



COALITION OF PROBATION UNIONS

Representing: L.A. County Probation Department's Correction and Field Deputies, Supervisors, and Directors

Local 685 – AFSCME
Stacy Ford, President

Local 1967 – AFSCME
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Elevating Lives, Strengthening Communities: A Commitment to Excellence in Probation

The employees of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, represented by the LA County Deputy Probation Officers' Union, AFSCME Local 685, the Supervising Deputy Probation Officers Union, SEIU Local 721, and the Probation Managers Association, AFSCME Local 1967 united through the Coalition of LA County Probation Unions, are committed to serving the diverse community and clients of Los Angeles. We are dedicated to creating positive impacts that transcend every aspect of the continuum of care for Probation.

Communication and Collaboration

- Our greatest asset lies in effective communication and collaboration.
- We interact at all levels, representing California Probation leadership with a commitment to win/win outcomes.

Innovative Approaches

- Embracing change is crucial for future working environments.
- We lead in developing new partnerships, organizational strategies, and future programming.

Values and Professionalism

- Our members value empathy and active communication, ensuring justice is reimagined.
- Professionalism is upheld at every level, contributing to the success of the Probation Department.

Learning Organization

- As the arm of the court in Los Angeles County, we are committed to being a learning organization.
- High-level standards in collaborative settings help us understand and resolve challenges more meaningfully.

Strategic Mindset

- We possess strategic mindsets to tackle daily problems and challenges.
- Quality management, evidence-based practices, and servant leadership contribute to our leadership in Los Angeles.

Support for Success

- Sacramento's support is vital for sustainable and financially feasible strategic programs.
- Success events and proven results build trust and confidence for all funded programs requested.

Community Engagement

- We empower Los Angeles' justice-involved youth and adults through successful actions, creating a refined system of growth.
- Building trust and respect in challenging neighborhoods is central to our mission.

Continuous Improvement

- We embrace continuous improvement cycles, centered on solution-based ideas and resilience.
- Sacramento is urged to support a strategic plan for sustained success in critical areas.

Collaboration with Coalition of Probation Unions

- The Coalition of Probation Unions supports funding program inventories and ensures successful translation of organizational goals.
- Collaborative efforts with unions are essential for adapting to changes in legislation, socio-economic impacts, and disaster responses.

Technology and Innovation

- Facilitating increased effectiveness through technology is a priority.
- Collaboration with Sacramento is sought to enhance policies and procedures with benchmarks and best practices.

Los Angeles County Probation, in collaboration with the Coalition of Unions, urges the California Legislature to recognize the importance of sustaining and advancing our mission. By fostering a commitment to excellence, embracing change, and securing the necessary support, we can continue to elevate lives, strengthen communities, and prioritize public safety.

"The best minute I spend is the one I invest in people."

— Kenneth Blanchard.

Challenges in the LA County Probation System

The LA County Board of Supervisors' divestment of the world's largest probation department has crippled operations, created a dangerous environment for youth and staff, demoralized probation-peace officers, and made it nearly impossible to implement care-first mental health, rehabilitation, and vocational programming to justice-involved youth and adults. Now is the time to act decisively and appropriate funding to build a brighter future for justice-involved youth. Now is the time to invest in LA's justice-involved youth and adults by fixing, at long last, America's largest probation department.

On May 23, 2023, the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) issued a "Notice of Unsuitability" to the County of Los Angeles requiring that all Probation wards be removed from Barry J. Nidorf and Central Juvenile Halls effective July 23, 2023. With a prolonged hiring freeze and a significant number of staff out on industrial injury leave, the basis of the BSCC's unsuitability determination is the persistent and unresolved lack of staffing, as well as decrepit and unsafe facilities.

The LA County Probation Department readied Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (LP), a 1950s era facility closed in 2018, for the Probation wards and pre-disposition minors have been moved to the facility. While this facility may provide a temporary solution to the State's unsuitability determination with the other two juvenile halls, it does not solve the key issue of lack of staffing to provide the required rehabilitative services that our justice-involved youth deserve. Further, this does not resolve the fact that the County's juvenile halls are neither secure nor care-first as required for the SYTF youth.

On February 7, 2024, the BSCC provided written notice that they are preparing to make a determination of suitability of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. The determination will be announced at the BSCC's board meeting on February 15, 2024.

