



# San Diego County Probation Department

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*Tamika Nelson, Chief Probation Officer*

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April 5, 2023

Yvette Klepin  
Juvenile Justice Commission Chair  
2901 Meadow Lark Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Response to June 1, 2022, Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) Facility Inspection Report for the Youth Transition Campus (YTC)**

Dear Ms. Klepin,

We are in receipt of the Juvenile Justice Commission 2022 Facility Inspection Report for the Youth Transition Campus. Below, please find the San Diego County Probation Department responses to the JJC Recommendations as it pertains to the Youth Transition Campus.

**RECOMMENDATION #1:** Probation to ensure all staff are trained in MANDT in order to build positive relationships with youth.

**RESPONSE #1:** The Probation Department began implementation to facility management in Institutional services in August 2022. In March 2023, all MANDT modules have been implemented for line officers. It is anticipated all line officers will have completed all sections of MANDT by the end of the 2023 calendar year.

**RECOMMENDATION #2:** Probation to implement additional programs to youth based on their individual needs.

**RESPONSE #2:** The Probation Department has created a collaborative workgroup with Behavioral Health Services, the San Diego County Office Education (SDCOE) and current providers to develop and implement programs which are catered to address individual needs of the youth housed in our custody. In addition, probation will be releasing a new programming RFP by the end of March to add additional services to accommodate youth's individual needs and create a more seamless transition to the community.

**RECOMMENDATION #3:** Probation to implement programs for youth that focus on positive youth development, and social and community engagement.

**RESPONSE #3:** The Probation Department has implemented programs geared toward positive youth development, and social and community engagement. Probation is partnering with South Bay Community Services (SBCS) to provide Life Skills groups, as well as collaborating with the Restorative Justice Mediation Program (RJMO) to assist in facilitating restorative mediation conversations between youth and caregivers. Probation has also partnered with Outdoor Outreach who assists with providing leadership opportunities for youth through physical education and off campus excursions.

**RECOMMENDATION #4:** Probation to continue to explore and implement programs for youth that include mentors, and individuals with lived experience.

**RESPONSE #4:** Probation has partnered with Project AWARE and lived experience individuals to facilitate restorative community circles at the Youth Transition Campus. In addition, SBCS works collaboratively with the Restorative Justice Mediation Program (RJMO) to facilitate restorative mediation conversations between youth and caregivers at YTC.

**RECOMMENDATION #5:** As Probation builds in the new behavior system, provide opportunities for youth to have leadership opportunities, so they can develop leadership skills.

**RESPONSE #5:** Built within the Behavior Management System are levels in which youth have opportunities to achieve leadership positions. In these positions, youth will have opportunities to gain experience to assist in the development of their leadership skills and be a Team Leader who can work toward facilitating groups, etc.

**RECOMMENDATION #6:** Probation allow youth to choose their YAC representative.

**RESPONSE #6:** This is a collaborative effort with probation staff and youth working together to select representatives from the housing units to participate in YAC.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the June 1, 2022, Juvenile Justice Commission Facility Inspection Report for the Youth Transition Campus.

Very respectfully,

Tamika Nelson  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

CC: Denise Huffiness, Assistant Chief Probation Officer  
Jason Druxman, Deputy Chief of Institutional Services  
Cynthia Gamboa & Bernita Lacy, Division Chiefs, Youth Transition Campus