



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



**Part I.
2017 Annual Report**



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



Part II.

Primary Focus

The Probation Commission has traditionally focused primarily upon the young wards in County Juvenile Probation institutions, while providing cursory advisory oversight to the operations impacting the adult probationers.

The focus for youths has been to advise the Probation Department to promote health, education, vocational training, and aftercare programs to impact the antisocial behavior of minors and redirect them into a mainstream of the community where they can become productive members of society. This has remained the focus of the commission since and during the United States Department of Justice monitoring of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's Juvenile Custody Facilities.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department works closely with the California Division of Juvenile Justice for individuals that will be released to Los Angeles County. The Probation Commission has made monitoring the programs and funding a priority of the commission's oversight.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



Part III.

Historical Background

The Probation Commission, originally the Probation Committee, was created in 1903 and is one of the County's oldest official bodies. Established to meet the Welfare and Institutions Code requirements for a Probation Committee in each county with the population more than 6,000,000 in lieu of a county juvenile justice commission, it consisted of not less than seven members designated as "Officers of the County" who were authorized to be called "Commissioners" in official correspondence and in the conduct of official business.

Under provisions of State law (Section 240 of the Welfare and Institutions Code), the Commission is mandatory and, consequently, has a permanent status in county government.

On February 23, 1960, by order of the Board of Supervisors, the Committee was increased from nine to ten members.

In April 1987, at the request of the County Board of Supervisors, the Legislature amended the Welfare and Institutions Code to change the title of the Probation Committee to Probation Commission. In July 1987, this action was signed into law by the Governor as part of AB 1287.

On September 7, 1999, by order of the Board of Supervisors, the Probation Commission was increased from ten to fifteen members.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



Part IV

Summary of Commission Activities and Efforts

Over the last two years as president of the Commission, I have been working to improve the quality of mandated inspections of our juvenile halls and camps to assure that minors in custody are treated humanely and within state regulations. We have collaborated with the Bureau of State and Community Corrections to obtain training and templates for inspections.

At our July 13 meeting, we received a response from the Department regarding our inspections at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Camp Afflerbaugh. The Commission received a quarterly report from the Department regarding use of the HOPE Centers. Below is a synopsis from the Commission Minutes:

"The **Hope Center** update was provided from Residential Treatment Services Branch. Acting Deputy Chief David Mitchell provided a narrative that support the positive trend in reducing referrals to the Hope Center. He spoke with pride about work done at Camp Rockey, where staff were provided training and tools to address issues with youth. Staff must feel safe and secure to do their work. Positive programing and positive relationships provided the basis to continue this trend. He pointed out that Gonzales had zero incidents resulting in Hope Center visits for 7 months. Acting Deputy Chief David Mitchell reminded all that when a youth is referred to the Hope Center, Department of Mental Health staff conducts a Behavior Chain Analysis where a youth is supported to understand the actions and decisions that caused the referral and then to assess if a youth is ready to return to the general population. This was an adjustment for staff that were used to isolating youth experiencing issues and now they must deal with the youth. The numbers fluctuate but in general and overall, they are going down. LA County had moved away from solitary confinement years ago."

Members of the commission have been concerned about the Department's misallocation of funds provided by the State Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. Probation Chief McDonald has been working to resolve the administrative issues and funding allocations cited by media reports and members of the Commission. Chief McDonald submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors entitled "Ensuring effective utilization of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and SB 678 Funds. It was Item Number 68-B of the Board Agenda for April 18, 2017. It was also the first Quarterly Report. The Commission will continue to monitor efforts made by the Chief and the Department as reforms evolve.

Below is a follow-up sent to me by Chief Deputy Sheila Mitchell on September 22nd:

"President Gardner,

I would like to provide the below follow-up to the Los Angeles County Probation Commission's inquiries regarding the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) Diversion and Early Intervention Program (New Direction). Unfortunately, as you are aware, it has taken the



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



Department a long time to get these contracts executed, thus the reason I have put in place monthly monitoring to keep in the forefront of our JJCPA fund expenditure plan.

I want you to know that we truly appreciate the ongoing partnership with the Commission to support Probation's efforts, to provide quality services and supports to youth and families in our community.

