

PROBATION E-GRAM



Official publication, L.A. County Probation Officers Union, Local 685, AFSCME/AFL-CIO.

May 9, 2016

County Supervisors Eliminate the SHU

Today as anticipated, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Supervisors Solis and Kuehl to:

"Direct the Chief Executive Officer and Interim Chief Probation Officer to end the practice of placing juveniles in restrictive housing with a juvenile separated from others in very rare situations as a temporary response to behavior that poses a serious and immediate risk of physical harm to any person for a brief "cool down" period, and done only in consultation with a mental health professional; and create new policies, procedures, enforcement mechanisms, and reporting structures necessary to fully implement this change at Central Juvenile Hall, Camp McNair, and Camp Scott by May 30, 2016 and at all remaining juvenile facilities by September 30, 2016; and instruct the Interim Chief Probation Officer and Director of Internal Services to immediately begin repurposing or reconfiguring all Special Handling Units to alternative purposes, one of which could be the use of some space to create "cool down" areas, and should be developed in consultation with on-site technical assistance from the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States."

The Board's action is being [broadly reported](#) as the end of "solitary confinement" for juveniles following [President Obama's executive order](#) in January banning solitary confinement for juveniles in federal prison.

We have been informed by the Interim Chief Probation Officer Remington that the initial roll out, on a pilot basis, will be at Central Juvenile Hall, Camp McNair, and Camp Scott and that Local 685 will be intimately involved in the development of the new program to assure staff safety.

If you work at one of these facilities and feel that the environment has become unsafe because of these new regulations, call Local 685 immediately at (213) 386-5860.

Paid Family Leave Benefits

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Calendar of Events

General Membership Meeting:

Thursday, May 12, 2016
7:30 PM

AFSCME International Convention

July 18-22, 2016
Las Vegas, NV

13th Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet

Friday, August 5, 2016
Universal City, CA

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.

Expand for Local 685 Members!

Through the [Family Medical Leave Act](#) (FMLA), we currently receive 55 percent of our lost wages for qualified family leave for 6 weeks. By 2018, the [new California FMLA legislation](#) will boost that amount to 60% of prior wages, (70% for those earning near minimum wage). The bill, which was sponsored by AFSCME's own Assembly Member Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), also eliminates the program's previous one week waiting period for claims.



Governor Brown signing legislation expanding FMLA for California workers.

As a former AFSCME staff member, Assembly Member Gomez understands working families and our daily challenges.

"For many workers, California's current Paid Family Leave program is simply an illusion," said Assembly Member Gomez. "It is unrealistic to expect a worker who is already living paycheck to paycheck on 100 percent of their salary to use a program for six weeks at nearly half of their wages. That's why I authored AB 908, to fix this inequity and ensure all who pay into this vital program can afford to use it, regardless of their income."

[Click here](#) to learn more.

AFSCME Local 685 Takes Lead on National Reentry Week

[National Reentry Week](#) was April 24-30, with activities across America. The week-long activities included:

- 75 resource fairs,
- 65 employment events,
- 75 reentry presentations, and
- 35 family events.

In advance of National Reentry Week, DPO Marsanelle Page proposed an LA County event to the Eastlake Juvenile Court judges, as well as to several other judges and commissioners. To make it a success, she enlisted the assistance of SDPO Sykes and SDPO Walker and brought together Probation, DPSS, Superior Court, LACOE, and Local 685.

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

[Email story ideas!](#)

Member Benefits

AFSCME Advantage

Discounts and benefits for AFSCME members that can help stretch your dollars and make life a little easier.

- * AT&T Wireless Discounts
- * Energy Efficient Rebates
- * Health Club Discounts
- * Vacation Tours
- * AFSCME Credit Card

[Click here for details](#)

Scholarships

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

[Click here for details](#)

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 programs for info

Women's Leadership & Training

Additional Resources

[Click here for details](#)



The event highlighted innovative ways that County Departments can improve collaborations with the judges to best serve transitional aged youth (18-24). Attendees gathered at Eastlake Superior Court Department 201, where Commissioner Totten graciously allowed the use of his courtroom.

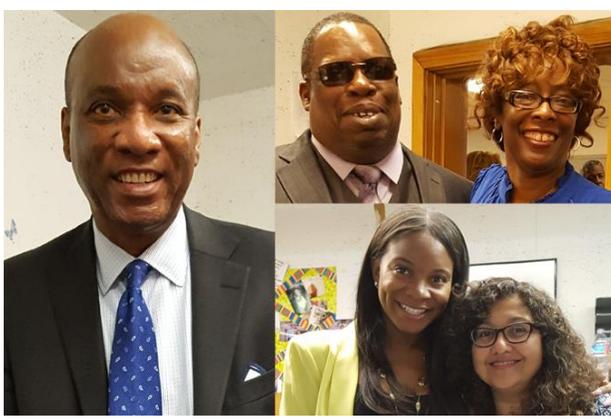
The discussion included the following topics:

- Union and department collaboration
- The work readiness certificate
- Life skills training

One youth, recently terminated from Probation jurisdiction, spoke on the benefits gained from the services of collaborating Departments. Lessons included importance of short and long-term goals, completing a resume, learning how to fill out an application, and learning how to speak to employers. He declared the practice of using an alarm clock as the most meaningful, saying, "None of those skills would be helpful if I can't get to an interview or work on time."



The Reentry presentation and luncheon were sponsored by Local 685. "Whenever an opportunity presents itself that will allow members to service our clients more efficiently, we will take the extra step," explained Local 685 President Ralph Miller.



Pictured above are a handful of attendees and speakers from an important day in 2016. What a great success!

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