

# COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE **September 9, 2020** MEETING Online Via Microsoft Teams

### **MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Chair: Kathryn Barger, Supervisor, Fifth District and Chair of the County Board of Supervisors

Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender

Reaver Bingham for Raymon Leyva, County Chief Probation Officer

John Curley, President, San Gabriel Valley Police Chiefs Association

Mark Diorio for Selwyn Hollins, Director, County Internal Services Department

\*Elaine Duong for Richard Llewellyn, Los Angeles City Administrative Officer

\*Xiomara Flores Holguin for Bobby Cagle, Director, County Department of Children and Family Services

Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender

Nicole Gougis, President, County Prosecutors Association

Lajuana Haselrig for Alex Villanueva, Sheriff

Christa Hohmann, Directing Attorney, Post Conviction Assistance Center

Dan Jeffries for Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney

Jonathan Lucas, County Coroner – Chief Medical Examiner

David Marin, Field Office Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

\*Kevin McCarthy for Jackie Lacey, District Attorney and Vice Chair of CCJCC

Edward McIntyre for Jacki Bacharach, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Don Meredith for Joe Gardner, President, County Probation Commission

Anthony Miranda for John Incontro, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association

Cuauhtemoc Ortega, Federal Public Defender

Ezekiel Perlo, Directing Attorney, Indigent Criminal Defense Appointments Program

Robert Philibosian, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County

Kris Pitcher for Michel Moore, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

Joanne Saliba for Ed Eng, County Economy and Efficiency Commission

Susan Sullivan Pithey for Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General

Rachel Teitelbaum for Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Human Relations Commission

Robin Toma for Otto Solorzano, Director, County Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services

\*Thida Van for Fesia Davenport, County Acting Chief Executive Officer

Andrea Welsing for Barbara Ferrer, Director, County Department of Public Health

Noro Zurabyan for Mary Wickham, County Counsel

**\*Not a designated alternate**

**I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Kathryn Barger, County Supervisor, Fifth District

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair of CCJCC.

Self-introductions followed.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chair Kathryn Barger, County Supervisor, Fifth District

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.**

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mark Delgado, Executive Director, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), provided the Executive Director's Report to the committee.

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

**Psychiatric Social Worker Program**

CCJCC has finalized a \$2.3 million funding agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to hire Psychiatric Social Workers (PSWs) in the Public Defender's Office and Alternate Public Defender's Office for up to five years.

Two PSWs will be assigned to the Public Defender's Office and one PSW will be assigned to the Alternate Public Defender's Office.

The PSWs will work cases with female defendants who are facing state prison sentences and will prepare social history reports that may be contributing factors when alternative dispositions are considered.

Implementation of this multi-agency program is pending final approval from the California Department of General Services.

### Report: “Stemming the Rise in Hate and Violence”

Per a directive from the Board of Supervisors in October 2019, CCJCC convened a multi-agency workgroup to develop/update law enforcement strategies for preventing and responding to acts of hate.

The report from this workgroup was submitted to the Board of Supervisors in June of this year. This report, which is entitled *Stemming the Rise in Hate and Violence*, is available on the CCJCC website at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

Mr. Delgado noted that the report provides updates to law enforcement agencies’ hate crime policies and practices, outreach efforts, and trainings so as to effectively respond to and investigate hate crimes.

### Criminal Justice System – Evaluation Efforts

CCJCC has been engaged in efforts to enhance the county’s ability to capture data and measure outcomes within the criminal justice system.

#### *AB 109 Study Series*

One of these efforts is the launch of the AB 109 Study Series. Study 1 of this series measured trends and outcomes of AB 109 individuals with serious mental illness. It is expected that a report on this will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors within the next month.

This series of studies will involve an ongoing partnership among CCJCC, the Probation Department, Public Safety Realignment Team (PSRT), and the Chief Information Office (CIO).

#### *Justice Metrics Framework Initiative*

Another project is the Justice Metrics Framework (JMF) Initiative, which is a foundational effort led by the CIO to help set-up the structure for measuring justice outcomes across the justice system continuum. A first report on this work is also being prepared for submittal to the Board of Supervisors.

