

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 02/03/03
Department Name: Probation
Department No.: 022
Agenda Date: 02/25/03
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 10 minutes on 2-25-03
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Susan J. Gionfriddo, Chief Probation Officer
Probation Department

STAFF

CONTACT: Scott DeuPree, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, 882-3670
Martin Conoley, Probation Manager, 692-4851

SUBJECT: Preliminary NEW VISTAS Program Outcomes and Presentation of CSAC Award

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Present the California State Association of Counties Merit Award to the Probation Department and to Dr. Shane Jimerson for their work in developing the Santa Barbara Assets and Risk Assessment instrument.
- B. Receive a program overview and preliminary outcomes from Dr. Shane Jimerson, Principal Investigator from the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, University of California, Santa Barbara, on the Challenge II NEW VISTAS program (ten minutes, 2:00 pm time certain).

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On May 20, 1999, the California Board of Corrections awarded the Santa Barbara County Probation Department \$4,944,308 under the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant II program. It was a three-year demonstration project, commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2002. While fourth year funding was subsequently awarded to all projects, State budget reductions more recently reduced our fourth year allocation and the Probation Department was able to continue the project at a reduced level until February 15, 2003. The Challenge II grant targeted high crime neighborhoods within the City of Santa Barbara. The local project was called NEW VISTAS, (NV), which stands for Neighborhood Enrichment With Vision Involving Services, Treatment, and Supervision. Primary focus was given to families who have identified drug or alcohol issues and who have a family member at-risk or criminally

involved. NEW VISTAS included a complete continuum of drug & alcohol treatment consisting of: assessment, individual and family therapy, parent education, family mediation, conflict resolution, outpatient treatment, and after school educational and recreational services. A multi-agency Neighborhood Supervision Team was deployed in a neighborhood setting for assessment, case management, and mobilization of community resources in an effort to prevent and decrease crime. Service delivery was family and neighborhood-focused. NEW VISTAS tested the effectiveness of this service delivery and related interventions through an evaluation conducted by the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Dr. Shane Jimerson, Professor at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Santa Barbara is the Principal Investigator of the project. He leads a project research team of fifteen individuals which includes other faculty members and graduate research assistants. An explanation of the attached summary of outcomes from the NEW VISTAS project may be downloaded from the UCSB Challenge II NEW VISTAS Research Team website: www.education.ucsb.edu/newvistas

Many partner agencies from the NEW VISTAS collaborative are in the Board Hearing room to share in these outcomes and accomplishments.

- The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse was the principle NEW VISTAS treatment program and provided intensive and moderate substance abuse treatment tracks and mentorships.
- Zona Seca, Inc. assigned bi-lingual and bi-cultural staff to the project and provided individual and family psychotherapy, parent education, and family coaches.
- Girl's Inc. of Greater Santa Barbara provided afterschool activities to boys and girls and had a special emphasis on reaching juvenile female offenders. Girl's Inc. provided life skills, tutoring, support groups for siblings of substance abusing offenders, and individual and family psychotherapy.
- Domestic Violence Solutions provided anger management counseling services to juveniles and their families.
- UCSB provided the research and evaluation services for the project.
- The Public Health Department provided public health nurses who ascertained the health needs of juveniles and their families; a key connection for the recovery of many girls.
- The Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services Department provided two treatment planners to assess every juvenile and family member in the project and to create individualized treatment plans. ADMHS also provided an aftercare clinician to deliver psychological services and to identify minors needing psychiatric services.
- The District Attorney provided a Truancy Social Worker to refer pre-offenders and their families to the project, and to maintain their involvement in substance abuse treatment services. The DA served as a gateway agency.
- The Probation Department served as the lead agency on the grant, administered and implemented the project, case managed, and referred the majority of families to the project as a gateway agency.
- The Community Mediation Program delivered victim-offender mediation and family group conferencing services to impart an important restorative justice component to the project.
- The Santa Barbara Police Department assigned a full-time officer to the project to work with minors, their families and worked to create safer neighborhoods.
- The Department of Social Services supported referrals of families to the project and served as a gateway agency.
- The Fatherhood Coalition delivered services to boys who were or about to become fathers. They offered the same support services to the fathers of the boys in the project.

