



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:**  
**Department No.:** 022  
**For Agenda Of:** May 16, 2023  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** 45 minutes  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer (805) 803-8537  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Spencer Cross, Acting Deputy Chief Probation Officer  
(805) 882-3704

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive a presentation on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan; and
- B. Accept the Santa Barbara County FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan developed by the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and approved by the Executive Committee of the CCP; and
- C. Determine that the acceptance of the FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the activities are covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA; and
- D. Find that the proposed actions do not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the CEQA, pursuant to 14 CCR 15378(b)(5), in that they are government administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect changes to the environment.

**Summary Text:**

On October 1, 2011, the Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109) was implemented as a means of addressing overcrowding in California's prisons and in alleviating the State's financial crisis. The Act transferred the responsibility for specific inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to counties. Additionally, it expanded the role of the CCP, as established in the California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act of 2009 (Senate Bill 678), and created a seven (7) member Executive Committee from at-large CCP members. Subsequent to passage of the Act in 2011, a plan for implementation of Realignment in Santa Barbara County has been brought before the Board of Supervisors each year for approval and adoption.

In August of 2022, the CCP adopted a two-year cycle for the completion of a full Realignment Plan; therefore, the CCP Workgroup developed an addendum to the existing plan for FY 2023-24, outlining expansions and changes to funded programs and services, as well as the FY 2023-24 public safety realignment spending plan. A full budget is included as part of the addendum. The Realignment Plan will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval every year whether a full plan or addendum.

On February 3, 2023, the CCP and the Executive Committee of the CCP voted to approve the CCP Workgroup's recommended Realignment Spending Plan for FY 2023-2024, and on April 7, 2023, the FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan Addendum (Attachment B) was adopted by the CCP and the Executive Committee of the CCP.

The FY 2023-2024 Realignment Plan Addendum highlights a continued commitment to a data-driven approach to manage and allocate resources through evidence-based strategies that increase public safety and support justice reinvestment strategies. The ongoing collaborative foundation of the local Realignment efforts has allowed for expansions and program enhancements in the coming year that consider the diverse needs of the justice involved populations in Santa Barbara County, and are designed to support the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism.

**Background:**

Realignment brought two (2) additional populations under the supervision and responsibility of local county jurisdictions. The Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) population are individuals who exited from prison after serving a commitment for a non-violent, non-serious felony and who are deemed not to be high risk sex offenders. The non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenders (NX3) population, known locally as Post-Sentence Supervision (PSS), are individuals who served their prison sentences locally and are subject to a mandatory period of supervision as ordered by the Superior Court.

Realignment planning in Santa Barbara County is overseen by the CCP, a collaborative, inter-agency partnership of representatives who maintain oversight of the shared goals, objectives and outcomes. Further support to the CCP is afforded by a Workgroup that meets on a monthly basis to review performance data related to funded strategies to ensure anticipated outcomes remain aligned with the five overarching performance objectives.

Santa Barbara County has been successful in taking a balanced approach to the use of realignment funding, by allocating funding across jail population management, community supervision, treatment programs, and innovation. This includes, but is not limited to, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) custody staff, jail assessors, reentry coordination, mental health services, the Sheriff's Treatment Program, victim

witness services, a variety of housing options, and a housing specialist. The FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan Addendum summarizes new programs, expansions, and program enhancements in the coming year. The new and expanded programs include:

#### Familiar Faces

In partnership with the Public Defender's Office and Behavioral Wellness (BeWell), Probation will lead the design and implementation of a multi-agency street outreach program to provide community intervention to clients identified as high utilizers who cycle in and out of custody and provide immediate connections to services through a case management model.

#### Co-Response

Santa Barbara County has utilized three Co-Response Teams countywide to respond to crisis calls in the community. Each Co-Response Team consists of one SBSO Deputy and one BeWell Clinician who work as a collaborative unit. The teams have proven to be an effective intervention to address the behavioral health needs of individuals in the community experiencing a behavioral health crisis, who may otherwise end up being arrested or brought further into the criminal justice system. Co-Response teams are dispatched to active behavioral health calls in the community and utilize de-escalation and other crisis intervention techniques to improve outcomes. The teams also participate in proactive outreach to individuals with known behavioral health concerns or who have recently been released from inpatient psychiatric care.

The established three teams are assigned regionally, with only one team in North County operating four days a week, leaving three days of the week without Co-Response coverage in the North and no team available to service the Lompoc community. Therefore, the CCP approved an additional team based in Lompoc to improve overall Co-Response coverage countywide.

#### Collaborative Court and Holistic Defense

A Deputy Public Defender will be added to the specialty and mental health court, as well as the conversion of three extra help positions to full time, including a legal office professional and two transporter positions, to further expand Holistic Defense options. The transporters provide transportation for clients and connect them to programs. The objective of these expansions is to improve individual outcomes, minimize incarceration, and reduce recidivism.