Background

The BSCC's action comes after decades of neglect by the LA County Board of Supervisors and their appointed executives who oversee the largest probation department in the nation, which is under the direct executive control of the Board of Supervisors. The Board has persistently failed to hire, properly train, and assure a safe environment for youth and staff. There are currently more than 1,000 vacancies in the LA County Probation Department due to the Supervisors' historic hiring freeze, which has since been lifted by the Board majority.

Probation-Peace Officers assigned to the juvenile division are faced with daily youth-on-youth and youth-on-staff assaults, and a significant number of staff in the juvenile division are now out on injury leave. To make up for the staffing shortfalls, staff have been compelled to work 18–24-hour shifts and now all sworn staff – even those who are charged with monitoring adult probationers in the community – are required to work one day a month in the juvenile halls. We are simply doing the best we can with limited resources and exhaustion.

Despite a consistent drumbeat of demands from the three unions representing sworn officers, supervisors, and managers in the Probation Department – and even a call in March 2023 from the largest of the three unions to have the Department of Justice assume immediate control of the department (the California Probation Officers Association of California (CPOC) also called for an immediate court receivership for LA County’s juvenile facilities in March) – the County has persistently failed to hire, properly train, and assure a safe environment for youth and staff. Further, despite cries from officers, stakeholders, and even the Grand Jury, the Board of Supervisors has failed to modernize the prison-like juvenile facilities.

In 2013, the Los Angeles County Grand Jury recommended “razing all buildings on the site and construct[ing] a modern facility,” noting that “Central Juvenile Hall is in severe disrepair. It is a financial drain on the maintenance budget of the Probation Department. Constant need for repairs of basic utilities and infrastructure is costly. Rather than keeping the site operational through on-going remedial repairs, the Probation Department would save money and better serve the minors with a modern facility... Replacing the facility (CJH) would alleviate safety issues caused by dilapidated buildings.”

In May 2023, a California court ruled in favor of CA Attorney General Bonta’s request for enforcement action against the County of Los Angeles to “remedy illegal and unsafe conditions” in the two juvenile halls. In a May 9 press release, Bonta stated, “The court found that Los Angeles County has not complied with judgment provisions related to timely and adequate medical care, adequate staffing, transportation to education, compensatory education, outdoor recreation, camera installation at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, and creation of a positive behavior management plan.”

Juvenile Probation Facilities

The Los Angeles County Probation Department’s juvenile detention facilities are badly outdated and in need of critical renovations with almost all of its physical plants in significant dilapidation. In their current state, juvenile probation facilities are not adequate to meet the basic State law requirement of a “homelike” environment, much less meet the current care-first, intensive rehabilitation model that juvenile justice requires.

The Department provides thousands of rehabilitative programs, but – as the *Los Angeles Times* reported last week – “Classes and activities are often canceled because teachers and contract service providers are too afraid to come in.” (*Los Angeles Times, March 12, 2023*)

Critical infrastructure funding is also required for the new Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) youth and young adults, whose care model demands modern, not old, dilapidated, facilities. In order to comply with Federal law and regulations, the SYTF “minors,” who are 19 to 25, cannot be housed within sight and sound of the 18 years or younger juveniles under the Department’s supervision. This important requirement cannot be met in the County’s current plant system.

The L.A. Probation Department does not have an adequate training facility to assure that the officers are properly trained to provide rehabilitative services (currently officers receive minimal training in a dilapidated elementary school).

To achieve real juvenile justice reform, specifically care-first, trauma informed therapeutic treatment, the Los Angeles County Probation Department needs substantial infrastructure and capital improvement funding from the State. With inspection reports from the Board of State Community Corrections dating back ten years stating the critical need for major infrastructure improvements, and current research forming the bases of a true trauma-informed care model, it is well past the time to make substantial renovations.

More than fifteen years after the Local Youth Offender Rehabilitation Facility Construction Finance Program (SB 81, Chapter 175, and Statutes of 2007), the critical infrastructure requirements for Los Angeles County demand the same approach to ensure that Los Angeles' justice-involved youth have as many tools as possible available for their rehabilitation.

Further, L.A. County Probation's current training facility lacks the proper spacing, technological connectivity, equipment, aesthetics, restroom amenities, library, accessibility, and inviting environment for learning and community engagement.

