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TO: Mike Dempsey
Monitor for California Department of Justice

FROM: Eric Bates
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SUBJECT: Quarterly Report on Programming, Room Confinement, and Grievances at Barry J. Nidorf, Los Padrinos Juvenile Halls, and Camp Kilpatrick, for the First Quarter of 2026

This quarterly report reviewing the Los Angeles County Probation Department's (Probation Department) compliance with the access to programming, grievance process, and room confinement mandates outlined in the Detailed Plan for the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH) covers the first quarter of 2026, from January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026 (Reporting Period). All previous determinations of compliance were based on information and documentation provided by the Department under the premise that it was working toward implementation of an electronic data system. However, the electronic data system has not been implemented, and as noted in the previous quarterly report, the Department continues to provide incomplete and untimely information.[1]

Based on the latest information provided by the Probation Department, the Office of Inspector General is not confident that under standard auditing principles the information received allows for an accurate determination of the Department's compliance with the Detailed Plan. As a result, once again, the Office of Inspector General lacks sufficient information to determine the Department's compliance with the

[1] While the Office of Inspector General is not directly responsible for monitoring the implementation of computerized tracking systems or other processes that are included the Detailed Plan, the lack of implementation of computerized systems and improved processes continues to hinder the Office of Inspector General's ability to monitor the sections of the Detailed Plan assigned to our office. This is especially true when there are delays in providing documents timely as required by the Detailed Plan.

Detailed Plan for providing programming and tracking room confinements, and grievances.

Access to Programming, Recreation, Religious Services and Visitation

The Detailed Plan requires that the Probation Department provide youth with programming, recreational activities, religious services, visitation, and phone calls ("Required Activities") as required by law, regulation, and County policy. [2] The Detailed Plan also prohibits the Department from preventing access to Required Activities by confining youth to their rooms, unless it determines that a youth poses a threat to the safety or security of the facility. The Detailed Plan requires that Department staff document and log any denial of Required Activities by providing the staff member's reason for denial, the signature of the staff member, and the validation of the superintendent of the facility.[3]

For compliance, the Detailed Plan requires that the Probation Department provide Required Activities each day for at least 93% of youth that it has not found to pose a threat to the safety or security of the facility or themselves ("eligible youth"). To determine compliance, the Office of Inspector General reviewed the Department's centralized programming exception logs, recreation accountability logs, religious-service attendance logs, visitation documentation, telephone usage records, and related operational records for LPJH and BJNJH.

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[2] Title 15 provides that all youth shall be provided with the opportunity for at least one hour of daily programming to include, but not be limited to, trauma focused, cognitive, evidence-based, best practice interventions that are culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate, or prosocial interventions and activities designed to reduce recidivism. Examples of such activities are (1) Cognitive Behavior Interventions, (2) Management of Stress and Trauma, (3) Anger Management, (4) Conflict Resolution, (5) Juvenile Justice System, (6) Trauma-related interventions, (7) Victim Awareness, (8) Self-Improvement, (9) Parenting Skills and Support, (10) Tolerance and Diversity, (11) Healing Informed Approaches, (12) Interventions by Credible Messengers, (13) Gender Specific Programming, (14) Art, creative writing, or self-expression, (15) CPR and First Aid training, (16) Restorative Justice or Civic Engagement, (17) Career and leadership opportunities, and (18) Other topics suitable to the youth population. Education provided to the youths by Los Angeles County Office of Education is not considered "programming." As mentioned in the Monitor/SME Compliance Rating comments on the Detailed Plan, "more needs to be done to improve the overall programming, reduce idleness, and ensure that the programming being provided is based on a youth's individual needs."

[3] The Office of Inspector General interprets "validation" under Paragraph 24(c) to mean a signature on the log by a supervisor and superintendent.

