This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH (TAY)

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
Ongoing meetings of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) must be regularly scheduled, with mandatory participation of departments, youth, foster parents, and other interested parties.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been partially implemented and the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) timeline for implementation of scheduling ongoing regular meetings is by January 2024. DCFS, Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Probation have discussed the need for improved collaboration, and discussed various strategies which would assist with better support for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY). Further discussions are needed to determine to what degree departments outside of DCFS can allocate staff to serve as a member of MDTs.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2b**
DCFS and Probation should ensure that the youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, a birth certificate, social security card, medical card, and any other pertinent documents.

DCFS and Probation should assist the youth to obtain public and privately funded services. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) should provide information to the TAY for general relief, CalWORKS, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. Department of Public Health (DPH) should provide information to access medical services.

DCFS and Probation should provide additional TAY services such as employment, housing, healthcare, and (for male TAYs age 18) registration with the Selective Service System. DCFS should provide training so the youth can open a bank account and apply for admission to colleges.

RESPONSE
Partially disagree due to some of the jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the Social Security Administration. This recommendation has been partially implemented and will be fully implemented. DCFS and Probation already ensure youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, are provided with their birth certificates, a social security card, medical care, and other pertinent documents. The timeframe for full implementation is estimated for 2024 and contingent upon further discussion with the Social Security Administration in addressing a streamlined and consistent protocol for DCFS to request social security cards for

youth, and other County departments to connect and access services and resources.

DCFS and Probation already ensure that youth obtain any funds available, are referred to DPSS for assistance, and referred for employment preparedness classes, housing, life skills classes, financial literacy classes, which includes information on opening a bank account and assists TAY with completing applications for college.

DCFS and Probation will continue to work with other County departments, such as DPSS and DPH, and continue conversations with the Social Security Administration to promote and facilitate TAY accessing relevant documents.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2c**
The Board of Supervisors (BOS) should lobby the state legislature for authorization to extend TAY services to as early as age 14 and as late as age 24.

RESPONSE
Partially disagree. This recommendation requires further analysis regarding the cost and funding of increasing eligibility for TAY services. Also, the BOS has existing policy to support legislation and funding to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency, increase post-secondary achievement, and improve opportunities for TAY, nonminor dependents, and former foster youth and will monitor legislation in 2024 to determine if any bills correspond to this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3**
DCFS and Probation should provide training to foster parents or guardians of TAYs to educate them to the procedures, assistance, and processes to effectively assist TAYs under their care during the transition period.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation is expected to be fully implemented by December 1, 2023. DCFS has spoken with the Foster Parent College (FPC) and Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) about adding courses specific to supporting TAY, and they agreed to add it to their fall curriculum. In addition, Probation routinely provides training to resource families through the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) of Record and the Probation's Youth Development Services' Independent Living Program (ILP) Transition Coordinator (TC). The TC provides information and support to Probation youth and their resource families. Resource families have access to the support services offered to the youth by the DPO of Record, a TC, and Resource DPO who supports foster youth directly and resource families with school related issues. The DPO of Record has the most contact with the resource families and thus provide ongoing training and coaching at each interaction. They ensure resource families are aware of the services available to them and the youth, and how to access them.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3a**
DCFS or Probation should require foster parents to receive training and guidance as mandated by the MDT plans. Foster parents and court appointed educational advocates must participate in educational plans with school administration and/or community organizations.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. The recommendation requires discussion with the California Department of Social Services as there is no mandate that foster parents receive specific trainings and guidance that have been determined by a MDT plan, nor that they are mandated to participate in educational plan meetings. The analysis and discussion should be completed by January 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3b**
DCFS or Probation should provide foster parents with pertinent case history upon placement.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented as this is already mandated by DCFS' and Probation's policy and part of practice.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.4**
DMH should provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in addition to all other therapy services.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. DMH has clarified that its Juvenile Justice Clinical Team members have and continue to provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and other therapeutic (such as Evidence-based, Promising, and/or Community-Defined) practices which are guided by the Prevention and Early Intervention Plan of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to TAY.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**
Each department should contribute to an Individual Transition Plan. The Individual Transition Plan should be a collaborative effort of all the involved departments, and the implementation should begin when the TAY reaches age 16. DCFS or Probation should develop one cohesive plan, which includes the desires of the youth for continuing their education/training and future goals. All agencies should ensure that TAYs and their foster parents participate in all meetings concerning the TAY's case. The departments must ensure that TAYs are given the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been partially implemented and requires further analysis. The recommendation for DCFS implementation with the other departments is targeted for 2024 but is contingent upon further discussion and agreement with other departments. Additionally, DCFS has agreed to create, by

January 2024, a specialized section of staff who will provide intensive services for youth who are transitioning from care. That section of staff will be responsible for supporting TAY who are transitioning from care, including working collaboratively with representatives from other County departments.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.6**
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) should fully provide $500,000 to Covenant House LA for staffing and operational costs so that 16 youths can move into the additional section.

RESPONSE
Partially disagree. The recommendation has been implemented but at LAHSA's standard reimbursement rate. When LAHSA was approached to provide funding for the additional beds, the request was approved. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023, LAHSA contracted with Covenant House from May 15, 2023 - June 30, 2023, for operations of the 16 beds at the standard rate of $50/bed/night. The start date was mutually determined with Covenant House LA. LAHSA has contracted with Covenant House LA for operations of the 16 beds for the full FY 2023-2024, also at the standard rate of $50/bed/night.

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
Ongoing meetings of the MDTs must be regularly scheduled, with mandatory participation of departments, youth, foster parents, and other interested parties.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been partially implemented and the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) timeline for implementation of scheduling ongoing regular meetings is January 2024. DCFS, DMH and Probation have discussed the need for improved collaboration, and discussed various strategies which would assist with better support for transitional aged youth (TAY). Further discussions are needed to determine to what degree departments outside of DCFS can allocate staff to serve as a member of MDTs.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2b**
DCFS and Probation should ensure that the youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, a birth certificate, social security card, medical card, and any other pertinent documents.

DCFS and Probation should assist the youth to obtain public and privately funded services. DPSS should provide information to the TAY for general relief, CalWORKS, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal. DPH should provide information to access medical services.

DCFS and Probation should provide additional TAY services such as employment, housing, healthcare, and (for male TAYs age 18) registration with the Selective Service System. DCFS should provide training so the youth can open a bank account and apply for admission to colleges.

RESPONSE
Partially disagree due to some of the jurisdiction for this recommendation falls with the Social Security Administration. This recommendation has been partially implemented and will be fully implemented. DCFS and Probation already ensure TAY obtain a driver's license or California ID card, are provided with their birth certificates, a social security card, medical care and other pertinent documents. The timeframe for full implementation is estimated for 2024 and contingent upon further discussion with the Social Security Administration in addressing a streamlined and consistent protocol for DCFS to request social security cards for TAY, and other County Departments to connect and access services and resources.

DCFS and Probation already ensure that TAY obtain any funds available, are referred to DPSS for assistance, and referred for employment preparedness classes, housing, life skills classes, financial literacy classes which includes information on opening a bank account and assists transition age youth with completing applications for college.

DCFS and Probation will continue to work with other county departments, such as DPSS and DPH, and continue conversations with the Social Security Administration to promote and facilitate TAY accessing relevant documents.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3**
DCFS and Probation should provide training to foster parents or guardians of TAYs to educate them to the procedures, assistance, and processes to effectively assist TAYs under their care during the transition period.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation is expected to be fully implemented by December 1, 2023. DCFS has spoken with the Foster Parent College (FPC) and Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) about adding courses specific to supporting TAY, and they agreed to add it to their fall curriculum. In addition, Probation routinely provides training to resource families through the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) of Record and the Probation's Youth Development Services' Independent Living Program (ILP) Transition Coordinator (TC). The TC provides information and support to Probation youth and their resource families. Resource families have access to the support services offered to the youth by the DPO of Record, a TC, and Resource DPO who supports foster youth directly and resource families with school related issues. The DPO of Record has the most contact with the resource families and thus provide ongoing training and coaching at each interaction. They ensure resource families are aware of the services available to them and the youth, and how to access them.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3a**
DCFS or Probation should require foster parents to receive training and guidance as mandated by the MDT plans. Foster parents and court appointed educational advocates must participate in educational plans with school administration and/or community organizations.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. The recommendation requires discussion with the California Department of Social Services as there is no mandate that foster parents receive specific trainings and guidance that have been determined by a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) plan, nor that they are mandated to participate in educational plan meetings. The analysis and discussion should be completed by January 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3b**
DCFS or Probation should provide foster parents with pertinent case history upon placement.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented as this is already mandated by DCFS's and Probation's policy and part of practice.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.4**
DMH should provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in addition to all other therapy services.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. DMH has clarified that its Juvenile Justice Clinical Team members have and continue to provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and other therapeutic (such as Evidence-based, Promising, and/or Community-Defined) practices which are guided by the Prevention and Early Intervention Plan of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to TAY.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**
Each department should contribute to an Individual Transition Plan. The Individual Transition Plan should be a collaborative effort of all the involved departments, and the implementation should begin when the TAY reaches age 16. DCFS or Probation should develop one cohesive plan, which includes the desires of the youth for continuing their education/training and future goals. All agencies should ensure that TAYs and their foster parents participate in all meetings concerning the TAY's case. The departments must ensure that TAYs are given the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been partially implemented and requires further analysis. The recommendation for DCFS implementation with the other departments is targeted for 2024 but is contingent upon further discussion and agreement with other departments. Additionally, DCFS has agreed to create by January 2024 a specialized section of staff who will provide intensive services for youth who are transitioning from care. That section staff will be responsible for supporting TAY who are transitioning from care, including working collaboratively with representatives from other county departments.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.6**
LAHSA should fully provide $500,000 to Covenant House LA for staffing and operational costs so that 16 youths can move into the additional section.

RESPONSE
Partially disagree. The recommendation has been implemented but at LAHSA's standard reimbursement rate. When LAHSA was approached to provide funding for the additional beds, the request was approved. In FY 2022-2023, LAHSA contracted with Covenant House from May 15, 2023 - June 30, 2023, for operations of the 16 beds at the standard rate of $50/bed/night. The start date was mutually determined with Covenant House LA. LAHSA has contracted with Covenant House

LA for operations of the 16 beds for the full FY 2023-2024, also at the standard rate of $50/bed/night.

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

BRANDON T. NICHOLS
Director

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KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

July 25, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Brandon T. Nichols, Director
Department of Children and Family Services

**RESPONSE TO THE 2022-2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Enclosed please find the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) updates to the Civil Grand Jury's recommendation for year 2022-2023. The responses to the recommendations have been prepared for the following Civil Grand Jury report sections titled, "Aging Out: Transitional Aged Youth" Recommendations 1.1, 1.2, 1.2a, 1.2b, 1.3, 1.3a, 1.3b, and 1.5.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may call Aldo Marin, DCFS Board Liaison, at (213) 371-6052.

BTN:RR:af

Enclosures

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
Ongoing meetings of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) must be regularly scheduled, with mandatory participation of departments, youth, foster parents, and other interested parties.