The project could not be implemented, nor resolve the complex problems posed by the families who participated, nor accomplish the outcomes it achieved without the outstanding collaborative efforts of the personnel in these above listed agencies.

Each year a limited number of outstanding programs are selected to receive statewide recognition by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). In 2002, CSAC received 170 entries from 36 counties. The selection of winning programs was based on demonstrated leadership, innovation, collaboration, creativity, resourcefulness, and effectiveness, as well as the potential for successful elements of the program to be used as a model for other counties. The Santa Barbara County Probation Department and the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, University of California, Santa Barbara was awarded a 2002 CSAC Merit award for their development of a promising assessment tool for juvenile offenders: the Santa Barbara Assets and Risks Assessment (SBARA).

The SBARA, a “work in progress”, is a culturally sensitive and gender appropriate instrument for use with at risk minors and their families to determine strengths and risks for re-offending. In partnership with researchers at UCSB, the SBARA was originally proposed and funded as a component of the Challenge II NEW VISTAS grant in 1999. Over eighteen months of literature review and research was conducted by UCSB researchers to develop an assessment tool to predict more accurately a minor’s risk for re-offending. UCSB researchers met on multiple occasions with Santa Barbara County Deputy Probation Officers to gather input and to make revisions on the proposed assessment tool. With the DPO’s input, more than 50 questions were produced. With JJCPA funding, Senior DPO’s have administered over 500 of these assessments to minors and their families at intake. A period of validity testing is now occurring to determine to what degree the responses predict future criminal behavior. Ultimately, it is hoped the SBARA will become the strengths/risks assessment tool of the future for at risk juveniles and offenders. All CSAC award winners can be viewed online at their website: www.csac.counties.org.

The Recurring Performance Measure for the Challenge Grant II NEW VISTAS program is to ensure public safety: this program reduced by 10% the number of new law violations committed annually by 100 minors in the Challenge Grant II NEW VISTAS program as compared to the violation rate in the 1994-98 historical comparison study.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 7. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children and Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant II itself is not a mandated program. Grant funds provided an increase in service levels through State dollars, Federal dollars leveraged, and through maximizing the coordination of existing resources. However, statutes and Court orders mandate most services that are provided by such funding. Statutory mandates governing Probation Department services are attached for your review.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The partial fourth year funding for the Juvenile Crime Enforcement and Accountability Challenge Grant II requires no additional General Fund contribution for this contract. Also, each subcontractor in the collaborative is required to identify “match” funds consisting of additional program related expenditures separately funded by each respective subcontractor.

Special Instructions:

Supervisor Schwartz is scheduled to present the CSAC Merit award.

Concurrence:

None

Summary of Selected Preliminary Outcomes:

Some of the significant preliminary outcomes from the NEW VISTAS project include:

1. When comparing the average number of probation referrals per year in the NEW VISTAS target area during the two years after NV began (2000 and 2001) to the five years prior (1995-1999), referrals for probation violations have decreased by 33%, referrals for property crimes have decreased by 24%, referrals for drug and alcohol offenses have decreased by 8%, referrals for crimes against persons have decreased by 42%.
2. 77% of youth who had alcohol problems when entering NEW VISTAS were sober at program exit.
3. 74% of youth who had drug problems when entering NEW VISTAS were clean at program exit.
4. Residents in the NEW VISTAS target area report that satisfaction with the quality of life in their neighborhood has increased slightly every year since the start of NV.
5. 74% of the residents of the NEW VISTAS target area report satisfaction with Police and 59% report satisfaction with Probation. Resident's satisfaction with Probation Officers has increased since the start of NEW VISTAS.
6. 46% of youth on probation had no arrests while in NEW VISTAS. For the 97 youth who were arrested during the intervention period, 51% were charged with misdemeanors, and 32% of youth were arrested for violations of probation.
7. 81% of youth on probation had no arrests during the initial follow-up period (6 months after exit).
8. Youth's levels of internalizing behavior (e.g. withdrawn, anxious, depressed behaviors) and externalizing behavior (e.g. delinquent and aggressive behaviors) have decreased between Intake and Exit.
9. Youth's behavioral and emotional strengths and family involvement have improved from Intake to Exit for families completing NEW VISTAS services.
10. 60% of caregivers who had reported unbalanced levels of family adaptability at Intake reported improved levels of family adaptability at Exit.
11. 48% of youth who had reported unbalanced levels of family adaptability at Intake reported improved levels of family adaptability at Exit.
12. 86% of juveniles reported that they received the help they wanted.
13. 83% of families reported receiving services they wanted.
14. 88% of families reported being "very satisfied" to "mostly satisfied" with NEW VISTAS services.

