

From: Call for Action <callforactionla@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:23 PM
To: BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>
Subject: Determination of Suitability Agenda Item J

Dear BSCC,

I believe Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nordolf Juvenile Hall should remain under the care of the Probation Department because placing these youth into homelessness and instability will further exacerbate the homeless/mental health crisis in Los Angeles County. But it is imperative for the Probation Employees to feel heard. Our black and brown adult Deputy Probation Officers have been forced into silence because of our retaliatory Human Resource Department.

Probation Officers are not just "staff." We have earned our degrees and worked our way up the ranks. We are one of the very few law enforcement agencies in America who rehabilitate and de-incarcerate. Many of us field deputies have served the community and in law enforcement for 20 plus years. Deputy Probation Officers are now forced to work in the detention service bureau (halls), residential treatment service bureau (camp), and Adult Field Operations (field). Deputy Probation Officers (DPO's) are not Group Supervisors Nights (GSN's) or Detention Service Officers (DSO's). Instead DPO's are stabilizing the "Halls" as we speak. We are doing three jobs which should be an automatic incentive to be promoted to a Deputy Probation Officer III position.

Despite our stressful jobs as Probation Officers, we are still willing to rehabilitate the youth in our care because we know these kids can still be rehabilitated. When Our Local 685 President, Mr. Ford refers to accountability and consequences for our youth, it means when a youth violates the rules and regulations or conditions of probation; it is our sworn duty to inform the courts. Most of the crimes submitted for sustained juvenile petitions are particularly violent crimes, narcotic-related trafficking offenses, human trafficking or PREA violations. We simply inform the District's Attorney's office of a potential crime. It is up to the state of California to file charges against these youth.

How can our Human Resource (HR) department help us instead of hindering us from doing our Jobs? We need executive management to assist us in this matter. Our HR department should not violate HIPPA laws or re-classify Deputy Probation Officers who can no longer physically restrain a 300 lb. adult charged or convicted of murder in the Juvenile Halls. HR should work with our medically fragile Deputy Probation Officers because we work hard to

rehabilitate our “medically fragile” adult and juvenile clients every single day. Instead, HR sends DPO’s home with no pay because we are not physically fit to work in the juvenile hall facilities.

Additionally, we have so many HR personnel in headquarters who do not know or understand our jobs as rehabilitative officers and due to HR negligence, adult probationers go unsupervised.

Some of the best probation officers in our department are older, wiser with an array of experience and knowledge to lead us in the right direction! Probation Officers are essential to the Probation Department because we are bringing the halls into Title 15 compliance and abiding by the Corrective Action Plan (CAP).

The DPO’s do more than just provide housing services for our homeless clients, conduct field checks, submit court paperwork for our clients to seal criminal records. We also help probationers get jobs, access mental health counseling, attend occupational workshops, anger management, and attend community service classes along with providing access to medical services and transportation.

As sworn peace officers, we have taken the oath to protect society and we take our careers very seriously. Probation Officers are not punitive! In fact, rehabilitation is our expertise. We are the best in the nation.

It is our duty to protect victims and clients to walk a fine line of providing services while still enhancing public safety.

The Probation Department is still the best law enforcement agency in the world!

Unfortunately, certain CBO’s have sabotaged funding for our entire agency. These unprofessional community-based organizations (CBO’s) have slandered the Probation Department’s name for way too long.

The CBO’s verbal assaults on these hard-working PO’s are quite pathetic because CBO’s have not provided solutions to house our high-risk juvenile offenders.

The fraudulence and false narratives made by certain CBO’s has finally triggered a much-needed investigation ordered by the Honorable Federal Judge David O. Carter who is demanding the validity and efficiency of the CBO’s programming.

Additionally, crime rates are at an all-time high, which is a direct result of defunding the police. The community still needs law enforcement’s protection. Therefore, the Juvenile Hall Facilities need to remain under the

Probation Department's care so we can assist with the homeless crisis in California.

"Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something."

Pancho Villa

-Local 685 Member

-Los Angeles County Chicano Employee Association Member

-Law Enforcement Deputy Probation Officer II