

October 14, 2024

Guillermo Viera Rosa  
Chief Probation Officer  
Los Angeles County Probation Department  
1601 Eastlake Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90033

**\*\*\* NOTICE OF FACILITY UNSUITABILITY\*\*\***  
**Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall**  
**7285 Quill Drive, Downey, CA 90242**  
**Welf. & Inst. Code, § 209, subsds. (a)(4) & (d)**

***SENT VIA ELECTRONIC EMAIL AND VIA UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE***

Dear Chief Viera Rosa:

This letter is to provide you with written notice and findings that the **Los Angeles County Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall** is not suitable for the confinement of juveniles pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivisions (a)(4) and (d).

A juvenile hall “shall be unsuitable for the confinement of juveniles if it is not in compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities adopted by the Board of State and Community Corrections under Section 210, 210.2, 875, 885, or subdivision (e) of Section 207.1, and if, within 60 days of having received notice of noncompliance from the board or the judge of the juvenile court, the juvenile hall ... has failed to file an approved corrective action plan with the Board of State and Community Corrections to correct the condition or conditions of noncompliance of which it has been notified.” (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 209, subd. (d) [emphasis added].)

On August 12, 2024, the BSCC issued a notice of noncompliance that the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall was out of compliance with section 1321, Staffing, of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (Attachment). Specifically, we noted that that the facility did not meet the Department’s minimum staffing for the majority of July 2024, and that the continued lack of staffing continues to negatively impact delivery of required services and compliance with additional regulations, including education, outdoor recreation, youth being confined in rooms, and youth missing medical appointments.

On October 11, 2024, we received a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) submitted by the Los Angeles County Probation Department for the item of noncompliance with section 1321, Staffing, of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. This CAP was denied.

The October 11, 2024 CAP was not approved, in part, because we determined that the CAP did not adequately outline how the Department plans to correct the issue of noncompliance, nor did it provide reasonable timeframes for resolution of the staffing deficiencies, including ensuring that “there are an adequate number of personnel sufficient to carry out the overall facility operation and its programming, to provide for safety and security of youth and staff, and meet established standards and regulations.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 1321, subd. (a).) More importantly, the CAP did not provide information on how the plan would “ensure that no required services shall be denied because of insufficient numbers of staff on duty absent exigent circumstances.” (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 15, § 1321, subd. (b).)

Pursuant to section 209, subdivision (d), because Los Angeles County failed to file an approved corrective action plan, the facility is considered unsuitable. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (a)(4), commencing **60 days** following this notice or by **December 12, 2024** the facility shall not be used for the confinement of juveniles until the Board finds, after reinspection of the facility, that the conditions that rendered the facility unsuitable have been remedied, and the facility is a suitable place for confinement of juveniles.

Sincerely,



LINDA PENNER  
Chair

cc:

All BSCC Board Members  
Aaron R. Maguire, Executive Director (A)  
Steven Wicklander, Deputy Director (A)  
Lisa Southwell, Field Representative, Board of State and Community Corrections  
Honorable Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court  
Honorable Miguel Espinoza, Los Angeles County Superior Court  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Dawyn R. Harrison, County Counsel, Los Angeles County  
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County  
Max Huntsman, Office of Inspector General, Los Angeles County  
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission  
Kimberly Epps, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Los Angeles County Probation  
Sheila Williams, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Probation  
Tyson Nelson, Senior Deputy County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel, County of Los Angeles



**Initial Inspection Report  
2023-2024 Biennial Inspection Cycle**

**Date of Exit Briefing/Notice of Noncompliance:** 8/12/2024

**Inspection Type:** Targeted

**County:** Los Angeles

**Facility Name:** Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

**BSCC #:** 7201

**BSCC Type:** Juvenile Hall

**Facility Representatives:** Kim Binion, Superintendent, Steven Cuevas, Assistant Superintendent

**BSCC Field Representative:** Lisa Southwell

**CAP Day 60 – Maximum Statutory CAP Due/Approval Date:** 10/11/2024

**Maximum Statutory Resolution Date:** January 9, 2025

**Current Items of Noncompliance**

Title 15. Section	Description
<p>§ 1321. Staffing.</p> <p>Each Juvenile Facility shall:</p> <p>(a) have an adequate number of personnel sufficient to carry out the overall facility operation and its programming, to provide for safety and security of youth and staff and meet established standards and regulations.</p> <p>(b) ensure that no required services shall be denied because of insufficient numbers of staff on duty absent exigent circumstances.</p>	<p>During our inspection, we reviewed daily facility reports and daily schedule from July 1-29, 2024, for a cumulative total of 87 shifts. Seven (7) AM shifts and eight (8) EM shifts (17 % of shifts overall) <b>did not</b> meet the Department’s required minimum staffing.</p> <p>The continued lack of staffing continues to impact delivery of required services and compliance with additional regulations. Section 1321 requires adequate staffing for all operations, programming, activities and functions of the facility to occur and to ensure the safety and security of youth and staff.</p> <p>The following areas of concern were noted while onsite and confirm a lack of staff during the July 2024 visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education Program: Youth continue to be late to class. During our review of documentation, we note that youth were late to class due to both LACOE (Teacher being late due to lack of facility keys to access facility gates) and Probation issues (movement, late breakfast, etc.). We noted some classes were held in the units due to lack of staff.</li> </ul>

- We noted instances where outdoor recreation (LME) has been cancelled or modified to indoor recreation due to lack of staff.
- We noted some medical appointments had been cancelled or rescheduled due to lack of staff.
- We noted during video review some instances in Unit Y1 where youth dined in their rooms.
- Youth are being held in their rooms for long periods of time beyond what policy allows for after incidents (brief institutional operation) due to lack of staffing available to transport to the medical module or medical staffing not capable of seeing youth in medical module.
- While conducting video review, we were unable to confirm the “constant visual” as required by Use of Force policy. According to policy, if youth are in their room awaiting transport to medical, staff should be standing outside the room. In cases where multiple youth were involved in an incident, we could not confirm that staff were conducting constant visuals.