During this Reporting Period, the Probation Department provided substantial operational documentation reflecting Required Activities occurring within the juvenile facilities, including recreation accountability logs, religious-service attendance sheets, visitation logs, and telephone usage records. The Department staff at LPJH maintained comprehensive recreation accountability logs that tracked youth participation, operational restrictions, modified schedules, and activity availability throughout the quarter. Staff also kept detailed visitation logs documenting unit-level visitation participation, visitor counts, interruptions, shortened visits, and any operational limitations. In addition, LPJH provided religious-service attendance records outlining participation in Bible studies and Sunday services, attendance totals, distribution of religious materials, and requests to meet with chaplains or religious counselors across multiple housing units.

The Office of Inspector General's review determined that recreation, visitation, religious programming, and telephone-access activities continued to operate throughout the quarter. However, despite the presence of these operational records, the Probation Department's centralized programming-exception logs remained incomplete and unreliable, preventing verification of compliance with Paragraph 24(c). Specifically, the centralized exception logs could not be consistently reconciled with room-confinement documentation, operational activity records, safety-related restrictions, or threat-based exclusions recorded elsewhere in Department files.

For LPJH, the programming exception logs recorded 17,187 missed-programming entries during the quarter. Of these, 8,537 entries were categorized as "Unknown (activity Log Incomplete/Blank)," accounting for approximately 49.67% of all missed-programming entries. The logs further reflected only 93 entries as "Safety & Security" and did not clearly indicate whether room-confinement incidents were included within the exception logs or tracked separately.

Similarly, at BJNJH, the Office of Inspector General identified significant discrepancies between the programming-exception logs and room-confinement documentation. Although the Probation Department separately reported 172 room-confinement incidents during the quarter, the centralized programming exception logs did not appear to include corresponding entries. Additionally, the BJNJH exception logs contained 1,066 entries categorized as "Unknown (activity Log Incomplete/Blank)," representing approximately 15.89% of all missed-programming entries.

The Office of Inspector General also observed inconsistencies in operational-tracking practices between facilities. LPJH maintained recreation-accountability logs documenting recreation activities, youth participation, operational restrictions, and modified schedules throughout the quarter, while comparable recreation-tracking documentation was not provided for BJNJH.

The Office of Inspector General therefore concluded that, although extensive operational documentation confirmed that Required Activities occurred during the quarter, compliance with Paragraph 24(c) still could not be determined. This limitation resulted from the Probation Department's centralized exception-log methodology, which could not be reliably reconciled with operational records, room-confinement documentation, and threat-based exclusions.

Undoubtedly, implementing computerized databases will provide a more seamless, and timely method for supplying documentation to the Office of Inspector General. During this quarter, the Probation Department informed the Office of Inspector General that the Electronic Calendar System (ECS), formerly operating as the DYD Calendar System, is designed to retain historical programming, attendance, cancellation, and participation data to support future compliance monitoring and auditing functions. This system entered its trial in April 2026.

During this Reporting Period, the Probation Department utilized multiple electronic systems intended to support programming operations, activity tracking, and compliance monitoring within juvenile facilities. Across multiple reporting periods, the Department has reported the development, implementation, replacement, or planned expansion of several systems, including the Institutional Programs and Calendar Application (IPCA), the Youth Activity Tracking System (YATS), the Electronic Calendar System (ECS), the Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development (DYD) Calendar System, and the Youth Support Systems (YSS/AIMS) platform. According to the Department, these systems were intended to improve scheduling, attendance tracking, documentation of Required Activities, room-confinement monitoring, and compliance reporting. The YATS system was described as a tool to track the daily movement of youths within the facilities, including participation in religious services, visitation, recreation, and other Required Activities.

During prior reporting periods, the Probation Department initiated operation of the IPCA system, which was intended to (1) track daily youth programming, including self-separations and room confinements, (2) generate weekly and monthly event calendars,

(3) issue alerts for canceled events, and (4) track changes made to youths' records. Although IPCA was launched on August 5, 2025, it was replaced within weeks by the DYD Calendar System and subsequent ECS-related scheduling platforms beginning in September 2025.

