



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



NOTES OF MARCH 14, 2019 MEETING

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, March 14, 2018 at the Pico Union Project, 1153 Valencia Street, Los Angeles, California 90015.

I. Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Betsy Butler
Commissioner Meredith
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Herbon
Commissioner Martinez

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Swartz
Commissioner Daniel Seaver
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Hoover
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Kaplan

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,
Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), – 2nd Vice President,
Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms, Daniel Seaver, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq.,
Jacqueline Caster, Esq, Jo Kaplan Esq, Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan,
Rev. Zachary Hoover, Randy Herbon, Gale Swartz

The following staff were present:

Luis Dominguez, Deputy Director
Sheila Mitchell, Chief Deputy
Dalila Alcantara, Bureau Chief
Lydia Jurado, Staff Assistant

The following individuals were present and signed in:

A.J Young
Christopher "Kip" Thompson
Felipe De La Torre
Ramon Quintana
Lauren Black
Maureen Pacheco
Eduardo Mundo
Regina Goree
Diane Velasquez

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were tabled due to the absence of a quorum.

III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Report Back from Probation Department's Gang Assessment Procedures for Minors

Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated that Deputy Director Dave Mitchell's official last day was March 13, 2019, Mr. Dominguez will be serving as the interim.

Luis Dominguez stated that the gang assessment process begins once a youth enters camp which includes mental health, education and any medical concerns. The Probation Department is currently looking into enhancing the gang portion of the assessment. Mr. Dominguez stated that Commissioner Shutan is currently looking over the current process and suggesting ways to enhance protocol.

Commissioner Shutan stated that the Probation Department is currently in the process of identifying what is needed to improve gang issues as soon as the camp placement notice is received. Commissioner Shutan stated that the goal of the Probation Department is to maintain the safety of the youth and staff while minimizing distractions that relate to gang affiliations.

President Gardner inquired about whether the issues that occurred at Camp Afflerbaugh were resolved. Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell stated that the field deputies went to the camps several times to identify who needed the additional support, and there is additional training being offered. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the Probation

Department is currently awaiting approval for a new risk and needs assessment instrument.

Commissioner Shutan stated that the Probation Department has been very receptive to the suggestions he has provided.

Maureen Pacheco inquired about when the assessment is being done. Luis Dominguez stated that once the camp order is made an assessment will be conducted.

Maureen Pacheco inquired about where the data goes. Mr. Dominguez stated that information is being put into probation case notes and is part of the individual's file.

IV. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

JJCPA Funds

Commissioner Levine inquired with the Probation Department on the difference between the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMCJP) and the Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee (JJCC).

Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the JJCC is a body that is in place to oversee the CMCJP which is the spending plan. JJCC is comprised 20-24 members, including Chief Deputy Sheila Michell and Chief Probation Officer Terri McDonald. One of the tasks that was undertaken last year was to revise the spending plan that the spending plan had not been revised in 12 years. The JJCC identified a team that would lead the efforts and redesign of the plan. Patricia Song, Josh Green and Kim Bowman are part of the team. The finished plan goes before the JJCC next Tuesday which is an open meeting. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the commission is more than welcome to attend.

Commissioner Levine stated that it is a task force drawn from the JJCC. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated yes that is correct.

Commissioner Levine stated that she went through the report briefly and wasn't able to see how funds are being allocated to the CBOs. Commissioner Levine only saw categories and would like to see where the money is being allocated. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the Probation Department can certainly provide that information to the commission.

Eduardo Mundo inquired about the report being available to the public. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the report is available online for the public to view.

Review of the Inspector Generals Report to the Board of Supervisors

President Gardner stated that the video is available for the public to view.

Commissioner Levine stated that the LA Times reported that there was an increase in youth on staff assaults. Commissioner Levine inquired about the measures the Probation Department is taking to clarify whatever the situation was.

Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the Probation Department has been working very closely with the Office of Inspector General. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that there may be inaccuracies in data due to the manual pull. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that all the data that the Probation Department currently has is available on the website.

Mr. Dominguez stated that the data is currently on the website and the Probation Department is confident in their data and the manual process.

