

# COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE **June 8, 2022** MEETING  
Meeting Conducted Via Microsoft Teams

## **MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Chair Pro Tem: Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer,  
Vice Chair of CCJCC

Natasha Alexander-Mingo, Chief U.S. Probation Officer  
Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender  
Robert Cole, Chair, County Economy and Efficiency Commission  
Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender  
\*Nicole Gougis for Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney  
Nichelle Henderson, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission  
Cosme Lozano, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association  
John Mathews for Holly J. Mitchell, Supervisor, Second District and Chair of the County  
Board of Supervisors, Chair of CCJCC  
Emilio Mendoza for Brandon Nichols, Interim Director, County Department of Children  
and Family Services  
Sam Ohta, Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court  
Robert Philibosian, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County  
Kris Pitcher for Michel Moore, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department  
\*Erica Reynoso for Franky Carrillo, Chair, County Probation Oversight Commission  
Susan Sullivan Pithey for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General  
Akiko Tagawa for Jonathan Lucas, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner  
\*David Turla for Fesia Davenport, County Chief Executive Officer  
Joseph J. Williams for Alex Villanueva, Sheriff  
Sharon L. Woo for George Gascón, District Attorney

\*Not a designated alternate

## **I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS**

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem.

## **II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

Chief Gonzales discussed the recent mass shootings that have occurred throughout the country. Members were invited to send to Mark Delgado, Executive Director of the

Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), any suggestions for future presentations related to this topic.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Chair Pro Tem

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting. Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Robert Cole, Chair of the County Economy and Efficiency Commission.

**ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting was approved without objection.**

**IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mark Delgado, Executive Director, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of CCJCC, provided the Executive Director's Report to the committee.

Mr. Delgado provided the following updates:

- Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Report: At the March CCJCC meeting, a consultant team provided a report with strategies for enhancing the availability of MAT among the justice-involved population. At the April meeting, Mr. Delgado informed this committee that the report was being revised to correct data that was not properly labeled as "rolling" quarterly, and thus presented a significantly higher (and incorrect) number of overdose deaths.

Since the April meeting, the reporting of the data has been corrected and the revised report was distributed to CCJCC members on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The revised report has also been posted on the CCJCC website under Supporting Materials for the March 9, 2022 CCJCC meeting.

- CCJCC Meeting Logistics: At the April meeting, Mr. Delgado advised that CCJCC may need to resume in-person meetings in the near future. However, due to continuing health considerations, it has been determined that this committee will continue to hold meetings virtually until further notice. Members and alternates will be advised if there are any changes.

**ACTION: For information only.**

## **V. PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM**

Mark Delgado, Executive Director, Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

Dana Cherry, LCSW, Mental Health Program Manager, Public Defender's Office

Carolee Matias, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, Alternate Public Defender's Office

Mr. Delgado provided background on the Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) program, which was launched with funding support from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The funding agreement between CCJCC and CDCR provides \$1.5 million over a three-year period for the hiring of PSWs in the Public Defender's Office and Alternate Public Defender's Office. The funding for the program may potentially be extended to allow for \$2.3 million over a five-year period.

The PSWs work cases and develop social history reports for eligible female clients. These reports may be considered during the adjudication process and can help to determine the best suitable outcome, including alternative sentencing dispositions that may be under consideration.

The Public Defender's Office began this program in September 2020 and the Alternate Public Defender's Office began three months later. The Public Defender's Office is funded for two PSWs and the Alternate Public Defender's Office is funded for one PSW through this program.

The program was recently honored with a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award.

Mr. Delgado introduced Dana Cherry, Mental Health Program Manager with the Public Defender's Office, and Carolee Matias, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor with the Alternate Public Defender's Office, to provide more information about the PSW program.

Ms. Cherry noted that previous updates on this program were presented to this committee in March and September of 2021. Six-month and one-year data, respectively, were provided at those meetings.

Ms. Matias presented updated data on the program from the start through May of this year (21 months).

Of the 271 combined clients that have been served by PSWs (219<sup>1</sup> with the Public Defender's Office and 52 with the Alternate Public Defender's Office), 63% are Black/African American, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). In addition, 62% have a substance use disorder, 70% have a history of mental health services, and 45% have experienced homelessness.

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<sup>1</sup> 41 clients are not included in the totals.

Other vulnerability factors experienced by some of the participants include domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse as a child, physical health issues, having been trafficked, and being LGBTQ+.

Ms. Cherry stated that, of a combined 157 closed cases, the time saved as a result of the PSW program amounts to 1,191 years (384,365 days), with a cost avoidance to CDCR of over \$83 million.

