



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PROBATION COMMISSION
LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION TRAINING CENTER**



WebEx On-line Session

Thursday, July 23, 2020

10:00 AM

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Levine 1st Vice President, Commissioner Swartz 2nd Vice President, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Seaver, Commissioner Martinez-Sonoqui, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Butler, Commissioner Yamashiro, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Kaplan, Commission Zia, Commissioner Shutan, Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Hanumantha Damerla , Sheila Mitchell, Thomas Faust, Robert Smythe, Dalila Alcantara, Mark Garcia, Lynette Wilson, Alex Zuiderweg, Jennifer Kaufman, Anna Garcia and Jessica Ayala

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: No excused absences
2. Roll Call

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. July 9, 2020 – Tabled

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

III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT

4. Discussion with Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Dr. Jonathan E. Sherin regarding enhancing safety within Probation Department facilities and improving the care of minors suffering from mental illness.

Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Director of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (Mental Health), provided an overview on trauma and the impact it has on youth's mental and behavioral health. He commented on issued reports, recommendations (environmental modifications, investment in community based care/settings, interdisciplinary relationships and dialog across the departments, and training across the board), model/vision ("treatment/prevention first - detention last") that Mental Health, in collaboration with other departments, have put forth. However, given the economic realities, Mental Health has also been challenged with reduced resource streams that would normally provide funding, including State and Federal constraints. Dr. Sherin spoke about the training UCLA is conducting regarding assessing interdepartmental training with youth needs; which has commenced but due to pandemic protocols, has not been completed. He informed the Commission that he provided the Probation Department with recommendations on improving the environmental factors in the camps and halls. A significant part involves staffing (clinicians); improving communications between departments, developing crisis stabilization unit, and creating interdisciplinary teams dedicated to providing services to the youth in a continuity manner.

Sheila Mitchell, Chief Deputy Office with the Probation Department, also commented on working with UCLA to develop holistic treatment models for youth.

Thomas Faust, Chief of Staff with the Probation Department, informed the Commission that due to low populations and increased staffing, the opportunity for staff to engage has produced positive outcomes; such as reduced escalations. The Commission expressed that even though there is an increase of staff, they are not trained clinicians and therefore, the assessment of the youth is not as in depth as it could be, specifically with violent cases. Dr. Hanumantha Damerla, Medical Director with the Department of Mental Health, stated that not all these cases should be construed as a mental illness requiring psychiatric hospitalization; and may be best treated at the facilities. However, Mental Health does respond to these cases.

The Commission inquired if Mental Health was currently working with the Youth Justice Work Group, to which Dr. Damerla confirmed both he and Christopher Thompson are collaborating with the group. Dr. Sherin also added that the Implementation Development Work Group was created to improve interdepartmental communication. Ms. Mitchell stated this group has been actively meeting every 4-6 weeks and would share a summary of their last meeting with the Commission.

The Commission also inquired about Mental Health recruitment. Dr. Sherin shared that Mental Health is actively pursuing funding from the state to sustain a robust workforce. Regarding recruitment, pipelines are maintained by recruiting in schools, incentivized people to join the department, and a new psychiatry residency program has been created at Charles Drew University.

The Commission raised a question about the cost to house a youth in the detention services. Robert Smythe, Administrative Deputy with the Probation Department, gave an overview on general cost but will provide a detailed report from the Auditor Control's Office.

Speaker(s): Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Dr. Hanumantha Damerla, Sheila Mitchell, Thomas Faust and Robert Smythe

Action Item(s): Dr. Damerla to provide a copy of Dr. Sherin report.
Mr. Smythe to provide report on current year per youth cost at a detention center.

5. Update from Department leadership regarding current conditions in juvenile halls and camps

Jennifer Kaufman, Residential Treatment Services Bureau Chief, provided the Commission with the following updates:

- Phase I of the recovery plan starts July 25th, 2020 at four camps and all camps and juvenile halls on August 1st, 2020. Parents have been notified and scheduled. Safety precautions have been arranged to maintain social distancing, the visits will be outside, masks will be provided to parents, and there will be hand sanitizer stations.
- 33 youth were relocated to Campus Kilpatrick on July 18th.

Mr. Faust informed the Commission that the members of Emergency Management team are providing wildfire training at Kilpatrick. They also trained all the east camps.

The Commission requested a date on when they can resume their inspections.

The Commission inquired how field staff are being identified if they contract COVID-19, if it's mandatory for field staff to assist in the camps and halls, and do they need to use their own time if they choose not to assist in a hall or camp.

Ms. Kaufman responded that all the field officers are required to report twice a week to camps or halls. The bargaining unit has been involved in identify facilities assignments. An assessment is done every two weeks to identify staffing needs. If staff test positive - contact tracing is conducted, and the staff is asked to quarantine until they are no longer contagious. Staff have the option to apply for 80 hours of Emergency Sick leave.

