

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: F.2

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

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SUBJECT: Determination of Suitability – (Welf. & Inst. Code, § 209(a)(4) & (d).)
Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, Los Angeles County
Requesting Approval

Summary

This agenda item requests that the Board make a determination of suitability within the meaning of Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivisions (a)(4) and (d) for the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in the County of Los Angeles.

Background

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) establishes the minimum standards for juvenile halls, camps, and secure youth treatment facilities (SYTF) and conducts biennial inspections of those facilities. (Welf. & Inst. Code, §§ 209, 210, 875, & 885.) Regulations setting forth these minimum standards can be found in Sections 1300-1511 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (d), provides:

Except as provided in subdivision (e), a juvenile hall, special purpose juvenile hall, camp, ranch, secure youth treatment facility,¹ law enforcement facility, or jail 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, special purpose juvenile hall, camp, ranch, secure youth treatment facility, law enforcement facility, or jail 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. The corrective action plan shall outline how the juvenile hall, special purpose juvenile

¹ The authority to make determinations of suitability for secure youth treatment facilities and juvenile ranches and camps was added to section 209 as part of the Budget Act of 2023. (Assembly Bill 134, Chapter 47, Statutes of 2023.)

hall, camp, ranch, secure youth treatment facility, law enforcement facility, or jail plans to correct the issue of noncompliance and give a reasonable timeframe, not to exceed 90 days, for resolution, that the board shall either approve or deny. In the event the juvenile hall, special purpose juvenile hall, camp, ranch, secure youth treatment facility, law enforcement facility, or jail fails to meet its commitment to resolve noncompliance issues outlined in its corrective action plan, the board shall make a determination of suitability at its next scheduled meeting.

Summary of 2023 Targeted Inspection (2023-2024 Biennial Inspection Cycle)

On August 18, 2023, following the August 14 – August 18, 2023 Targeted Inspection of the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LPJH), the BSCC notified the Los Angeles County Probation Department of the outstanding items of noncompliance at the facility (Attachment 1):

1. § 1321, Staffing
2. § 1322, Youth Supervision Staff Orientation and Training
3. § 1324, Policy and Procedures Manual
4. § 1325, Fire Safety Plan
5. § 1328, Safety Checks
6. § 1354.5, Room Confinement
7. § 1357, Use of Force
8. § 1358.5, Use of Restraint Devices for Movement and Transportation Within the Facility
9. § 1360, Searches
10. § 1370, Education Program
11. § 1371, Programs, Recreation, and Exercise
12. § 1390, Discipline

On October 16, 2023, the BSCC received an approved Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for all outstanding items of noncompliance at LPJH. The CAP indicated a completion date of January 10, 2024, for corrective action and compliance with all outstanding items of noncompliance.

On January 10, 2024, the Los Angeles County Probation Department provided written verification that the corrective action had been completed for all areas.

During January 29 and February 3, 2024, BSCC staff conducted a follow-up inspection at LPJH to verify completion of the CAP and compliance with the remaining above noted sections of Title 15.

Our review of policy, processes, and documentation indicates that Los Padrinos is in compliance with the following section of Title 15:

1. § 1358.5, Use of Restraint Devices for Movement and Transportation Within the Facility

Our review of policy, processes, and documentation indicates that the LPJH remains out of compliance with the following sections of Title 15:

1. § 1321, Staffing
2. § 1322, Youth Supervision Staff Orientation and Training
3. § 1324, Policy and Procedures Manual
4. § 1325, Fire Safety Plan
5. § 1328, Safety Checks
6. § 1354.5, Room Confinement
7. § 1357, Use of Force
8. § 1360, Searches
9. § 1370, Education Program
10. § 1371, Programs, Recreation, and Exercise
11. § 1390, Discipline

Detail related to the findings of compliance and noncompliance are in the February 2, 2024 Follow-Up Inspection Report (Attachment 4).

Because the LPJH did not complete corrective action for the above noted items of noncompliance by the timeline set forth in section 209, subdivision (d), the Board is required to determine if the facility is a suitable place for the confinement of juveniles.

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Make a determination of suitability within the meaning of Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivision (a)(4) for the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Attachments

Attachment 1: August 18, 2023 Initial Inspection Report – LPJH

Attachment 2: October 16, 2023 Final Corrective Action Plan – LPJH

Attachment 3: January 10, 2024 Response Letter for Final Corrective Action Plan – LPJH

Attachment 4: February 6, 2024 Follow Up Inspection Report – LPJH