

February 8, 2022

Dr. Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer
Los Angeles County Probation Department
1601 Eastlake Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90033

Notice of Noncompliance at the Los Angeles County Probation Department Central Juvenile Hall: Welfare and Institutions Code section 209

Dear Chief Gonzales:

On February 3, 2022, BSCC staff conducted a site visit and inspection at Los Angeles County Central Juvenile Hall.

While in the Central Juvenile Hall Hope Center, BSCC staff identified a youth who indicated that they had been placed in the Hope Center for 11 days, had not been receiving exercise or recreation outside of their room, and had not tested positive for COVID-19. Subsequent information received from county staff indicated that the youth was in quarantine on 1/23/2022, erroneously placed into medical isolation on 1/28/2022 until 2/2/2022, and placed on quarantine on 2/2/2022 before being removed from the Hope Center on 2/3/2022 at approximately 2:00PM.

Based upon our review of the information related to this incident, the following items of noncompliance were identified:

Title 15, Section 1354.5 Room Confinement. This regulation requires that youth are not placed on room confinement for specific reasons to include, punishment, coercion, convenience, or retaliation. The regulation states that youth may be placed on room confinement for up to four hours if staff take specific action and create a plan to return the youth to general population in consultation with mental health or medical staff.

Title 15, Section 1371, Programs, Recreation, and Exercise. This regulation requires that facility managers minimize the amount of time youth are in their room, and that each youth receive time each day for programming, access to unscheduled activities (recreation), and opportunity for one hour of large muscle exercise.

Upon review of available documentation, it appears as though the youth had been erroneously and unnecessarily placed on medical isolation in a room in the Hope Center between 1/28/22 and 2/2/22 without access to programming, exercise, and recreation outside of the room. Probation staff reported to the BSCC that this was due to an error by Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS). Probation staff followed JCHS guidelines (last updated 11/24/21) and kept the youth in their room according to JCHS guidelines for medical isolation.

Once the error was discovered, the youth was placed on “quarantine” from 2/2/22 through 2/4/22. According to Title 15 Programming sheets, the youth did not leave their room between 4:30 PM on 2/2/22 and approximately 2:00 PM on 2/3/22, when they were released from the Hope Center. During this time, the youth was placed on room confinement in violation of Title 15 section 1354.5, Room Confinement and without access to required activities outlined in Title 15 section 1371, Programs, Recreation, and Exercise.

Corrective Action Plan

Given the serious nature of the items of noncompliance, we recommend that you submit a corrective action plan as described in Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (d), as soon as possible, but no later than March 10, 2022, outlining how the Central Juvenile Hall plans to correct the above issues of noncompliance. Given the concurrent 90-day deadline for remediation identified in the county’s December 10, 2021 corrective action plan, our intent is to reinspect for compliance with both corrective action plans prior to the Board’s April 7, 2022 board meeting. If you have any questions or concerns with this schedule, please contact me at allison.ganter@bscc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Allison Ganter, Deputy Director
Facilities Standards and Operations Division

cc:

Karen Fletcher, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, Los Angeles County Probation Department
Lisa Southwell, Field Representative, BSCC