#### *Jail-Based Job Center Evaluation*

The Department of Workforce Development And Community Services (WDACS) initiated an evaluation of its jail-based job center. This will measure the effectiveness of connecting different systems in the county, in this case that of the justice system and the workforce development system.

Mr. Delgado noted that WDACS did a solicitation through the CCJCC Master Agreement program. Other county departments that are interested in conducting an evaluation on a

justice-related initiative may contact Mr. Delgado about similarly using the existing Master Agreement program.

#### Court-Referred Community Service Program

Community service is an alternative sentencing option in lieu of fines and/or incarceration.

In 2017, CCJCC partnered with the Superior Court and the Los Angeles Community Development Authority (LACDA) to develop/implement standards for referral agencies and participating organizations and to monitor compliance with those standards.

This resulted in a funding agreement in which LACDA is monitoring compliance with the standards. The agreement expires in October, and CCJCC is currently working with LACDA on a renewal.

**ACTION: For information only.**

#### **IV. INFORMATION SYSTEMS ADVISORY BOARD (ISAB)**

Ali Farahani, Interim Director, Information Systems Advisory Board

Ali Farahani, Interim Director of the Information Systems Advisory Board (ISAB), provided an update on two recent efforts that ISAB has been involved in.

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

#### Digital Evidence Management System

The Enterprise Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) is envisioned to be a countywide system to help share digital evidence across departments in the justice community.

#### *Timeline and Milestones*

The Board of Supervisors passed a motion in 2016 that called for ISAB, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), CIO, CCJCC, and justice agencies to develop an implementation strategy for a countywide DEMS.

ISAB reported back to the Board later that year (December 2016) after meeting with partners in the justice community. A recommendation was approved to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a countywide DEMS and to hire a consultant to develop requirements.

In 2018, the consultant conducted stakeholder interviews to gather requirements and develop an ISAB DEMS RFP.

In 2019, ISAB published the DEMS RFP and established an Evaluation Committee consisting of the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Alternate Public Defender's Office, Probation Department, Superior Court, and CIO. Later that year, the Evaluation Committee completed the proposal scoring and selected the top three proposals.

Contract negotiations are currently taking place with the highest scoring DEMS vendor. It is hoped that the contract and implementation plan will be finalized by the end of this year and that DEMS implementation can begin three to six months later.

### *DEMS Solutions Architecture*

Mr. Farahani described the DEMS solutions architecture. The following information can be entered into DEMS through automated interface and user interface:

- Body worn camera content from law enforcement agencies
- Potential evidence from cell phone pictures, texts, and videos
- Potential evidence from security cameras and dashcams
- Potential evidence from social media, e-mail, and video conferencing
- Potential evidence from computers, medical images, and data on removable media

DEMS will provide standardized secure and neutral digital content management, business collaboration, and data integration.

The information can then be shared with the individual departmental systems of the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Alternate Public Defender's Office, Probation Department, and Superior Court.

Mr. Farahani noted that justice partners can upload content into DEMS and keep it in their own silos that they control. It will not be automatically shared or made available to others. Each department/agency can determine what information to share through the business collaboration portion of the system.

The individual silos can be integrated within a department's own existing case management system. Also, when content is uploaded into the system, DEMS will assign content a digital certificate to ensure authenticity.

### *Next steps*

ISAB will work with the justice agency stakeholders and CCJCC for phased participation and an onboarding roadmap. In addition, the contract and implementation plan will be finalized.

### *Questions*

Edward McIntyre of the County Quality and Productivity Commission inquired as to

whether other jurisdictions are using systems like DEMS.

Mr. Farahani confirmed that similar systems are being utilized in other jurisdictions, but it is still in the early stages of being used by large jurisdictions like this county.

A public comment was made by Ms. Genevieve Clavreul.

### Criminal Justice Data Sharing Initiative

Fernando Angel, Assistant Director of ISAB, discussed the Criminal Justice Data Sharing Initiative.