More recently, the Probation Department informed the Office of Inspector General that it has implemented the ECS, which consolidates the previous electronic systems and supports future program coordination, attendance tracking, compliance reporting, and long-term storage of scheduling and participation data. The ECS is designed to retain historical records from earlier systems rather than overwrite prior scheduling, attendance, cancellation, or participation information

The Probation Department additionally advised the Office of Inspector General that DYD is in the process of assuming increased responsibility for youth programming operations within juvenile facilities, including coordination and management of programming schedules and activities. As part of this transition, the Department reported that ECS and related DYD scheduling systems are intended to support future DYD programming operations and compliance-tracking functions. However, the precise division of responsibilities between the Department and DYD regarding programming oversight, data entry, compliance tracking, and retention of historical records remains under development.

The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend the development of a comprehensive compliance platform that integrates data from the Probation Case Management System (PCMS), the Safe Crisis Management (SCM) system, the DYD Calendar System, Title 15 compliance records, and Room Confinements. Such an integrated platform would enable automated alerts, centralized data analysis, and real-time oversight of key operational and regulatory requirements. Without this level of system integration, the Probation Department remains limited in its ability to proactively monitor compliance, identify trends, and ensure timely corrective action

The Office of Inspector General is tasked under the Detailed Plan with ensuring that youth are not improperly denied programming and that all eligible youth "have been provided programming, recreation, exercise, religious services, visitation, and phone calls, as required by law, regulation and County policy."[4]

As noted in previous quarterly reports, Probation Department staff are expected to document the specific reasons for the decline in the youths' participation in programming through Self-Separation forms and related tracking systems. During the first quarter of 2026, the Office of Inspector General received and reviewed Self-Separation documentation from both BJNJH and LPJH.[5] However, during this reporting period, the Department modified its self-separation tracking practices and transitioned away from prior individualized self-separation forms toward newer centralized log-based tracking systems. According to the Department, these changes were implemented as part of corrective action efforts and were intended to reduce paperwork burden on staff. As a result of these process changes, the Office of Inspector General's ability to assess youth participation, individualized staff engagement efforts, and the specific circumstances surrounding self-separation events was limited.

The Office of Inspector General's review of Self-Separation documentation continued to identify a high reliance on generalized explanations such as "tired" or "sleep" as the reason for self-separation. Across previously reviewed reporting periods, most reviewed self-separation forms at both facilities relied on generalized "tired/sleep" justifications with limited individualized detail regarding the youth's circumstances or the reasons for declining participation in programming. Similarly, the Office of Inspector General continued to observe inconsistent documentation regarding staff efforts to re-engage youth in Required Activities.

During discussions with the Probation Department regarding these changes, the Department advised that documentation of re-engagement efforts is viewed as a practice rather than a specific policy or Title 15 requirement. The Department further indicated that newer log-based systems may no longer capture the same level of individualized narrative detail previously reflected in earlier self-separation forms. While

[4] To find substantial compliance with Paragraph 24(c)(i-iv) of the Detailed Plan the Office of Inspector General must find that "93% of youth who have not been found to represent a threat to safety and security have been provided programming, recreation, exercise, religious services, visitation, and phone calls, as required by law, regulation and County policy." Ensuring that appropriate steps to re-engage youth in programming is necessary to achieve meaningful compliance.

[5] The Office of Inspector General does not consider self-separation to be room confinement solely because a youth chooses not to participate in an activity.

the Office of Inspector General acknowledges the Department’s efforts to streamline documentation practices, the reduction of individualized narrative documentation further limits the ability to assess whether youth are being meaningfully encouraged to participate in programming and whether self-separations are appropriately distinguished from refusals or potential room confinement concerns.

The Office of Inspector General remains concerned regarding inconsistencies in the documentation of youth refusals, self-separations, and staff re-engagement efforts. The lack of individualized detail and consistent documentation limits the ability to assess the quality of staff-youth interactions, whether youth refusals were appropriately addressed, and whether youth disengagement from programming was voluntary or appropriately managed.