Diversion and Early Intervention Program (New Direction) History and Summary

Efforts made to develop a diversion and early intervention program, with supports for youth and family at the early stages of the delinquency process, resulted in the implementation of the Diversion and Early Intervention Program (New Direction) in the Fall of 2014. After the Pilot began, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) approved the \$8 million one-time funding allocation in January of 2015. As of June 30, 2017, a total of 135 youth (43 youth through the Pilot and 92 youth post-Pilot) have been served through this program. The following includes the program history and summary:

Funding was initially approved by the Board of Supervisors on October 28, 2014 for a Pilot Program that included Probation supervision staff, community-based treatment services (assessment tools, mental health and substance abuse, case management and program incentives) and program evaluation by the Chief Executive Office's (CEO's) Research and Evaluation Services Division for one year, utilizing Supervisorial District 1 discretionary funding. The Program received additional JJCPA funding through the First District in Fiscal Year 2015-16 for CBO Treatment. Both funding amounts were drawn down (expended) prior to the Department utilizing the approved \$8 million one-time funding, which was allocated as follows for countywide program expansion, over a **two**-year period:

Budget (Annual)

Deputy Probation Officer (DPO)	120,000.00	1 0	1,200,000.00
Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO)	128,000.00	1	128,000.00
Intermediate Typist Clerk (ITC)	68,000.00	1	68,000.00
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) -Treatment	500,000.00	5	2,555,000.00
Evaluation	50,000.00		50,000.00

Budget per Year \$ 4,001,000.00

The additional JJCPA allocation (Supervisorial District 1) for CBO Treatment continues to be expended as of this date, while Probation staff costs have been expended through the \$8 million allocation (after Pilot funding was exhausted for staffing costs). Countywide expansion implementation is planned for the Fall of 2017 and expending of the CBO Treatment allocation from the \$8 million will move forward in conjunction with this scheduled expansion through the Department of



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



Mental Health (DMH), who is in the process of finalizing contracts with CBO providers for the treatment services. As mentioned, as of June 30, 2017, the total number of youth served since Program inception is 135. This includes youth served through Supervisorial District 1 discretionary funding and JJCPA funding; the initial JJCPA funded youth were not reported as part of the FY 2015-16 Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) report due to the timing of the Collaborative Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) Plan submission (one-time funding categories were not initially included in the CMJJP for FY 2015-16). Forty-three (43) youth were served during first Pilot cohort and the outcome study's report and findings will be provided to the Board of Supervisors and JJCC. We will also plan to update the Commission (coordinated presentation by the CEO's Research and Evaluation Services Division and Probation) once this process is completed."

Although oversight and disbursement of funds from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act rests with the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Probation Commission will continue to review and advocate for fair and timely disbursement of funds for diversion and early intervention programs for our youth.

Commissioners conducted many activities during this year. They are referenced below:

Commissioner Meredith taught the laws of arrest under 832 of the California Penal Code to a Probation Academy class from July 9 through 13th. He continued his tradition of having a 100% pass rate on the State Peace Officers Standards and Training test.

Commissioner Meredith represented the commission at the Probation SEIU scholarship awards dinner on July 14th.

On July 18th, Commissioner Meredith also represented the commission at the Probation Week breakfast at the Hall of Administration and at the Board of Supervisors Meeting where Supervisor Barger honored the Department by recognizing it during National Probation Services Week.

Commissioner Bonnie Lowenthal, representing the 4th District resigned from the Probation Commission on July 18th.

The commission received the County's distribution of the Commission Manual on July 28th. Each commissioner received the manual. I am implementing the provisions outlined. The format of this report reflects some of the directives outlined in the manual.

Due a concern regarding attendance, I consulted with leadership of the commission to discuss the on-going absences and lack of quorum at some of our meeting. All commissioners were put on notice regarding importance of attending meetings. Attendance is taken at each meeting and reporting to Board Justice Deputies will be updated as appropriate.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



On August 1st, the commission officially submitted inspection reports to the Bureau of State and Community Corrections. The reports were for Camps Afflerbaugh, Rockey and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.