On August 4, 2020, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion directing ISAB to commence a Criminal Justice Data Sharing Initiative in collaboration with various stakeholders. This is a proactive approach to data transparency that will provide a data portal that is available to the public.

#### *Milestones*

The following three milestones were set forth:

- Milestone 1 – Data Discovery Workshops (August through October 2020)
- Milestone 2 – Solution Architecture Design (August through October 2020)
- Milestone 3 – Phase 1a Implementation on data points available (November 4, 2020)

ISAB is close to finishing the first milestone, which involves identifying what is currently tracked, accessible, and ready to be published on the county's open data portal. Data Discovery Workshops have been used in collaboration with other departments as part of this data discovery phase.

Both short-term and long-term goals have been set. The short-term goal is to determine all of the data points that are ready and available. The long-term goal involves providing data that does not currently exist, but that can potentially be made available at a future time.

For the second milestone, each of the participating departments will develop an architectural design to automate the process for how the data will be incorporated into the county data portal.

Phase 1a in Milestone 3 calls for collecting, analyzing, and publishing data that is currently and reasonably accessible about the justice-impacted population. The data should be published monthly with the goal of publishing data weekly within six months of the start of this Data Sharing Initiative.

Mr. Angel noted that this process involves collaboration among numerous county departments and participants.

**ACTION: For information only.**

**V. CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION**

Rafael Carbajal, Acting Director, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs

Rafael Carbajal, Acting Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), presented on his department's response efforts to address price gouging, scams, and wage violations impacting consumers and essential workers in a declared state of emergency.

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

Since early March of this year, DCBA has embarked on several projects aimed at addressing problems raised by the pandemic. This has included steps to strengthen consumer protection by addressing price gouging.

Price Gouging

Maggie Becerra, Deputy Director with DCBA, discussed DCBA's efforts to prevent price gouging.

A federal, state, or local declaration of a state of emergency invokes price gouging statutes that are designed to protect consumers from excessive prices for essential goods or services. An increase in the price of vital and necessary goods and services of 10% or more may constitute price gouging.

The state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was declared on March 4, 2020.

The Board of Supervisors directed DCBA to review existing price gouging protections and provide recommended changes to strengthen them. The recommendations were subsequently adopted.

The Los Angeles County price gouging ordinance allows for more stringent protections for consumers during a declared state of emergency, including unconscionable prices. It also includes subpoena authority that can be useful to garner information on vendor pricing.

Ms. Becerra noted that the law applies even if the business is selling a new item that it was not selling prior to the state of emergency.

The DCBA is working with an outside vendor to create an app to allow for faster and more convenient and effective reporting of price gouging. With the app, information and pictures can be taken and uploaded. The web-based version of the app is live and available online at <http://stoppricegouging.dcba.lacounty.gov>.

Ms. Becerra emphasized that a person does not have to be a victim of price gouging in order to file a complaint.

A task force on price gouging has been formed that includes representation from the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, County Counsel's Office, DCBA, and the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office. This group meets monthly to discuss complaints of price gouging and determine if they merit an investigation.

Since the start of the state of emergency in March, DCBA has received 1,830 complaints of price gouging. Of these, 52 cases have been presented to task force participants and 31 were accepted by prosecuting agencies for follow-up action.

Thus far, five businesses have been served with subpoenas by the County Counsel's Office requesting further information; 29 other business are currently under investigation.

One case has been filed for prosecution.

### Scams

There have been a number of scams associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. These include contact tracer scams, phony websites, and phony COVID-19 tests and remedies.

As an example, DCBA worked on a case with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office that involved a business selling a phony remedy. This resulted in charges being filed against the business and injunction being filed to stop the advertising. A settlement was subsequently reached with the business.

Ms. Becerra noted that phony contact tracers may ask potential victims for personal information. This may include requests for Social Security or Medicare numbers, banking information, immigration status, or other confidential information.

