

**From:**

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 5:22 PM

**To:** Lwin, Adam@BSCC <Adam.Lwin@bscc.ca.gov>

**Subject:** BSCC Board Meeting

My name is Tania Ibanez Virnig and I am a constituent of Supervisor Mitchell and a member of HangOutDoGood.

I would like to submit this written comment regarding the Board's approval for the Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility and Los Padrinos. The Board has not been given sufficient information to approve on the issue of Programs, Recreation and Exercise. The only real difference between the February and April inspections is that the Probation Department was able to provide logs of activities.

There is no support for the conclusion that "Probation-led programs are more robust and relevant to the program than in past inspections. The youth we spoke with indicated that they are indeed being offered and receiving programming as indicated in the documentation." Particularly when the inspection report then follows to state that "There are several community and probation-led programs available; however, **youth continue to report that they'd like more varied programs and different opportunities during recreation and youth continue to refuse several programs. Youth who have spent longer amounts of time at the facility note that the same programs continue to be offered. Facility staff indicated that they are looking at more opportunities for programs in the future. The Department should continue to review programs for youth interest, participation, and relevance to youths' goals.**" (Emphasis Added.) Based on the April inspection report, it appears that more emphasis is being paid on logs and whether the logs are being maintained than actually requiring that Nidorf provide robust, new or interesting programs for our youth. Nidorf is simply offering the same programs. The Board should require that Nidorf have a deadline to provide new programming and that a third inspection be provided to review actual improvement in this area.

There has been no movement in the Rising Scholars State Grant program which could provide educational opportunities to our youth. LACOE and the Department of Probation have been failing our youth through their own tardiness. "Late arrival was due to facility staff 76% of the time and due to school personnel 24% of the time." Changing the school schedules to accommodate LACOE and Probation staff is utterly ridiculous. The inspection only reviewed two days of attendance in April to evaluate whether the attendance had improved. The inspection should have reviewed dates in March and not given the Probation Department a pass on this vital issue.

I have little faith that anything will change unless the Board issues additional inspection dates and deadlines for compliance.

Sincerely,

Tania Ibanez Virnig