



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: Probation  
Department No.: 022  
For Agenda Of: May 2, 2023  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Time:  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Holly Benton, Chief Probation Officer  
Director(s) (805) 803-8537  
Contact Info: Melinda Barrera, Deputy Chief Probation Officer  
(805) 882-3715

**SUBJECT:** Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file the County of Santa Barbara FY 2023-24 Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and the Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP); and
- B. Determine that the above recommended actions are 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 significant effects 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.

**Summary Text:**

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), which was enacted in 2000 as Assembly Bill (AB) 1913 and codified in Government Code Section 30061, provides counties with a reliable funding source for local programs and services aimed at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. It mandates a local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) whose multidisciplinary membership collaborates on identifying local needs, supports the development of relevant programs, and considers budget priorities.

Additionally, it requires the development of a CMJJP which is updated annually and submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), the State agency that oversees the JJCPA.

The Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) program, also referred to as Juvenile Realignment, was established under Senate Bill (SB) 81 in 2007. This provided funding for the supervision of youth locally released from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and to provide services to divert youth from potential commitments to DJJ. In 2016, SB 81 was amended to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, drug and alcohol, and other county departments to provide appropriate rehabilitative services to youthful offenders. Within these general guidelines, counties have to tailor YOBG-funded programs to meet local needs and priorities.

In 2020, SB 823, established the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant program for the purpose of providing county-based custody, care, and supervision of youth who are realigned from DJJ or who were otherwise eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure. Commencing with the 2021-22 fiscal year, and annually thereafter, each county is to receive an allocation to provide appropriate rehabilitative housing and supervision services for this population. Santa Barbara's FY 2023-24 estimated allocation is \$810,000. In addition, the legislation requires that the Board of Supervisors shall consider the county's JJRP. The JJRP is submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) every third year commencing January 1, 2022.

### **Background:**

The CMJJP is annually prepared and updated by the county for submission to the BSCC. The CMJJP addresses local delinquency issues, identifies service needs and gaps, sets goals and priorities, and reports on local juvenile efforts and initiatives. In Santa Barbara County, the CMJJP incorporates aspects of JJCPA funding and YOBG requirements in order to illustrate a complete picture of how funded programs, services, and strategies serve youth and families in the county.

The CMJJP also outlines the county's use of JJCPA funding for four strategic priorities: diversion, behavioral health assessments and services, community-based treatment interventions, and probation supervision. Deputy Probation Officers use the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), an evidence-based risk assessment, to determine a youth's risk to re-offend, as well as their criminogenic needs and areas of strength. Initial low-level offenses are diverted from formal processing to the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program, a comprehensive diversion program that includes an intake assessment, case management, and services for the youth and family based on the initial assessment. This is currently funded by JJCPA. For youth determined to be at moderate to high risk to re-offend, a case plan is created with input from youth and families to match the youth's criminogenic needs to the most appropriate interventions, several of which are supported through JJCPA and YOBG funding.

Deputy Probation Officers also make referrals to Department of Behavioral Wellness (BeWell) clinicians to conduct comprehensive assessments that identify the needs and assets of clients to inform case planning and referrals. BeWell clinicians also provide direct services to youth in the community as well as at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) and at Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC). A significant portion of the funding for BeWell supportive services is from both JJCPA and YOBG. In addition, they provide linkages for youth and families to many community-based organizations when appropriate. YOBG funding also supports the PACT assessments, and community-based services including mentoring,



marijuana education classes, targeted intervention programs, the collection and analysis of data related to youth outcomes and program performance, probation supervision, and, behavioral support to youth in custody. Together with existing youth focused community and county organizations, JJCPA and YOBG funding allows the county to provide a continuum of services, support, and supervision for youth and families countywide.

The JJRP is a product of SB 823, passed by the California State Legislature on August 31, 2020, and chaptered September 30, 2020. SB 823 prohibited the commitment of additional youth to the DJJ effective July 1, 2021, and realigned responsibility for those youth to the counties. This legislation further required the development of a Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee of the JJCC, which is responsible for the JJRP, which describes the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies currently in place and those planned to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the realigned youth. Counties are also expected to develop reentry strategies to help support youth as they reintegrate back into their community.

This year, the CMJJP and the JJRP plans were combined in one document (Attachment A), allowing the county to showcase the totality of prevention, diversion, and intervention services provided to justice-involved youth and their families. The 2023-24 CMJJP and JJRP were developed with local county partners. It was reviewed and approved by the JJCC on April 7, 2023. As noted in the plans, input on the CMJJP also came from a youth survey and feedback from a family focus group conducted earlier in the year.

As the responsibility for realigned youth has shifted back to Santa Barbara County, it has become even more important that a rich complement of services be established to both prevent juvenile delinquency and provide services for the youth who are serving long term commitments in juvenile facilities. As documented in the CMJJP and JJRP, the county's services range from diversion out of the juvenile justice system entirely, to the use of long-term secure confinement that include planning for reentry to the community. As described in the plan, the older population of youth is also provided many opportunities for post-secondary education and vocational training. The Probation Department continues to implement best practices, individualized approaches, and evidence-based programming to address the unique needs of each justice-involved youth.

**Performance Measure:**

Contract-based services funded by JJCPA and YOBG and described in the CMJJP have incorporated performance-based measures and are evaluated on a quarterly basis by the Probation Department for successful outcomes for youth.

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative: Receiving and filing the FY 2023-24 CMJJP and the JJRP has no financial impacts.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: FY 2023-24 combined CMJJP and FY 2023-24 JJP.

**Authored by:**

Erin Cross, Probation Manager