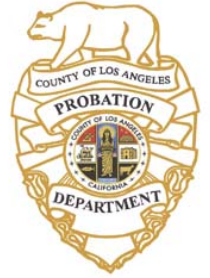




**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE AVENUE, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012**



Thursday, November 14, 2019

10:00 AM

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Seaver, Commissioner Levine 1st Vice President, Commissioner Butler 2nd Vice President, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Swartz, Commissioner Caster, Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell, Deputy Director Luis Dominguez, Deputy Director Howard Wong, Deputy Director Dalila Alcantara, Administrative Deputy Robert Smythe, Nicole De La Torre, Anna Garcia

Attachment: [Audio Transcript](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order. 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.

1. Excused Absences: Commissioner Yamashiro and Commissioner Shutan
2. Roll Call

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were approved:

- June 27, 2019
- September 12, 2019
- September 26, 2019
- October 10, 2019

October 24, 2019 meetings to be re-reviewed for action items under Reserve Program.

Action Item(s): Probation to review action items and provide the Commission an update on pending items.

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

III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT

4. **Follow-up report on K-9 drug searches in Probation Department detention facilities and of youths under supervision of the Probation Department.**

The Probation Department (Probation or Department) provided contraband statistics and findings.

Speaker(s): Dalila Alcantara

Action Item(s): Probation to provide the Commission with a written report statistical on K-9 unit contraband findings.

5. **Presentation regarding the Transformative Career Institute at the former site of Camp Gonzales to answer the following:**

Sheila Mitchell provided an overview regarding the development, funding, and inception behind creating vocational training. The target participants are between the ages of 18-25. The program is run by a non-profit organization (New Earth) and overseen by Probation. This is a voluntary program is a collaborative effort between various County departments and community-based stakeholders.

The Commission expressed concerns regarding the decision to close Camp Gonzalez and use the facility as Transformative Career Institute when it was the most effective and functional camp. The Department stated that the decision was made based on the geographic location in proximity to other camps, community-based organizations, and client families.

Robert Smythe discussed the funding sources for the project.

The Commission expressed concerns about performance metrics, tracking outcomes, baselines, and the oversight role of the Probation Oversight Commission. A UCLA evaluator will conduct metric evaluations. The Commission is also concerned that New Earth has no background in providing vocational training.

- **Will Probation be the County Department responsible for overseeing this new multi-million-dollar program?** Yes, in collaboration with Dr. Harry Grammer E.D. of New Earth, DMH, ODR and will provide accountability reports.
- **Will this program involve young adults not subject to Probation jurisdiction?** Yes
- **What will be the cost per participant?** \$72,000
- **How much of that will come from Probation funds?**

- **What accounts will those funds come from?**
- **What are the committed sources of funding and in what amounts?**
- **What are the criteria for enrollment?**
- **What is the background, expertise, and track record of the CBO in charge running this residential treatment program? (Is there a CBO identified to run the facility day to day? Who is it?)**
- **What will the staffing levels be for 30 adults per 6-month session?**
- **What are the identified outcomes? How will data be tracked?**

This item was tabled until future meeting due to time constraints.

Speaker(s): Sheila Mitchel, Probation Chief Deputy
Robert Smythe, Probation Administrative Deputy
Jack Sims, Probation Director
Truck Moore, Probation County Counsel
Maria Chong-Castillo, Office of Sheila Khuel

Action Item(s): Probation to provide the Commission a report regarding the selection process to include youth population and staff geo-mapping.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Item #4 and #5

IV. OFFICE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, JUVENILE DIVISION

6 Overview of procedures regarding criminal case filings submitted by the Probation Department, including question and answer session with Frank C. Santoro, II, Assistant Head Deputy, Juvenile Division, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Frank Santoro II, Assistant Head Deputy, provided a presentation regarding filing statistics ranging from simple assault to assault with the deadly weapon. The District Attorney (DA) stated that they provide report writing to document assaults to Probation staff on and have no filing issues. Assaults on youth by staff are reviewed by Public Integrity Division and Justice System Integrity Division. The DA concluded that they support and prosecute substantiated criminal case allegations.

The Commission discussed staff reporting assaults and the importance of documenting incidents and filing them with the courts and the DA.

Cesar Sanchez spoke about the benefits of new 707b legislation and the ability to tell

the youths history which in some cases helps to prevent life in prison.

Speaker(s): Frank Santoro, Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney
Cesar Sanchez, Public Defender

Action Item(s): No action items requested

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

7. **Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest within the subject matter of the Commission. Three (3) minutes are allowed, per person, on each agenda and non-agenda item with a total of 15 minutes for public comments unless the Commission sets alternative limits or other allocations of time**

No public comments were received.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to item #6.

VI. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

8. **Inspection reports for Halls and Camps must be completed and submitted to the Chair by November 14th Meeting.**

Commissioner President Gardner extended the inspection report submission date to December 12, 2019

Pending visits: Barry J. Nidorf and Camp Scott

Commission advised that the reports provide anonymity, so staff feel comfortable cooperating.

Action Item(s): Commissioner Gardner to circulate list of pending visits.

VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES

9. **Critical need for meeting space in 2020.**

2020 meetings have been tentatively scheduled at the Pico Rivera training center.

The Commission acquired meeting space at the Probation Training Center

10. **Letter to the Board of Supervisors and Chief regarding urgent need for reform of the Probation Department.**

Item tabled for language clarification.

VIII, ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. Annual election of officers will take place on January 9th, 2020.

12. Next Probation Commission meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 10:00 A.M. - East Los Angeles Library - Gloria Molina Community Room.

IX, ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.