RESPONSE
The Department agrees with the recommendation. The recommendation has been partially implemented and the timeline for implementation of scheduling ongoing regular meetings is by January 2024. Mandating participation from other departments is contingent upon their agreement. DCFS has already met with the other departments to discuss the need for improved collaboration, and discussed various strategies which would assist with better support for transition age youth. Further discussions are needed in order to determine to what degree other departments are in agreement and can allocate staff to serve as a member of MDTs.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2**
DCFS and MDTs should carefully monitor the ages of TAY and other beneficiaries so as to make certain that TAY services and TAY planning begin as early as appropriately possible, at ages 14, 16 or other applicable ages.

RESPONSE
The Department agrees with the recommendation. The recommendations will be implemented. The Department plans to implement by 2024. Although, please note response regarding MDTs to recommendation 1.1.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2a**
DCFS, Probation and MDTs should carefully monitor the ages of TAYs so as to make certain that TAYs are made fully aware of services available not only until they reach age 18, but also continuing, where appropriate and available, extending TAY transitional services to ages 21 or 24.

RESPONSE
The Department partially disagrees with the findings in that DCFS and Probation currently monitor the ages of transition age youth and begins discussing transition planning with them no later than their 16th birthdays. The timeframe for full implementation is estimated for 2024 and contingent upon further discussion with other departments as noted in the response to recommendation 1.1. These

discussions include informing youth of the services available to them at age 18 through age 21, as well as additional housing options available to them to and after the age of 24.

The Department agrees that all members of the team supporting the youth should have similar discussions either individually and/or during regularly scheduled meetings (see response to recommendation 1.2).

The recommendation relative to all members of the MDT being aware of and sharing information has not yet been implemented because it is contingent upon further discussion with other departments as noted in the response to recommendation 1.1.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2b**
DCFS and Probation should ensure that the youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, a birth certificate, social security card, medical card, and any other pertinent documents.

DCFS and Probation should assist the youth to obtain public and privately funded services. DPSS should provide information to the TAY for general relief, CalWORKS, CalFresh, and MediCal. DPH should provide information to access medical services.

DCFS and Probation should provide additional TAY services such as employment, housing, healthcare, and (for male TAYs age 18) registration with the Selective Service System. DCFS should provide training so the youth can open a bank account and apply for admission to colleges.

RESPONSE
The Department partially disagrees with the recommendation in that DCFS and Probation already ensure youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, are provided with their birth certificates, a social security card, medical care and other pertinent documents. The timeframe for full implementation is estimated for 2024 and contingent upon further discussion with the Social Security Administration in addressing a streamlined and consistent protocol for DCFS to request social security cards for youth, and other County departments to connect and access services and resources.

DCFS and Probation already ensure that youth obtain any funds available, are referred to DPSS for assistance, and referred for employment preparedness classes, housing, life skills classes, financial literacy classes which includes information on opening a bank account and assists transition age youth with completing applications for college.

The Department will continue to work with other county departments such as DPSS and DPH and continue conversations with the Social Security Administration to promote and facilitate transition age youth accessing relevant documents.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3**
DCFS and Probation should provide training to foster parents or guardians of TAYs to educate them to the procedures, assistance and processes to effectively assist TAYs under their care during the transition period.

RESPONSE
The Department partially agrees with the recommendation. This recommendation is expected to be implemented by January 2024. DCFS has reviewed the courses available to Resource Parents on both the Foster Parent College (FPC) and Foster Kinship Care Education (FKCE) website and found numerous courses related to working with youth who are in their transitional period. While there are numerous trainings available and course availability changes throughout the year, there is an opportunity to explore with FPC and FKCE to see if their course listings can be presented in a way that consolidates the courses under a TAY heading to make it easier for Resource Parents caring for TAY and/or are interested in the topic to easily find. DCFS anticipates having the discussion by November 2023 and implementation in 2024 to be contingent upon the agreement by FPC and FKCE.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3a**
DCFS or Probation should require foster parents to receive training and guidance as mandated by the MDT plans. Foster parents and court appointed educational advocates must participate in educational plans with school administration and/or community organizations.

RESPONSE
The Department agrees with the recommendation. This recommendation requires further analysis. The analysis and discussion should be completed by January 2024. The recommendation requires further analysis and discussion with the California Department of Social Services as there is no mandate that foster parents receive specific trainings and guidance that have been determined by a MDT plan, nor that they are mandated to participate in educational plan meetings.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3b**
DCFS or Probation should provide foster parents with pertinent case history upon placement.

RESPONSE
The Department agrees with the recommendation. The recommendation has been implemented as this is already mandated by DCFS policy and part of practice.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**
Each department should contribute to an Individual Transition Plan. The Individual Transition Plan should be a collaborative effort of all the involved departments, and the implementation should begin when the TAY reaches age 16. DCFS or Probation should develop one cohesive plan, which includes the desires of the youth for continuing their education/training and future goals. All agencies should ensure that

TAYs and their foster parents participate in all meetings concerning the TAY's case. The departments must ensure that TAYs are given the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees with the recommendation. The recommendation has been partially implemented and requires further analysis. The recommendation for implementation with the other departments is targeted for 2024 but is contingent upon further discussion and agreement with other departments. Additionally, DCFS has agreed to create by January 2024 a specialized section of staff who will provide intensive services for youth who are transitioning from care. That section staff will be responsible for supporting transition age youth who are transitioning from care, including working collaboratively with representatives from other County departments.

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
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JACKIE CONTRERAS, Ph.D
Director

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Second District
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Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

July 20, 2023

Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Office
745 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Davenport:

**2022-2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Enclosed is the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services' (DPSS) response to the one DPSS-related recommendation identified in the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Final Report. As listed in the Department's response, DPSS agrees with Recommendation 1.2(b).

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Sheila Early, Division Chief, Research, Evaluation and Quality Assurance Division, at (562) 908-5879.

Sincerely,

Jackie Contreras, Ph.D.
Director

JC:lb

Enclosure

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2(b)**
DCFS and Probation should assist the youth to obtain public and privately funded services. Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) should provide information to the TAY for General Relief, CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal.

RESPONSE
The Department agrees and supports Recommendation 1.2(b). The Recommendation will be implemented within six months in collaboration with DCFS and the Probation Department to provide the TAY population with information on how to apply for General Relief, CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal services. Additionally, we will provide DCFS and Probation with outreach material on departmental programs and services.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

MUNTU DAVIS, M.D., M.P.H
County Health Officer

MEGAN McCLAIRE, M.S.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

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Fifth District

July 31, 2023

TO: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Office
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Cheri Thomas

FROM: Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed.
Director

SUBJECT: **2022-23 Civil Grand Jury Recommendations Response For: Aging Out of Transitional Aged Youth, Zero Emissions and Air Quality Monitoring, Have We M.E.T Mental Health Evaluation Teams and How They Work**

Attached for your consideration is the Department of Public Health's response to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury report, as required by California Penal Code sections 933(c). Please note that Pub5c Health's Toxicology and Environmental Assessment Branch has been folded into the new Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health. Please contact Joshua Bobrowsky at jbobrowsky@ph.lacounty.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Attachment
BF:nq:lf

cc. Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services Department

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2b**
DCFS and Probation should ensure that the youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, a birth certificate, social security card, medical card, and any other pertinent documents. DCFS and Probation should assist the youth to obtain public and privately funded services. DPSS should provide information to the TAY for general relief, CalWORKS, CalFresh, and MediCal. DPH should provide information to access medical services. and Probation should provide additional TAY services such as employment, housing, healthcare, and (for male TAYs age 18) registration with the Selective Service System. DCFS should provide training so the youth can open a bank account and apply for admission to colleges.

RESPONSE
Agree, this recommendation has been implemented. Currently, Public Health's role in this process is to ensure that other entities within the child welfare system, like DCFS, Probation and the Courts, have adequate medical access information that they can share with their transition-aged clients.

When Public Health begins implementing Enhanced Care Management for transitional aged youth in the child welfare system, we will be able to deliver medical access information directly to clients. We anticipate the implementation to begin before the end of FY 23-24.

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY - DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501

**Guillermo Viera Rosa**
Interim Chief Probation Officer


July 24, 2023

TO: Fesia Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Guillermo Viera Rosa
Interim Chief Probation Officer

**SUBJECT: PROBATION RESPONSES TO THE 2022-2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORTS: AGING OUT TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH AND JUVENILE JUSTICE CYA**

The 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) convened committees to address two issues affecting system-involved youth. The first committee report addressed systemic factors contributing to homelessness of youth who age out of the foster care and Probation systems. Based upon their findings, the CGJ Aging Out Committee report identified specific recommendations for each department and entity that funds, supports, or provides direct services to system involved transitional aged youth in Los Angeles County. The Probation responses to those recommendations are in Attachment A. The second committee report addressed Juvenile Justice issues affecting youth after the closure of the California Youth Authority (CYA), the creation of the Department of Juvenile Justice and its subsequent closure because of SB823. The Probation Department responses to the recommendations on juvenile justice are in Attachment B.

California Penal Code Sections 933(c) and 933.05 require a written response to all recommendations contained in this report. Responses by elected county officials and agency heads shall be made no later than sixty (60) days after the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury publishes its report and files with the Clerk of the Court. Responses by the governing body of public agencies shall be ninety (90) days after the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury publishes its reports and files with the Clerk of the Court. Responses shall be made in accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05 (a) and (b).

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
Ongoing meetings of the MDTs must be regularly scheduled, with mandatory participation of departments, youth, foster parents, and other interested parties.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Probation routinely holds Child and Family Team (CFT) meetings for all probation placement youth and non-minor dependents (those in extended foster care). Foster parents are now legally known as "resource families" or "resource parents". Probation holds ongoing CFT Meetings which can include, but not limited to, service providers, trusted community members, professionals, and others with the goal of providing safety and stability for the identified youth. The CFT process uses a proven tool known as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool; the team works together to address any challenges the youth faces and to develop a plan for the youth's success. In Probation, the youth's resource families are mostly family members or sometimes non-related extended family members. The CFT Meeting process is detailed and prescribed and consistent with the California Department of Social Services Continuum of Care Reform pursuant to Assembly Bill 403 which provides the statutory and policy framework to ensure services and supports provided to the youth are tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable permanent family.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2(a)**
DCFS, Probation and MDTs should carefully monitor the ages of Transitional Aged Youths (TAY) so as to make certain that TAYs are made fully aware of services available not only until they reach age 18, but also continuing, where appropriate and available, extending TAY transitional services to ages 21 or 24.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Probation actively monitors the age of Probation youth; youth are considered to be TAY starting at age 16 when they become eligible for Independent Living Program Services and extends to the 21st birthday. Probation also monitors 18-year-old youth in foster care settings, as they are eligible for extended foster care services until their 21st birthday. Probation ensures that TAY 21 years old and older (to age 24) are not released without appropriate housing and supportive services. The youth's DPO of Record provides referrals and connections to county-wide and Service Planning Area (SPA) specific coordinated entry system agencies which provide a range of housing and other supportive services.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2(b)**
DCFS and Probation should ensure that the youth obtain a driver's license or California ID card, a birth certificate, social security card, medical card, and any other pertinent documents.

