

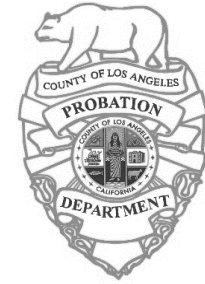


ADOLFO GONZALES

Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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



December 10, 2021

Board of State and Community Corrections
Attention: Lisa Southwell, BSCC, Field Representative
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT – JUVENILE FACILITIES CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Dear Ms. Southwell:

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) conducted inspection activities and suitability oversight at both the Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (BJNJH) and the Los Angeles County Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) from September 23, 2021 through November 12, 2021. During this reinspection process, the BSCC identified the following new items of non-compliance:

Title 15, Section 1354.5 – Room Confinement

At both Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Halls, youth reported that they were periodically being placed in their locked rooms for long periods of time after fights, during visiting, before and during showers, at shift change, and were placed in their room when the group was split to minimize the possibility of unit disturbance and incidents (“modified program”) due to gang or other unit problems. Youths’ reports of room confinement were confirmed in video reviews. These incidents of room confinement were not documented. While some of the incidents could be described as “brief” and “necessary for required institutional operations,” after reviewing the video and speaking with facility staff and youth, BSCC staff determined that many of these placements could not be reasonably characterized as brief or necessary for required institutional operations.

Title 15, Section 1328 - Safety Checks

At Central Juvenile Hall, while reviewing video footage, BSCC staff observed several instances of staff not conducting safety checks in accordance with regulation. Staff were observed not completing the safety check in a timely manner, allowing significant amounts of time between checks, and not looking in the youth’s window into the room to personally see youth’s movement and/or skin.

BSCC Corrective Action Plan
December 10, 2021
Page 2 of 4

The BSCC provided a written Notice of Noncompliance regarding these two items on November 15, 2021. This Notice of Noncompliance documents that these issues were brought to the attention of the Department on October 15, 2021, at which time corrective action was immediately initiated. The Notice of Noncompliance further states, "it should be noted that there has been significant improvement in instances of room confinement after this date. Safety checks will be reviewed at reinspection."

In response to these findings, the Department has addressed each of these items with the following solutions:

Title 15, Section 1354.5 – Room Confinement (BJNJH and CJH)

A mandatory four-hour BSCC Title 15 training was provided to all sworn staff at both the BJNJH and CJH during the month of October 2021 (10/18/2021 – 10/24/2021 at CJH and 10/25/2021 – 10/31/2021 at BJNJH). This training covered Title 15 Regulations, Updates to BSCC compliance, Safety Checks, Self-Separation, Room Confinement, Specialized Supervision Plans, Unit Classifications, Use of Mechanical Restraints and Title 15 Programming. In addition to the four-hour mandatory training, a BSCC refresher course will be provided during the required two-week block training to keep staff apprised of all regulations and policies. The BSCC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will conduct annual training on current and new BSCC regulations. Additionally, on-going training is occurring during Staff Meetings. An Instructional Memorandum (*BSCC Section 1354.5 Room Confinement Compliance Guide*) was sent to Juvenile Hall Staff on November 16, 2021 to specifically address room confinement during transitional times such as shift change, showers and after incidents.

Cool Down Rooms are being utilized as an alternative to the Healing Opportunities and Positive Engagement (HOPE) Centers, which have significantly decreased incidents of room confinement within our facilities. 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 is audited daily by BSCC SMEs to ensure compliance with Title 15 Regulations. Daily reports are being provided to Administration to monitor incidents of room confinement.

The placement of any youth in room confinement, even for brief periods of time necessary to conduct required institutional operations, is documented in Unit Log Books. 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.

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

BSCC Corrective Action Plan
December 10, 2021
Page 3 of 4

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.

The Compliance Unit at each facility continues to review documentation to ensure compliance with BSCC regulations, which includes but is not limited to, justification for room confinement. Any documentation requiring additional clarification is immediately referred to the Compliance Unit Supervisor who follows up and provides training.

Title 15, Section 1328 – Safety Checks (CJH)

A mandatory four-hour BSCC Title 15 training was provided to all sworn staff at both the BJNJH and CJH during the month of October 2021 (10/18/21 – 10/24/2021 at CJH and 10/25/2021 – 10/31/2021 at BJNJH). This training covered Title 15 Regulations, Updates to BSCC compliance, Safety Checks, Self-Separation, Room Confinement, Specialized Supervision Plans, Unit Classifications, Use of Mechanical Restraints and Title 15 Programming. In addition to the four-hour mandatory training, a BSCC refresher course will be provided during the required two-week block training to keep staff apprised of all regulations and policies. The BSCC SMEs will conduct annual training on current and new BSCC regulations. Additionally, on-going training is occurring during Staff Meetings. An Instructional Memorandum (Safety Checks) was sent to Juvenile Hall Line Staff on November 16, 2021 reminding staff of Department policy specific to Safety Checks, pursuant to Title 15 Regulations. An Instructional Memorandum (Safety Checks) was also sent to Juvenile Hall Supervisors on November 16, 2021 reminding supervisors of their responsibilities specific to Safety Checks, per Department policy.

Managers and the QA Team are conducting random video reviews to ensure staff have a direct visual observation of youth at a minimum of every 15 minutes, at random or varied intervals, when youth are asleep or when youth are in their rooms. Safety Check Sheets are also being monitored to ensure compliance with Title 15 regulations. Further, the Department is exploring the possibility of implementing technology designed to support the supervision of youth while in their rooms.

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.

The Department is committed to ensuring and maintaining compliance with Title 15 Regulations. Should you have any questions regarding this Corrective Action Plan, please do not hesitate to contact my office or Chief Deputy Karen Fletcher at (562) 441-8043.

BSCC Corrective Action Plan
December 10, 2021
Page 4 of 4

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adolfo Gonzales". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Dr. Adolfo Gonzales
Chief Probation Officer

cc:

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
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel, Los Angeles County
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission