DJJ population has shrunk drastically.

President Gardner inquired if there were 2 camps currently left open at Challenger. Deputy Director Dave Mitchell clarified that there are currently 3 camps opened at Challenger, Camp Scobee will be closing soon and Camp McNair and Camp Omazuka are currently opened.

Natasha Khamashta suggested a transitioning plan for DJJ youth to attain vocational training at Camp Gonzales due to their struggle of obtaining employment and housing once released. Chief Mitchell stated the DJJ youth are part of the population of youth that may receive vocational training and housing at Camp Gonzales.

President Gardner asked the Probation Department to take into consideration the DJJ population in their 5-year plan. Chief Mitchell stated that the Probation Department has in mind the DJJ population.

Commissioner Seaver stated the inaccessibility of Challenger to families should be considered. Chief Mitchell stated that the Probation Department is taking inaccessible

camps and staff's demographics into consideration when deciding which camps to close and plans to have Challenger closed by mid-2019. Camp Scobee will be closing on October 27, 2018. Camp Onizuka and Camp McNair will be closing by 2019. Campus Kilpatrick, Camp Scott, Camp Paige, Camp Rockey, Camp Scudder, and Camp Kirby will remain open. President Gardner request a list of all the open camps and the schedule for the camp closures.

Deputy Director Dave Mitchell stated that a meeting is schedule with SD5 to visualize and discuss the repurposing of camps.

Commissioner Caster inquired the reasons for lower populations at facilities. Chief Mitchell stated that overall arrest rates are down and with the use of community based interventions more youth are being treated in the community than ever before. The lower population may also be due to the use of short-term residential treatment programs. Chief Mitchell stated the population numbers are down by 90% compared to 10 years ago.

Commissioner Caster inquired if the lower populations at facilities could be due to diversion efforts. Chief Mitchell stated that diversion may not be part of the lower population because they focus on lower level kids that are at risk to end up in camps. Chief Mitchell stated that the main reason for lower populations is due to the community providers that work with youth and their families.

Commissioner Caster inquired about the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds and concerns with delays on reimbursements. Chief Mitchell stated that 65% of the growth funds go to the nonprofit organizations. To disburse funds more quickly the Probation Department has partnered with two foundations in public-private partnerships in which money from JJCPA will be sent to the foundations and one foundation will be for capacity building and the other will be for re-granting that will help expedite funds. The Probation Department does provide the Board of Supervisors with quarterly reports. Part of the funds were given to the diversion program and the Department hopes to quickly disburse funds where there are needs.

Commissioner Butler inquired the status of Camp Resnik. Deputy Director Mitchell stated it is closed.

Maureen Pacheco inquired what the current population is at Dorothy Kirby Center. Deputy Director Dave Mitchell stated that currently there are 51 youth at Dorothy Kirby Center, with a capacity of 90 youth. Maureen Pacheco inquired if there is any overcrowding at any of the facilities. Chief Mitchell stated that she is not aware of any overcrowding but will follow-up.

Commissioner Shutan inquired if the Probation Department stops the intake of youth at maximum capacity or efficiency of operation. Deputy Director Dave Mitchell stated that the Probation Department strives to keep their numbers at 60 but in the past the Probation Department was working at full capacity. When the camps reach the full

capacity of 90 and a youth has a camp order, the youth must wait at a juvenile hall until a camp bed becomes available. Chief Mitchell added that currently the Probation Department does not have those issues and hopes to keep low population numbers for efficient operation to go with the L.A. Model. Commissioner Butler added just last summer that was a problem in facilities.

Commissioner Yamashiro inquired how the Juvenile Day Reporting Center fits into the 5-year plan. Chief Mitchell stated that after the RDA evaluation the Probation Department took notice that youth were very responsive with better outcomes and the Juvenile Day Reporting Center has proven to be very successful. Currently the Probation Department has one Juvenile Day Reporting Center and is looking to expand to one more.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

V. OLD AND CONTINUED BUSINESS

President Gardner asked the Commission to let him know if there are any additions on the memorandum "Probation Commission Transition to Probation Oversight Commission" regarding the Probation and Reform and Implantation Team (P.R.I.T) discussion.

There was a discussion that there will be a Reserve Program presentation by Probation Chief of Staff Tiana Murillo that will take place next meeting September 27, 2018.

Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated the Probation Department will provide a written response to Commissioner Caster's submitted report regarding her visit to Campus Kilpatrick by Tuesday September 18, 2018.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gardner announced that there will be Use of Force Training for Leadership, coordinated by Deputy Director Dave Mitchell. Set dates will be announced in October.

President Gardner announced he and Commissioner Herbon visited Camp Afflerbaugh on September 12, 2018 and stated that there were some structural issues found but the camp seems to be doing well. President Gardner stated that a report will be forthcoming and he plans to visit Camp Paige in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Swartz requested the schedule of site visits.

Commissioner Yamashiro announced there is a public P.R.I.T website which is prit.lacounty.gov. Commissioner Yamashiro added that there will be a P.R.I.T meeting

on September 25, 2018 at Exposition Park from 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M to discuss the mission of the Probation Oversight Commission and community engagement.

Commissioner Seaver inquired if P.R.I.T hold private meetings. Commissioner Yamashiro clarified that P.R.I.T is not a Brown Act body.

Commissioner Seaver inquired if the recommendations reflect the same concerns the Probation Commission have been working on. Commissioner Yamashiro stated that there are over 500 formal recommendations and added that the analyst for P.R.I.T are working on synthesizing the recommendations into something more workable. Commissioner Yamashiro stated that at this time it is hard to say if the recommendations align with the Commission's. P.R.I.T is working on a reform agenda that will be adopted by the Probation Oversight Commission (POC). Commissioner Yamashiro added that the P.R.I.T is limited to the 7 recommendations that came from the RDA report.

Commissioner Seaver inquired if the workload of the new POC volunteer Commissioners has been addressed with P.R.I.T. Commissioner Yamashiro stated that it has yet to be discussed. It was discussed President Gardner has shared his concerns with Saul Sarabia as well regarding the capacity to inspect youth and adult facilities.

President Gardner stated that he is coordinating a dedicated Probation Commission meeting with P.R.I.T to answer questions and have a public discussion.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Shutan moved to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 A.M.