DCFS and Probation should assist the youth to obtain public and privately funded services. DPSS should provide information to the TAY for general relief, CalWORKS, CalFresh, and MediCal. DPH should provide information to access medical services.

DCFS and Probation should provide additional TAY services such as employment, housing, healthcare, and (for male TAYs age 18) registration with the Selective Service System. DCFS should provide training so the youth can open a bank account, and apply for admission to colleges.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Probation ensures youth obtain all pertinent legal documents they will need to function and integrate into the community when they are released from Probation supervision. Ensuring youth receive these essential documents is part of the case management services provided by the DPO of Record. They are responsible for assisting youth with applying for and receiving either a driver's license or California Identification card, birth certificate or legal residency card, their medical card, and any other pertinent documents. They also ensure male TAY register with the Selective Service System as required. Each SPA has a designated housing coordinator. Probation actively works with the respective SPA housing coordinator to ensure no youth is released without having secured housing.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3**
DCFS and Probation should provide training to foster parents or guardians of TAYs to educate them to the procedures, assistance and processes to effectively assist TAYs under their care during the transition period.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Probation routinely provides training to resource families through the DPO of Record and the Probation's Youth Development Services' Independent Living Program (ILP) Transition Coordinator (TC). The TC provides information and support to Probation youth and their resource families. Resource families have access to the support services offered to the youth by the DPO of Record, a TC, and Resource DPO who supports foster youth directly and resource families with school related issues. The DPO of Record has the most contact with the resource families and thus provide ongoing training and coaching at each interaction. They ensure resource families are aware of the services available to them and the youth, and how to access them.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3(a)**
DCFS or Probation should require foster parents to receive training and guidance as mandated by the MDT plans. Foster parents and court appointed educational advocates must participate in educational plans with school administration and/or community organizations.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Resource parents are required by Probation to receive training and guidance as mandated by the youth's Child and Family Team (CFT) plan developed through the CFT meeting process. Resource parents are provided with support through the DPO of Record, ILP TC and a Foster Youth liaison at the youth's "home school", the school the youth returns to in the community. Probation provides information and informal support to resource parents. The CFT process does not mandate school administrators to participate in CFT meetings, however, school officials are encouraged to do so and many commonly do participate.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3(b)**
DCFS or Probation should provide foster parents with pertinent case history upon placement.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Probation consistently provides thorough and accurate information to resource families about the youth to be placed with them. Informing resource parents of the youth's case history better prepares them to care for and address the youth's needs. The DPO of Record is responsible for providing the pertinent case history. As previously noted, unlike DCFS youth, most Probation youth are placed with family members or non-related extended family members. Given their relationship, these resource families are more likely to know the youth's family and behavioral history, having followed the youth's court case. Regardless of the resource parents' knowledge of the youth, the DPO provides all relevant information to the resource parents prior to and upon placement.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**
Each department should contribute to an Individual Transition Plan. The Individual Transition Plan should be a collaborative effort of all the involved departments, and the implementation should begin when the TAY reaches age 16. DCFS or Probation should develop one cohesive plan which includes the desires of the youth for continuing their education/training and future goals. All agencies should ensure that TAYs and their foster parents participate in all meetings concerning the TAY's case. The departments must ensure that TAYs are given the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Probation provides ongoing case planning and transition planning throughout the continuum of care and the CFT process. Through the CFT Meeting process, an individualized plan is developed

which includes the youth's desire for continuing education or training and future goals. The youth's rights include deciding for themselves who receives information about their services and other private information, consulting with their attorney before giving permission to release the information and seeking and or agreeing to treatment and services. Probation youth are encouraged and supported to speak their truth or express themselves without fear of retribution. Youth are encouraged to discuss their concerns with their DPO of Record. All youth are provided resources to file a complaint with Probation's Ombudsman's Office, and now the newly established Ombudspersons unit at the State's Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR). If youth feel they have been retaliated against or if they have any other complaint and do not feel comfortable discussing it with their DPO, they are provided with these resources and information to file a complaint with either or both Ombudsman' Offices.

# DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

hope. recovery. wellbeing.

LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.
Director

Curley L. Bonds, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

Connie D. Draxler, M.P.A.
Acting Chief Deputy Director

July 20, 2023

TO: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D.
Director

SUBJECT: **RESPONSES TO THE 2022-2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Attached please find the responses to the Civil Grand Jury's final report from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. The responses pertain to audit sections: *"AGING OUT – Transitional Aged Youth"* and *"HAVE WE M.E.T.? – Mental Health Evaluation Teams and How They Work."*

Please let me know if you need additional information.

LHW:tld

Attachments (2)

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
Ongoing meetings of the MDTs must be regularly scheduled, with mandatory participation of the departments, youth, foster parents, and other interested parties.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. DMH Personnel participate in the MDT meetings when we are in receipt of the invitation. It is not a meeting which we schedule as a lead department but will participate and attend when the invitation is extended to us.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.4**
DMH should provide Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in addition to all other therapy services.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. It is important to clarify that our DMH Juvenile Justice Clinical Team members have and continue to provide CBT, DBT, and other therapeutic (such as Evidence-based, Promising, and/or Community-Defined) practices which are guided by the Prevention and Early Intervention Plan of the MHSA to TAY.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**
Each department should contribute to an Individual Transition Plan. The Individual Transition Plan should be a collaborative effort of all the involved departments, and the implementation should begin when the TAY reaches age 16. DCFS or Probation should develop one cohesive plan which includes the desires of the youth for continuing their education/training and future goals. All agencies should ensure that TAYs and their foster parents participate in all meetings concerning the TAY's case. The department must ensure that TAYs are given the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. DMH will continue to actively participate and contribute to the Individual Transition Plans. DMH will readily accept invitations from DCFS or Probation to engage collaboratively in the process to develop a cohesive plan.

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

October 6, 2023

Samantha P. Jessner
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Aging Out: Transitional Aged Youth**
**Report by the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury**

Dear Honorable Judge Samantha P. Jessner:

The City of Los Angeles acknowledges receipt of the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding Aging Out: Transitional Aged Youth, its findings and recommendations. The City respectfully submits this response.

**Recommendation No. 1.6** - LAHSA should fully provide $500,000 to Covenant House LA for staffing and operation costs so that 16 youths can move into the additional section.

**Response** - LAHSA is a legal entity distinct from the City of Los Angeles. Whether LAHSA funds Covenant House LA is a matter for LAHSA to address. We note that the Civil Grand Jury has requested LAHSA to respond to recommendation 1.6.

For additional questions or comments, your staff may contact Jenna Hornstock, Deputy Mayor of Housing, at jenna.hornstock@lacity.org.

Karen Bass

KAREN BASS
Mayor

Paul Krekorian

PAUL KREKORIAN
City Council President

**Los Angeles County Office of Education**

Serving Students ▪ Supporting Communities ▪ Leading Educators

August 25, 2023

Debra Duardo
Superintendent

Los Angeles County
Board of Education

Yvonne Chan
President

Stanley L. Johnson, Jr.
Vice President

James Cross

Andrea Foggy-Paxton

Betty Forrester

Theresa Montaño

Monte E. Perez

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Folts Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **AGING OUT: Transitional Aged Youth**
2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

To the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), attached is the response to the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report. The report requires responses from LACOE to Recommendations 1.1, 1.3b, and 1.5.

Sincerely,

Debra Duardo

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

MR: to
Enclosure

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**

Ongoing meetings of the MDTs must be regularly scheduled, with mandatory participation of departments, youth, foster parents, and other interested parties.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education) is in agreement with this recommendation largely because there has been and continues to be a need for constant coordination between departments having to do with the care/or involved in servicing of not just foster youth, but all youth that have been detained.

When the youth are with us, attending LACOE Juvenile Court Schools (JCS), there are a minimum of 3 MDTs (Initial, Mid-Review, Transition) coordinated by Probation that we participate in during the course of their stay. An initial MDT is held to discuss programming, programming needs, and services that the youth may want to participate or have access to during the course of their time with us. The Mid-Review MDT is to discuss the progress of the programming they are participating in, discuss any adjustments to programming that may be needed, and begin the planning process for transition services. The Transition MDT is to finalize the planning of services and educational needs for the youth once they return to their community.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3b**

DCFS or Probation should provide foster parents with pertinent case history upon placement.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE partially agrees with this recommendation so long as it does not violate Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) law which provides access to education records and afforded to the Educational Rights Holder until the youth reaches the age of 18, unless otherwise advised by the court.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**

Each department should contribute to an Individual Transition Plan. The Individual Transition Plan should be a collaborative effort of all the involved departments, and the implementation should begin when the TAY reaches age 16. DCFS or Probation should develop one cohesive plan which includes the desires of the youth for continuing their education/training and future goals. All agencies should ensure that TAYs and their foster parents participate in all meetings concerning the TAY's case. The departments must ensure that TAYs are given the opportunity to express themselves without fear of retribution.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation largely because this is the current practice. For every youth that is housed within a Probation facility for more than 20 days, we work collaboratively with the youth and our partner agencies to develop a comprehensive Transition Plan and Individualized Learning Plan (ILP). The ILP consists of the youth developing academic goals, behavior goals, as well as post-secondary goals that the team will begin working on with the student while in LACOE care. Each LACOE JCS/CCS School has a transition counselor that works with the students in conjunction with the educational rights holder, probation, and the student's District of Residence to devise a realistic and specific education transition plan for the youths' return to their community. Once the student returns to the community, the transition counselors follow up with the student and various stakeholders (Probation, parents, local LEA) on a consistent basis (3, 30, 60, and 90 days after exit) to ensure all is going according to plan and identify any additional resources that may be needed. Moreover, LACOE has a developed Parent Education Program which conducts outreaches to parents in their effort to teach parents and caregivers how to stress the importance of schooling and how to become more involved to support their child's academic journey. Additionally, LACOE's School Counselors and Field Transition Counselors assist all youth in achieving the goals developed by the youth and documented in their ILP.

707 Wilshire Blvd., 10th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
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**MEMO**

**To:** Fesia A. Davenport, Chief of Los Angeles County

**From:** Dr. Valencia Adams Kellum, CEO

**Date:** July 28, 2023

**CC:** Dr. Holly Henderson, Director Risk Management; Nathaniel VerGow Deputy, Chief of Systems Officer; Rachel Johnson, Chief of Staff; Tifara Monroe, Deputy Chief/Sr. Advisor; Kristina Dixon Chief Financial Officer and Administrative Officer; Jeffrey Samson Deputy Chief Financial & Administration Officer

**Re:** LAHSAs response 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Letter

Attached are the responses to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Final Reports, Aging Out Youth and Lack of Housing recommendations.

Sincerely,

Va Lecia Adams Kellum

Dr. Va Lecia Adams Kellum
Chief Executive Officer

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY (LAHSA)

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
AGING OUT: TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.6**
LAHSA should fully provide $500,000 to Covenant House LA for staffing and operational costs so that 16 youth can move into the additional section.

