

Public comment - J. Determination of Suitability – Los Angeles County Juvenile Detention Facilities

Dear BSCC,

I am urging you to determine the LA juvenile detention facilities unsuitable to house youth. Young people that are trapped in the juvenile justice system experience abuse their whole lives, and when we lock them up in a facility with a track record for allowing harm, we are becoming complicit in the continuation of their abuse and exploitation at the hands of a department that only have their paychecks in mind.

By LA Probation's own admission, they have implemented stop-gap, temporary measures to create an illusion that they have enough staff in the halls - these halls remain unsuitable because Probation has not demonstrated the issues are actually resolved. Their track record of youth dying and being abused shows us this.

If we legitimately want the youth to rehabilitate, they need the opportunity to heal from the trauma they have been subjected to from probation at juvenile halls away from the environment and staff that neglected them. The abysmal conditions that the juvenile halls have been in for years weren't truly been fixed since the first time Los Padrinos closed, so why are we kidding ourselves thinking that in just two months probation fixed the root causes that create the ongoing abuse they do to our kids?

LA will go right back to being out of compliance. You have a duty as a Board member to look at the entire record, to use your common sense, and to look back at LA's failure to remain in compliance for years - in light of this, you cannot find the halls suitable today if you are acting in good faith.

It's time to reinvest the millions of dollars probation gets paid to perpetuate harm into a community that is ready to support the young people with open arms. Are you willing to relinquish your power in favor of the needs of probation, or will you stand with your constituents and stop the abuse? Today you have the power to save lives. Don't let another death of a LA youth at the hands of probation keep you up at night. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Sol Qari

From: Alma Villegas
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 1:09 PM
To: BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for 4/11/24 BSCC Meeting

Public comment on Item V: Discussion Items, J. Determination of Suitability:

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Sincerely,

Alma Villegas

From: Sol Qari
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:23 PM
To: BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for 4/11/24 BSCC Meeting

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Respectfully,

Sol Qari

Hello,

As a taxpayer and DPOII, How is it that the focus remains on Juvenile halls but The Field operations is not a focus. There are currently Hundreds of probationers unsupervised in the community because most of the field officers are reassigned to save the juvenile halls. Field officers supervise probationers in the community to keep them from returning to jail but now the community remains unsafe, probationers are getting high on drugs and committing more crime. Right now most Probationers are not

being given proper supervision or drug tested. High Risk offenders are being called or they report in the office, sign a report slip and leave.

There are other DPOII's that due to their restrictions were sent home because they cannot provide 100% service in juvenile hall but are capable of providing case management and services in the field.

That is not fair for taxpayers or the community.

From: PEGGY BAILY

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 11:00 AM

To: BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>

Subject: Item J--Determination of Suitability-Los Angeles County Juvenile Detention Facilities--LOS PADRINOS

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with years of experience working alongside youth and teens, I urge the BSCC to see that the Chief of Probation's bandaids are NOT immediate, not permanent solutions that guarantee safe and humane conditions at Los Padrinos. Safe and humane not only for the youth and teens, but also safe and humane for the probation staff at Los Padrinos.

In addition to the need for infrastructure compliances, the very vital pscho/emotional programming compliances need to be in place before maintaining this facility open. The rooms need to be renovated into real rooms, not sad cells. The staff need to be trained in trauma educated behavioral approaches, not only for the youth, but for themselves so that the staff **wants to come to work**, instead of the data that 40% plus call-in sick each and every day right now! And come to work to INTERACT WITH YOUTH, not to battle with them. Do you as members of the BSCC have the courage and frustration tolerance to **vote to keep closed** the inhumane, needs-ignoring jail that is Los Padrinos.

Kindly,
Peggy Baily, LCSW

Peggy Baily, LCSW

From: Z

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:23 AM

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

Subject: BSCC Public Comment

The State of California is responsible for the abuse and neglect of children in LA County's youth jail system. There are human rights violations taking place in these youth jails. 37% of the young people trapped in these dungeons are Black children. Only 8% of LA's population is Black youth. This is a form of racialized discrimination and abuse. These statistics are nothing new. Allowing the conditions that currently exist in LA County's youth jails is a form of racial discrimination and abuse and a very clear example of Black Lives not mattering to this state. I'll be sharing some of the conditions experienced by one of these young people. This child was placed into foster care at birth. After experiencing abuse and neglect also at the hands of the State in the foster care system he ended up in the youth jails. At 15 years old his adoptive mother passed away while he was in jail. He was brought by LA County probation to his mother's funeral in jail clothes and HANDCUFFS. He was kept in jail clothes and HANDCUFFS throughout the funeral. The justification provided by LA County probation was that they did not trust the Black community at the funeral. This was a racial harm caused by probation and the State of California that was never repaired. In the youth jails this young person has reported lights that stay on in cells overnight. Bodily fluids that are permanently stuck on the walls. Invasion of bodily privacy. Food that made him sick. Chronic trauma and anxiety. The State of California is responsible for the racialized abuse and neglect of the children in LA County's youth jails. It continues today and the State of California is responsible for repair and reparation.

Zoe Rawson (she/her)
Director of Youth & Community Justice
Arts for Healing and Justice Network

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HEALING
AND
JUSTICE
N E T W O R K