Speaker(s): Jennifer Kaufman, Thomas Faust

6. Protocol for involving parents/guardians in children's medical care by Probation Health Services.

Dr. David Oh, Medical Director for Juvenile Court Health Services, gave an overview on protocol on contacting a parent/guardian to obtain medical information on a youth. The nursing intake occurs when the youth arrives at a juvenile facility. At that time, there might be a question regarding a medication condition, immunization records needed, and the parent/guardian will need to be contacted. Youth may be seen by a physician within 96 hours and the physician will need to contact the parent/guardian. Parent/guardians may also be contact at time of discharge to relay medical information such as continuation use of medications or upcoming appointment.

The Commission inquired about current practices when seeking consent for the administration of prescription drug to youth in custody.

Concerns regarding pending litigation were raised and Mr. Smythe and Probation County Counsel advised Dr. Oh not to discuss the issue at this meeting as it is public record. County Counsel advised that the question should be rephrased.

The Commission rephrased the question to inquire about general consent.

Dr. Oh informed the Commission general (medical care of youth) consent is covered by the Probation Department. However, youth can give consent to receive medication for reproductive care.

The Commission asked for details regarding who provides the oversight and when does it take place, who supervises the health treatment protocol during the time youth is in custody. The Commission also inquired about estrogen or any hormonal treatment qualifying as psychotropic medication. Dr. Oh informed the Commission that nurses and nursing supervisors are at the juvenile halls and the medical directors are on call 24/7; if there is a question or concern that needs to be addressed. This also includes one on one supervision. Regarding the hormonal treatment, he referred to County Counsel previous advice on not to discuss the topic in a public meeting.

The Commission requested that the record show their concerns on answers from Probation and County Counsel.

Speaker(s): Dr. Oh, Lynette Wilson, Alex Zuiderweg

7. Update and discussion of the status of the Probation Department Reserve Program.
Tabled to next meeting.
8. Report from Deputy Direct Ron Barrett of Internal Affairs regarding investigations into allegations of Probation staff who committed timekeeping fraud.
Tabled to next meeting
9. Trailing agenda item to be addressed as information becomes known to the Probation Department.
 - Budgetary cuts by percentage
 - Where would cuts be made?
 - Freezing positions?
 - Freezing programs?
 - Delayed procurements?
 - The impacts of transition of DJJ custodies to the supervision of LA County.
 - a. Public Safety Concerns (DJJ ages goes to age 25)
 - b. Custody management (Need to increase training from current BCSC Juvenile Core Course?)
 - c. Field Supervision (Similar to how PCRS/AB109 is done or like currently done by Juvenile Field Services?)
 - d. Fiscal Impact (any state reimbursement? Cost to county? Revenue source?)
 - e. Facility needs (Upgrades for handling a higher risk population)
 - f. Anticipated numbers - 70+- as stated by Deputy Director Cotton on 6-11-2020

- g. Types of offenses (Usually very serious) – Top three DJJ percentages and numbers
- h. Mental Health issues
- i. Alternatives to incarceration
- SB 889 (Proposed legislation changing minors to youth
 - a. Makes Juvenile prosecution and juvenile 19 and under
 - b. How to use facilities to keep 18+ separate from those 17 and under
 - c. Fiscal Impact due to adding 18 and 19-year-old the Juvenile System, (any state reimbursement? Cost to county? Revenue source?) • Education planning for new youth - high school diplomas for those who have not gotten already; college courses for others.
- Community service providers that they are working with to provide services both within the facilities, and once youth are released:
 - a. Job training/placement.
 - b. Mental health support.
 - c. Drug and alcohol support.
 - d. General re-entry preparation.
- Family counseling

Tabled to next meeting

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take vote and action relevant to Items 4 - 9

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

10. **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 allocation of time.**

Maureen Pacheco spoke on the following:

- Encouraged the Commission not to seek a waiver for inspections
- Requested that the list of health conditions that are being used to excused staff to serve in the halls and camps be made public

Ms. Kaufman address the second item and stated there is not a list by the department. Work restrictions are provided by the staff’s doctor; however, the work restrictions must specifically stated.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to Item 10.

V. BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES

None

NEW BUSINESS

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 August 27th, 2020:

The Commission requested a report on the number of field staff deployed to the work at the halls and camps; of those field staff, who contracted COVID-19 while working in the halls and camps; if they test positive, how are they relieved? What are the testing procedures?

The Commission announced there are kiosks at some facilities are available to enter information about health issues. Also, employees cannot be mandated to take a COVID-19 test.

The Commission requested a calendar of all training classes.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Probation Department is observing Probation Appreciation Week and Commissioner Meredith dedicated this meeting in their honor.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 P.M.