RESPONSE
LAHSA partially disagrees with recommendation 1.6 and has partially implemented as: (1) LAHSA did not have a contractual agreement prior to the expansion of the Covenant House LA site to provide the operational funding for the 16 additional beds; (2) When LAHSA was approached to provide funding for the additional beds, the request was approved and funding has been provided since May 15, 2023, for operations of the 16 beds. In FY 2022-2023, LAHSA contracted with Covenant House from May 15, 2023 - June 30, 2023, for operations of the 16 beds at the standard rate of $50/bed/night. The start date was mutually determined with Covenant House LA. In FY 2023-2024, LAHSA is contracting with Covenant House LA for operations of the 16 beds for the full year, again at the standard rate of $50/bed/night.

# ALL ABOARD!
# IS METRO RAIL ON TRACK?
## Safety, Sanitation, and Rider Experience in L.A. County




**2022 – 2023**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

| Hilda L. Solis | Holly J. Mitchell | Lindsey P. Horvath | Janice Hahn | Kathryn Barger |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| First District | Second District | Third District | Fourth District | Fifth District |

**Chief Executive Office.**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1101 ceo.lacounty.gov

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Fesia A. Davenport

August 31, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport FOR
Chief Executive Officer

**2022-2023 LOS ANGELES CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Attached are responses to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Final Report. We are responding to specific recommendations dealing with the following sections:

- Aging Out: Transitional Aged Youth
- All Aboard: Is Metro Rail on Track
- Civil Grand Jury Compensation
- Election Operations
- Have We M.E.T.? Mental Health Evaluation Teams and How They Work
- Housing Vouchers For Low income and Homeless Angelenos
- The Inmate Reception Center: An Outdated Process Imperils Staff, Inmates, and the Justice System
- Juvenile Justice CYA
- Lack of Housing: The Social Injustice of the 21st Century
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Workers Compensation
- Medi-Cal Reimbursement: The Final Resolution of an Ongoing Issue
- Proposition 19: Implementation and Related Matters
- Sheriff's Operations: Examining Transparency, Accountability, and Community Policing within the LASD
- Storm Water Capture and Wastewater Reuse
- Zero Emissions: Air Quality Monitoring

Attachment A represents the Chief Executive Officer's responses; Attachments B through V represent the departments' responses; and Attachment W represents a matrix of the questions and responses from each department.

If you have any questions regarding our responses, please contact me, or your staff may contact Cheri Thomas, by phone at (213) 974-1326 or by email at cthomas@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:CT:md

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
District Attorney
Assessor
Sheriff
Auditor-Controller
Children and Family Services
Fire
Health Services
Human Resources
Internal Services
Mental Health
Probation
Public Health
Public Social Services
Public Works
Regional Planning
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County Development Authority
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ALL ABOARD! IS METRO ON TRACK?

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) is not the governing board of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and makes no representations or commitments on behalf of Metro. The responses below reflect the BOS' understanding, based on information available to it, of actions Metro has taken or will take relevant to the Civil Grand Jury's recommendations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2**
Metro's TSO force should be increased from its current figure of 213 to allow the agency to better enforce fare compliance and Code of Conduct (COC) and give the agency greater control and accountability with security.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro has made significant progress in strengthening safety across the public transit system. Recognizing the crucial role played by Transit Security Officers (TSOs) in the comprehensive safety strategy, Metro has taken proactive steps to augment their presence. In March 2023, Metro's Board of Directors approved the addition of 47 more TSOs, and an additional 48 officers are scheduled to join in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. This 45 percent increase has boosted the TSO force to a current total of 308 officers.

These newly recruited officers will undergo comprehensive training, equipping them to ensure the safety and well-being of our valued riders, employees, and the protection of our vital transit infrastructure.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.9**
Keep fares at the current rate and improve access to discount or free fares offered to low-income riders, students, and seniors through programs such as LIFE and GoPass, including free transfers.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro has some of the lowest fares in the country and is committed to maintaining an equitable and affordable fare system for all riders in Los Angeles. In July 2023, Metro launched a new fare structure and fare capping to make paying transit fare more affordable and convenient for riders. And as noted in the report, Metro also offers several discount programs, including GoPass, which offers free fares for students; Reduced Fares for seniors and customers with disabilities; and a low-income discount program called LIFE. These programs and the recent changes to the fare structure are designed to provide affordable transit for all riders, especially customers who ride frequently.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.10**
(A) Install turnstiles or other physical impediments that would discourage non-paying riders.

(B) Station TSOs at high trafficked stations to re-enforce fare paying.

RESPONSE
(A) Agree. This recommendation is in progress. Metro is presently working to enhance the fare gates for access control improvements, and Westlake/MacArthur Park station is the first station to implement.

(B) Agree. The recommendation is in progress. TSOs have been strategically stationed at high-trafficked locations. Their primary responsibilities include enforcing the Code of Conduct (COC), ensuring fare compliance, and enhancing overall visibility for a safer environment. In collaboration with Operations, System Security and Law Enforcement are conducting a pilot project at Westlake/MacArthur Park station involving reinforced turnstiles. The objective of this pilot is to assess its effectiveness in reducing access for non-paying riders, and if successful, the initiative may be extended to other stations in the future.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.12**
(A) More restrooms are needed for the Metro system. Metro should consider installing public bathrooms at its Customer Centers where staff is available to supervise their use.

(B) The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) should work with cities to share the costs of building and maintaining new restrooms, similar to the Long Beach model.

RESPONSE
(A) Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. Metro fully recognizes the significance of having accessible restrooms for our riders. However, they must carefully consider safety and liability concerns associated with providing public restrooms. Although Metro cannot open employee-accessible restrooms to customers, they are proactively exploring different approaches through pilot programs. To this end, Metro is preparing for a pilot project scheduled to launch in the fall 2023, wherein restrooms will be introduced at key stations. This initiative will enable Metro to evaluate the feasibility and implications of offering public restrooms while prioritizing the safety and convenience of our valued passengers.

(B) Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. Metro will certainly explore this possibility. Metro is committed to finding practical and sustainable solutions that benefit our riders and the communities we serve.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.13**
Maintenance and cleaning resources should be increased on the Red (B) Line, commensurate with its level of ridership – cleaning schedules should reflect the number of boardings, not just the time of day.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Rail Vehicle Cleaning has received additional resources to enhance its operations. Presently, on the Red Line, teams of five service attendants are dispatched from the division daily to conduct End-of-Cleaning activities. These tasks involve trash pick-up and addressing minor spills, necessitated by car schedule constraints.

Moreover, Rail Custodial Services have made a significant increase in their budgeted positions, going from 213 to 234, which amounts to an increase of 21 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs). This augmented workforce is instrumental in supporting the implementation of the Rail Custodial Services Cleanliness Plan. The plan encompasses several vital aspects, such as the realignment of cleaning personnel, dedicated staffing at hot spot stations, intensification of pressure washing and floor care at these stations, the establishment of detailed cleaning programs, and the introduction of measures for odor neutralization.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.14**
(A) Hire more custodians and have their workload be concentrated to smaller areas for more thorough cleaning.

(B) Encourage riders to report custodial and maintenance incidents through the website metro.net or the Transit Watch App, or by reporting incidents to an Ambassador.

RESPONSE
(A) Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Rail Custodial Services have raised their budgeted positions from 213 to 234, resulting in an increase of 21 FTEs. This expansion in staffing is aimed at bolstering the Rail Custodial Services Cleanliness Plan. The plan encompasses several key components, such as the realignment of cleaning personnel, dedicated staffing at hot spot stations, intensified pressure washing and floor care at these stations, the implementation of detailed cleaning programs, and the incorporation of odor neutralization measures.

(B) Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro does encourage customers to report cleanliness issues. Metro Ambassadors also regularly report cleanliness issues.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.16**
Expand the "Cleaned By" program to all the rail lines, which would foster greater accountability and transparency by the maintenance crews.

RESPONSE
Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. The pilot project on the C-Line did not yield the desired results and was subsequently discontinued. Nevertheless, Rail Fleet Services has implemented a robust cleaning program with a detailed logging system. This program includes various cleaning measures to ensure the cleanliness of the trains.

During the first and second shifts, end-of-the-line cleaning is conducted to address trash, spills and perform spot cleans. Additionally, mid-shift crews carry out daily interior cleans, which involve tasks like trash removal, sweeping, mopping, and cleaning high-touch surfaces in pull-in cars. Other shifts follow up to complete any remaining work.

Going beyond the daily cleaning, deep cleaning is performed periodically, involving a thorough scrub of both the interior and exterior of the trains. To maintain quality, all cleaning crews are supervised daily by Rail Fleet Services Supervision, and they are spot checked for their end-of-the-line, daily, and deep cleaning tasks.

To ensure proper cleaning, Rail Fleet Services supervisors use established cleaning criteria to rate the work activities of the cleaning crews. Monthly audits are also conducted using a comprehensive scoring system for the rail vehicles' cleanliness. The results of these audits are shared with Metro leadership, allowing adjustments to cleaning protocols if necessary.

Detailed documentation of the cleaning process is maintained at the divisions, which includes information on when the interiors, end cabs, and exteriors were last cleaned and by whom. This helps track the cleanliness status and ensures accountability throughout the cleaning procedures.

Los Angeles County
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza,
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

Stephanie N. Wiggins
*Chief Executive Officer*
213.922.7599 Tel
213.922.7447 Fax
wigginss@metro.net

Metro

July 23, 2023

Fesia Davenport, CEO

Los Angeles County

500 W. Temple Street,

Room 713
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Civil Grand Jury Responses

Dear Mrs. Davenport:

I am writing in response to the *All Aboard: Is Metro Rail on Track* report, prepared by the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury, as requested in your letter dated July 3, 2023. Following a comprehensive review of the report and as required by Section 933(c) of the California Penal Code, Metro has prepared responses to each recommendation, which are included herein.

Public transit is a vital lifeline to LA County, bolstering economic growth and promoting environmental sustainability. Ensuring it is safe, clean, and reliable continues to be our steadfast goal. With a customer-centric approach, we seek to provide a public transit system that fosters seamless connectivity, accessibility, and sustainable mobility for all residents and visitors in LA County.

I appreciate the diligent work of the Civil Grand Jury to help enhance the accountability, transparency, and efficiency of Metro through their recommendations in the report. It is worth noting that for many recommendations related to safety, cleanliness, and customer experience, Metro has already implemented strategies or addressed the concerns. Metro's commitment to these critical facets of our service underscores our dedication to delivering the highest quality of transit service for Los Angeles County.

Metro welcomes the opportunity to improve and evolve, and I view the recommendations as an integral part of this process. Should there be any questions regarding the responses, kindly reach out to my Chief of Staff, Nicole Englund, at 213-922-7950.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wiggins
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Response to the Civil Grand Jury Final Report

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (METRO) AND METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ALL ABOARD! IS METRO ON TRACK?

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
Require contracted law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LASD, LBPD) to assign more officers to ride the trains.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. In 2022, Metro initiated a new comprehensive public safety approach by adopting a multi-layer safety program to address the different aspects of public safety and security. Each layer of this safety ecosystem contributes to the overall security of the Metro system, moving beyond a single-strategy reliance to a layered approach. This strategy deploys the optimal resources to tackle specific safety concerns, with law enforcement contract services as a key element within the multi-layered approach.

For FY 2024, Metro has ramped up the presence of law enforcement staff on buses and trains. Metro recently negotiated a contract extension with each of our law enforcement partners and now has the right to direct the specific deployment or redeployment of existing resources to meet the agency's needs. To ensure the effective deployment of these resources, Metro's System Security & Law Enforcement (SSLE) department audits the daily deployment schedules and the Metro Transit Access Pass reports.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2**
Metro's TSO force should be increased from its current figure of 213 to allow the agency to better enforce fare compliance and Code of Conduct (COC) and give the agency greater control and accountability with security.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro has made significant strides in bolstering safety throughout our public transit system. Recognizing the pivotal role TSOs play in our multi-layered safety approach, Metro has taken proactive measures to enhance their presence. In March 2023, Metro's Board of Directors approved the addition of 47 more TSOs, and an additional 48 officers are slated to join in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. With a 45 percent increase in TSOs, Metro has expanded the force to a current number of 308 officers.

These new officers will undergo comprehensive training and be equipped to ensure the well-being of our riders, employees, and the protection of our transit infrastructure.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.3**
COC violations should be enforced, and frequent violators subject to fines or banishment from the Metro system.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro's COC is an important tool to protect the health and safety of riders, protect transit equipment and facilities used to provide transit service to all of LA County and promote a desirable transit experience. Metro TSOs are responsible for ensuring COC compliance. To strengthen our efforts further, Metro's Board approved the addition of more TSO positions in March 2023 and for FY 2024. TSOs actively patrol the system, enhancing COC compliance, including fare compliance. Our commitment to enforcing the COC across the system remains unwavering as Metro strives to create a safe and respectful environment for all our riders.

Metro's COC, which has been in effect since 2010, outlines the penalty schedule of administrative penalties, which includes fines and other penalties such as ejections and exclusion from the system in the most serious of cases. programs like Transit School, community service assignments, fines, and, in severe cases, ejection and exclusion from the Metro system.

More recently, effective July 2023, the COC was changed to be more equitable, customer friendly (clear and concise language), and applicable (items were deleted from the code that are covered under the penal code, which is the responsibility of Law Enforcement.) To ensure riders are aware of these changes, and furthermore, to emphasize the importance of compliance with the Code, Metro will be engaging with the community on the recent changes.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.4**
Encourage greater coordination among the agencies involved with Metro Rail, including a standardized method of reporting crime statistics.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation is being implemented. In July 2023, Metro began a new safety deployment strategy. Metro will regularly convene with partners to discuss issues, concerns, and successes. This collaborative approach allows us to identify and address any problems promptly. Metro will adjust communication protocols as needed, discuss flexibility in deployment based on crime trends or areas of vulnerability, and continually validate our accountability process to ensure its effectiveness. The enhanced systemwide deployment approach aims to enhance public safety through a streamlined strategy. The agency is committed to continual improvement, effective resource allocation, and proactive engagement while working collaboratively with ecosystem partners to create a safer transit experience for our riders.

To further enhance coordination and reporting, Metro staff has developed a standardized template for crime statistics reporting. This template will be shared with the relevant contracted law enforcement agencies to ensure data is provided in a concise and consistent manner moving forward.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**
Establish clear benchmarks for determining the success of the Ambassador program. Monitor and collect data to better focus the program. Make it publicly available on the Metro.net website.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation is being implemented. The main goal of the Metro Ambassador Pilot Program is to improve the overall customer experience for our riders. The Ambassadors are responsible for enhancing the customer experience through visibility and aiding riders with wayfinding and general assistance. In addition to providing information and support, they are the "eyes and ears" of the system, reporting maintenance, cleanliness, and safety issues that need to be addressed.

Key performance indicators are being assessed as Metro works on developing an evaluation survey which will include feedback from our customers and other stakeholders. Once complete, the results will be shared with the Metro Board and the public.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.6**
Metro should create opportunities for Ambassadors to interact with the other security agencies to raise awareness and build trust.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation is being implemented. Metro is dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for our Ambassadors to interact with other security agencies, fostering awareness, and building trust within the public safety ecosystem.

Metro Ambassadors play a crucial role in our multi-layered approach to enhancing public safety. They are actively engaged in the transit system, providing customer service, aiding riders, and acting as a visible presence to deter potential issues. As part of their duties, Metro Ambassadors already work closely with a team that includes Metro Transit Security, Contract Security, and Law Enforcement partners currently operating within the system. These collaborative efforts can help to improve teamwork and reinforce the shared commitment to ensuring a safe and secure transit environment for all passengers.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.7**
Analyze security data on a regular basis and obtain up-to-date numbers on non-transportation riders using the system.

RESPONSE
Agree. This recommendation is in process. Public safety analytics is a tool for improving public safety outcomes. By leveraging data and technology, staff can better understand the nature and scope of public safety challenges and develop more effective strategies and interventions to address them. SSLE's data analysts will collaborate with various departments within Metro to gather various data points, such as rider surveys, Transit Watch App reports, fare enforcement data, etc. SSLE partners with the Homeless Outreach Department to share current information on non-transportation riders, enabling strategic outreach service deployment.

As part of the Board approved Public Safety Analytics policy in March 2023, Metro is currently working on a public safety dashboard to provide regular updates on statistics and trends utilizing data collected by Metro and crime data provided by law enforcement partners. The policy's purpose is to remove bias from public safety analytics by ensuring that the data being used is of high quality - that is accurate, complete, consistent, reliable, and up to date. Equally important is ensuring the data has context, which limits assumptions and biases that could adversely impact the quality of the data. In addition, Metro will be trained to recognize and avoid biases in the analysis. The policy will ensure to the public that our analytics efforts are fair and equitable and that they promote public safety for all members of the community.

The policy and dashboard emphasize transparency and accountability while affirming the agency's commitment to ensuring the collection and use of all data is conducted in a bias-free, non-discriminatory manner consistent with Metro's policies.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.8**
Encourage riders to use the Transit Watch App to report security, sanitation, and other problem and help riders to install the Transit Watch App. Deploy mobile training booths to show riders how to install and use the app.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro Ambassadors continue to encourage customers to download the Transit Watch App to report suspicious activity and safety issues. The Transit Watch App. was revamped as a public reporting tool in recent years. However, there has been a significant increase in reporting cleanliness issues since October 2022 to the present, upon the onset of the Metro Ambassador program. Metro Ambassadors are available to assist customers with downloading the Transit Watch App.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.9**
Keep fares at the current rate and improve access to discount or free fares offered to low-income riders, students, and seniors through programs such as LIFE and GoPass, including free transfers.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro has some of the lowest fares in the country and is committed to maintaining an equitable and affordable fare system for all riders in Los Angeles. In July 2023, Metro launched a new fare structure and fare capping to make paying transit fare more affordable and convenient for riders. And as noted in the report, Metro also offers several discount programs, including GoPass, which offers free fares for students; Reduced Fares for seniors and customers with disabilities; and a low-income discount program called LIFE. These programs and the recent changes to the fare structure are designed to provide affordable transit for all riders, especially customers who ride frequently.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.10**
(A) Install turnstiles or other physical impediments that would discourage non-paying riders.

(B) Station TSOs at high trafficked stations to re-enforce fare paying.

RESPONSE
(A) Agree. This recommendation is in progress. Metro is presently working to enhance the fare gates for access control improvements, and Westlake/MacArthur Park station is the first station to implement.

(B) Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Through the new deployment plan referenced previously, TSOs are positioned at high-trafficked locations to enforce the COC, inclusive of fare compliance, and provide high visibility. System Security and Law Enforcement is working with Operations to pilot reinforced turnstiles at Westlake/MacArthur Park station to gauge success in limiting the ability of nonpaying riders to access the system that can be expanded to other stations.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.11**
(A) Instead of the lengthy COC, create an abridged "Metro Manners" that gives riders a quick guide to the most important regulations.

(B) Highlight Metro Manners in stations, train cars, and create an ad campaign for bus benches and across various social media platforms.

RESPONSE
(A) Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Effective July 2023, the COC was changed to be more equitable, customer friendly (clear and concise language), and applicable (items were deleted from the code that is fully covered under the penal code, which is the responsibility of Law Enforcement.)

The revised version was crafted with input from Metro's safety partners and the Public Safety Advisory Committee that focused on critical areas that support or interfere with the user experience and safety.

(B) Agree. This recommendation is in progress. To ensure riders are aware of these changes, and furthermore, to emphasize the importance of compliance with the Code, Metro will be engaging with the community on the recent changes. Metro has created a one-page riders guide to describe the key elements of the Customer COC to distribute across the system to our customers.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.12**
(A) More restrooms are needed for the Metro system. Metro should consider installing public bathrooms at its Customer Centers where staff is available to supervise their use.

(B) The MTA should work with cities to share the costs of building and maintaining new restrooms, similar to the Long Beach model.

RESPONSE
(A) Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. Metro understands the importance of having restrooms available for our riders. Safety and liability concerns are crucial factors to consider when providing public restrooms. While Metro can't open employee-accessible restrooms to customers, the agency is actively working on finding solutions by piloting various strategies. Metro is planning a pilot project to introduce restrooms at key stations starting in Fall 2023. This will allow us to assess the feasibility and impact of providing public restrooms while ensuring the safety and convenience of our passengers.

(B) Agree. This recommendation requires further analysis. Metro will certainly explore this possibility. The agency is committed to finding practical and sustainable solutions that benefit our riders and the communities we serve.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.13**
Maintenance and cleaning resources should be increased on the Red (B) Line, commensurate with its level of ridership – cleaning schedules should reflect the number of boardings, not just the time of day.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Additional resources have been deployed for Rail Vehicle Cleaning. The Red Line currently dispatches teams of five service attendant crews from the division every day to perform End-of-Cleaning activities, which includes trash pick-up and minor spills due to car schedule constraints.

Rail Custodial Services have also increased their budgeted positions from 213 to 234, an increase of 21 FTE's. The increase in staffing supports the Rail Custodial Services Cleanliness Plan. The Cleanliness Plan includes realignment of cleaning personnel, dedicated staffing at hot spot stations, increased pressure washing/floor care at hot spot stations, detailed cleaning programs, and odor neutralization.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.14**

(A) Hire more custodians and have their workload be concentrated to smaller areas for more thorough cleaning.

(B) Encourage riders to report custodial and maintenance incidents through the website metro.net or the Transit Watch App, or by reporting incidents to an Ambassador.

RESPONSE

(A) Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Rail Custodial Services have increased their budgeted positions from 213 to 234, which is an increase of 21 FTE's. The increase in staffing supports the Rail Custodial Services Cleanliness Plan. The Cleanliness Plan includes realignment of cleaning personnel, dedicated staffing at hot spot stations, increased pressure washing/floor care at hot spot stations, detailed cleaning programs, and odor neutralization.

(B) Agree. The recommendation has been implemented. Metro does encourage customers to report cleanliness issues. Metro Ambassadors also regularly report cleanliness issues.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.15**

Metro should schedule several daily brief cleaning sessions at tail track stops, especially for the heavily used B (Red) Line and A (Blue) Line.