Chief Terri McDonald attended our August 10th Commission meeting. She covered several topics. Below is are excerpts of the topics she covered:

“Chief McDonald shared that the Camp Consolidation Plan is not yet final. Probation staff continues to work through issues with the Board and Chief Executive Officer. She shared that should Camp Gonzales is decommissioned; one idea is that it could become a residential training center run by a community-based organization and not Probation. This would be a voluntary opportunity where individuals would understand it is a drug-free, gang-free, violence-free facility for learning. Fire and Building Trades, (Internal Services Department) are the two potential industry partners working on a possible proposal. There is no formal proposal at this point but there are discussions to explore and examine opportunity. Chief McDonald stressed the concept asks for a broad range of possible participants to understand what would work in LA County. She also confirmed that the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) is one of the partners at the table.

Chief McDonald also advised that she like to bring a presentation on Central Juvenile Hall to explain the request for \$10-12 million dollars. While many would like to replace the facility, that would take 7 years. With partners, such as the Facilities Management Team, Internal Services Department, Mental Health and others, the Department is developing an investment to bring changes to that facility. Chief McDonald stated that all will see some physical improvement and investment in the culture changes will require some time for Kilpatrick-like training and support. Chief McDonald acknowledged that while many efforts are underway, there is lots of work ahead. Commissioner Levine encouraged to use higher education organizations to support any physical or cosmetic changes as creativity and innovation partners. Chief McDonald shared that there are conversations with USC taking place. Chief McDonald shared that there are many changes needed and there is a role for the external partners, however in building a professional, transparent, and effective Department, accountability is the key to ensuring that what is supposed to happen does happen. Chief McDonald will continue to attend our meetings and will talk about the accountability plan when it is ready.”

On August 16, I inspected Camp Paige. Minor deficiencies were noted and fixed by RTSB leadership.

On August 18, Commissioner Meredith and 5th District Justice Deputy Stephanie English visited Challenger Memorial Youth Camps at the request of Supervisor Barger. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the facility for future potential uses. The Probation Department facility is slated for closure under the Chief's Proposed Camp Consolidation Plan issued on June 21st. While there, Commissioner Meredith conducted a facility inspection and will be writing a report.

On August 10th, Commissioner Meredith attended an Academy graduation as Commissioner and



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



instructor. He also presented Academy staff with 31 scrolls from Supervisor Barger recognizing their efforts.

On August 14th to the 18th, Commissioner Meredith instructed Probation Department recruits on laws of arrest under 832 of the Penal Code.

On August 27th, Commissioner Butler took five girls from Camp Scott to a Los Angeles Sparks basketball game. Commissioner Butler's generous donation in conjunction with the California Women's Law Center gave the five young ladies an opportunity to watch the Women's Basketball game.

On August 29th, Supervisor Barger proposed a Blue-Ribbon Commission on Public Safety. I have been very concerned about rising crime in our county and will participate in the effort to help with the problems of homelessness and deteriorating community livability.

On August 30th, I attended the Cross-Systems Committee meeting at Eastlake Juvenile Hall. The meeting is an opportunity for Probation staff and youth advocates to improve programming and resources for youth at the facility.

On September 8th, Commissioners Yamashiro and Levine inspected Camp Scott. Their reports and submitted and forwarded to the Department and the Bureau of State and Community Corrections.

Commissioner Richardson, representing the 4th District resigned from the commission on September 14th. That leaves two vacancies.

On September 21st, Commissioner Meredith taught laws of arrest under 832 of the Penal Code. He also taught a class on ethics. He submitted course certification paperwork to the office of California State Peace Officers Standards and Training on behalf Probation Academy.

Commissioner Caster attended Southern California Grant Makers conference at the Los Angeles Bonaventure Hotel on September 24th. She participated in a panel discussion regarding the use of SB678 funding for housing exiting L.A. County adult inmates through the office of Diversion and Reentry.

Commissioners Martinez and Butler conducted an annual inspection of the Dorothy Kirby Center on September 24th.

Commissioners Levine, Butler and I inspected Central Juvenile Hall on September 27th. We discovered several minors in conditions of solitary confinement within the facilities HOPE Center. The treatment of the minors was contrary to the Board of Supervisors directive to ban solitary confinement in all juvenile facilities. Our findings were shared with the Chief and her leadership staff. The Department launched an investigation. The formal inspection report was submitted on October 4th. The commission is expecting a formal response to the finding of this inspection and measures taken to mitigate of the problem.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



On September 25th, Commissioner Meredith conducted an eight-hour course at the Academy on ethics, including scenarios based on actual incidents.