Interesting Statistics from the NEW VISTAS project include:

1. 87% of youth felt “the people of NEW VISTAS really cared about them”.
2. 76% of staff of NEW VISTAS partner agencies reported being “somewhat” to “very” satisfied with interagency collaboration.
3. 81% of staff of NEW VISTAS partner agencies reports “some” to “a lot” of challenges collaborating with other partner agencies in NV.
4. Females report experiencing serious depression, anxiety, thoughts of suicide, and suicide attempts at higher rates than males.
5. Females also report having trouble controlling violent behavior at higher rates than males.
6. Females (82%) have significantly more school attendance problems than males (71%).
7. 74% of NEW VISTAS youth have school attendance problems, 23% do not, and the remaining 3% are not enrolled in school because they have graduated or passed their high school competency tests.
8. Marijuana, alcohol, and cocaine are identified by treatment planners as the most problematic substances for NEW VISTAS youth.
9. Both boys (35%) and girls (26%) are active in gangs.
10. 25% of NEW VISTAS youth have familial criminality as a risk factor (live with someone on probation, parole, or incarcerated).
11. 74% of NEW VISTAS youth did not move in the past year.
12. Mothers (82%) are most often the primary caregivers of NEW VISTAS youths. This percentage is consistent with the general population.
13. 81% of youth in NEW VISTAS are Latino (Mexican-American). This is consistent with the ethnic population living in the original NV target area (Eastside and Westside of Santa Barbara).

PROBATION DEPARTMENT MANDATES

GENERAL

131.5 Code of Civil Procedure; 830.5 PC; 1201.7 PC; 273a(c)(3)(A) and 273d(c)(3)(A) PC
1203.097(c) and 1203.098 PC; 13010-13014 PC; 6035 PC; 3300 Government Code
1020-1031.5 Government Code

CIVIL

1826 Probate Code; 1851 Probate Code; 1851.5 Probate Code; 1513-1513.1 Probate Code
7800 Family Law Code (FLC); 7801 FLC; 7803 FLC; 7804 FLC; 7805 FLC; 7807 FLC.
7808 FLC; 9001 FLC

JUVENILE DIVISION

A. Administrative Responsibility/Notification

131. 7 CIVIL CODE OF PROCEDURE; 270 WIC

B. Juvenile Intake

601 WIC; 601.2 WIC; 601.3WIC; 602 WIC; 627.5 WIC; 628 WIC
628.1 WIC; 630 WIC; 631 WIC; 632 WIC; 652 WIC; 652.5 WIC
653 WIC; 676.5 WIC; 777WIC; 778 WIC; 1404-1405 JUVENILE COURT RULES

C. Juvenile Investigations

200 WIC; 280 WIC; 281 WIC; 281.5 WIC; 361.2 WIC; 635 WIC; 636 WIC; 652 WIC
653.5 WIC; 656.2 WIC; 636.1 WIC; 706 WIC; 706.5 WIC; 706.6 WIC; 707 WIC; 727.2 WIC
727.4 WIC; 742 WIC; 781 WIC; 1499 JUVENILE COURT RULES

D. Juvenile Supervision

241.1 WIC; 366.23 WIC; 366.26 WIC; 625 WIC; 625.3 WIC; 641 WIC ;654 WIC ;654.1 WIC
654.2 WIC ;654.3 WIC ;654.4 WIC ;654.6 WIC ;655 WIC ;725 WIC ;727 WIC ;727.1 WIC ;727.2 WIC
727.3 WIC ;727.31 WIC;727.4 WIC ;727.4 (D) (4) ;727.6 WIC ;729 ET ESQ. WIC;729.3 WIC 729.7WIC
;729.8 WIC ;729.9 WIC ;730 WIC ;730.6 WIC ;730.7 WIC ;737 WIC ;738 WIC
740 WIC ;740.1 WIC;742.16 WIC ;790 WIC ;793 WIC ;794 WIC ;795 WIC. ;841 WIC
1300 ET Esq. WIC ;1502.4 (a)(1) H&S ;4096 WIC ;5600.3 WIC ;11400 WIC ;11401 WIC
11402 WIC ;11403 WIC ;11404 WIC ;11404.1 WIC ;11462.01(2)(C) WIC

INSTITUTIONS

A. Juvenile Halls

TITLE 15, DIVISION 1 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS, CHAPTER 1 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS,
SUBCHAPTER 5 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR JUVENILE FACILITIES
210 WIC ;850 WIC

B. Home Supervision

628.1 WIC ;840 WIC

C. Los Prietos Boys Camp

TITLE 15, DIVISION 1 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS, CHAPTER 1 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS,
SUBCHAPTER 5 MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR JUVENILE FACILITIES

881 WIC ;885 WIC

D. Counseling and Education Centers

654 (c) WIC

E. Non-Secure Detention

210.1 WIC; 601 WIC ;626 WIC

F. Medical Care Juveniles

369 WIC ;739 WIC

G. Separate Categories

284 WIC ;285 WIC ;656.2 WIC ;704 WIC ;729.7 WIC ;742 WIC ;742.20 WIC
749.22 WIC ;749.23 WIC ;751 WIC ;826 WIC ;826.5 WIC ;826.6 WIC ;827 WIC ;48321 ED CODE
56026 ED CODE ;56325 ED CODE

ADULT DIVISION

A. Adult Investigation:

131.3 Civil Code;1000 PC ;1000.1(b) PC;1000.2 PC;1000.3PC ;1000.4PC; 1000.5PC
1001 PC ;1001.9 PC ;1001.20 PC to 1001.34 PC;1001.70 PC to 1001.90 PC;1191 PC
1191.1 PC;1191.2 PC;1191.3 PC;1202.4 PC;1203 PC;1203a PC;1203c PC;1203d PC
1203.9 PC;1203.10 PC;1203.097(b)(3) PC;1203.097(b)(4) PC;4.310 Judicial Rule
4.411(a)(b)(c)(d) Judicial Rule; 4.411.5 Judicial Rule

B. Adult Supervision:

131.3 Code of Civil Procedure;290(c)(1) PC ;290.4 PC Megan's Law ;1202.7 PC
1202.8 PC ;1203.02 PC;1203.016 PC ;1203.044 PC ;1203.044(h) PC ;1203.045 PC
1230.047 PC;1203.055 PC ;1203.055(f) PC;1203.066 PC;1203.067 PC
1203.076 PC; 1203.95PC; 1203. 097 PC ;1203.1 PC ;1203.1(b) PC ;1203.1bb PC
1203.1(d) PC;1203.1(h) PC;1203.1ab PC;1203.1b(a) PC;1203.1e PC;1203.1g PC
1203.1k PC;1203.2 PC; 1203.2(a) PC;1203.3 P;1203.4 PC;1203.9 (a) PC
1203.9 (b) PC;1203.10 PC;1203.12 PC;1389.6 PC;3075 PC to 3076 PC
11180 PC and 11181 PC

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