RESPONSE

Partially agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Metro understands the importance of maintaining a clean and pleasant environment for all our passengers, especially on heavily used lines.

All rail cars are thoroughly cleaned every day at the divisions before they are put into service. Our dedicated cleaning crews receive daily briefings and coordinate with the Rail Operations Center and Security through Rail Fleet Services Supervision to ensure efficient cleaning procedures.

Additionally, Metro performs End-of-Line cleaning for all of Metro's rail lines, including A, B/D, C, E, and L. However, due to time constraints within the car schedule, the cleaning consists of trash pick-up and light spill cleaning.

Rail cars requiring major cleaning are promptly taken out of service to be thoroughly addressed. In such cases, they are replaced with spare trains to minimize any disruptions to our riders. These out-of-service trains are then cleaned at tail tracks if available on the lines or returned to the divisions for cleaning.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.16**

Expand the "Cleaned By" program to all the rail lines which would foster greater accountability and transparency by the maintenance crews.

RESPONSE
Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. The pilot performed on the C-Line did not result in the desired outcomes and was discontinued. However, Rail Fleet Services has a comprehensive cleaning program and logging system, such as end of the line cleaning during 1st and 2nd shifts to address trash, spills, and spot cleans. Mid-shift crews also perform daily interior cleans (e.g., trash removal, sweeping, spills, mopping, and cleaning high-touch surfaces) on pull-in cars, with the other shifts following up behind to complete the work. In addition, deep cleaning take the daily cleans a step further by doing a complete scrub of the interior and exterior of the trains. All cleaning crews are supervised on a daily basis by Rail Fleet Services Supervision and spot checked for end of the line cleaning, daily cleaning, and deep cleaning. Work activities of cleaning crews are also rated by the Rail Fleet Services supervisors using established cleaning criteria to ensure the cleaning is performed properly. This includes monthly audits that are conducted using a comprehensive scoring of the rail vehicles, which are then shared with leadership so adjustments to cleaning protocols can be made if necessary. Documentation for this process is kept at the divisions, which depicts the last time interiors, end cabs, and exteriors were cleaned and by whom.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.17**
Metro should promote and encourage vendor presence in stations, including help with the lengthy permit process.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation is being implemented. The presence of vendors in and around Metro transit stations can provide amenities to patrons and activate stations and plazas in a manner that improves safety and overall customer experience. Over the years, there have been numerous instances in which Metro has permitted entrepreneurs to vend on Metro property. Vending is not permitted on Metro platforms, trains, or buses. In December 2022, the Metro Board of Directors approved a new Economic Development Program, which includes a Station Activation component to promote commercial activity and support small businesses on Metro property and station plazas. Several pilot programs are being developed through the Station Activation program, including a restructuring and relaunch of a vendor market at the Westlake/MacArthur Park Station, a small-scale retail pilot program to occupy commercial space at the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station, as well as efforts to support farmer's markets, coffee carts and other forms of vending at key locations in the Metro system. Metro is in the early stages of coordination on various aspects of these pilot initiatives, including facilities and maintenance considerations such as trash management. As part of the Station Activation program, Metro will also be exploring opportunities to streamline the permitting process to remove barriers to entry for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.18**
Respect the Ride should be adapted, expanded, and implemented as a pilot program on the entire line.

RESPONSE
Partially agree. The recommendation has been implemented. The Respect the Ride pilot program was launched in April 2022 at the 7th and Metro Station and was expanded across seven stations along the B/D (Red/Purple) Line – the line with the greatest need. Those stations include Pershing Square, Union Station, North Hollywood, Universal City, Westlake/MacArthur Park, Hollywood/Highland, and Wilshire/Vermont. The pilot program concluded in early 2023 and has evolved into a new multi-layered deployment that launched in July 2023. The lessons learned, successes, and data of the Respect the Ride pilot were applied to the new deployment.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.19**
Institute a nightly "lock-down"' procedure for either custodial staff and/or TSOs to secure elevators and escalators along all lines.

RESPONSE
Partially agree. This recommendation has been implemented where feasible. System Security & Law Enforcement and Operations work together to close the stations every night at approximately 12:30 a.m. Signage of station closures is posted, and gates are closed to inform individuals that they are not to enter the premises during closing hours. TSOs walk through the entire station, inclusive of the ancillary areas, to ensure all patrons have exited the station. Upon clearing out the stations, maintenance staff clean the stations, platforms, and elevators to ensure they are ready for service the following day.

All light rail (open air) stations cannot be physically closed. The escalators remain running, and the elevators do not have the ability to be easily turned on and off. Additionally, the open-air stations do not have any physical barriers to keep anyone from using stairs to access the platform/mezzanine. However, there are signs to the effect that you may be subject to an arrest or removal from the premises during non-revenue service. All open-air stations are continuously patrolled by law enforcement and/or contract security.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.20**
The Make Metro Clean Program should be expanded to include the rail system.

RESPONSE
Partially agree. This recommendation has been implemented. Make Metro Clean Program has been an impactful program to supplement our overall cleaning program. To address the cleanliness concerns on the rail system, Metro has taken significant steps to enhance our cleaning efforts. In FY 2024, Metro allocated a 13 percent budget increase, amounting to $23,645,165, which has allowed us to add 24 new custodian positions at existing rail stations. Metro is in the process of filling these positions to bolster our cleaning efforts. Additionally, the agency added 46 new Service Attendant positions as part of the FY 2023 budget, which is evenly split between bus and rail. These Service Attendants play a crucial role in maintaining cleanliness and ensuring a pleasant experience for our riders. The agency made

significant progress in upgrading seating comfort by replacing cloth seats with vinyl seats on buses and trains.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.21**
The Westlake/MacArthur Park station initiatives should be implemented at other stations.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation will be implemented. The improvements at Westlake/MacArthur Park station demonstrate our commitment to actively listening to our customers and implementing meaningful changes to enhance their experience within our transit system. Metro remains dedicated to continuously improving our services and addressing the evolving needs of our valued customers. Metro will continue to build on the momentum of the Westlake/MacArthur Park station interventions by developing longer-term recommendations for this station and identifying elements that could be implemented at other key stations experiencing significant ridership with safety and customer experience challenges. While much of the illicit and anti-social activity occurring within the Metro system is reflective of larger societal challenges, Metro recognizes it must take proactive interventions to provide conditions at stations that meet customer expectations of a safe and reliable Metro transit system.

Metro is currently developing recommendations for expanding effective improvement elements to enhance customer experience and safety at other stations. The next stations Metro proposes to develop and implement intervention plans for are Metro's busiest station at 7th Street/Metro Center, serving Metro's B/D subway lines and A/E light rail lines, and Pershing Square station, served by the B/D subway lines. This expansion is with the understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution for the entire system, as each station is uniquely designed and they vary in size, with potentially different challenges to address the needs of the communities they serve.

Metro is aiming to roll out these efforts in FY 2024 once a plan has been developed and funding has been allocated. Metro will be considering a range of criteria for future station deployments that includes ridership, public safety data, cleanliness/functionality data, homeless outreach data, frontline employee feedback, and customer/stakeholder input.

# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

HALL OF JUSTICE

ROBERT G. LUNA, SHERIFF

August 7, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORTS OF THE 2022-2023 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) response to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Report (CGJ) recommendations. The CGJ's areas of interest specific to the Department included:

- All Aboard: Is Metro Rail on Track (Attachment C)
- Have we M.E.T.? Mental Health Evaluation Team and How They Work (Attachment D)
- Sheriff's Operations: An Erosion of Trust. Examining Transparency, Accountability and Community Policing within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Attachment E)
- The Inmate Reception Center: An Outdated Process Imperils Staff, and the Justice System (Attachment F)

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Division Director Conrad Meredith, Administrative Services Division, at (213) 229-3310.

Sincerely,

R. Luna

ROBERT G. LUNA
SHERIFF

**RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 CIVIL GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
ALL ABOARD: IS METRO RAIL ON TRACK

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.1**
1.1. Require contracted law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LASD, LBPD) to assign more officers to ride the trains.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented.

The LASD's Transit Services Bureau (TSB) has directed law enforcement personnel to ride the trains more frequently. This has been established through increasing the volume of train rides by deputy personnel to conduct daily duties.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.4**
Encourage greater coordination among the agencies involved with Metro Rail, including a standardized method of reporting crime statistics.

RESPONSE
Agree. The recommendation has been implemented.

Metro has developed an analytical group that will be responsible for receiving their contract agencies' crime statistics. They created a standard form for reporting crime statistics for their contract law enforcement agencies. The standard method of reporting crime statistics was implemented on July 20, 2023.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.6**
Metro should create opportunities for Ambassadors to interact with the other security agencies to raise awareness and build trust.

RESPONSE
Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented as jurisdiction falls outside of the LASD. The Ambassadors program lies within the jurisdiction of Metro.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.7**
Analyze security data on a regular basis and obtain up-to-date numbers on non-transportation riders using the system.

RESPONSE
Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented as jurisdiction falls outside of the LASD. Metro is the employer of Metro security and responsible for analyzing their data on a regular basis.

# LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**MICHEL R. MOORE**
Chief of Police

**KAREN BASS**
Mayor

P. O. Box 30158
Los Angeles, Calif. 90030
Telephone: (213) 486-0150
TDD: (877) 275-5273
Ref #.: 8.1

**RECEIVED**

AUG 29 2023

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CRIMINAL GRAND JURY

August 8, 2023

Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, California 90012

Your Honor:

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is providing a written response, as required per California Penal Code Sections 933 (c) and 933.05, to the Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, relative to a 2022 to 2023 Metro Rail Committee, Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury, that investigated the problems currently afflicting Metro Rail and its plans to solve them in a report, titled "*All Aboard! Is Metro Rail on Track? Safety, Sanitation, and Rider Experience in LA County*" which had been posted as of July 1, 2023, on its website:
http://grandjury.co.la.ca.us/pdf/2022-23%20Los%20Angeles%20County%20Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Final%20Report.pdf

Note: The required responses from the LAPD delineated on Page 36 of this report indicated that the LAPD had been required to respond to the Recommendations 2:1, 2:4, 2:6, and 2:7 that were referenced to be within the aforementioned pages; however, there were no Recommendations that reflected these numbers throughout the report.

There were Recommendations 1:1, 1:4, 1:6, and 1:7 that were listed on Page 33.
On July 28, 2023, Lieutenant David Koeh, Transit Services Bureau, LAPD, telephonically contacted Ms. Natalie Rascon, Court Services Assistant, 222 S. Hill St, Los Angeles, (213) 213 893-0411. Lieutenant Koeh explained to Ms. Rascon that the LAPD's Office of the Chief of Police received a request for a response to this Civil Grand Jury report. Lieutenant Koeh requested Ms. Rascon to review this report's discrepancies between the Recommendations on Page 36, which required the LAPD's responses, compared to the incorrect Recommendations on Page 33.

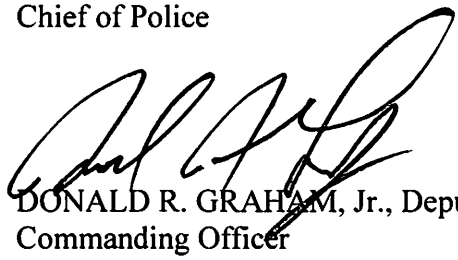
Ms. Rascon concurred that the Recommendations required for the LAPD's responses on Page 36 were not located within this report. Ms. Rascon opined that there was an error relative to the Recommendations listed sections required for the LAPD to answer, compared to the actual Recommendations referenced on Page 33.

Ms. Rascon advised Lieutenant Koeh that this civil grand jury had concluded its required duty to investigate and complete this report, and therefore, the former members of this civil grand jury cannot be contacted by the LAPD for clarification. Ms. Rascon stated that this is the only published report relative to this civil grand jury investigation. Therefore, the LAPD has provided its responses to the Recommendations 1:1, 1:4, 1:6, and 1:7 within the enclosure of this report, in good faith, realizing that there was the possibility that the civil grand jury had inadvertently misnumbered the Recommendations for the LAPD to answer on Page 36.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Lieutenant David Koeh, Transit Services Bureau, at (213) 922-3614.

Respectfully,

MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police



DONALD R. GRAHAM, Jr., Deputy Chief
Commanding Officer
Transit Services Bureau

Enclosure

# FACT SHEET

Los Angeles Police Department Response to Recommendations from the Civil Grand Jury Report, titled *All Aboard! Is Metro Rail on Track? Safety, Sanitation, and Rider Experience in LA County*
August 10, 2023

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has provided its four required responses to Recommendations 1:1, 1:4, 1:6, and 1:7 to this civil grand jury's report, as required per California Penal Code Sections 933 (c) and 933.05.

I. **Recommendation 1:1**. Require contracted law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LASD, LBPD) to assign more officer to ride the trains.

**Response:** The LAPD has contracted with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), which has required the LAPD to provide its primary responsibility of public safety with the LACMTA; however, this is determined by the contract. Any increases of funding to hire more off-duty, overtime LAPD officers are decided by the LACMTA as the lead entity to concur with this in contract negotiations.

The current daily deployment of officers consists of 193 sworn officers and supervisors, of which one supervisor and 10 officers are assigned to the bus lines, while the remainder are deployed to the trains; therefore, 94% of these daily officers and supervisors are assigned to the trains. A sworn watch commander supervisor for a shift and officer assigned to the kitroom for equipment are designated to support train deployment.

II. **Recommendation 1:4**. Encourage greater coordination among the agencies involved with Metro Rail, including a standardized method of reporting crime statistics.

**Response:** The LAPD currently engages in weekly meetings with executive manager staff from the LACMTA, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), and Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) to discuss methods relative to improve high-level policies, inter-agency cooperation, and strategic planning relative to violent and property crimes.

A virtual operations meeting is conducted every Tuesday involving operational and investigative staff from the various agencies, the LACMTA Ambassadors, Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement, contract security, and LACMTA security to share information and develop weekly strategies based on crime statistics and trends to review personnel deployment, and refine crime strategies.

The LACMTA recognized the deficiencies relative to independent crime data collection from the LAPD, LASD, and LBPD. The LACMTA is in the process of developing a standardized data reporting protocol. All three agencies are in the process of converting their information gathering into this system.

III. **Recommendation 1.6**. Metro should create opportunities for Ambassadors to interact with the other security agencies to raise awareness and build trust.

**Response:** The LAPD concurs with this recommendation. The LAPD's contacts with Ambassadors during daily deployments are incidental and not planned. The LAPD participates in training new ambassadors with a one-hour block of instruction to discuss roles and expectations with them.

Interactions with LACMTA Ambassadors occur during Tuesday strategy meetings. The LAPD is amenable to participate in increased in-service training exercises with the Ambassadors for new employees, along with inviting Ambassadors as guests during daily roll calls with sworn LAPD officers to build a continuous constructive rapport and trust between the officers and Ambassadors.

IV. **Recommendation 1.7.** Analyze security data on a regular basis and obtain up-to-date numbers on non-transportation riders using the system.

**Response:** The LAPD currently manages this within its own crime control system and distributes this information with the LACMTA; however, the LAPD does not receive the compiled data from the LASD, LBPD, and MTS via a shared application. The agencies share crime statistics at the aforementioned Tuesday strategy meetings; however, a comprehensive document would be much more constructive to benefit information-sharing with all of the entities involved in this symbiotic endeavor to protect and serve the public who ride the LACMTA trains.

CITY OF
LONG BEACH

**Office of the Chief of Police**
400 West Broadway Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 570-7301

Ref 5.0

August 1, 2023

Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Presiding Judge,

Thank you for notifying us of the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury findings in the report titled, "All Aboard: Is Metro Rail On Track?" This letter serves as a response to the findings and recommendations as required by California Penal Code Sections 933 (c) and 933.05.

***Finding 1.1:*** *There are not enough law enforcement officers on trains. They are most often on platforms, patrol cars, or in "hot spot" stations.*

***Recommendation:*** *Require contracted law enforcement agencies (LAPD, LASD, LBPD) to assign more officers to ride the trains.*

**Response**: Metro contracts with Long Beach Police Department (LBPD) to deploy one sergeant and five officers on non-overlapping shifts that cover twenty hours a day. Metro and LBPD have agreed in their Scope of Work to deploy police officers on the trains and platforms for 75% of their shift.

LBPD currently participates in a multi-layered approach to public safety. This approach was created to coordinate Law Enforcement, Transit Security Officers, Transit Ambassadors, Homeless Outreach, and Contract Security with the goal to deter crime, increase safety and gain compliance through education and services.

LBPD currently supports Metro-driven initiatives at strategic locations predetermined by Metro. Two of the five deployed police officers are assigned to support two Transit Security Officers (TSO) during Metro fare enforcement operations. Two other police officers ride the trains and provide security checks at platforms where higher instances of criminal activity have occurred. One remaining officer is on patrol in a vehicle to rapidly assist the others as needed.

***Finding 1.4:*** *There is a lack of coordination and communication among the contract security agencies and no standardized method of recording crime statistics.*

***Recommendation:*** *Encourage greater coordination among the agencies involved with Metro Rail, including a standardized method of reporting crime statistics.*

**Response:** There are several methods of communication between the contract security agencies. The first is a Weekly Chief Executive Meeting which is attended by Executives from Metro and by representatives from each of the three contracted law enforcement agencies. This meeting is designed to discuss policy, crime trends, and responses to those trends.

The second method is the Weekly Coordination meeting which is attended by supervisors and detectives of the three law enforcement agencies and LA Metro. The goal is to discuss any similar modus operandi of the past week's crimes across the entire system and determine if there are any similar suspects and crime trends.

The third method is the creation of the Multi-Layered Approach. We meet daily to determine its effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses, and if any adaptions are needed.

Metro requests crime statistics monthly, which we provide. In addition, we provide crime statistics weekly at the coordination meeting and make prompt notification to Metro on higher level crime incidents that require immediate attention. We are working with Metro and our law enforcement partners to standardize crime statistics reporting with all agencies.

***Finding 1.6:*** *Law enforcement agencies involved with Metro have expressed skepticism about the Ambassador program and confusion about their relationship with the Ambassadors*

***Recommendation:*** *Metro should create opportunities for Ambassadors to interact with the other security agencies to raise awareness and build trust.*

**Response:** LBPD currently has no data to support this finding. LBPD appreciates the work Transit Ambassadors perform as they assist riders with information about the system while also providing a layer of security. They contact the Metro security operations center to report any crimes occurring on the system to initiate a law enforcement response. We continue to work on strategies to strengthen the working partnership between the Metro Ambassadors and LBPD officers working the rail.

***Finding 1.7:*** *The lack of accurate, timely data inhibits Metro's ability to deal with the scope of its problems with security and fare evaders*

***Recommendation:*** *Analyze security data on a regular basis and obtain up-to-date numbers on non-transportation riders using the system.*

**Response:** LBPD provides Metro with daily reports, weekly and monthly crime data, and prompt notification on higher level crime incidents. However, all crime reports must be reviewed to ensure accuracy. After an initial crime report is taken by an officer, the report is investigated by a detective. Statements made by the victim, witness(es), or suspect(s) are reviewed along with any video or other evidence collected. The detective determines the appropriate crime class to be presented to the District Attorney's Office or the City Prosecutor's Office for a criminal filing.

If we can be any further assistance, please contact me or my Chief of Staff, Commander Michael Solomita, at (562) 570-7301.

Sincerely,

Wally Hebeish
Chief of Police

# CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PATHWAY

## The Road Less Traveled




**2022 – 2023**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

**Los Angeles County Office of Education**

Serving Students ▪ Supporting Communities ▪ Leading Educators

November 30, 2023

Debra Duardo
Superintendent

Los Angeles County
Board of Education

Yvonne Chan
President

Stanley L. Johnson, Jr.
Vice President

James Cross

Andrea Foggy-Paxton

Betty Forrester

Theresa Montaño

Monte E. Perez

Presiding Judge
Los Angeles Superior Court
Clara Shortridge Folts Criminal Justice Center
210 West Temple Street, 13th Floor, Rom 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: **Career Technical Education: The Road Less Traveled**
2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury

To the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), attached is the response to the 2022-2023 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report. The report requires responses from LACOE to Recommendations 1.2a, 1.4a, 1.5, 1.7a, 1.8a, 1.9a, 1.10a, 1.11a, 1.12a.

Sincerely,

Debra Duardo

Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

Enclosure

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.2a**

LACOE should acknowledge and celebrate students in CTE programs.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education) is in agreement with this recommendation. LACOE currently celebrates students in CTE programs by highlighting current and former CTE students in professional development symposiums and panel discussions. In addition, our office has supported scholarship programs for CTE students and promotes involvement in CTE competitions which include student recognition.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.4a**

LACOE should ensure school districts have a robust description of their CTE programs in their Local Control and Accountability Plans.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE recommends the description of CTE programs be included in school-based documents (such as the School Accountability Report Card or WASC report). Further, LACOE recommends district include actions related to providing students access to high quality CTE pathways should the data and educational partner input lead to CTE related actions and services.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.5**

LACOE should coordinate with all community college districts to develop collaborative partnerships with high schools within their community college districts.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. Currently, LACOE is active in promoting dual enrollment and articulation agreements between community colleges and Local Education Agencies (LEAs). LACOE CTE Unit sits on several committees with community college and community based organizations to promote collaboration between community colleges and schools to enhance CTE pathways.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.7a**

LACOE should encourage school districts to hire additional counselors to reduce their student-to-counselor ratio.

RESPONSE
On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. Counselors serve an important role in supporting the academic, behavioral and social-emotional development of students. As LACOE works with LEAs in continuous improvement, we encourage them to analyze the adequacy of supports for students, including the availability of qualified counseling staff.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.8a**

LACOE should encourage school districts to inform students of local apprenticeship programs.

RESPONSE
On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. LACOE CTE serves as the LEA for multiple program sponsors and their Apprenticeship Programs. These programs are shared with local school districts that have related pathways, along with resources and information to assist student enrollment in apprenticeship programs. LACOE would add efforts on behalf od the state division of apprenticeship standards to this item.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.9a**

LACOE should encourage school districts to accommodate students who desire to participate in CTE programs by adding before school and/or after school opportunities.