Mr. Delgado stated that efforts will be made with the state to seek opportunities for expanding the program.

Mr. Garcia noted that keeping women out of prison has an added positive effect on families in that they are able to stay intact and the children can stay with their mothers. He also emphasized the collaboration among justice partners in making this program possible.

Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender Erika Anzoategui thanked the justice partners for including her office in this program, and she agreed that the program has a big impact on the clients.

Mr. Cole referenced the success of the mental health diversion program, which a number of clients were referred to. In response to his inquiry as to the types of offenses committed by participants in the PSW program, Ms. Cherry stated that this program is for eligible women that have committed felonies and are facing possible prison sentences.

In response to a query from Commissioner Maxwell Billieon of the Quality and Productivity Commission, Ms. Cherry stated that one of the challenges is that many of the shelters and programs that serve the clients don't provide services to families, which can hinder some individuals from going into treatment. Other residential programs don't allow men but will allow children. However, some of these will not allow boys past a certain age.

Robert Philibosian of the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County inquired about efforts to measure recidivism. Ms. Cherry stated that there are discussions as to how to conduct an evaluation that will obtain data on recidivism among the program's clients.

PowerPoint slides that were used for this presentation have been posted online at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

**ACTION: For information only.**

## **VI. TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTO-THEFT PREVENTION (TRAP)**

Captain Martin Rodriguez, Sheriff's Department

Lieutenant Bruce Hosea, Los Angeles Police Department

Captain Martin Rodriguez of the Sheriff's Department presented the Taskforce for Regional Auto-Theft Prevention (TRAP) annual report to CCJCC. Captain Rodriguez is the Project Director of TRAP.

Joining Captain Rodriguez in this presentation was Lieutenant Bruce Hosea of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and Lieutenant Glenn Walsh of the Sheriff's Department.

TRAP is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional auto-theft taskforce that was formed in 1993. Per TRAP's establishing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the Steering Committee guides its operations and is supported by CCJCC. The Steering Committee provides annual reports to CCJCC on its operations, budget, and current auto-theft trends.

Lieutenant Hosea reported that the two newest members of TRAP are the Sierra Madre Police Department and the City of Bell Police Department.

The mission of TRAP is as follows:

- Reduce the incidents of auto theft
- Increase the recovery rate
- Identify trends and patterns in auto theft
- Provide training and expertise to Law Enforcement Organization (LEO) partners
- Coordinate a "Deterrence Program" with the private sector

Current staffing levels are as follows:

- Sheriff's Department positions on TRAP include 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Sergeants, 15 Detectives, and 9 professional staff.
- LAPD positions on TRAP include 1 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and 9 Detectives.
- TRAP membership now consists of 17 participating agencies, 3 District Attorney (DA) representatives, 1 law enforcement partner, and 3 reserves.
- There are now a total of 53 Investigators (3 DAs included).
- It is anticipated that the Los Angeles Port Police may join TRAP.

There are currently six TRAP teams that cover regions throughout the County of Los Angeles: North, South, Central, East, West, and Mid-County.

Per the TRAP MOU, investigative personnel costs are divided into thirds (1/3 Sheriff's Department, 1/3 LAPD, and 1/3 participating agencies).

Currently, the staffing of participating agencies is less than 1/3. TRAP is making efforts to increase the personnel costs for participating agencies by funding operations.

Funding for TRAP is currently as follows:

- TRAP is fully and permanently funded by an assessment attached to vehicle licensing (registration) fees – \$2 from every car and \$4 from every commercial vehicle.
- The budget is specifically allocated to address auto-theft related crimes that are complex cases beyond the resources or capabilities of local agencies.
- Annual revenues are approximately \$16 million.
- It is not anticipated that there will be any significant budget issues moving forward for the current fiscal year.

The following updates were noted:

- Added a Sheriff's Department Lieutenant and Investigators from Bell and Sierra Madre Police Departments.
- Awaiting renovations for the Paramount office that will house the Mid-County Team.
- Established the Mid-County Team.

#### Statewide and County Auto-Theft Data

California Highway Patrol (CHP) statistics on the number of auto-thefts in Los Angeles County from 2016 through 2020 were presented. After having declined for four years, there was a dramatic increase from 2019 (39,848) to 2020 (52,187).

Numbers also increased in 2021 to 60,454. Through April 2022, there have thus far been 20,524 auto-thefts this year.

CHP statistics on the number of auto-thefts statewide from 2016 through 2020 were also presented. As with the County, after having declined for four years, there was a dramatic increase from 2019 (151,244) to 2020 (180,939).

#### TRAP Data

Through the first ten months of Fiscal Year 2021-2022, TRAP was responsible for 139 arrests, 182 warrants served, 4 parole/probation (AB 109) searches<sup>2</sup>, 164 Vehicle Code Section 2805 business inspections<sup>3</sup>, and 3,281 vehicle recoveries. The value of the recoveries was \$34,942,673.

In 2021, TRAP investigated 258 cases. Thus far in 2022, TRAP has investigated 79 cases. It was noted that many of these are very complex.

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<sup>2</sup> TRAP will do parole and probation searches on behalf of other jurisdictions if requested. The focus is on suspects who are involved in auto-theft.

<sup>3</sup> Vehicle Code (V.C.) Section 2805 allows full-time auto theft investigators to inspect auto dismantling yards, repair and body shops, and other auto dealerships to determine if they are illegally chopping vehicles or are otherwise involved in fraud.

TRAP data was also presented for 2017 through April of this year. The trends show the number of vehicles recovered (and therefore also the overall value of recovered vehicles) having increased noticeably beginning in 2020.

### Crime Trends

The following current trends with respect to auto-theft were identified:

- Thefts of 1990's series Honda and Toyota vehicles, 2012-2019 full size Chevy and Ford trucks, and Kia and Hyundai non-push ignition models. The most common motorcycles stolen are 2015, 2016, and 2017 Yamahas.
- The use of "chop shops" in vehicle theft cases.
- "Fraud Apps" – Fraudulently obtained vehicles from dealerships or rental companies. This may involve a fraudulent driver's license/identification, social security number, and/or credit application through identify theft.
- Social media is facilitating more auto-theft related crimes.
- Keys (FOBS) left in vehicles have been leading to auto-thefts.
- Thefts of catalytic converters. TRAP has served as a repository for the exchange of information among law enforcement.
- A street racing taskforce has been created to address the problem of takeovers of streets and intersections for street racing and reckless driving. Year-to-date, the taskforce has made 107 arrests and impounded 70 vehicles.

### Community Outreach and Investigative Support

The following are noted community outreach efforts by TRAP:

- Distribution of public awareness pamphlets, steering wheel locks (Clubs), and kill switches<sup>4</sup>.
- Catalytic converter etching events
- Identity Theft Prevention Alert System (IPAS)<sup>5</sup>

The following investigative support services are provided by TRAP:

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<sup>4</sup> TRAP distributes anti-theft devices (clubs, or steering wheel locking devices) to law enforcement stations that in turn provide them to members of the community. A kill switch program has been implemented to help deter auto-thefts.

<sup>5</sup> The Identity Theft Prevention Alert System (IPAS) provides car dealerships with information to make them aware of vehicle theft rings operating in the area and alerts them to potential dangers with respect to the use of fraudulent identifications and auto-thefts.

- TRAP Quarterly Newsletter
- Peace Officer's Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Certified Auto Theft Training
- Surveillance and Buy/Bust Operations
- Vehicle Section 2805 Business Inspections
- Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR vehicles)
- Catalytic Converter Repository
- Targeted Auto-Theft Operations (GTA Saturations)
- Vehicle Forensics/Infotainment Downloads

### Significant Cases

Several significant cases that TRAP has been involved in were reviewed.

### Questions

Mr. Philibosian inquired as to the results of arrests. Captain Rodriguez stated that the District Attorney representatives on TRAP have assisted in identifying repeat offenders. Prison sentences can range from three to five years. He also noted that TRAP communicates with federal agencies, which have become involved with certain interstate and international cases.

Commissioner Billieon inquired about collaborative efforts with automakers. Lieutenant Hosea stated that some automakers have made changes in attempts to deter theft. Captain Rodriguez noted that TRAP has also worked with the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), which can serve as a liaison with automakers and insurance companies.

Mr. Cole inquired as to auto-theft crimes by district. Captain Rodriguez stated that TRAP will identify areas of increased activity and partner with local agencies to mitigate the number of crimes. Overall, auto-thefts are spread throughout the county. Lieutenant Hosea added that crime analysts provide TRAP with information on auto-theft crime trends in the county, which can show if there are increases in particular areas.

Mr. Cole made a motion to receive and file the annual report from the TRAP Executive Steering Committee. This was seconded by Mr. Garcia.

**ACTION: The motion to receive and file the annual report from the TRAP Executive Steering Committee was approved without objection.**

PowerPoint slides that were used for this presentation have been posted online at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.