LA County Probation Programs

Source: LA County Probation Department

Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT)

Initial MDT: An initial appointment with the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is scheduled within 10 days of a youth arriving to camp. Present at the Initial MDT are the Camp MDT Coordinator, the youth's Camp Probation Officer, a LA County Office of Education (LACOE) representative, a Department of Mental Health (DMH) clinician, the youth, and the youth's guardian. A representative from Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) is available if necessary.

During the initial MDT, a case plan is developed that is tailored to the specific individual needs of the youth. This case plan will guide the youth's camp program and include specific information regarding the services youth will need and the programs available to address those needs. The need for counseling services such as individual, group or family counseling are also addressed.

The youth's family is an integral part of assisting the youth achieve the pre-determined goals and are encouraged to participate in the components geared towards family reunification. The youth's Probation Officer will monitor youth's progress (or lack thereof) and assist youth to achieve the goals set forth in the case plan.

As Needed MDT: The As Needed MDT can take place any time during the youth's camp program and is dependent on the needs of the youth. The As Needed MDT addresses the youth's current areas of concern by modifying the case plan goals and objectives.

Transitional MDT: A Transitional MDT is scheduled 45 days prior to the youth's projected release date from camp. Present at the Transitional MDT are MDT Coordinator, the youth's Camp Probation Officer, the youth's Field Probation Officer, a LACOE representative, a DMH Clinician, the youth, and the youth's Guardian. A representative from JCHS is available if necessary.

During the Transitional MDT, the case plan is revisited and adjusted based on the youth's progress and future needs. Youth and Guardian are provided information on what is expected from the youth when he/she is released from camp, the Conditions of Probation are explained, reporting instructions to DPO after release, and future court appearances. Youth is provided referrals to services that he/she may need in the community. All questions the youth and Guardian have are addressed and answered.

During the Transitional MDT, the Probation Officer and the collaborating partners discuss the available options with the youth and his/her Guardians to determine which path would best serve the needs of the youth. Youth and Guardian are also provided information on what is expected from the youth when he/she is released from camp, the Conditions of Probation are explained, reporting instructions to DPO after release, and future court appearances. Youth is provided referrals to services that he/she may need in the community. All questions the youth and Guardian have are addressed and answered.

Behavior Modification Program (BMP)

The goal of the Behavior Modification Program (BMP) is for the youth to earn greater independence and privileges during their camp stay by demonstrating progress in behavior and self-control.

The BMP Program is a point system that allows youth to earn points daily based on their behavior. If the youth earns the number of points required for the day, then the youth is eligible to receive the BMP incentive for that day. Incentives vary by camp and can include special activities, programs, and extra personals. Additionally, the number of successful days youth earns the required number of points allows the youth to be considered for an early release.

Each camp has a four-stage promotional system with specific promotional requirements for each stage. After youth earns the minimum number of points required in consecutive days, youth is eligible to promote to the next stage. As the youth progresses through the stages, youth receives greater independence and privileges. Additionally, youth at the higher stages receive greater incentives.

Prior to the youth being released from camp, a Home Evaluation is conducted to deem whether the youth's home is suitable for the youth to return to. If the youth does not have a home to return to or if the youth's home is deemed unsuitable, the Probation Officer must find the youth a place to live after the completion of his/her camp program. If the youth is 17 ½ or younger, the youth is eligible to be placed in a suitable placement ([link to suitable placement](#)). If the youth is older than 17 ½, youth may be eligible for Independent Living Services or to have probation supervision terminated.

Campus Kilpatrick and the L.A. Model

Campus Kilpatrick is the flagship location of the Los Angeles County Probation Department's "L.A. Model" for juvenile rehabilitative service facilities. The Department, in partnership with other county departments and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) successfully opened the first L.A. Model cottage at Campus Kilpatrick in July 2017.

The L.A. Model at Campus Kilpatrick is a small-group treatment model that is youth-centered and embodies a culture of care rather than a culture of control. The model's central framework relies on all campus staff including Probation, LACOE, and mental health providers to coordinate and deliver a range of integrated services that collectively aim to cultivate opportunities for growth and healing while promoting personal autonomy and responsibilities.

This model includes intensive case planning that is coordinated, collaborative, and includes input from youth, family, probation, school/education, physical health, mental health, and, when appropriate, additional service providers or stakeholders. The therapeutic environment permeates all aspects of the campus experience, including all daily and nighttime activities, and is consistently upheld and reinforced by youth and all staff.