Commissioner Herbon inquired on the amount of staff that were assaulted in the last week. Mr. Dominguez stated approximately 5 assaults, possibly more.

Commissioner Hebron shared that it has been 1 year since the passing of Assistant Director Steve Napoli. Commissioner Herbon stated that he visited Los Padrinos to check in on the mental health of staff. Commissioner Herbon stated that nobody has addressed the staff at Los Padrinos on the date of when the facility is closing. Mr. Dominguez stated that information is inaccurate, a listening session was held, and everyone had an opportunity to attend.

Commissioner Herbon stated that somehow it is not filtering down to the line staff and he is concerned with the safety of the staff. Commissioner Herbon stated that he is concerned of all the call outs and staff that are being held over longer than expected. Commissioner Herbon inquired on what a PIR is and how one is generated.

Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that this is a Brown Act Body and wants to make sure they are addressing what is on the agenda.

Lauren Black stated that there is no quorum, and this is a discussion and there is no action taking place at this meeting.

Commissioner Herbon apologized and stated that he assumed that this issue was in combination with the safety of the youth and staff.

President Gardner stated that Commissioner Herbon's report will be added to the agenda for a future meeting and go into detail.

Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that the Probation Department takes the safety and security of the staff in the facilities very seriously.

Commissioner Butler inquired on when the 60-day Board response on OC Spray is due. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated April 2019, with the extension until May 2019.

Eduardo Mundo inquired if the 5-10 assaults that were made were directly to staff or in the middle of breaking up a fight. Luis Dominguez stated that the youth was trying to get to another youth and there was a staff in between, not intentionally trying to assault the staff.

Eduardo Mundo stated that there were a lot of 602 youth leaving the Sylmar facility, and inquired if there was any difference in the attacks and which facility tends to have more. Chief Deputy Mitchell stated that there is a report that was just generated that is a public document and all that information is contained on the report.

Commissioner Butler stated that the numbers of the SSP in the Hope Centers are very high and inquired on whether that was gang related. Dalila Alcantara stated that there were a few gang related fights at Barry J. Nidorf and at Central Juvenile Hall there were gang issues that were addressed as well. There are 3 staff that are going to attend gang conference in the hopes that it will help with the current gang issues.

Continued Discussion of Goals for the Year 2019

Tabled for next meeting due to lack of quorum.

Review of Memorandum to Board of Supervisors Regarding Re-Tasking of the Probation Reform & Implementation Team

President Gardner stated that it is very clear that the task of attending hearings should have been done by the Probation Commission since they have a lot of insight on the issues that were brought up in the OIG report. It is very concerning that the BOS would re-task an agency whose primary function was to establish the POC.

Commissioner Levine stated that she supports the memorandum and suggests that it would be in everyone's interests for Saul and as many members of the PRIT body to meet for suggestions on an effective POC.

Commissioner Levine stated that the Probation Department has never notified the commission of the decision to close Los Padrinos. Commissioner Levine suggested notifying the President when there are changes.

Chief Deputy Mitchell apologized, and stated that she thought the commission was informed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28, 2019

President Gardner stated that items 10, 11, and 12 will be tabled for next meeting.

Commissioner Levine inquired if the visit made to Los Padrinos conducted by Commissioner Herbon topic can be added to the next meeting.

Commissioner Levine inquired if the JJCPA agency list can be added on the agenda for next meeting.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Gardner stated the next meeting is taking place at the Hall of Administration Rm 140A.

Commissioner Martinez stated that he has been onsite since mid-October thru February and has had the opportunity to speak to the staff at Los Padrinos. Commissioner Martinez stated that he is starting in one of the field offices soon. Commissioner Martinez stated that he enjoys being a field commissioner rather than a board commissioner. Commissioner Martinez thanked the Chief Deputy Mitchell and Dalila Alcantara for allowing him to visit facilities. Commissioner Martinez stated that the population levels have dropped.

Commissioner Levine stated that she commends all the work that Commissioner Martinez does at the halls. It really informs the commission to hear his impression of what he sees on the visits. Commissioner Martinez stated that he will start on his inspections soon.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 A.M.