On September 26th, the commission became aware of media reports of a lawsuit alleging Probation staffers knew a fellow officer was sexually assaulting a female minor in a camp. Although this disturbing incident is being reviewed by other County agencies, the commission will review what procedures or policies such as the Grievance process may have failed or been circumvented.

Commissioner Meredith represented the commission at the Juvenile Corrections Officer Core Graduation on September 28th.

On September 25th and 26th, Commissioner Butler participated in the Create Justice partnership with Arts for Incarcerated Youth along with many arts and corrections organizations from across the country. She was at Campus Kilpatrick on the 25th and at the conference on the 26th.

On September 30th, Commissioner Caster conducted a visit of Campus Kilpatrick.

On October 1st, Commissioner Seaver and Caster submitted an inspection report for Camp Gonzales.

Commissioner Seaver also submitted a report for his visit to Campus Kilpatrick on October 6th with Commissioner Levine.

On October 17th, Commissioners Caster and Seaver testified at the Board of Supervisors meeting regarding Item 13, A motion to accelerate the timeline to develop an entity to provide comprehensive oversight of the Probation Department.

On November 26th, members of a subcommittee consisting of Commissioners Butler, Yamashiro and myself presented a letter to Chief McDonald regarding concerns about physical plant conditions, supervision of personnel and minors under the care of the department. We also recommended the Chief consider the implementation of department-wide supervisor training and training on mandatory report requirements. For further information, please see attached copy of the letter.

Commissioner Butler initiated a request for a meeting with Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Courts, Judge Michael Levanas, and the Supervising Judge of Delinquency, John Lawson, to discuss improving services for minors being adjudicated through the court system. We discussed the concept of recommending a dedicated facility for youth suffering from mental illness. Commissioners Butler, Levine and myself met with Judges Levanas and Lawson on December 5th. We are looking forward to further discussions that would include Chief McDonald.

Commissioner Meredith spent several days at the Department's Academy teaching certified State Peace Officers Standards and Training courses on ethics, use of force, leadership, search and seizure. The days of the training were December 11, 13, 15 and 28.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



Executive Summary

Our commission staff assistant Monica Garcia from Special Projects Juvenile & Adult Field Services left us on September 28th. She served the commission well and will be missed. I hope the Probation Department will replace her with someone comparable in skills and temperament.

The Los Angeles County Probation Commission will continue to fulfill its mandate under the provisions of the California Welfare and Institutions Code 229; Which is to annually inspect juvenile camps and halls in Los Angeles County to assure compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding the health, safety, welfare, and education of juveniles at these facilities. The Commission will continue to draft inspection reports and identify deficiencies and submit findings to the Chief Probation Officer for review and corrective action. In addition, copies of those reports will be submitted to the Bureau of State and Community Corrections for further oversight.

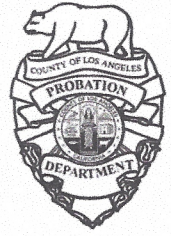
The Commission will also continue to execute its responsibility to advise the Chief Probation Officer of the Los Angeles County Probation Department to proactively seek to maximize opportunities which positively impact the behavior of probationers by providing them with educational and vocational services, and access to health and mental health services that will build upon the strengths and capabilities of probationers, their families, and communities through inter-governmental and multi-agency cooperation.

Some of our other projects for 2018 are:

- Continued monitoring of conditions at Central Juvenile Hall and advocating for the replacement of the facility to assure a safe and healthy environment for youth and staff.
- Advocating for dedicated facilities and resources within the department for youth suffering from mental illness.
- Conducting routine reviews of data surrounding the use of force and pepper spray within Probation Department camps and halls and advocating for improved training and oversight of line staff and the humane treatment of those under the care and custody of the department.
- Ongoing review the Probation Department's grievance process for minors, parents and guardians and provide solutions for reform to assure all grievances are handled in a manner that would prevent incidents of abuse within Probation Department facilities.
- Study the feasibility of doing group home inspections under 229.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- Reviewing and recommending educational or vocational opportunities for youth in camps who already have a diploma or have completed their GED.
- Reviewing transportation issues for parents to improve parental engagement with their children in camps.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



I commend Chief McDonald and her leadership staff for their efforts to be transparent and positively change the culture of the Probation Department. Chief McDonald has monumental challenges ahead. We, the members of the Probation Commission look forward to collaborating with her and her leadership staff to improve the Probation Department and assure the humane treatment of minors under the department's care and custody.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Gardner", is written over the printed name.

