

# COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE **July 13, 2022** MEETING  
Meeting Conducted Via Microsoft Teams

## **MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Chair Pro Tem: Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer,  
Vice Chair of CCJCC

Natasha Alexander-Mingo, Chief U.S. Probation Officer  
Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender  
\*Sean Coyle for Chris Margaris, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol  
Beatriz Dieringer, California League of Cities  
\*Nicole Gougis for Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney  
Kimberley Guillemet for Sam Ohta, Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior  
Court  
\*James Hanover for Monique Villegas, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol,  
Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
\*Brian Hoffman for Fesia Davenport, County Chief Executive Officer  
Cosme Lozano, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association  
Jonathan Lucas, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner  
\*Ruben Marquez for Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender  
John Mathews for Holly J. Mitchell, Supervisor, Second District and Chair of the County  
Board of Supervisors, Chair of CCJCC  
Edward McIntyre for Nichelle Henderson, Chair, County Quality & Productivity  
Commission  
Emilio Mendoza for Brandon Nichols, Director, County Department of Children and Family  
Services  
Robert Philibosian, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County  
Kris Pitcher for Michel Moore, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department  
Susan Sullivan Pithey for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General  
\*Theresa Villa-McDowell for Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Commission on  
Human Relations  
Alfonzo Webb for Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District  
Andrea Welsing for Barbara Ferrer, Director, County Department of Public Health  
Joseph J. Williams for Alex Villanueva, Sheriff

\*Not a designated alternate

## **I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem.

## **II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the June 8, 2022 meeting. Jonathan Lucas, Los Angeles County Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner, made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Robert Philiposian, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2022 meeting was approved without objection.**

## **IV. OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Andrea Welsing, Director, Office of Violence Prevention, Department of Public Health

Andrea Welsing, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) with the Department of Public Health, provided an overview of Los Angeles County's OVP and the OVP's public health platform to address gun violence.

OVP monitors the trends and circumstances of violent deaths affecting the county to inform decision makers and program planners about ways to prevent and intervene on violence in the community, at home, and in the workplace.

Ms. Welsing reviewed recent trends in homicides and suicides in Los Angeles County. While the number of suicides has been higher than the number of homicides for the past ten years, the number of homicides increased noticeably from 2019 to 2020 (from 527 to 707). In contrast, the number of suicides remained roughly the same (from 865 to 853).

The financial costs of firearm deaths and injuries in the county was reviewed next. In 2020, the cost of 524 homicides and 1,336 assaults due to firearms amounted to \$5.4 billion in the county.<sup>1</sup> That same year, 274 suicides and 20 suicide attempts with firearms amounted to a cost of \$1.8 billion in the county.

In reviewing the background of OVP, Ms. Welsing noted that the Board of Supervisors passed a motion in February 2019 that established the OVP within the Department of Public Health.

OVP works to strengthen collaboration, capacity, and partnerships to prevent multiple forms of violence and promote healing across communities in the county.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes out-of-pocket costs, work loss costs, and quality-of life costs.

A County Leadership Committee (30 departments) and Community Partnership Council (25 members) governance structure were established to help guide the work of the OVP as well as the implementation of the OVP strategic plan.

The OVP core budget is funded through June 2022. Ongoing funding (estimated at \$3 million per year) is being sought. Ms. Welsing noted that there are a number of different sources of funding, and the overall budget is \$15 million.

Ms. Welsing discussed the OVP's public health approach to violence prevention, which includes the following:

- Is comprehensive: includes strategies at multiple levels
- Reduces risk factors and increases protective factors
- Focuses on population health, not just individuals
- Addresses the context (socio-ecological model)
- Is data driven: to understand the circumstances of violence and evaluate strategies
- Facilitates multi-sector collaboration and coordination
- Engages those most impacted, survivors or perpetrators, in developing and implementing solutions

OVP priorities and strategies includes a strategic plan that includes the following five features:

- Support children, youth, and families
- Foster safe neighborhoods
- Create a culture of peace
- Build infrastructure for healing informed policies and systems
- Create access to data and make it more accessible, as well as provide evaluation support.