The Office of Inspector General recommends continued monitoring and the implementation of standardized documentation practices capable of consistently capturing individualized reasons for non-participation, staff efforts to re-engage youth in programming, and outcomes associated with self-separation events across all juvenile facilities.

The Probation Department utilizes the Guard1 electronic safety tracking system for the required Title 15 safety checks of the youths in their rooms. The *Notes* field in the Guard1 system provides the Department the ability to note efforts made to re-engage youths who self-separate. As noted in the last quarterly report, the Guard1 *Notes* field is no longer utilized due to staff routinely entering incorrect and incomplete information in that field. The Office of Inspector General continues to recommend that the Department properly train its staff to properly utilize the *Notes* field to document efforts made to re-engage the youths in Required Activities, and the Department prioritize the completion of the electronic tracking systems to digitally memorialize youth participation, reasons for non-participation in Required Activities, and attempts to re-engage youth in programming.

Room Confinements

The Detailed Plan in paragraph 20 requires that the Probation Department create and implement an internal process to better identify and track room confinements. This system must include a mechanism to promptly notify juvenile hall superintendents of room confinements that violate department policy or state law. It must also facilitate the swift implementation of remedial measures to address any identified deficiencies. The

Detailed Plan further instructs the Department to create an approved internal process to provide the Office of Inspector General with data and documentation of identified violations of room confinement policy or state law as well as the remedial measures taken in response to these violations.

The Detailed Plan requires Probation Department staff to promptly notify facility superintendents when room confinements do not comply with Welfare and Institutions Code section 208.3, other applicable state laws, or department policy. Based on the Office of Inspector General's review of available documentation for the first quarter of 2026, the Department imposed 124 room confinements at BJNJH and 9 at LPJH. Of these, the Office of Inspector General identified one room confinement incident at BJNJH that exceeded four hours in duration, and it included documented reintegration review and supervisory approval associated with the extended confinement period. However, the Office of Inspector General identified two additional incidents at BJNJH that were also identified by the Department's quality control process, with a discrepancy in documentation indicating the confinements exceeded four hours without timely approval documentation. Overall, for BJNJH, the Department is in compliance with the Detailed plan.

None of the reviewed LPJH room confinement incidents exceeded four hours. As a result, the Department is in compliance with the Detailed Plan.

Grievances

The Detailed Plan requires the Probation Department to implement a grievance policy to provide youth and families with the ability to submit grievances through a secure online portal.[6] As described in the previous quarterly and semi-annual reports, the Department

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[6] Detailed Plan Para. 31(a): Within the timeframes set forth herein, the County will implement a revised grievance policy to provide: (i) additional avenues and means for youth and families to submit grievances, including through secure online portals; (ii) tracking of grievances for responses and appeals in compliance with California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 1361, with oversight by OIG; and (iii) a process for prompt review of and response to grievances alleging physical or sexual abuse of youth and documentation of referral to the appropriate investigating agency[ies].

implemented its electronic Grievance Management System (GMS) in February 2023, which allows youths to file grievances through their laptop computers.[7]

As noted in the previous quarterly report, the Probation Department confirmed that, as of September 2025, the GMS is fully operational, with functionality for data entry, tracking, and resolution documentation. For this reporting period, the Department stated the GMS underwent two rounds of enhancements for improvements to its functionality. The Office of Inspector General has verified that staff at both BJNJH and LPJH have access to the GMS and continue the electronic entry of new grievances into the system. The Department has recently informed the Office of Inspector General that access to the GMS is now available for staff at CVK.