RESPONSE
On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. LACOE CTE Unit provides professional development to district CTE Directors that includes information on utilizing after school programs to enhance CTE opportunities. Districts with established programs are highlighted at events.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.10a**

LACOE should encourage school districts to aggressively pursue CTE Incentive Grants.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. LACOE CTE Unit regularly advertises the multiple grants available to support CTE programs. To further support LEAs, the CTE Unit provides technical assistance in writing CTE grants and required reports.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.11a**

LACOE should encourage school districts to offer more competitive salaries for CTE instructors, equal to their academically credentialed counterparts.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. LACOE serves as an advocate for all educators. Efforts to increase funding for CTE programs have been spearheaded by LACOE. In addition, LACOE CTE offers credentialing services to enable CTE instructors to have the credentials necessary to receive full compensation.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 1.12a**

LACOE should encourage school districts to encourage recruitment for CTE instructor positions.

RESPONSE

On the basis of the findings, LACOE agrees with this recommendation. LACOE CTE Unit provides credentialing services to ensure there is a qualified workforce. Connecting qualified candidates to available positions is an area for enhancement.

**Los Angeles Unified School District**
Administrative Offices

333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 24th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
Phone (213) 241-7000

**Alberto M. Carvalho**
Superintendent

**Members of the Board**

Jackie Goldberg, President
Scott M. Schmerelson, Vice President
Dr. George J. McKenna III
Dr. Rocío Rivas
Nick Melvoin
Kelly Gonez
Tanya Ortiz Franklin

December 1, 2023

Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 W. Temple, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, California 90012

**RE: CIVIL GRAND JURY – LAUSD CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PATHWAY: THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED**

Dear Presiding Judge:

This letter serves as the response to the Civil Grand Jury recommendations to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in the report titled "Career Technical Education Pathway: The Road Less Traveled."

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.2b:** LAUSD should acknowledge and celebrate students in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.2b:*** LAUSD will continue to acknowledge and celebrate students who have completed a CTE course sequence with graduation programs as well as with graduation cords or a sash and diploma seal. Additionally, LAUSD will continue to hold parent outreach town halls that destigmatize and stress the rigor and importance of CTE education.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.4b:** LAUSD should include a robust description of their CTE programs in their Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP).

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.4b:*** The LAUSD LCAP currently has two CTE and Linked Learning goals and narratives with a total of six progress monitoring measures. Under the first LCAP Goal of Academic Excellence, LAUSD has committed to increase the number of students who complete a CTE course sequence and graduation rate. Secondly, LAUSD has committed to increasing the number of silver and gold certified Linked Learning Schools as well the graduation rate of Linked Learning students. The LCAP is posted publicly on the LAUSD website.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.7b:** LAUSD should hire additional counselors to reduce their student-to-counselor ratio.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.7b:*** LAUSD provides schools with funding flexibility to hire additional counselors with school funds. The new contract between LAUSD and United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) outlines plans to reduce student to counselor ratios and provide an additional college counselor to high schools with 900 students or more. Lastly, LAUSD is in the second year of piloting the adoption of the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) model for counseling which incorporates college and career readiness for all, along with lower student to counselor ratios.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.8b:** LAUSD should inform students of local apprenticeship programs.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.8b:*** The CTE Linked Learning department is working on a master list of apprenticeship programs that will be published on our website by industry sector during the 2023-24 school year. LAUSD is committed to increasing apprenticeship opportunities for its students. There's an overlap between our pre- apprenticeship programs for secondary high school students and adult-ed apprenticeship programs to support attractive pathways for students.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.9b:** LAUSD should accommodate students who desire to participate in CTE programs by adding before school and/or after school opportunities.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.9b:*** LAUSD currently has a lot of success with synchronous CTE dual enrollment courses after school. The CTE Linked Learning department can add support for schools who are interested in a 7 or 8 period schedule to accommodate CTE courses. LAUSD also offers some zero period CTE courses prior to the school day. LAUSD is committed to offering CTE opportunities during the school day to address equity and access issues with before school and after school programs.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.10b:** LAUSD should aggressively pursue CTE Incentive Grants.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.10b:*** LAUSD currently engages in this work. Our CTE Linked Learning department includes a dedicated team of full-time grants and funding staff.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.11b:** LAUSD should encourage school districts to offer more competitive salaries for CTE instructors, equal to their academically credentialed counterparts.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.11b:*** LAUSD regularly engages with labor union leaders in contract negotiations where K-12 CTE incentives and compensation are discussed. LAUSD K-12 CTE teachers receive the same one hour per day of paid

preparation time as their academic counterparts and received a 22.9% raise when compounded from July 1, 2022, through January 1, 2025.

- **Grand Jury Recommendation 1.12b:** LAUSD should recruit for CTE instructor positions.

  ***Response to Recommendation 1.12b:*** LAUSD's CTE Linked Learning department currently recruits CTE instructors on Indeed and works with college partners to encourage adjunct professors to pursue a CTE credential. Our Human Resources Division (HR) will add K-12 CTE teacher recruitment to their general K-12 teacher recruitment events, connect candidates to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and assist with onboarding. HR will coordinate with the Personnel Commission to provide information to potential CTE teacher candidates when interviewing for positions that align to CTE sectors in order to create CTE teacher pipelines.

If you have any further questions, please contact my office at 213-241-7000 or via email at superintendent@lausd.net.

Sincerely,

Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent

LONG BEACH
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Excellence & Equity

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE
1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Samantha P. Jessner, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Carla Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
210 W. Temple Street, Thirteenth Floor, Room 13-303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Civil Grand Jury Report, "Career Technical Education Pathway - The Road Less Traveled"

Dear Honorable Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner,

Long Beach Unified School District ("LBUSD") received the County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury report entitled, "Career Technical Education Pathway – The Road Less Traveled" on June 21, 2023. Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, LBUSD submits this written response to the recommendations made to it that are contained in the Grand Jury report.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.2b: "... LBUSD should acknowledge and celebrate students in CTE programs."**

Currently, LBUSD celebrates our Career Technical Education ("CTE") students who have completed their high-quality CTE sequence each year by centrally providing medallions to be worn at graduation to recognize their specific achievement. Additionally, our pathways, most of which contain a CTE course sequence and are themed around that sequence, hold end of the year celebrations and recognition ceremonies at their sites.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.4b: "... LBUSD should include a robust description of their CTE programs in their Local Control and Accountability Plans."**

Currently CTE program completion is included in the Local Control and Accountability Plan ("LCAP") as part of the metrics to achieve goal four, college and career readiness. In future iterations of the LCAP we can work to add a more robust description of the Career Technical Education programs offered in the district.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.7b: "... LBUSD should hire additional counselors to reduce their student-to-counselor ratio."**

The LBUSD Superintendent, senior team, and Board of Education regularly consider the student-to counselor ratio along with all other fiscal needs and requirements when the Board annually approves the LCAP and District budget in June.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.8b: "... LBUSD should inform students of local apprenticeship programs."**

We currently have several channels of communication around internship programs but need to build out our programming and communication around apprenticeship. LBUSD has plans to develop this body of work in the coming year(s).

**RECOMMENDATION 1.9b: "... LBUSD should accommodate students who desire to participate in CTE programs by adding before school and/or after school opportunities."**

Currently our CTE aligned before and after school offerings would come in the form of clubs and related activities such as Robotics, Skills USA, Solar boats, and Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) clubs. Other before and after school activities available to students are in the form of Work-Based Learning related opportunities. In the future we plan to explore how we might leverage Dual Enrollment in this effort.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.10b: "... LBUSD should aggressively pursue CTE Incentive Grants."**

LBUSD applies each year for the Career Technical Education Incentive Grants offered by the state at the maximum dollar amount that is available. We also apply each year for the Strong Workforce Program grants that also help support our CTE programs.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.11b: "... LBUSD should encourage school districts to offer more competitive salaries for CTE instructors, equal to their academically credentialed counterparts."**

According to the Annual Los Angeles County District Salary Survey of Certificated Employees, LBUSD salaries across certificated positions are regularly within the top range of salaries offered in the county. At LBUSD, CTE teachers are on the same salary schedule as their academically credentialed counterparts. Additionally, CTE teacher can present verification of previous work experience in their field for up to four (4) years of salary credit.

**RECOMMENDATION 1.12b: "... LBUSD should recruit for CTE instructor positions."**

LBUSD recruits for all certificated positions, including CTE. Current vacancies are posted on the LBUSD website, EdJoin, and through social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter). Additionally, flyers for vacant positions are sent out to professional organizations and universities for posting. LBUSD analysts and managers regularly work together to consider other possible advertisement options for specific jobs. For example, LBUSD staff worked together to create and deliver flyers to professional organizations for the CTE Engineering position, historically a difficult position to fill. LBUSD sent the flyers to the Los Angeles Council of Black Professional Engineers, CSULB, LBCC, City of Long Beach Workforce Development, among others.

The District thanks the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury for their work in the important area of CTE and we look forward to a bright future for our students in our CTE programs.

Diana Craighead
President
Board of Education

# CIVIL GRAND JURY COMPENSATION

**2022 – 2023**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**CIVIL GRAND JURY**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

| Hilda L. Solis | Holly J. Mitchell | Lindsey P. Horvath | Janice Hahn | Kathryn Barger |
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| First District | Second District | Third District | Fourth District | Fifth District |

**Chief Executive Office.**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1101 ceo.lacounty.gov

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Fesia A. Davenport

August 31, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport FOR
Chief Executive Officer

**2022-2023 LOS ANGELES CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT**

Attached are responses to the 2022-2023 Civil Grand Jury Final Report. We are responding to specific recommendations dealing with the following sections:

- Aging Out: Transitional Aged Youth
- All Aboard: Is Metro Rail on Track
- Civil Grand Jury Compensation
- Election Operations
- Have We M.E.T.? Mental Health Evaluation Teams and How They Work
- Housing Vouchers For Low income and Homeless Angelenos
- The Inmate Reception Center: An Outdated Process Imperils Staff, Inmates, and the Justice System
- Juvenile Justice CYA
- Lack of Housing: The Social Injustice of the 21st Century
- Los Angeles County Fire Department Workers Compensation
- Medi-Cal Reimbursement: The Final Resolution of an Ongoing Issue
- Proposition 19: Implementation and Related Matters
- Sheriff's Operations: Examining Transparency, Accountability, and Community Policing within the LASD
- Storm Water Capture and Wastewater Reuse
- Zero Emissions: Air Quality Monitoring

Attachment A represents the Chief Executive Officer's responses; Attachments B through V represent the departments' responses; and Attachment W represents a matrix of the questions and responses from each department.

If you have any questions regarding our responses, please contact me, or your staff may contact Cheri Thomas, by phone at (213) 974-1326 or by email at cthomas@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:CT:md

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
District Attorney
Assessor
Sheriff
Auditor-Controller
Children and Family Services
Fire
Health Services
Human Resources
Internal Services
Mental Health
Probation
Public Health
Public Social Services
Public Works
Regional Planning
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
Los Angeles County Development Authority
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority