



ADOLFO GONZALES
Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

ADULT & JUVENILE SERVICES
9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2513



November 17, 2021

Ms. Linda Penner, Chair
Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Penner:

On October 1, 2021, the Los Angeles County Probation Department received written notice from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) that the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and the Los Angeles County Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) were found not suitable for the confinement of minors pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 209, subdivisions (a)(4) and (d). The notice documented each of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities, adopted by the BSCC, that were deemed to be not in compliance with the standard.

In response to these findings, the Probation Department has worked closely with our partner agencies, Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH), to update procedures and practices to address specific areas of non-compliance and to align with Title 15 Regulations and Department Policy. As a result of these efforts, we have corrected each of the areas of non-compliance. Further, the Department's Detention Services Bureau (DSB) has implemented numerous quality assurance measures which have enhanced our ability to meet our current and future compliance efforts. The following processes have been implemented to ensure the sustainability of permanent changes required to meet Title 15 Regulations:

Staff Training:

The Department is committed to providing on-going staff coaching and training at each facility, during staff meetings and through Instructional Memorandums. The coaching and training will include, but is not limited to, reviews of Title 15 Regulations, updates on BSCC compliance, Safety Checks, Self-Separation, Room Confinement, Specialized Supervision Plans, Unit Classification, Use of Mechanical Restraints and Title 15 Programming. Staff will receive timely feedback and coaching from their supervisors and/or managers as situations arise that warrant constructive feedback and/or corrective action.

In addition to the four-hour mandatory BSCC Title 15 training provided to all sworn staff in each facility, a BSCC refresher course will be provided during the required two-week block training to keep staff apprised of all regulations and policies. Additionally, the BSCC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will conduct annual training on current and new BSCC regulations.

Rebuild Lives and Provide for Healthier and Safer Communities

Section 1402 - Scope of Health Care:

The Medical Consent Coordinator will be responsible for the daily review of the Probation Electronic Medical Records System (PEMRS) banner information to ensure the youth location and admission date is accurate. If any discrepancies are found, the Medical Consent Coordinator will contact the PEMRS Help Desk who will report the issues to the newly created PEMRS Operations Team that will resolve the issues in real-time. The discrepancies will also be reported to JCHS and DMH to ensure they are aware of the discrepancies, pending resolution.

Section 1432 - Health Assessment:

96-Hour Medical Assessment

In addition to JCHS's sustainability plan, Probation's Movement and Control staff and supervisors will receive a daily email from JCHS that lists all incoming youth with the status of their physical examination. Any youth that has not been medically assessed will be monitored and transported to the Medical Unit to ensure health assessments are completed within 96 hours of admission, pursuant to Title 15.

Additionally, JCHS staff will continue to have WiFi access to the PEMRS system while using mobile computers. This will allow JCHS to conduct the initial 96-hour assessment of the youth that are initially housed for quarantine/isolation.

Section 1434 - Consent and Refusal for Health Care:

General Medical Consent

The PEMRS system now produces a daily medical consent tracking log that indicates the status of each detained youth's medical consent. The Medical Consent Coordinator will be responsible for tracking each youth's medical consent and follow up on any outstanding items. Any attempts made to obtain medical consents will be documented.

Section 1438 – Pharmaceutical Management:

In addition to JCHS's sustainability plan, managers at both facilities will communicate with JCHS on tracking and identifying any issues or concerns involving PEMRS as it relates to the administration and delivery of medications.

Section 1439 – Psychotropic Medications:

In addition to DMH's sustainability plan, managers at both facilities will communicate with DMH on tracking and identifying any issues or concerns involving PEMRS as it relates to the documentation of consents for the use of psychotropic medication.

