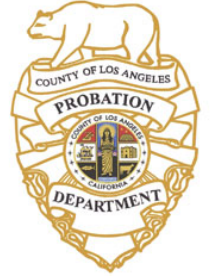




**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION TRAINING CENTER  
3300 SANDOVAL AVE. – CLASSROOM #3,  
PICO RIVERA, CALIFORNIA, 90660**



**Thursday, February 27, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Levine 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Swartz 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Shutan, Commissioner Seaver, Commissioner Martinez-Sonoqui, Commission Yamashiro, Jennifer Kaufman, Alex Nieto, Luis Dominguez and Dalila Alcantara and Thomas Faust.

**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, Meredith, and Mitchell
2. Roll Call

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3. January 23, 2020 minutes were approved.  
February 13, 2020 minutes were tabled.

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

**III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

4. **Response to request for information from the Probation Department regarding increase in the number of minors sent to H.O.P.E. Centers including explanation for youth who have extended stays.**

Mr. Thomas Faust introduced himself as the Acting Chief Deputy Juvenile, while Ms. Shelia Mitchell is on leave.

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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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Jennifer Kaufman, Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB) provided an update on the 2019 H.O.P.E. Center referrals and the reasons for extended stays. She attributed the increase in referrals from the third quarter (July, August, and September 2019) to the consolidation of camps. She reported the referrals stabilized in the fourth quarter.

Ms. Kaufman stated the following reasons a youth might have an extended stay:

- Youth being admitted after hours
- Youth waiting for outside services (i.e. Mental Health)
- Youth de-escalation
- Conducting Specialized Supervision Plan (SSP)
- Youth refusing to return to their assigned room

The Commission followed up with questions, which were answered as follows:

- Why would a youth choose to stay in the H.O.P.E. Center?
  - Youth might prefer smaller group settings.
  - To avoid future conflicts: either to ensure being released on time or feel safe.
  - Unable to control themselves
- Can a youth request to stay in the H.O.P.E. Center?
  - No, they are placed there and then choose not to return to their room.
- Does the youth receive Educational Programs while in the H.O.P.E. Center?
  - Yes, they still go to school or the instructor might conduct the lesson at the H.O.P.E. Center. The youth also receive recreational time.
- Does the youth receive extra attention in the H.O.P.E. Center?
  - Yes, Mental Health conducts a behavioral chain analyses of each youth.
- Does Probation know the justifications the youth chooses to stay in the H.O.P.E. Center?
  - Yes, Probation provided the top five reason on the 2019 report hand-out.
- How is the H.O.P.E. Center staffed?
  - A dedicated H.O.P.E. Center Supervisor has been hired and there is a posting for a second.

The Commission expressed concerns about the camp closures attributing to issues facing Probation Camps and Juvenile Halls.

Mr. Alex Nieto, Superintendent at Central Juvenile Hall (CJH), informed the Commission that the increase of referrals to the H.O.P.E. Center in the third quarter is due to the closure of Los Pardros Juvenile Hall (LP). Since the closure of LP, CJH intakes in the third quarter were 120-130. The increase in the fourth quarter is due to the Saddler Ridge fire; however, the number has decreased since Barry J. Nidorf started receiving intakes.

Mr. Nieto also stated the same reasons as Ms. Kaufman for youth extended stays in the H.O.P.E. Center.

The Commission inquired when CJH would be accepting inspections conducted by the Commission. Mr. Dominguez, couldn't give a specific date due to current updates/renovations being done at CHJ.

The Commission inquired about the L.A. model being implemented as far as at the camps. Mr. Dominguez stated the challenges on following the model when not all facilities are the same. Mr. Faust also mentioned, for the L.A. model to be successful, accountability needs to be enforced.

The Commission suggested that Probation to contact Mark Steward, creator and consultant of the L.A. Model to get further assistance on training and implementation in the camps. Mr. Faust, assured the Commission that he is very familiar with the model and he and the Interim Chief are working diligently on implementation.

**Speaker(s):** Jennifer Kaufman, Residential Treatment Services Bureau,  
Luis Dominguez, Deputy Director Detention Services Bureau,  
Dalila Alcantara Residential Treatment Services Bureau  
Deputy Director and Alex Nieto, Superintendent

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

#### **IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 5. 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**

Mr. Eduardo Mundo, former Probation employee, sympathized with today's Probation camp staff and the challenges they face. He also expressed his concern for the placement of youth once they are released from camp.

#### **V. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 6. Commissioner Gardner circulated the Commissioner Inspection sign up list; the deadline will be November 12, 2020. Commission Gardner encouraged female Commissioners to sign up for Camp Scott (female facility) for broader access.**

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

**VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES****7. Report-back from Commissioner Herbon regarding acquiring schedule of upcoming training.**

Adam Bettino, Bureau Chief for Professional Accountability Bureau is currently working on compiling a comprehensive training schedule with all operation. The Commission is requested a schedule of CORE classes, entry level classes, physical intervention for RTSB and DSB.

The Commission expressed concerned about paramedics entering Central Juvenile hall to attend to a teacher who had been assaulted by a violent developmentally disabled youth. Commissioner Herbon commended Probation staff for being professional and escalating the situation. Commissioner Gardner would like to create a case study around the incident to better understand the Department's process.

**Speaker(s):** Adam Bettino, Bureau Chief and Alex Nieto

**Action Item(s):** Mr. Bettino to provide schedule to the Commission.

**8. Report-back from Commission Herbon and Robert Smythe from the Probation Department regarding employee overtime hours across all camps and halls.**

Commissioner Herbon to meet with Mr. Smythe to discuss the request for overtime report specifics and will report his finding at a later meeting.

**9. Response from Probation Department regarding Commissioner Hebron's inspection of Camp Paige submitted February 13, 2020.**

Commissioner Gardner reminded the Commission that the Department has 30 days to respond.

Commissioner Yamashiro would like the Departments contingency plan on addressing the Coronavirus. He also offered the Los Angeles Bar Association (7<sup>th</sup> and 110 freeway) to host Probation Commission meetings.

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

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS****10. March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at L.A. Co. Probation Training Center, 3300 Sandoval Ave., Pico Rivera, CA 90660.****VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.