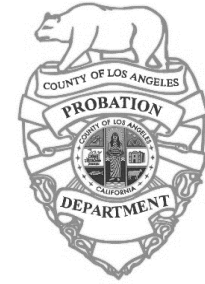




COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY – DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242

(562) 940-2501



ADOLFO GONZALES

Chief Probation Officer

March 10, 2022

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

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT – CENTRAL JUVENILE HALL CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

Dear Ms. Ganter and Ms. Southwell:

The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) conducted a site visit and inspection at the Los Angeles County Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) on February 3, 2022. During this site visit, the BSCC identified the following new items of non-compliance:

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.

The BSCC provided a written Notice of Noncompliance regarding these two items on February 8, 2022. Since these new findings were similar to those addressed in the Department's December 10, 2021 CAP, the BSCC advised that these new findings would be added to the existing CAP process.

These two items were specifically related to one youth who had been placed in medical isolation status in error. Upon identifying the error, the youth was immediately transitioned from isolation status to quarantine status, per COVID health guidelines provided by the

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County's Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS). Per JCHS guidelines, the youth was required to remain in quarantine status for an additional two days (February 2, 2022 through February 4, 2022). While in quarantine status for the identified two-day period, due to spike in COVID cases and exposures at CJH, it was necessary to adjust youth housing to limit cross contamination and further COVID exposures. In this situation, the youth's activities were limited for a total of 21.5 hours from 4:30pm on February 2, 2022, to approximately 2:00pm on February 3, 2022, at which time the youth was moved to another unit where programming and activities were restored.

Per the solutions outlined in the Department's CAP, all sworn staff at CJH received a mandatory four-hour BSCC Title 15 training session during the month of October 2021 (10/18/2021 – 10/24/2021). 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 is being provided during the required two-week block training to keep staff apprised of all regulations and policies. The Department remains committed to the BSCC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) conducting annual training on current and new BSCC regulations. Additionally, on-going training is occurring during Staff Meetings.

Cool Down Rooms have continued to be utilized as an alternative to the Healing Opportunities and Positive Engagement (HOPE) Centers, which have significantly decreased incidents of room confinement within our facilities. The 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 continue to be provided to Administration to monitor incidents of room confinement.

The placement of any youth in room confinement is documented in Unit Log Books. Documentation continues to be reviewed daily and when concerns are identified, immediate corrective action is taken. The Quality Assurance (QA) Team and BSCC SMEs provide immediate real-time training when corrections are required.

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 has continued 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.

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The Probation Department has worked diligently to address the items of non-compliance outlined in our CAP dated December 10, 2021, and in the new items of non-compliance identified during the site visit and inspection at Central Juvenile Hall on February 3, 2022. To further address systematic issues and make sustainable enhancements to ensure compliance with Title 15 regulations, the Department plans to suspend the operations at our CJH for ninety (90) days to assist in facilitating leadership changes, training for staff and needed repairs to the facility. This brief suspension of operations will include moving our youth to Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall to accomplish these changes and enhancements. During these ninety (90) days, the Department will maintain an Intake Unit for law enforcement agencies to book youth into custody, a Medical Unit to provide medical screening clearances and services, and a Court holding area for youth appearing at the Eastlake Juvenile Court facility. This Court holding area will also afford attorneys access to their clients before and after Court.

At the conclusion of the ninety (90) days, youth will be returned to CJH in a phased approach to ensure the safety and security of our youth, partners, and staff. Upon return to CJH, the Department will request that the BSCC return to conduct their inspection of CJH with the intent of successfully concluding this inspection cycle. During the week of March 14, 2022, we will expect that BSCC will be on-site to conduct the inspection of Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and subsequently each of our Camp facilities.

As indicated in our responses to the BSCC during this process, the Department continues to be committed to ensuring and maintaining compliance with Title 15 Regulations. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office or Chief Deputy Karen Fletcher at (562) 441-8043.

Sincerely,



Dr. Adolfo Gonzales
Chief Probation Officer

cc:

Honorable Eric C. Taylor, Presiding Judge Los Angeles County Superior Court
Honorable Akemi Arakaki, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court
Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County
Celia Zavala, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel, Los Angeles County
Wendelyn Julien, Executive Director, Probation Oversight Commission