



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



WebEx On-line Session

Thursday, September 10, 2020

10:00 AM

Present: President Joe Gardner, Commissioner Levine 1st Vice President, Commissioner Swartz 2nd Vice President, Commissioner Meredith, Commissioner Caster, Commissioner Kaplan, Commissioner Shutan, Commissioner Herbon, Commissioner Yamashiro, Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner Seaver, Tom Faust, Adam Bettino, Ronald Barrett, Anna Garcia, Jessica Ayala, and Ivon Garcia

Attachment: [Video Transcript](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Commission President Joe Gardner thanked everyone for their participation in this meeting, 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: None
2. Roll Call

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. The following meeting minutes were approved:
 - No meeting minutes were approved in this meeting.

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

III. PROBATION DEPARTMENT

4. Discussion of preparations for annual camps and halls inspections to meet deadline of November 12th, 2020.
 - a. Task list
 - b. Volunteers needed to:
 - Conduct “virtual” inspection through Interviews site administrators and staff via telephonic or video conferencing to gather information for reports. Preparing individual site reports and writing narrative of findings.
 - c. Probation Commission Leadership to review and distribute completed reports to Probation Department personnel for action and mitigation of issues of concern identified during the inspection process.
 - d. Probation Commission Leadership to submit final inspection reports to the Board of State and Community Corrections.

In preparation for annual camp and hall inspections, President Joe Gardner has collected Probation Fire and Environmental Health Inspections for year 2019 and has submitted the “virtual” inspection templates to Halls and Camps. He urges the Commission to volunteer for “virtual” inspections as the site inspections need to be completed before November 12, 2020. Commissioner Gardner encouraged the Commission to work together in groups of two or three per site when completing inspections.

Commissioner Kaplan will obtain approval from the Public Defender’s Office to meet with the youth in private to obtain their perspective as part of the site inspection.

Commissioner Herbon asked if on site visits are permitted due to Covid-19. Detention Services Bureau Chief Mark Garcia responded with approval if a screening process and safety precautions are followed.

Action Item(s): Commissioner Gardner requested email notification from the Commission on their site selection.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion, and take vote and action relevant to Items 3 and 4

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

5. Discussion on recruitment of the Next Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer. This group discussion is an opportunity for members of the Public Commission to provide input on the selection of the Chief Probation Officer.

Hawkins Company Brett Byers and Christine Boulware participated in this meeting. They were retained by the Board of Supervisors to conduct a search and obtain candidates for the Probation Department’s (Probation or Department) next Chief Probation Officer. They have conducted stake holder engagements to determine the Department’s priorities to uncover candidates and through this understand what their competencies should look like. They have held townhalls, conducted surveys, and held discussions with Probation peers, Department of

Public Social Services, Department of Children and Family Services, Public Defenders Office, and the Office of Inspector General.

Part of the Hawkins Company presentation involved asking the Commission three questions:

1. What would you like to see the new Chief Probation Officer focus on as their top priority?

The Commissioners responses included but were not limited to:

- A mental health approach and not a punitive one.
- An expert in both adult and juvenile with a priority in equity and social justice, not one that looks through a law enforcement lens.
- Someone that believes in accountability and balance.
- A person that can establish partnerships.
- A trauma informed juvenile justice expert that follows through with their promises.
- Someone that works with community-based organizations and has background on diversion efforts.
- A person that will utilize funding appropriately so youth can be serviced in their communities near their homes.
- A candidate that will focus on youth in custody to avoid recidivism as they are currently are not being held accountable for their actions.
- A person that will inquire about the expectation set forth by the courts and must be willing to train people that fall below the new expectations.
- A more humane chief that will help staff that are having difficulty readjusting to the new expectations.
- A visionary.
- A candidate that is not at the tail end of their career.

2. What are the personal and professional attributes the next Chief Probation Officer must have to be successful?

- A candidate that can work in the diverse environment.
- Someone with experience in education and social work.
- A candidate that understands that the current demographics of youth in Probation care is of Hispanic heritage.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sensitive.

- Someone that can interact with the community on a very personal level.
- One with a political sophistication about them.
- The candidate must want to provide solid statistical data and offer transparency of this data with the Commission and the public.

3. What kind of personal and professional background should the new Chief have?

Hawkins Company Christine Boulware shared some of the previous answers from the Commission that applied to question 3.

