

PROBATION E-GRAM



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March 8, 2016

What Happens To Staff Who Oversee Hard To Place Children?

The Children's Welcome Center and the Youth Welcome Center are closing, according to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The Children's Welcome Center was actually very successful, winning awards for the successful care of infants and young children. Local 685 members, who made this place successful, gained and expanded their special skills while helping children that were overlooked by many.



This isn't the first time Local 685 members working in DCFS have gone through big changes. In 2003, when MacLaren Children's Center was closed, we mastered the techniques of dealing with these children in an ever-changing environment.

Local 685 members working in DCFS are truly Super-Staff!



Department of Juvenile Justice Unit

Curious about what happens to some of the more high risk youth that leave LA County Probation Camps and go to

In This Issue...

[Youth Welcome Center](#)

[DJJ Unit](#)

[YDS College Summit](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[AFSCME Advantage Benefits](#)

Calendar of Events

General Membership Meeting:

Thursday, March 10, 2016
7:30 PM

Shop Steward's Meeting:

Thursday, March 31, 2016
7:30 PM

Meetings are held at the Local 685 office:

3701 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 510
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Send Us Your Stories!

We welcome any story ideas - anything from success with a probationer, to the birth of a child or retirement of a co-worker, to the effect of staffing shortages or workload requirements on your ability to do your job.

Please email your story ideas to Cookie Lommel at clommel@afscme685.com.

[Email story ideas!](#)

Member Benefits

the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)? Ask DPOs Marsanell Page, Nadine Davila, Justin Clay, and Ricardo Barrientos - this unit is doing the job that was previously done by parole officers!



The DPOs in the DJJ unit (previously called the California Youth Authority (CYA)) are given direction by Supervisor Edward Sykes, coaching them to provide reentry supervision for this high risk population. Reentry includes intervention and suppression strategies. Each DPO in the unit brings unique talents that are valuable to the team.

These high risk caseloads include youth that range in age from 17-24, with extremely special needs and who have committed a variety of serious crimes: murder, attempted murder, rape, arson, bank robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, etc. All were juveniles at the time they committed their crimes but were tried and sentenced to serve time.

Once released, they have a myriad of issues that need to be addressed in order to achieve a successful reintegration into the community. These officers are performing double duty. They must abide by juvenile regulations along with adult regulations, which equals double caseload responsibility. These officers have developed a unique Aftercare CASE Plan, which is built on the foundation of the Work Readiness Program and Life Skills Training.



Who are these dynamic probation officers, reshaping young lives and working magic in our communities? They are:

DPO Page is a "Wizard with Resources," utilizing all resources to help rehabilitate the entire DJJ unit. The judges she works with say, 'Page is one of the best Probation Officers we have worked with in over 20 years.' They comment on her success getting these youngsters involved in a myriad of programs, and keeping them focused on a positive lifestyle. When Page donated her time to the District 2 Christmas Toy Drive, she had several of her wards and their families attend this event. She also donated 70 gifts, including a 26 inch mountain bike.

When Page received her Uniform Bonus, she funded a congratulations party for recently terminated wards. She had followed these wards after probation jurisdiction was ended and they have continued to maintain positive lifestyles. She wanted the successful young adults to return to explain their success to new wards just starting the reentry process. Page attends all of her wards' work readiness trainings and assists unemployed youth at local Job fairs.

DPO Davila has been in the unit since its inception and

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Scholarships

Several scholarship programs are available for AFSCME members and their children. Select an individual scholarship for information on requirements and deadlines.

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Education & Trainings

Our union is only as strong as our activist core. That's why AFSCME is dedicated to working with our affiliates to provide high-quality training for AFSCME leaders.

Online Learning

- See upcoming live online workshops
- See available self-paced courses
- Investor education for working families

Classroom Learning

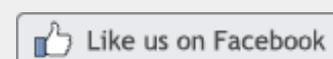
- See AFSCME / National Labor College programs

Women's Leadership & Training

Additional Resources

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has a great eye for suppression and public safety issues. She works very closely with Probation's SEO team and local law enforcement bringing awareness on gang trends, criminal activities in the community, and the institutions. On two occasions, she was the only DPO assigned to the unit and carried the entire DJJ caseload. Her previous experience with suitable placement has been a great asset to the unit as well.

DPO Barrientos brings other skills, such as understanding the client's position and doing whatever it takes to have the client successfully become gainfully employed and ultimately terminated from Probation. His previous reentry experience with the Community-based Care Transitions Program (CCTP) has helped the unit gain traction in building relations with private and public entities. He wears the hat of big brother, uncle, and mentor to his clients, which is critical for this population.

DPO Justin Clay brings a sense of calmness no matter what is required of him. His patience, tenacity, and strong will to work with this population is valued very highly. DPO Clay has experience with working in the suitable placement unit, in addition to previously working at a group home for clients with severe mental health challenges. His collaborating strategies and partnerships with CBOs and public agencies has truly been a benefit to the unit.



YDS College Summit

Local 685 members are constantly creative in our approach in helping youth in our in our care reach their full potential. Case in Point: DPO II Alan Brown, with the direct assistance of DPO II Claire Roberson and DPO II Kedra Frelix-Bracken, created the Youth Development Services (YDS) College Summit event three years ago.

The major goal of YDS College Summit is to increase college enrollment and graduation rates among Probation foster youth. The YDS College Summit allows all foster youth (Probation and DCFS) the opportunity to interact with foster youth liaisons from colleges and universities, who assist them with enrolling and securing financial aid. The foster youth liaisons will continue to assist them throughout their college career.

The YDS College Summit is dedicated to transforming the lives of probation foster youth by educating and connecting them to colleges, universities, and career resources. The College Summit Planning Forum is comprised primarily of former probation foster youth who are attending college.

The College Summit Chairperson, Danyelle Reed, will graduate from LA Trade Tech this year, and has received numerous acceptance letters to local universities. Co-chair Kenneth Jones is attending Golden Gate University. Two sisters, Carmen and Lucero Noyda, are also on the planning committee, and are currently attending the University of Southern California. All are dedicated to empowering foster youth to attain higher education.



This year, the Summit took place February 25, 2016, in downtown Los Angeles. With a wide range of support, many LA County Probation leaders were in attendance. The Summit was an overwhelming success, thanks in part to the generous support of AFSCME Local 685.

Nearly 250 people and more than 45 colleges, universities, and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) attended the 2016 YDS College Summit. CBOs provided the youth with information on the L.I.F.E. Program (a mentor/life skills program), employment services, free laptops, clothing, books, and more. Workshops on housing, personal health, budgeting, college 101, and financial aid were also available.

The YDS College Summit is held in February of each year and we currently in pre-planning for next year's event. If you are interested, want more information, or wish to donate to next year's event, please contact DPO Brown ([click here to send email](#)) or DPO Claire Roberson ([click here to send email](#)).



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