



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING**
<https://youthcommission.lacounty.gov/>

Thursday, November 17, 2022

6:00 PM



Audio for the entire meeting. (22-4441)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. (22-4263)

Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and roll call was conducted.

Present: Chair Amanda Hernandez, Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Vice Chair Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Brittianna Robinson and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: Commissioner La'Toya Cooper and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

2. Approval of minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2022. (22-4264)

On motion of Commissioner Ortega Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Young, and duly carried, the minutes from the meeting of October 20, 2022 were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Chair Amanda Hernandez, Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Vice Chair Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr., Commissioner Brittianna Robinson and Commissioner Angela Young

Absent: 2 - Commissioner La'Toya Cooper and Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

3. Leadership Report. (22-4265)

Chair Hernandez introduced this item.

Commissioner Ortega Martinez, Jr. shared that he, Chair Hernandez, and Commissioner Flores Urrutia, had a fruitful meeting with Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger. The Second Supervisorial District listening session is Saturday, November 19, 2022, to hear directly from youth on concerns regarding the County.

Vice Chair Nishiyama reported the Commission continues to engage young people supporting the work around the three key priority areas: Juvenile Justice, Homelessness, and Universal Basic Income.

4. Interim Executive Director's Report. (22-4266)

Dr. Erica Reynoso, Interim Executive Director, Youth Commission, reported the following:

- **Staff have been in communication with the First Supervisorial District regarding a way to honor and remember the late Commissioner Alex Furtado. More updates will be provided as they come in.**
- **Welcomed new staff member Max Weltz, who is the public information contact working closely with Commissioners and staff on communications and publishing.**
- **Ashley Carrillo Lopez was promoted within the Commission.**
- **Recruitment of additional staff and a new Executive Director is underway.**
- **Thanked the Executive Office, Commission Services staff for their work in supporting the Commission.**

Commissioners welcomed Mr. Weltz and congratulated Ms. Carrillo Lopez.

Members of the public, Max Weltz and LaMikia Castillo, addressed the Commission.

III. DISCUSSION

5. Status update from the Los Angeles County Office of Education regarding the Youth Commission's visit to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall on April 1, 2022. (22-4267)

Chair Hernandez introduced this item and welcomed presenters.

Dr. Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), shared an overview of LACOE and her personal philosophy. Dr. Duardo noted that the systems have not been designed to meet the needs of all youth and LACOE has done a lot of preventative work advocating and trying to put systems in place in the 80 school districts.

Commissioners expressed concerns and asked questions regarding their visit to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH). Dr. Duardo provided the following:

- Clarified the difference between students not going to school because LACOE did not have classrooms or teachers versus the Probation Department having shortages in staff and were unable to escort students to classrooms and confirmed that there are no staffing shortages in LACOE.**
- Explained the process when there is a shortage in Probation staff and noted that living units are not setup for instruction.**
- The current curriculum in place is Road To Success Academies (RTSA). It was specifically developed by teachers for youth that are in the juvenile justice system. This type of curriculum is evidence-based with project-based work and is culturally relevant.**
- Students are placed in classrooms based on safety, not by level of education. Teachers are faced with challenges in differentiating instructions to students of various levels of education.**
- LACOE does its best to work with students in the different levels of education and requests records from school districts as soon as a student enters a camp or hall. LACOE relies on the previous school district to provide the information.**
- Assessments are given to determine level of curriculum and there are programs to help students grow, learn, and improve.**
- Invited Commissioners to attend Operation Graduation to witness hundreds of students graduating.**
- LACOE partners with community colleges to offer dual enrollment in halls and camps where students are encouraged to take college courses.**

- **Systems are put in place for students to accelerate their credits to graduate.**
- **Packets are provided to students in living units or under quarantine**
- **Part of that preparation is healing and offering resources and support such as mental health professionals.**
- **Stressed that there is room for improvement, Probation and LACOE meet regularly and with students. LACOE administrators visit camps and halls to do walkthroughs and speak with students.**
- **LACOE has Transition Counselors that follow up with youth after they leave the system to ensure youth get enrolled in their previous school district, alternative educational program, or community college.**
- **There are educational programs and workshops available for parents of incarcerated youth to help parents prepare their child for transition.**

Dr. Diana Velasquez, Director, RTSA, LACOE provided the following:

- **RTSA is thematic, interdisciplinary and project based learning with different levels of implementation at different sites. COVID 19 impacted the ability to create some of those projects and to be able to do the individualized piece.**
- **LACOE is reviewing sites and helping support them so that they go back to a thematic, interdisciplinary, project based approach that was developed for students to engage and connect, and that lessons are developed with cultural relevancy and opportunities for projects.**
- **The educational structure observed on April 1, 2022 was not in a usual mode. Central Juvenile Hall and BJNJH had just merged and experienced issues with Probation staff and behavioral challenges due to the change in environment.**
- **The goal is to have students engaged and be involved in a curriculum that is differentiated and provides support for those at a lower level, but also has opportunities for those that are at the higher level with apex and college courses.**
- **There are weekly interagency meetings that happen between Probation and LACOE to discuss issues around school and facilities in general.**
- **LACOE has been deliberate about surveys to gather feedback from students and parents regarding educational programming and additional support.**
- **Invited Commissioners to join LACOE's monitoring visits to halls and camps where they can observe together and provide feedback.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation by the Probation Department on youth engagement and holiday planning. (22-4270)

Chair Hernandez introduced this item and welcomed presenters.