### Wage Enforcement Program

Rose Basmadzhyan, Chief with DCBA, provided information about the Wage Enforcement Program.

DCBA's Wage Enforcement Program became effective on July 1, 2016. DCBA enforces and educates businesses on the requirements of the County's Minimum Wage Ordinance, which applies to businesses in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. Employees that provide two or more hours of work in one week in unincorporated areas are covered by the ordinance.



Los Angeles County's Minimum Wage Ordinance and the Minimum Wage Enforcement Ordinance protects workers from unpaid minimum wages and retaliation.

Since going into effect, DCBA's Wage Enforcement Program has led to \$408,887.03 in wages being collected. In addition, fines collected for employees have totaled \$309,755.40 and fines collected for the county have totaled \$255,456.25.

There have been 1,385 employees affected by the enforcement actions of the DCBA.

Ms. Basmadzhyan noted that DCBA is also contracted to perform wage enforcement for the City of Santa Monica.

Santa Monica's Minimum Wage Ordinance protects workers from unpaid minimum wages, paid sick leave, and carries criminal penalties for retaliation.

Thus far, DCBA's enforcement efforts have resulted in \$152,337.83 in wages, paid sick leave, and overtime being collected and \$122,710 in fines being collected for the City of Santa Monica.

In addition, there has been one criminal prosecution by the Santa Monica City Attorney for retaliatory termination of an employee. This resulted in a sentence of probation for three years, 150 hours of community service, and a payment of \$3,000 for investigative costs.

There have been 170 employees affected by the enforcement actions of the DCBA in the City of Santa Monica.

**ACTION: For information only.**

**NOTE: Supervisor Barger left the meeting following this presentation. County Alternate Public Defender Erika Anzoategui served as Chair Pro Tem for the remainder of the meeting.**

**VI. TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTO-THEFT PREVENTION (TRAP)**  
Captain Martin L. Rodriguez, TRAP, Sheriff's Department

Captain Martin Rodriguez of the Sheriff's Department presented the Taskforce for Regional Auto-Theft Prevention (TRAP) Steering Committee report to CCJCC.

Joining Captain Rodriguez in this presentation were Lieutenant Bruce Hosea of the LAPD and Lieutenant Steve Ruiz of the Sheriff's Department.

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

## Background

TRAP is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional auto theft taskforce that was formed in 1993. Its mission is to combat complex auto-theft rings, reduce the number of auto-thefts, increase the recovery rate of stolen automobiles, identify trends and patterns of vehicle theft, provide training and expertise to participating law enforcement agencies, and coordinate a deterrence program with the private sector.

Annual reports are provided to CCJCC on TRAP's operations and budget, as well as current auto-theft trends.

## Members and Staffing

TRAP is now comprised of 16 participating agencies and 1 law enforcement partner, with 57 total investigators.

Captain Rodriguez is the new project manager for TRAP. Other Sheriff's Department representatives on TRAP include 1 Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants, 17 detectives, and 8 professional staff.

LAPD representation on TRAP includes 1 Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants, and 14 detectives.

Other participating police departments include the Alhambra Police Department, Beverly Hills Police Department, El Monte Police Department, El Segundo Police Department, Irwindale Police Department, Pomona Police Department, San Gabriel Police Department, and West Covina Police Department.

Additional federal, state, and local partners that are represented on TRAP include the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), California Highway Patrol (CHP), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the Los Angeles Port Authority.

There are also 2 representatives from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB).

Anticipated additions include the Claremont Police Department and Long Beach Police Department.

## Updates

An Executive Steering Committee has been formed that is tasked with providing oversight of TRAP on behalf of CCJCC. The initial meeting was held on April 29, 2020.

There are currently five TRAP teams that cover regions throughout the County of Los Angeles: West, North, Central, East, and South. It is anticipated that a Mid-County team will be added this fiscal year.

There is also a new technology resource with vehicle forensics. This has been deployed to TRAP teams and will assist investigators in apprehending suspects and linking different incidents of auto-theft.

### Data for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Lieutenant Hosea reported the following auto-theft statistics:

In Fiscal Year 2019-2020, TRAP was responsible for 173 arrests, 214 warrants served, 4 parole/probation (AB 109) searches<sup>1</sup>, 134 Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections<sup>2</sup>, and 1,241 vehicle recoveries. The value of the recoveries was \$15,258,631.

For July and August of this year, TRAP was responsible for 5 arrests, 13 warrants served, 13 Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections, and 223 vehicle recoveries. The value of the recoveries was \$1,723,027.

Lieutenant Hosea noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest have negatively impacted TRAP's productivity.

### Crime Trends

The following current trends with respect to auto theft were identified:

- Thefts of mid-1990's series Hondas and Toyotas has been an ongoing trend.
- The use of "chop shops" in vehicle theft cases.
- Obtaining vehicles through fraudulent means has been increasing.
- Social media is facilitating more auto-related crimes.
- Sub-leasing and title washing are being used to commit auto-theft. These cases require more investigative resources to address.
- Keys (FOBS) left in vehicles have been leading to auto-thefts.

### Community Outreach / Investigative Support

The following are noted community outreach and investigative support efforts by TRAP:

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<sup>1</sup> TRAP will do parole and probation searches on behalf of other jurisdictions if requested. The focus is on suspects who are involved in auto-theft.

<sup>2</sup> Vehicle Code (V.C.) Section 2805 allows full-time auto theft investigators to inspect auto dismantling yards, repair and body shops, and other auto dealerships to determine if they are illegally chopping vehicles or are otherwise involved in fraud.

- Quarterly newsletter
- Public Awareness Pamphlets
- Identity Theft Prevention Alert System (IPAS)<sup>3</sup>
- Bait Car
- Business Inspections / Surveillance Operations
- Probation Compliance Checks
- Operation Paper Plates
- Steering Wheel Locks/VIN Etching/Kill Switches<sup>4</sup>
- Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR vehicles)

### Highlights

The following highlights were identified:

- IPAS has had nearly 200 car dealerships and financial lending institutions opt-in to the program.
- Crime prevention tips have been sent out via news outlets, social media, and crime bulletins.
- More than 745 anti-theft devices have been given out to the community.
- There were significant decreases in vehicle thefts countywide until the onset of the pandemic, when the numbers increased significantly. Many of the cases did not meet TRAP's criteria, so there was a focus on assisting other agencies with their crime fighting efforts.

### Significant Cases

A few significant cases that TRAP has been involved in were reviewed. These included a repeat offender case, "bandit tow" operations, and an auto dealership case.

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<sup>3</sup> The Identity Theft Prevention Alert System (IPAS) is an opt-in program for car dealerships. TRAP provides them with information to make them aware of vehicle theft rings operating in the area and alerts them to potential dangers with respect to the use of fraudulent identifications and auto-thefts.

<sup>4</sup> TRAP distributes anti-theft devices (clubs, or steering wheel locking devices) to law enforcement stations that in turn provide them to members of the community. VIN Etching to Stop Auto Theft (VESAT) is a program in which the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is etched into different places on the vehicle. If the vehicle is stolen and the public VIN is switched, law enforcement agencies will still be able to determine the true identification of the vehicle upon recovery. A kill switch program has been implemented to help deter auto-thefts.

## Budget

TRAP is fully and permanently funded by an assessment attached to vehicle licensing fees (registration fees). It has annual revenues of approximately \$16 million, and its budget is specifically allocated to address auto-theft related crimes (complex cases beyond the resources or capabilities of the local agencies). Any unused funds roll-over for use in the following fiscal year.

It is not anticipated that there will be any significant budget issues moving forward for the current fiscal year.

As noted, TRAP expects to add a Mid-County team in this fiscal year.

## Motion to Receive and File Annual Report

A motion was made to receive and file the annual report from the TRAP Executive Steering Committee.

**ACTION: The motion to receive and file the annual report from the TRAP Executive Steering Committee was seconded and approved without objection.**

## **VII. OTHER MATTERS / PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.