Section 1354.5 - Room Confinement:

Cool Down Rooms in Healing Opportunities and Positive Engagement (HOPE) Centers

Identified Cool Down rooms will continue to be utilized as an alternative to the HOPE Center dayroom. The rooms in the HOPE Centers are currently in the process of being redesigned to support a more therapeutic milieu. Rooms will be repainted in soothing colors with new mattresses and pillows to provide youth comfort during a cool down period. This transformation has been completed at the HOPE Centers for male youth at both facilities and the HOPE Center for female youth at BJNJH. The HOPE Center for female youth at CJH is in the process of being redesigned.

Room Confinement Log

Each HOPE Center has established a daily report for documenting the number of youths in room confinement, on a cool down or Specialized Supervision Program (SSP). This report will be audited daily by BSCC SMEs to ensure compliance with Title 15 Regulations.

The placement of any youth in room confinement, even for brief periods of time necessary to conduct required institutional operations, is documented on a running log. Documentation will continue to be reviewed daily and if any concerns are identified, the facility will be immediately contacted to make the correction. The Quality Assurance (QA) Team and BSCC SMEs are providing immediate real-time training when corrections are required.

Sections 1358 and 1358.5 - Use of Mechanical Restraints Due to Mental Health Crisis or Destruction of Property and Movement and Transportation Within the Facility

Mechanical Restraints for Movement Within Facility Log

The placement of any youth in mechanical restraints for movement within the facility is documented on a running log. Documentation will continue to be reviewed daily by BSCC SMEs and if any concerns are identified the facility will be immediately contacted to make the necessary correction.

Revised the Class B Uniform requirement to include Handcuffs

A memorandum was issued to all Juvenile Institutions staff regarding the revised Class B Uniform requirement to include department issued metal handcuffs and a handcuff case. All staff have been issued handcuffs and a case. A daily audit will be conducted on all shifts as part of the daily uniform inspections to ensure compliance. The DSB Manual will be revised to indicate the mandatory handcuff requirement and training.

Additional Measures to Ensure Sustainability:

Video and In-Person Observation Log

The Video and In-Person Observation Log continues to be utilized by managers when conducting random video reviews of Title 15 Programming and/or walking through units. Each manager is

required to provide immediate correction and instruction when witnessing non-compliance. In the event of any potential egregious behavior, a referral for disciplinary action is required.

Managers and the QA Team at both facilities will conduct random video reviews during critical times of the day such as school, visiting, religious services and in the evenings. Additionally, all videos will be reviewed after an incident has occurred to ensure room confinement is not occurring unless within policy in the HOPE Center.

Additional computer monitors have been provided for managers to conduct real-time video reviews. DSB will continue camera audits to identify and correct any camera obstructions.

Documentation Review

The Compliance Unit at each facility will continue to review documentation to ensure compliance with BSCC regulations, which includes but is not limited to, justification for room confinement and the use of mechanical restraints during transportation of youth within the facility. Any documentation requiring additional clarification will be immediately referred to the Compliance Unit Supervisor who will follow up and provide training.

The Department is confident that the items of non-compliance that rendered the facilities unsuitable have been remedied and meet Title 15 Regulations. Remedies included updated procedures and practices, staff training, and improved quality assurance measures and monitoring that ensure sustainability. However, should the BSCC find that one or both of our facilities continues to be unsuitable, the Probation Department requests that a reinspection of our facilities be conducted within 30 calendar days of the November 18, 2021 Board meeting. Further, we request the BSCC reconvene a Board meeting within 45 calendar days to determine suitability should additional mitigation measures be identified at the November 18, 2021 meeting.

Sincerely,



Dr. Adolfo Gonzales
Chief Probation Officer

- c: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County
Honorable Eric C. Taylor, Presiding Judge Los Angeles County Superior Court
Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel, Los Angeles County
Sheila Williams, Senior Manager, Chief Executive Office, Los Angeles County
Christina R. Ghaly, Director, Department of Health Services, Los Angeles County
Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County
Barbara Ferrer, Director, Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County
Kathleen T. Howard, BSCC Executive Director
Aaron R. Maguire, BSCC General Counsel
Allison Ganter, BSCC Deputy Director
Lisa Southwell, Field Representative, BSCC