The first cohort of youth completed their court-ordered rehabilitation in December 2017 after an intensive 16-week rehabilitation program and a semester of a unique project-based learning approach to education provided by LACOE. Youth who completed the program at Campus Kilpatrick have spoken about how they were treated with dignity, respect, and care by the staff at Campus Kilpatrick. They see it as a place of opportunity, teaching them how to be part of a community.

Campus Kilpatrick and the "L.A. Model" are examples that demonstrate how the L.A. County Probation Department is committed to providing its young people with the evidence-based rehabilitative tools necessary to build a productive future.

School Based Supervision

School Based Supervision consists of programs that serve youth and families within the five Supervisorial Districts. The programs and services are funded through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) designed to provide a full spectrum of community-based services to both probation and at-risk youth. The school-based program consists of Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) assigned to High schools, Middle schools, Housing Developments and Park (afterschool enrichment) sites.

These DPOs receive specialized training to provide individualized assessment, Strength-Based/Family-Centered case planning and management, and effective supervision. They work closely with parents and guardians in enforcing regular school attendance, behavior, and school performance, as well as compliance with all other terms of probation. The primary objective of these services is to increase the opportunity for the probationers and /or at-risk youth to achieve academic success, and to empower and support parents to become the primary charge agent for their children.

Camp Community Transition Program (CCTP)

CCTP provides after-care services for youth transitioning from camp back into their own communities. The services begin prior to their release, followed by a 30 to 60-day intensively supervised transition period to ensure prompt school enrollment, community service and participation in selected programs provided by community-based organizations until termination.

Intensive Gang Supervision Program (IGSP)

The program provides intensive supervision of gang identified probationers and aims to protect the community by closely monitoring a probationer's compliance with the terms and conditions of probation. IGSP Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) work with school officials, community-based organizations, the probation department's specialized units and law enforcement agencies.

Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Unit

Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) supervise juveniles placed on community-based probation supervision after being released from the State of California's Division of Juvenile Justice. DPOs assigned to this unit work closely with the Probation Departments Special Enforcement Operations to provide case management services (e.g. assessment, orientation, contacts, service referrals, violations, court reports,) and assist probationers in reintegrating back into the community.

Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC) – Special Needs Court

JMHC is designated to initiate a comprehensive, judicially monitored program of individualized mental health treatment and rehabilitation services for minors who suffer from diagnosed mental illness (Axis I), organic brain impairment or developmental disabilities.

Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003 to support the prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment within the corrections systems. It mandates national data collection efforts, provides funding for program development and research, and creates a national commission to develop standards and accountability measures. The Los Angeles County Probation Department has established a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual assault and sexual harassment. Compliance with PREA is part of the departments continuous effort to keep youth safe while in its care.

While PREA speaks directly to residential and detention services for juvenile institutions, all employees, contractors, juveniles, and volunteers are expected to have a clear understanding that the Department strictly prohibits any type of sexual relationship with an individual under Department supervision and considers such a relationship a serious breach of the standards of employee conduct and contract compliance. These relationships will not be tolerated.

Establishing data collection systems to accurately track sexual misconduct, analyze any incidents, and annually incorporate "lessons learned" into improved operations and the departments continuous quality improvements process to ensure PREA compliance and ultimately the safety and security of our youth.

Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI)

The Department is in the process of implementing The Carey Guides as its CBI program to be incorporated into current case planning and case management practices to address criminogenic needs (life areas) that contribute to criminal offending. Training in EBP, Effective Case Planning & Management, and the Use of the Carey Guides is underway and is scheduled to be completed by April 2018. The use of this CBI will enable staff to engage in teaching and practices skills to our clients in order to disrupt problematic thinking patterns that contribute to criminal behaviors.

Skid Row Project

In an effort to address the number of PSPs and probationers in the Skid Row area of the city of Los Angeles, the Department placed two (2) DPOs with the Los Angeles Police Department's Central Station. Using the Mobile Resource Center, the two DPOs along with staff from the contracted housing provider, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Public Health are deployed to the Skid Row area twice a month to facilitate mobile office reporting. The goal of the project is to transition supervised persons from homelessness into permanent housing.

Mental Health Housing Court Program

The Mental Health Housing Court Program is an innovative CORE Adult Bureau supervision program for mentally ill homeless clients who receive housing and mental health treatment upon release from county jail. In 2016, the Department developed the Mental Health Housing Court Program (MHHC) with the primary goal of supervising Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) court ordered grants of probation.