OVP early implementation priorities include the following:

- Establish – Regional Violence Prevention Coalitions
- Create – Community Accessible Open Data Portal
- Expand – Trauma Prevention Initiative to additional communities
- Implement – Crisis Response Pilot in South LA
- Advance – Healing Centered and Trauma Informed System Change
- Shift – The Narrative about Violence and Trauma

American Rescue Plan Funding has allocated \$20 million in one-time funding to OVP. This will fund community-based organizations to support crisis response, trauma and healing services, and community violence intervention.

The timeline for this is 18 months, with a tentative start date in September 2022.

The OVP call to action to address gun violence includes the following priorities:

1. Advocate for robust gun safety legislation locally and nationally, including the federal ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
2. Increase violence prevention, intervention and healing programs and events to promote social connectedness and a culture of peace within neighborhoods, including healing circles.
3. Improve enforcement of Domestic Violence Restraining Orders and Gun Violence Restraining Orders, in partnership with courts and law enforcement (i.e., SB320, AB154 pending), and a red flag system to prohibit abusers from owning guns and ensure these are culturally appropriate.
4. Increase access to comprehensive culturally relevant physical and mental health services for school-aged children; require annual screening for emotional well-being for all students, K-12.

As part of OVP's vision for a violence-free Los Angeles County, its goal is to work at the local level and support prevention, intervention, and healing strategies so that all individuals and communities can thrive, be safe, and live free from harm. In order to achieve this, OVP is seeking to partner with multiple sectors, including law enforcement. Ms. Welsing noted that law enforcement agencies are often the first responders to acts of violence and violent crimes.

Opportunities for partnership with law enforcement agencies include:

- Participate in OVP County Leadership Committee meetings
- Continue to collaborate on Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI)
- Continue data sharing through participation in National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)
- Get involved with OVP Call to Action to Address Gun Violence – especially Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVROs) and Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) enforcement

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of CCJCC, noted that, in addition to contacting Ms. Welsing directly, law enforcement agencies can also contact his office and he will facilitate a connection with OVP.

John Mathews, Justice Deputy for Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair of the County Board of Supervisors and Chair of CCJCC, inquired as to OVP's priorities with ongoing funding as well as if there have been unexpected results from the data.

With regard to the data, Ms. Welsing stated that the increased violence during the pandemic was not surprising given increased access to guns and the social isolation that

occurred during the pandemic. In addition, the lockdown and precautions that had to be taken hampered some intervention strategies and caused them to pause and readjust.

She also noted that there tends to be a focus on high profile mass shootings, but attention should also be paid to day-to-day violence that impacts local communities. She added that efforts need to be made to obtain better data on domestic violence and sexual violence.

With regard to priorities with ongoing funding, Ms. Welsing stated that the funding is needed in order to develop local relationships in communities that can break cycles of violence and implement violence prevention strategies that have been shown to work. This needs to be a continual process that builds on the relationships and expands to other communities.

Connecting people to resources through outreach and investing in healing can serve to stop violence from continuing. Additionally, early intervention with young people can serve to prevent violence from starting.

Ms. Welsing informed the committee about the Violence, Hope and Healing Storytelling Project, which is a collaboration between the Department of Arts and Culture and OVP. This has resulted in a book of collected stories from individuals throughout the county who have survived violence. This adds a human element and context to the data about violence and can also inform policies for intervening in the cycle of violence.

Commissioner Maxwell Billieon of the Quality and Productivity Commission inquired about what can be done to help OVP collect the data that it needs.

Ms. Welsing stated that OVP has access to a wide range of data, but reiterated that some data, such as with domestic violence and sexual violence, is difficult to obtain. These crimes may go unreported and, therefore, their impact may not be fully understood.

She also added that it is important to connect the quantitative data with qualitative information, such as personal stories, in order to understand the impact of violence in the community. Further, when considering the impact of violence, it is important to focus on injuries as well as deaths.

Ms. Welsing stated that she will connect with Commissioner Billieon to discuss ways to improve on data collection.

For more information, the OVP website can be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/index.htm>

PowerPoint slides that were used for this presentation have been posted online under documents for this meeting at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

**ACTION: For information only.**

**V. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PLACEMENT ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

CCJCC members may contact Mr. Delgado and provide him with topics related to the criminal justice system that they would like to have discussed at a future meeting.

The committee will not meet in August, so the next CCJCC meeting is currently scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Future topics this year include a legislative update, discussion of services for victims of crime and survivors, and an update on the L.A. vs. Hate initiative that was presented at the meeting in April.

**ACTION: For information only.**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 p.m.