

From:

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:46 PM

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

Subject: Public comment for 04/11/2024 BSCC Meeting

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

LA Probation has received extra time, extra money, they have been given every benefit of the doubt, they have sapped BSCC staff resources for technical assistance. And they still cannot operate functional juvenile halls, they still cannot meet your minimum standards. **It should be clear to everyone that the problem is this department - it's not just the chief, it's not a lack of funds, it's not a lack of time.**

We're long overdue for a change and for an opportunity to reconfigure where funds can be allocated to. With \$5 BILLION this year just for Sheriffs and Probation budgets, up to \$3 BILLION for the thousands of potential claims alleging child sexual abuse at County facilities and other locations, and other transactions that haven't been accounted for - there's so many possibilities to reinvest into our communities. There are youth centers and cultural centers (Chuo's, YJC, Legacy LA, From Trauma to Transformation (Tia Chucha's), Homeboy Industries and Homegirl cafe) that have proven to be of great support to systems impacted youth and/or formerly and currently incarcerated youth/peoples.

I don't want to live in a world where youth are punished, policed, and in worst case scenarios: killed via police brutality and/or driven into mental & emotional distress due to what they've experienced in these juvenile halls. They are youth. They are learning about life and its trials and tribulations. Youth need mentors and they need community they can rely on when in distress and/or when their direct family isn't there for them. We already know these institutions, systems, and juvenile centers aren't there for them. The punishment, isolation, humiliation, and dehumanization that these youth have had to endure is not humane and nothing to take pride in. LA County Probation should be absolutely ashamed. There is no room for excuses anymore. There shouldn't have been to begin with.

May youth be given priority and honor (despite their mistakes),



Gabriela Cortés | *pronouns: she/they*
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I acknowledge and honor the Tataviam, Chumash, Tongva, and all the original Indigenous Peoples of the [land](#) upon which we stand on.

From:**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:23 AM**To:** Lwin, Adam@BSCC <Adam.Lwin@bscc.ca.gov>**Subject:** LOS PADRINOS,

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall is DANGEROUS for officers and juveniles. The CBO's claim they can provide programming and services. I totally agree and applaud their contributions. However, programming and services can NOT be delivered in the midst of CHAOS. There MUST be structure. Probation has taken away ALL of the tools of the Detention Services Officer. The MINORS/ADULTS have NO CONSEQUENCES!! Therefore they are free to destruct County Property and ASSAULT officers at will.

The officers fear REPRIMAND from Probation for doing their jobs. EVERY word and/or action is SCRUTINIZED by Probation.

Probation ALWAYS sides with the minor - because the minor can do no wrong. The officer is questioned on how he could have handled the situation differently. When a officer or minor is in DANGER there are times when DE-ESCALATION does not work and immediate action MUST be taken to avoid additional injury.

Probation officers are some of the finest people I know. They work hard to encourage and guide the minors in their care.

I'm certain you will agree that YOU would not want to go to an UNSAFE work environment, get ASSAULTED and then REPRIMANDED to doing your job.

My solution is to CLOSE juvenile hall, allow the CBO's and stake holders provide HOUSING, programming and services to the minors/adults. It APPEARS the CBO's and stakeholders have all the answers. This SOLUTION is in the BEST INTEREST of the minors.

From:**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 8:57 PM**To:** BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>**Subject:** Item J-Determination of Suitability-Los Angeles County-LAC Juvenile Detention Facilities-Los Padrinos and Barry J

Hello. My name is Helen Eigenberg. I am a constituent of Supervisor Horvath and a member of HangOutDoGood.

The LA Times Op-Ed summed up this whole situation today:

If the corrections board this week finds that the county has brought Nidorf and Los Padrinos up to snuff, the relief will probably be short-lived, until the next failed inspection. A state attorney general enforcement action also appears unlikely to solve the problems. So then what? No one knows.

The sad truth is that the entire state and county edifice of laws, policies and programs created to provide rehabilitation, education and care for the most troubled youths cannot provide them. Young people in Los Angeles County juvenile halls probably come out worse than they went in.

The atrocity is clouded by euphemisms such as “hall” or “camp” to describe facilities that are really jails. State and county policy is officially to provide a “homelike environment,” but it’s not any kind of home anyone would choose. Rooms are really cells, classrooms are human warehouses, and the day-to-day goal is not so much rehabilitation, as required by law, but just surviving without being attacked, raped or killed by fentanyl overdose.

The state’s other 57 counties aren’t having the same problems with juvenile probation. In Los Angeles County, though, the entire state-county system is a shameful failure. The kids who are ordered into it are in desperate need of rescue from their supposed rescuers.

I couldn't agree more. Shame on all of us for not taking care of our Los Angeles County youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen Eigenberg 323-314-1656

From:

Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 4:44 PM

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

Cc:

Subject: Item J -- Determination of Suitability -- Los Angeles County -Los Angeles County Juvenile Detention Facilities--Los Padrinos/Barry J

Hello. My name is Jennifer Levin. I am a constituent of Supervisor Mitchell, and a member of HangOutDoGood.

I have spoken to many folks working in the county and in the Dept of probation and DYD. All of them want things to be better for our youth. They don't want our young people overdosing from fentanyl laced drugs under their watch. Nor do they want the young people in their care sitting in a cage all day with no in-person programming, whether it's schooling, therapy or socializing. But none of the people in power that I've met have the courage to do anything about this. That can change right now.

I am writing this email days before the BSCC is voting on whether to close Los Padrinos. I suspect they will keep it open. Even though they know it is not fit for humans, particularly young ones who are still developing emotionally and cognitively.

I suspect Chief Viera Rosa also knows BSCC will keep Los Padrinos open. That's why when I was on a zoom with him and he was asked directly what kind of alternate plan he was working on in case LP was closed he sat back in his chair and confidently state: "*None. There is no plan b.*"

Villa Rosa told us he had one plan and that was to move all the field officers into Los Padrinos. For 3 months. That may satisfy BSCC and the County Supervisors, but we all know this is not a solution. For one, those field officers have other responsibilities to youth experiencing probation outside of detainment. Secondly, what happens after 3 months? Do things return back to the status quo? And thirdly, Chief Viera Rosa has done nothing to address all the reasons officers don't show up to work in the first place. If nothing changes, if there is no plan B, why does he think officers will show up now?

The truth is, this whole thing has been a huge waste of our county's time and money – which is my time and money. It's clear that none of you ever had any intention of making real change. My small community group has tried for almost a year to help get the state-funded Rising Scholars program

up and going in Los Padrinos, but we can't even get our Supervisors office to email us back.

Nothing good is happening in our juvenile halls. In fact, Just today the LATimes published yet another editorial on this topic. It says: *Young people in Los Angeles County juvenile halls probably come out worse than they went in.*

You say you care about the kids, and I believe you do. As long as nothing is asked of you. Well, I am asking – no, I am challenging – you to do something. Close these facilities. They are making everything and everyone worse. They are a cancer on this county.

I know so many of these problems predate you. But these problems are yours now. You have the power to fix them. Or at least to try. So, pull up your big boy/girl pants, stop blaming one another, stop blaming the system and make change. If you don't, it means that all you are doing with your position is making things worse too.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jennifer Levin

From:

Sent: Sunday, April 7, 2024 3:31 PM

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

Subject: You can't be that stupid

The only reason they will be able to pass is because they are taking officers to the halls is because they are taking officers from the field offices to the halls...but what about the field offices...understaffed, but I guess that's ok with you...all of Probation is fucked up and so is BSCC...fucked up