



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

Thursday, August 11, 2022

6:00 PM



AUDIO TO THE ENTIRE MEETING. (22-3066)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. (22-3009)

Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and County Staff conducted roll call.

Present: Chair Amanda Hernandez, Vice Chair Ezekiel Nishiyama, Vice Chair Myriah Smiley, Commissioner Daniel Bisuano, Commissioner La'Toya Cooper, Commissioner Joshua Elizondo, Commissioner Alex Furtado, Commissioner Ricardo Ortega Martinez Jr. and Commissioner Brittianna Robinson

Excused: Commissioner Luisa Flores Urrutia, Commissioner Jacob Jackson, Commissioner Carla Lopez, Commissioner Florencia Flo Valenzuela and Commissioner Angela Young

2. Approval of minutes from the meeting of July 14, 2022. (22-3011)

On motion of Commissioner Elizondo, seconded by Commissioner Bisuano, and duly carried (Commissioner Ortega Martinez, Jr., abstaining, and Commissioners Flores Urrutia, Jackson, Lopez, Valenzuela and Young being absent), the minutes for the meeting of July 14, 2022 were approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

3. Chair's Report. (22-3012)

Chair Hernandez reported the following and responded to questions posed:

- **Recruitment for a Youth Commission Executive Director. Commissioners were able to participate in some interviews.**
- **The next Youth Engagement Event will take place on September 17, 2022, in partnership with the Probation Commission and the Commission for Children and Families.**
- **The Probation Department is scheduled to attend next month's meeting to conduct a presentation regarding probation youth.**
- **The Youth Engagement Event will feature various County departments as well as Community Based Organizations (CBO) with a focus on Transitional Age Youth (18-21). She then encouraged all Commissioners to attend the event.**
- **A District Resource Guide featuring CBOs by District is being created, suggestions for additional CBO participation in the Youth Engagement Event can be vetted through the Chair.**

A suggestion was made to add representatives from the District Attorney's Office as well as the Public Defender's Office at the next meeting to provide a legal perspective on defending probation youth.

III. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Discussion on the Book Club proposal and Next Steps. (22-3019)

Commissioner Bisuano provided a brief overview on how the idea of a book club was formed and reported the following:

- **A book club proposal was drafted, and three years of funding was secured from Homeboy Industries. The Book Club consists of a 12-week program that will run four times a year and include providing financial literacy and self-empowerment books for the first six weeks.**
- **The Book Club will be named the NERDS Program (Never Expected Regular Dudes to Succeed). It was suggested to make the Book Club a County based program sponsored through the Youth Commission.**

- **Support from the Commission is requested to formalize the program in the County by placing an item on the agenda to consider the Commission's participation.**

During discussion, it was suggested that the next steps include creating an Ad-Hoc Committee to further develop the book club. Commissioner Bisuano will provide the program outline to Chair Hernandez for the Commissioners' review. Commissioner Bisuano was commended for his leadership and initiative in seeing meeting the needs of incarcerated youth.

5. Update and Discussion on Upcoming District Listening Sessions. (22-3020)

Chair Hernandez reported that the last Listening Session took place on May 14, 2022, in the Fifth Supervisorial District. She indicated that the event was primarily CBO-based, and they will strive for future events to focus on youth ages 18-21.

Commissioners stressed the importance of encouraging youth participation and the benefits of partnering with nonprofits who are already involved with youth. Also, site visits assist in learning about successful programs already taking place in the community.

Discussion ensued and the following recommendations were made:

- **Engage youth in placement homes.**
- **Engage youth in juvenile facilities.**
- **Establish transportation for Commissioners to various listening session locations.**
- **Encourage foster parent/caregiver attendance at the listening sessions.**
- **Ensure that site visits include discussion sessions with Commissioners with Q & A periods and resource referrals.**
- **Include juvenile justice and system involved youth.**

Dr. Erica Reynoso, Acting Executive Director, indicated that the Youth Engagement Event will strive to include all the recommendations.

6. Operations Committee update by Angela Young, Chair, Operations Committee. (22-3013)

In the absence of Commissioner Young, Chair Hernandez reported that meetings for the Committee are currently on hold in order to get clarification on the next steps regarding the Evaluation Process and the Youth Commissioner Application Process.

7. Youth Engagement Committee update by La'Toya Cooper, Chair, Youth Engagement Committee. (22-3014)

Commissioner Cooper reported the following:

- **The website is scheduled to be online within the next few months. Updates have been submitted to the Graphics Department.**
- **The Commission Logo is being finalized and will be presented at the next regular Commission meeting.**
- **The next Youth Engagement Opportunity will take place on September 17, 2022. Still outstanding are the listening sessions for Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4. The Committee is hoping to enlist participation from high-ranking members of the community.**
- **The next Committee meeting may be scheduled for either August 22 or 29, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

8. Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy and Programming update by Chair Ricardo Ortega Martinez, Jr. (22-3015)

Commissioner Ortega Martinez, Jr. reported the following:

- **Progress has been made on the development of the evaluation tool. Additional meetings have been held to identify indicators that will be used to evaluate issue areas within each department.**
- **Evaluations for the Department of Children and Family Services have been completed as well as the Departments of Mental Health, Public Social Services, Probation, Auditor-Controller, CEO, and Workforce Development. The last two remaining are the Public Defender and LA Metro.**
- **The Committee has been soliciting community participation and is also looking into going to youth-engaged agencies to encourage involvement.**

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Commission. (22-3016)

The following matters were requested to be placed on a future meeting agenda:

- **Report back on the meeting with the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Antelope Valley School District regarding data gathering on referrals from available CBOs.**
 - **Vote on the Commission's involvement in the Book Club Program.**
- 10.** Opportunity for members of the public to provide comments to the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. (22-3017)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

- 11.** Closing remarks and Adjournment. (22-3018)

The next meeting will be held on September 15, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. On motion of Commissioner Bisuano, seconded by Commissioner Elizondo, there being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.