Valerie Van Kirk, Bureau Chief, Detention Services, Probation Department, shared that the Probation holiday plans are a work in progress. She overviewed the Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities planned for Central Juvenile Hall and BJNJH that included games, prizes, caroling and meals. The Youth Councils are heavily involved in the youth engagement and planning of activities. Ms. Van Kirk noted that the date and time are still pending and that all events must be a safe environment and pre-approved by their Superiors.

Mary Ann Smiley, Director, Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF), Probation Department, indicated that there are currently 73 SYTF youth; 10 youth housed at Camp Kilpatrick (Kilpatrick) and the remaining at BJNJH. The Youth Council group in Kilpatrick just started to facilitate and guide groups, Probation staff, and Department of Mental Health staff. The Youth Council group at BJNJH is anticipated to start soon.

Ms. Smiley provided an update on the Thanksgiving festivities at BJNJH and noted that caseworkers will survey youth and families to see who needs a Thanksgiving basket donated by staff and agencies. Healing Dialogue and Action will provide Thanksgiving lunch and possibly dinner to youth and staff at Kilpatrick.

The activities for the December holidays were planned by youth with a youth-centered approach and festivities will begin the first week of December. Ideas were collected from both youth and staff. It was suggested to hold a holiday lunch for youth, their families, and staff and hope to offer transportation should families be unable to drive themselves to Kilpatrick. Staff at various juvenile halls and at Kilpatrick have used their own time and money to provide holiday activities throughout the day for youth. Probation reached out to Homeboy Arts Academy to help kids draw and decorate poster boards to be placed around cottages and more providers will come in to focus on the holiday season.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Van Kirk indicated that it is important for Probation to find as many Community Based Organizations as possible to provide support for youth. Gifts provided would need to be approved and there are approximately 360 youth within both facilities.

Christmas caroling will include youth of all ages and youth are encouraged but not required to participate in the festivities.

Ms. Smiley indicated that youth in the SYTF are very involved in the activities selection and provide feedback and requests. She confirmed that culinary classes will resume in January 2023 at Kilpatrick but will check with the kitchen staff if youth could help prepare holiday meals. She also indicated that various arts and culture programs are offered at Juvenile Halls and Kilpatrick by partners and providers once to twice a week as schedules permit.

7. Presentation by the Department of Economic Opportunities on Youth Programs:

- Youth@Work
- Elevate
- America's Job Centers of California (22-4271)

Chair Hernandez introduced this item and welcomed Felipe Moscoso, Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

Mr. Moscoso provided an overview of the DEO and America's Job Centers of California (AJCC), noting AJCC as a one stop shop for questions relating to advancing education, career pathway, or available opportunities to obtain work experience, and is located throughout the County.

Mr. Moscoso shared a PowerPoint presentation and provided an overview of the following program:

- Youth@Work is a program that provides access to paid work-based learning, work readiness, and paid personal enrichment training.
- The Youth@Work Program Design is comprised of three tiers:
 - Paid Work Experience
 - Work-based Learning
 - Academic and Career Development
- Invited the Commission to provide feedback on the Youth@Work application webpage and program.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Mr. Moscoso provided the following:

- DEO has staff dedicated to creating social media content.
- There are currently only two AJCCs located in the Antelope Valley area, however, DEO is working on increasing virtual settings.

- **Camp to Community Transition is the partnership between DEO and Probation, under the Youth@Work umbrella. Youth start when they are detained at camps or halls and complete the personal enrichment training while there. Youth can earn wages while they are detained and will exit with a paycheck that will help them adapt to life outside camps and halls. Work experience is completed in house with positions available in the library, cafeteria, etc.**
- **DEO is working with Probation to develop further partnerships with provisions.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. UPDATES

8. Operations Committee update by Angela Young, Chair, Operations Committee. (22-4268)

Commissioner Angela Young, Operations Committee Chair, reported the next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The following topics will be discussed:

- **The Commission compensation model and creating a process for Commissioners to keep track of their involvement with the Commission to provide transparency around compensated and voluntary engagements.**
 - **A formal intake process for partnerships with organizations.**
9. Youth Engagement Committee update by La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee. (22-4272)

Chair Hernandez provided the following update in the absence of Commissioner Cooper:

- **The Second District Listening Session will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kenneth Hahn Recreation Park.**
- **Commissioners Cooper, Jackson, and Smiley will be leading the conversation.**
- **The next Youth Engagement Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.**

10. Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming update by Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. (22-4273)

Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr., Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming Chair, reported the next Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. They will discuss and how data indicators are working.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

11. Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) not on the agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (22-4274)

A member of the public, Alejandro, addressed the Commission.

12. Commissioner discussion of matters not posted on the agenda, to be considered placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (22-4275)

The following matters were requested:

- **Invite the California Ombudsperson, the Department of Children and Family Services Ombudsperson, and other groups such as the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition to present at a future meeting about the Youth Bill of Rights.**

13. Closing remarks and Adjournment. (22-4276)

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

On motion of Commissioner Ortega-Martinez, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Young, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.