The Probation Department has reported completion of the procurement process for electronic grievance kiosks, which are intended to enable youth to submit grievances directly into the GMS without staff assistance. The Department previously reported that the vendor contract was approved in late September 2025, and installation is expected to begin during the fourth quarter. As of April 2026, the Department confirmed selection of a vendor and completion of a Service Level Agreement (SLA). According to the Department, the next phase is review of the SLA with the selected vendor. In the meantime, staff continue to rely on paper grievance forms and use of Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) laptop computers during school hours to maintain continuity in grievance reporting.[8] However, because the kiosk component, which provides “anonymity” in reporting grievances, has not yet been implemented and is not accessible in all housing units, the Department only attained partial compliance with the Detailed Plan’s requirement for a youth-accessible electronic “online” grievance submission portal.[9]

The Office of Inspector General reviewed grievance logs from both BJNJH and LPJH to assess the frequency and nature of grievances submitted during the first quarter of 2026, including those alleging denial of Required Activities such as telephone calls, visitation, recreation, and religious services. At BJNJH, the Probation Department

[7] GMS is the electronic Grievance Management System used for tracking and distribution system of grievances, which replaced the previous system JIGS that was an email method of distribution that was flawed therefore replaced.

[8] The use of LACOE laptop computers does not provide the youths complete “anonymity” in reporting grievances. Access to laptop computers is limited to when the youths are in school.

[9] The Probation Department contends that use of LACOE laptops satisfies its requirement under the Detailed Plan.

documented receipt of 272 grievances, of which 3% (9 of 272) related to denial of recreation, 3% (8 of 272) to programming, approximately 1% (4 of 272) related to denial of religious services and less than 1% percent related to phone calls (2 of 272) and visitation (2 of 272). GMS summary data reports and grievance summary documentation provided by the Department demonstrated BJNJH staff resolved 100% (24 of 24) of these grievances in accordance with policy and within required timeframes.

At LPJH, the Probation Department documented 243 grievances, with 2% (5 of 243) related to programming, and less than 1 percent (2 of 243) to phone calls and recreation (1 of 243). The Office of Inspector General observed no grievances related to denial of religious services or visitation. GMS summary data reports and grievance summary documentation provided by the Department demonstrated LPJH staff resolved 100% (8 of 8) of grievances consistent with Department policy and the timelines established in the Detailed Plan.

CVK did not have GMS summary data reports nor applicable data available for review during this reporting period. The Office of Inspector General, therefore, was unable to determine adherence to established policy and compliance with the Detailed Plan.

Although the GMS is now operational, the Office of Inspector General notes that full compliance with the Detailed Plan will require both consistent electronic data entry by staff and the full implementation of grievance kiosks to ensure that youth can file grievances independently and confidentially. The Office of Inspector General will continue to monitor the Probation Department's progress through quarterly system audits and direct verification at juvenile hall facilities to assess implementation status and data accuracy.

Conclusion

The Office of Inspector General's review of the Probation Department for the first quarter of 2026 indicates that the Department continues to fail in achieving full compliance with the requirements of the Detailed Plan. Specifically, the Department has not yet: (1) provided consistent and timely documentation of youth programming across all facilities; (2) implemented a fully integrated and approved internal process to identify and track room confinements in real time; and (3) completed the installation of grievance kiosks that would allow youth to electronically and independently file grievances directly into the Grievance Management System. These ongoing gaps hinder the Department's ability to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely corrective action.

Although the Probation Department has reported that the GMS has been fully restored and operational since September 2025, the Department remains only in partial compliance until all housing units are equipped with functioning kiosks accessible to youth. Similarly, room confinement tracking continues to rely on manual review and partially implemented electronic tracking systems as the Department's electronic systems undergo testing and integration. Until these systems are fully implemented and capable of generating real-time, verifiable data, the Department's ability to meet the Detailed Plan's requirements remains limited.

The Office of Inspector General acknowledges the Probation Department's ongoing efforts to modernize its data systems and strengthen operational oversight. However, full compliance with the Detailed Plan requires the expedited implementation of fully functional electronic systems capable of accurately collecting, verifying, and analyzing critical information related to programming, grievances, and room confinement. The Office of Inspector General continues to emphasize the importance of timely data collection, consistent documentation of staff engagement with self-separated youth, and adequate custodial staffing levels to ensure that all juvenile facilities meet the County's legal and policy obligations under state law and the Detailed Plan.

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