Joe Gardner, President
Los Angeles County Probation Commission



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754



November 19, 2017

Terri L. McDonald
Chief Probation Officer
County of Los Angeles Probation Department
9150 E. Imperial Hwy.
Downey, CA 90242

Dear Chief McDonald,

We are writing you regarding our camp facilities and recent developments associated with the recurring sexual abuse of a female minor in one of our camp facilities. Without a doubt, we know you and your leadership staff share concern about these revelations just as the Board of Supervisors and members of the Probation Commission does.

As you know, the Los Angeles County Probation Commission has a duty to serve as an advisory oversight body the Chief Probation Officer and the Probation Department under Article IV, Section 14 of the Los Angeles County Charter. We are fulfilling our duty through this official correspondence to address the conditions that have precipitated the abuse. As this still may be an on-going criminal investigation, we will refrain from seeking information about the individuals involved. We would like to focus on four areas: culture, line supervision, failures to report and physical environmental issues.

There has been a recurring, systemic cultural problem that has existed long before you took leadership of the Department. The Commission has been witnesses to accounts repeatedly demonstrating a lack of engagement by supervisors and line officers. Apathy and failures to report or properly supervise were at the core of the serial criminal activity by this perpetrator and others who have abused minors in our camps and facilities. We know you and your leadership staff are aware of the problem. Hopefully you and your executive staff are working diligently to implement training programs on ethics and supervision. We know it will take time and consistency to reach all levels of the Department. The Probation Commission supports your efforts to improve the culture of the Department. One would hope all staff will instill the values of service and ethical behavior which includes the requirement to report activity and offenses without the fear of retribution.

Clearly, one supervisor failed to meet their duty and obligation to thoroughly report allegations of abuse. The underlying issue is the mindset of the supervisor who indicated friendship was more important than doing the job of supervisor.

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,

Hon. Jan Levine (Ret)-1st Vice President, Daniel Seaver-2nd Vice President, Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms,
Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq., Jacqueline Caster, Esq. Jo Kaplan, Esq. Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan,
Zachary Hoover, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), Hon. Alex Saab, Esq.

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION COMMISSION
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2754**



Moreover, the number of Probation employees who witnessed suspicious behavior, and received information about the sexual abuse of a child, yet failed to report the conduct to law enforcement, speaks volumes to the need for enhanced training on mandatory reporting.

Many Probation Commissioners have heard Department representatives explain away misconduct with statements like "It is a training issue." We hope these allegations cause the leadership to look deeper into the culture of the Department and not limit the inquiry to superficial band-aids like "training." This terrible series of incidents suggests the Department needs a wholesale review of its hiring, discipline, and internal investigation processes.

We ask that greater consideration and attention be made to require all line supervisors be trained on professional relationships in the workplace, how to investigate personnel issues, identifying risk management issues, and be cognizant of the liability to the organization for failing to act.

Finally, we ask you to consider reviewing the "Al Jones" reward system. We have noticed during inspections that the structures used as stores are detached and placed in isolated areas of our facilities. We would urge you to consider moving them to prominent areas where employees and supervisors can closely monitor them. We also ask that no minor ever be left alone with a single staff member.

Please plan to have the heads of these departments prepare a briefing for our commission before March 2018.

We would like to thank you in advance for reviewing this letter of concern and recommendations to improve the Department. We know you and your staff may have already considered many of these issues and are working on implementing programs to resolve them. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss any of these issues and recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Gardner, 5th District Commissioner and President

Betsy Butler, 1st District Commissioner

Cyn Yamashiro, 2nd District Commissioner

c: Board of Supervisors, Probation Commission

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,

Hon. Jan Levine (Ret)-1st Vice President, Daniel Seaver-2nd Vice President, Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms,
Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq., Jacqueline Caster, Esq. Jo Kaplan, Esq. Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan,
Zachary Hoover, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), Hon.Alex Saab, Esq.

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities