

October 11, 2024

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

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (WELF. & INST. CODE, § 209, SUBD. (D))

Dear Chief Viera Rosa:

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is in receipt of the final Corrective Action Plan (CAP), dated October 11, 2024, for the item of noncompliance with section 1321, Staffing, of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

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. Specifically, we noted that that the facility did not meet the Department's minimum staffing from July 1, 2024 through July 29, 2024. This was evidenced by a lack of services being consistently provided, including education, outdoor recreation, youth being confined in rooms, and youth missing medical appointments.

Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (d), an approved corrective action plan (CAP) needed to be filed with the BSCC no later than October 11, 2024.

On August 20, 2024, BSCC staff met with county counsel staff, probation leadership, and facility leadership at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to discuss and offer technical assistance for the impending CAP; we understood that a draft CAP was forthcoming from that meeting. We did not receive a draft CAP following that meeting.

On October 1, 2024, Field Representative Lisa Southwell contacted county counsel, probation leadership, and facility leadership by email to determine if technical assistance was needed on reviewing a draft CAP. We did not receive a response to that correspondence.

At 4:30PM on October 10, 2024, we first received a request for technical assistance on the CAP. Field Representative Southwell responded that the document we received was not formatted as an approvable CAP.

At 7:17PM on October 10, 2024, we received a new document with information displayed in a draft corrective action plan format, with a request for additional technical assistance in completing the CAP.

The final Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall was received at 11:20AM on October 11, 2024.

After reviewing the CAP, we have determined that the CAP is not approvable. It does not adequately outline how the Department plans to correct the issue of noncompliance nor does 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).) The CAP also does not provide information on how it will “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).)

For example, we find the following non-exhaustive list of deficiencies:

- 1) “Reduce LPJH Population” as an action plan has no completion date. Moreover, the CAP did not provide information as to what the current population of LPJH is or what the targeted population will be following the population reduction plan.
- 2) One long term plan is to offer “lateral recruitment” with a bonus. There is also no completion date; just an indication that the plan is to work with Human Resources to complete the applicable recruitment exam.
- 3) The plan for ensuring youth make it to medical appointments is to provide the Officer of the Day with the appointments that are scheduled. The target date for completion is November 30, 2024. We find this target date to be unreasonable. It should not take approximately 50 days from today to resolve this urgent issue.
- 4) The CAP indicates a revised staffing plan will not be implemented until January 5, 2025. We also find this target date to be unreasonable. If the revised staffing plan is not implemented until January, youth will continue to be denied required services.

Therefore, based on the reasons set forth above, this plan is **DENIED**.

In the absence of an approved CAP, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209 (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.

BSCC staff will send formal notice of unsuitability pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (a)(4), on Monday, October 14, 2024.

Sincerely,



STEVEN WICKLANDER
Acting Deputy Director

- c: Kimberly Epps, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 Sheila Williams, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department
 Kim Binion, Superintendent, Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
 Tyson Nelson, Senior Deputy County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel, County of Los Angeles
 Nicole Rommero, Deputy County Counsel, Office of the County Counsel, County
 Linda Penner, Chair, BSCC Board
 Aaron Maguire, Acting Executive Director, BSCC B
 Lisa Southwell, Field Representative, BSCC