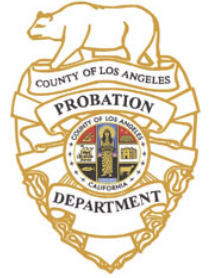




**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION TRAINING CENTER  
3300 SANDOVAL AVE. – CLASSROOM #6,  
PICO RIVERA, CALIFORNIA, 90660**



**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Levine 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Shutan, Robert Smythe, Luis Dominguez, Dalila Alcantara, Jennifer Kaufman, Kenyaata Watkins

**Attachment:** [Audio Transcript](#)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order. President Gardner announced that meetings are recorded and asked that everyone identify themselves prior to addressing the Commission.

1. Excused Absences: Commissioners Butler, Seaver, Mitchell, Swartz, and Kaplan
2. Roll Call

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3. No minutes were approved for lack of quorum.

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take vote and action relevant to Items 3.**

**III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

4. **Report from the Probation Department regarding employee overtime across all camps and halls.**

Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy, provided a three-month summary of camp and hall overtime and opened the floor for questions.

The Commission expressed concerns about the amount of money spent on overtime. The Commission suggested the Department redirect resources used to pay for overtime to hire more staff.

Mr. Smythe explained that the Department can only hire up to the authority it's

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**Commissioners**

Joe Gardner-President,

Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Gale Swartz– 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.),

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budgeted for. Overtime costs are factored into the budget and overages are offset by salary savings.

The Commission is seeking a correlation between paid overtime and callouts.

**Speaker(s):** Robert Smythe, Probation Administrative Deputy

**Action Item(s):** Mr. Smythe to provide the total of overtime paid for the last five years on March 12, 2020.

Commissioner Herbon to provide Mr. Smythe with a specific request in writing.

**5. Response from the Probation Department regarding inspection of Camp Rocky on November 11, 2019.**

Jennifer Kaufman, Bureau Chief, provided updates regarding the Department's efforts to create a more therapeutic environment in the camps.

Ms. Kaufman and Mr. Watkins reported the following facility updates for Camp Rocky:

- Daily inspections of water fountains are being conducted
- New mattresses to be delivered between 3/6/20 - 5/8/20
- Lighting will be updated
- Addition of tables
- Repainting of the Hope Center
- Bathroom refreshed with new shower curtains
- Redesigning office space for Mental Health employees to assist youth in crisis
- Pillows have been inventoried and will be replaced as needed

The Department is developing an MOU with the Public Library to provide a mobile library service at the camps.

The Commission expressed concerns regarding the Department not providing enough programming to prepare youth for the real world.

Ms. Kaufman provided an overview regarding programming and stated the department will provide the Commission with a proposed schedule in three months. The following courses are currently offered/will be offered to youth:

- Library
- Gang reduction youth development
- Credible messengers – healing and therapeutic
- Conflict resolution
- Career technical education
- Online certificate programs
- Barista program with Starbucks
- UPS work program
- Plumbing
- Solar panel installation
- Mission College partnership
- UCLA College partnership
- Lifeguard certification

- Parenting courses
- Fiscal responsibility

Phones are being installed throughout the facility to provide youth the ability to make confidential calls. Currently, youth can only make confidential phone calls in staff offices.

Commissioner Caster questioned whether the Department will meet the State Title 15 standards which require that the youth be provided a way to make confidential calls such as to report grievances about staff and the facility. Ms. Caster stated that currently, the standards are not being met the youth can only make such calls in the staff offices.

The Commission inquired about staff being reprimanded for working too much overtime. Ms. Kaufman explained that the County has limits on overtime for safety reasons, and currently there have been no reprimands.

The Commission recommended that the Department require the youth to keep comprehensive documentation packets containing personal information.

**Speaker(s):** Dalila Alcantara, Probation Deputy Director  
 Jennifer Kaufman, Probation Bureau Chief  
 Kenyaata Watkins, Probation Director

**Action Item(s):** Jennifer Kaufman to provide Commission with aggregate number of grievances by type.

**6. Presentation by the National Council of Crime & Delinquency (NCCD) to provide an update on the evaluation of Campus Kilpatrick.**

Erin Espinosa and her National Council of Crime & Delinquency (NCCD) team provided an update on their evaluation of Campus Kilpatrick. Probation, LACOE, and Mental Health staff and youth interviews have been conducted to frame out parameters to provide outcomes. Ms. Espinosa summarized her findings by stating that the Department can build programming around the youth’s feeling of resiliency. NCCD is actively taking measures to match arrest/convictions in the adult system, working with Department of Mental Health to include their data in analysis, and plan to interview staff and youth once relocated to Malibu.

Isaac Bryan and Brad Rowe, UCLA Public Policy, provided the qualitative component to NCCD’s analysis and discussed their interviews with Kilpatrick youth. Youth shared the following:

- Fear of getting jumped/violence
- Youth feel relatively safe
- Enjoy flow programming
- They aspire to go to college
- Need more weekend programming
- Almost all have a history of incarceration with their families
- Enjoy work study programs
- Lost family members to gang violence
- Some case workers are more beloved than others
- Distance prevents family visitors

- Build kinship with other youth in the cottages
- Mental Health techniques are helpful
- One on one therapy is preferred
- They dislike the food
- Goals are to stay out of prison

**Speaker(s):** Erin Espinosa, NCCD Senior Researcher  
Barbi Lona, NCCS Program Associate  
Brad Rowe, Luskin School of Public Affairs  
Isaac Bryan, UCLA Director of Public Policy

**7. Update on the remodeling projects for the remaining Camps and Juvenile Halls.**

James Johnson, Probation Management Service Bureau Manager, provided updates on renovation projects. The Department has allocated \$1.5 million towards upgrades per camp (Afflerbaugh, Paige, Rockey). Renovations will take approximately 11 months once construction begins and will include flooring, painting, design, infrastructure, and furniture upgrades.

Upgrades to provide a more therapeutic environment for youth and allow for program versatility and multipurpose areas. Wall spaces will have positive messaging, halls will provide clearer sightlines, and lighting will be brighter.

**Speaker(s):** James Johnson, Probation Management Service Bureau Manager

**8. Response to request for information from the Probation Department regarding increase in minors sent to H.O.P.E Centers including explanation for extended stays for some sent there.**

Item tabled.

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Items 4 through 7.**

**IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

**9. 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 received.

**V. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**10. Commissioner sign-ups for 2020 Inspection Task List**

A 2020 inspection task list was distributed to Commissioners.

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Item 9**

**VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES.**

Discussion regarding proposed topics for next meeting, scheduled for February 27, 2020.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 11. February 27 meeting will be held at L.A. Co. Probation Training Center, Classroom 3, 3300 Sandoval Ave, Pico Rivera, CA 90660**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 in honor of Eduardo Cordero, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, respected member of SEIU, significant contributor, and teacher/trainer.