#### Pretrial Services Navigators (PSN)

The PSN positions initiate contact with pretrial individuals early on in the criminal justice process, attend court hearings, provide transportation to appointments or to obtain medication, link individuals to a variety of resources, and provide service coordination. The PSNs serve as a key influence in the success of the most vulnerable individuals on pretrial supervision with the goal of ensuring all participating individuals attend all of their scheduled court hearings pending criminal proceedings resolution. In FY 2022-23, pretrial services continued to grow and the need for additional PSNs positions was needed commensurately. In response to the urgent need for additional PSNs, Probation reallocated resources internally in order to fund two additional positions. Funding from the CCP was approved for FY 2023-24 ongoing funding for the two positions and now all four PSN positions will be funded through Realignment.

**Housing Specialist**

The Probation Department partners with Community Services – Housing and Community Development Division to administer Supportive Transitional Housing. For FY 2023-2024, CCP approved an ongoing allocation for Transitional Housing beds and services as well as additional funding for a Housing Program Specialist. This position will provide program administration and support to the permanent housing project under development with Sanctuary Centers. The Housing Program Specialist will help with managing contract invoicing, and monitor program compliance and outcome measures while working in partnership with the Probation Department.

**Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program (NRJP)**

The Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office, in partnership with the Second District Supervisor’s Office, implemented a NRJP pilot beginning in 2021. The pilot program served 37 first-time offenders in the City of Goleta for the period of July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. NRJP is a restorative justice-based pre-filing diversion program for certain misdemeanor offenses and infractions. Through this program, a person who commits a qualifying offense appears before a panel of trained community volunteers to discuss the offense that took place, the impact of the offense on the community, and actions that the individual can take to make amends with the community and prevent future offenses from taking place. Example accountability actions include community service, letters of apology, educational opportunities, counseling, etc. Upon the participant’s successful completion of accountability actions, the District Attorney’s Office does not file the charge in court.

In order to expand services to other parts of the county, the CCP awarded additional funding to the District Attorney’s Office to expand the NRJP countywide. The success of the countywide NRJP will be monitored by an independent evaluator utilizing multiple key metrics for success.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Current FY Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
General Fund			
State	\$ 169,520.00	\$ 20,126,822.00	\$ 301,039.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 169,520.00</b>	<b>\$ 20,126,822.00</b>	<b>\$ 301,039.00</b>

**Narrative:**

The FY 2023-2024 Realignment Spending Plan is entirely funded by State revenue and consists of Santa Barbara County’s estimated FY 2023-2024 Base allocation (\$18,938,572) and FY 2021-2022 Growth funds (\$1,188,250). Annual funding for ongoing programmatic operations is \$20,126,822. Additionally, the CCP approved the use of \$226,039 from Realignment Programmatic Restricted Fund Balance (RPRFB) to fund one-time Realignment program related needs, as follows: District Attorney’s NRJP - Media Costs (\$25,000) & Data Evaluator (\$45,000), data needs for the Criminal Justice Data Committee (CJDC) (\$40,000), and Co-Response Team Efforts (\$116,039) as well as \$75,000 from Realignment Planning Restricted Fund Balance to fund the expansion of the evaluation contract (\$50,000) and annual training allocation (\$25,000).

It is estimated that the RPRFB will be \$26,650,864 at the end of the current fiscal year; \$4,105,119 of that amount has been allocated for one time needs leaving an estimated \$22,545,746 available to support the needs of the program. The \$4,105,119 includes a current prudent reserve of \$1,200,000.

During FY 2022-2023 the CCP approved the use of \$169,520 from Realignment Programmatic Restricted Fund Balance to fund the SBSO Freedom to Choose project (\$30,000) as well as \$139,520 to fund the Onsite Solar Training Program at the North Branch Jail. Additionally, a one-time allocation using FY 2022-2023 on-going funding was approved for additional resources necessary to extend the Felony Diversion Needs Assessment (\$56,848).

Approval of the FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan Addendum will not increase the General Fund contribution of the departments mentioned above.

**Staffing Impacts:**

The staffing impacts listed below indicate deviations of FTE positions in the proposed FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan Addendum in comparison to the adopted FY 2022-2023 Public Safety Realignment Plan. Changes to FTE for the upcoming fiscal year include Community Services Department +1.00 FTE Housing Specialist; District Attorney +2.00 FTE Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program Coordinators; Public Defender +1.00 FTE Specialty Court/Mental Health Deputy Public Defender Sr., +1.00 FTE Legal Office Professional (1.00 Extra-Help staff converted to FTE), +2.00 FTE Residential Treatment Program Transporters (2.00 Extra-Help staff converted to FTE); SBSO+1.00 FTE Special Duty Deputy; BeWell +1.00 FTE Licensed Mental Health Practitioner.

<b><u>Legal Positions:</u></b>	<b><u>FTEs:</u></b>
Community Services	+1.00
District Attorney	+2.00
Public Defender	+4.00
Sheriff's Office	+1.00
Behavioral Wellness	+1.00

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: PowerPoint Presentation of FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan Addendum

Attachment B: FY 2023-2024 Public Safety Realignment Plan Addendum

**Authored by:**

Spencer Cross, Acting Deputy Chief Probation Officer