The MHHC Unit is a collaborative unit that engages with multiple stakeholders to ensure that probationers, who have been found eligible and suitable for Office of Diversion and Re-Entry (ODR) program, receive services and engagement in the community. The MHHC unit is also tasked with providing the designated ODR courts with an independent assessment of a candidate's suitability for the ODR unit, based on the seriousness of prior offenses, prior conduct of Probation grants, focusing assessed receptivity to engagement with services, and other criminogenic factors.

Effective May 1, 2019, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County implemented a HUB model for identifying participants for the ODR Housing program. All cases found to be appropriate for the ODR Housing Program will be sentenced out of the Central Superior Court Department 044, the Airport Court, Department 71, Van Nuys Court now heard out of Department 044. These Hub Courts accept cases from other superior courts.

LA County Probation Department Mental Health Housing Court Program partnered with the Department of Mental Health and other law enforcement agencies and attended several trainings such as:

- An overview of mental health illness and how to intervene and de-escalate mental health clients.
- How to determine the differences between depression, bipolar, and Schizophrenia behaviors
- An overview of the various mental health medications
- Field Officer Safety Training (Pepper Spray, Handcuffs)
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- The Level of Service/ Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI)
- Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)
- Courage to Change Journaling System
- 5150 Designee Training (Upcoming Soon)

Gender Specific Programming

The Department has implemented the “Healing Trauma” Women’s Group, which is an Evidence-based Program that addresses the trauma experienced by many of the women re-entering the community from state prison or county jail. The program is facilitated by Department staff in small group sessions. After an initial pilot program, the Women’s Group programming is being implemented throughout the County and the Department will be determining if a comparable program can be developed and implemented for male clients who have experienced trauma.

Alternative Treatment

The Alternative Treatment Caseload (ATC) Program provides evidence-based supervision caseloads using a Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT) intervention paired with the utilization of Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques; for moderate to high risk offending adult clients. Clients participating in the ATC Program are assessed using the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) assessment tool. The LS/CMI provides the client’s risk level of re-offending as well as other factors. Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) use the assessment information to develop individualized case management plans, which includes participation in a CBT intervention. The CBT intervention is a structured curriculum and experiential interactive journal writing process that increases client motivation for change and guides offenders in their decision-making skills for pro-social behaviors. It specifically addresses the criminogenic risk factors identified by the initial LS/CMI assessment. Through this process, clients self-identify, self-confront, and seek to alter the attitudes, values and thinking patterns that once led to inappropriate, anti-social behaviors. As a result, clients are once again connected to their strengths, capabilities, and personal responsibilities for changing their lives.

The ATC Program is set apart from traditional supervision caseloads in that it is a collaborative effort between the client and the DPO, with intensive supervision set at the beginning of the program. The DPO strives to build a therapeutic alliance, continually engaging with the client throughout the term of supervision through the use of MI. Client contacts are more frequent, lasting approximately one (1) hour each session, with significant interaction between the client and DPO working through the interactive CBT journals.

As specific program benchmarks are obtained, intensive supervision requirements are often reduced in an effort to reward clients for positive progress and program compliance. Clients are gradually transferred back into traditional supervision caseloads following the completion of the ATC Program. Finally, the ATC Program is further supported by the Staff Support and Development Unit (SSD) which provides quarterly DPO MI and CBT assessments, further offering on-the-spot feedback and coaching, on-going quality assurance inspections and review of program statistics and data trends.

Special Enforcement

The Probation Department's Special Enforcement Operations (SEO) Unit is an elite unit comprised of armed Deputy Probation Officers who are highly trained, expertly skilled, and tremendously motivated professionals who make them the best of the best at what they do. SEO conduct searches, plan and execute joint law enforcement special operations such as sweeps, seizures, and warrant enforcement. Additionally, SEO collaborates on a regular basis with local, state, and federal agencies such as LAPD, FBI, US Marshals, and the Drug Enforcement Agency. Operations range from gang homicides, organized crime task forces and fugitive apprehension.

Overview of its major operational components:

1. CLEAR

The primary purpose of Los Angeles City Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) program is to facilitate the recovery of gang-infested communities. This is accomplished by decreasing the criminal activity of targeted gangs in designated communities through an effective collaboration among several City and County criminal justice agencies, and partnerships between this core collaborative and affiliated agencies, programs, and individuals in the targeted communities.