- Candidate must be a visionary, a person that understands distinctions between adult and juvenile, someone with a care and rehabilitative lens.
- Someone that is balanced and believes in accountability.
- A leader in another Probation Department that is forward thinking.
- They should have a plan to present to the board during the selection process.
- Candidates from the private sector should be considered.

Commissioner Swartz inquired if recruitment and soliciting outside the County.

Christine Boulware responded that appropriate public advertisement requirements are being met in the search for possible candidates. The Hawkins Company will consider all candidates including private sector. She encouraged the Commissioners to submit names of eligible candidates to their office.

***Action Item(s):** Commissioner Joe Gardner asked for the chat from this meeting on Webex be sent to the Hawkins Company.*

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information and conduct discussion relevant to Items 5.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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

Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell gave a presentation to the Commission about Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment. She shared details of the SB 823/DJJ Realignment framework as amended on August 28, 2020 and passed by legislature and August 31, 2020. She proceeded to introduce the Burns Institute team that is helping lead this effort.

Laura Rdiolfi from the Burns Institute currently working closely with Chief Deputy Michell and the Youth Justice Workgroup and the DJJ Transition Team, spoke about the proposal to close DJJ that took place in May and the Board of Supervisors passing of a motion to take a closer look at what happening in the Los Angeles County and connected the work to the Youth Justice Workgroup and started a subcommittee to ensure that the board motion is covered.

Burns Institute, Tshaka Barrows, spoke to the subcommittees and their focuses on youth development and diversion, youth formally processed in the legal system, and addressing needs for alternatives to placement/detention and incarceration and a DJJ Transition Team. They also establish an advisory committee with DJJ of young people currently incarcerated in DJJ. He also shared about the team meeting agenda's including the orientation of the Governor Proposal, Board Motion, and Overview of Data.

Commissioner Joe Gardner asked if there was a funding gap between what the state will fund and what the Department must make work. Chief Deputy, Sheila Mitchell, mentioned that there are some funding gaps. Administrative Deputy Robert Smythe will provide details of those gaps at a future meeting.

Action Item(s): *Tshaka Barrows to share the document with the youth's reflections and the link of their recorded conversations.*

7. Trailing agenda item continued from previous meeting to be addressed as the Probation Department obtains more information. These items will be in future agendas.
- Budgetary cuts by percentage
 - Where would cuts be made?
 - Freezing positions?
 - Freezing programs?
 - Delayed procurements?
 - The impacts of transition of DJJ custody services 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 felony crimes)
 - 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 arrivals from DJJ - 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

Trailing agenda item continued from previous meeting to be addressed as the Probation Department obtains more information; these items will be on future agendas.

Action Item(s): *No action items.*

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion, and take possible action relevant to items 6 and 7.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

8. 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.

No public comments were submitted.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to item 8.

BUSINESS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND UPDATES

9. No reports or updates.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding proposed topics for September 24, 2020:

- Dr. Christina Ghaly will be participating in the next meeting.
- Commissioner Yamashiro asked if the people that join the Webex meeting can share their identity for transparency. County Counsel was present in meeting and indicated that they will inquire about this concern.
- Commissioner Yamashiro inquired about contraband coming into the facilities. He would like to hear from the department regarding this issue.
- The Probation Oversight Commission (POC) have been approved by the Board. The POC consists of five appointees and four at large positions. If the Probation Commission is interested in the four at large positions, the Commission was advised to contact their Supervisors and respective Deputies.

The Probation Commission will receive, exchange, distribute information, conduct discussion and take possible action relevant to NEW BUSINESS and proposed topics next meeting.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- JCOC Graduations taking place currently.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned in dedication to the memory of the fallen Probation 5-1 Fire Crew.

On September 2, 1955, an explosive brush fire, known as the Hacienda Fire, swept 1150 acres in La Habra Heights, California. Captain Glenn Rockey of Los Angeles County Fire Department Engine 4 was killed, while trying to rescue five juvenile members of Los Angeles County Probation Forestry Camp Crew 5-1. The five members of Crew 5-1 also succumbed to burn injuries. The fallen 5-1 crew included Franklin Clair Fay, Terry Martin Kelly, Glenn La Vern Pendergast, Gregory Sambrano Jr., William Stanley Stock and Engine 4 Captain Glenn Eldon Rockey who Camp Rockey is named after.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 P.M.