The CLEAR Units duties are also specific to individuals who have been ordered to probation supervision by the courts and reside and/or visit within the Division's geographical boundaries. These activities are done in coordination with the District Attorney's Office, City Attorney's Office, Community Stakeholders, and the Los Angeles Police Department.

2. DISARM

The Probation Department's Developing Increased Safety through Arms Reduction Management (DISARM) Unit was initiated by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich in February of 2000, in wake of the tragic August 1999 shootings at the North Valley Jewish Community Center and the murder of a postal worker by an armed felon on probation from Washington State. Since its inception, DISARM has since seized more than 7,000 weapons, more than \$300 Million in illegal drugs and drug money and assisted in over 15,000 arrests.

The DISARM Unit have established collaborative working relationships with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. DISARM members are often asked to work on various task forces formed by these agencies, as well as the County-wide CSEC Task Force.

Invest Innovative Employment Solutions

Los Angeles County Probation and Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services in collaboration with the Office of Diversion and Reentry and the California Employment Development Department have launched the INVEST program to create employment opportunities for Adult Probationers in L.A. County.

AB 109 Armed (Assembly Bill 109)

In 2011, the California Legislature and Governor Brown passed sweeping public safety legislation (AB 109) that effectively shifted responsibility for certain populations of offenders from the state to the County. The County of Los Angeles Probation Department began the implementation of an Armed AB 109 Unit to service the needs of the AB 109 Population. This program was in addition to the already established Armed Programs. The program primarily targets high risk individuals for referral for services and emergency detention when necessary to protect the clients and the community, in accordance with evidence-based principals.

The AB 109 Armed Unit works collaboratively with other law enforcement agencies as well as with the department's armed units to perform an array of community safety tasks. Since the inception, the AB 109 armed deputies have been actively involved with the suppression and monitoring of the department's AB 109 clientele.

K-9 Unit

In November 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved and funded the implementation of a passive alert K9 detection program for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. The Board's approval was for a unit consisting of five (5) K9 teams which would be specifically trained in the detection of illicit narcotics or firearms.

Since Implementation, the K9 unit has had success in locating illegal narcotics and ammunition which has resulted in the arrest of probationers who were not in compliance with their Conditions of Probation. The handlers and their new K9 partners work and train diligently daily to ensure they are always prepared to assist the Department. Since the implementation of the K9 Unit, they have assisted in numerous operations with Special Enforcement Operations.

Drug Court

With the court's approval, qualified defendants are placed in a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment, and rehabilitation programs. Drug Court's judges monitor the participation of the defendants, and those who successfully complete the program have their drug case dismissed. The program runs 6-9 months and involves individual and group counseling, acupuncture, and programs of educational, vocational training and job placement.

The Drug Court service is available to nonviolent defendants arrested for specific felony drug charges. PTS interviews the defendant and verifies the information received. A complete criminal history is compiled, and an assessment of eligibility is completed. The Court places the eligible defendant in a

court-supervised, comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation program. Drug Court relies on the judge to monitor closely the participation of the defendants. Defendants who successfully complete the program have their drug case dismissed. The program runs 6-9 months and involves individual and group counseling, acupuncture, and programs of educational, vocational training and job placement.

Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

In September 2020, Governor Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 823 – Juvenile Justice Realignment: Office of Youth and Community Restoration. The signing of this bill initiated the closure of the California Department of Rehabilitation Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). As a result, DJJ intake closed for most youth on July 1, 2021, and local counties became responsible for housing programming and treatment of youth previously committed to DJJ.

Of the youth and young adults currently in the custody of the LA County Probation Department, the following represents the crimes committed:

Crime	Penal Code	Population*
Murder	187 PC	35
Attempted Murder	664/187 PC	15
Voluntary Manslaughter	192(A) PC	1
Robbery	211	4
Carjacking	215 PC	2
Assault with a firearm	245 (a)(2)	3
Assault with a deadly weapon	245 (a) (1)	1
Assault of a custodial officer	241.1 PC	1
Burglary	459 (a) PC	1
Total		63

*Source: LA County Probation Department, Feb. 2024.

SYTF Programs

The LA County Probation Department has a multitude of programs for SYTF wards in the following areas:

- Behavioral/mental health
- Education
- Employment
- Family
- Healing and Restoration
- Positive Youth Development
- Family
- Step Downs
- Training

Please see Attachment A for detail.

Source: Coalition of Probation Unions, February 12, 2024.