



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:** 11/28/2023  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Director(s) *Holly L. Benton*  
Contact Info: Holly L. Benton/Chief Probation Officer (805) 882-3652  
Karyn Milligan, Manager (805) 882-3653  
kmillig@countyofsb.org

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2025 Agreement with Northpointe d/b/a equivalent

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Northpointe, Inc., doing business as equivalent, for the term of December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2025 to provide risk and need assessment instrument software training, a multi-pronged research study, and software subscriptions, maintenance and support services, with a total contract amount not to exceed \$282,427;
- B. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or designee to approve line-item budget changes to Attachment B-1 of the Agreement in an amount not to exceed 10% of the stated line-item budgeted amounts for each service, as long as the total contract amount of the Agreement is not increased and the total budgeted amounts by each funding source are not exceeded, and subject to the Board's ability to rescind this delegated authority at any time.
- C. Determine that these activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that these activities are covered by the common sense exception 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 these activities may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

**Summary Text:**

This item is before the Board to approve an agreement of services with Northpointe, Inc., doing business as equivalent, to provide the necessary software subscriptions, maintenance, support and training in the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) risk and need assessment instrument. COMPAS is a validated actuarial assessment tool used to inform decisions regarding the supervision and case management of adult clients on Probation. In addition, equivalent will complete a multi-pronged research study of the COMPAS assessment instrument to include recommendations of adjustment to the thresholds used to categorize individuals into different risk levels by gender, race, and/or ethnicity if appropriate. Equivalent will also provide an analysis of whether predictive validity in distinguishing recidivists from non-recidivists would be improved by moving to the COMPAS-Revised assessment tool.

**Background:**

Criminal justice agencies across the nation use actuarial risk assessments to guide decision making at various points across the criminal justice continuum. Risk assessment tools approximate a person's likelihood of reoffending and identify an individual's criminogenic needs. Criminogenic needs are factors driving criminal behavior that must be addressed to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. The Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) risk and need assessment instrument was developed empirically with a focus on predictors known to affect recidivism. The tool was validated locally in 2017 and the results demonstrated that the COMPAS risk scales accurately differentiate recidivists from non-recidivists. The findings of the 2017 study demonstrate the predictive validity of the COMPAS risk scales and provide strong support for their use by the Probation Department to guide supervision level and conditions of probation supervision.

In addition to extending required training on the software for staff, and continuing the licensees and maintenance of the software through 2025, the execution of this Agreement will expand on the 2017 study to inform if adjustments are needed to improve the clinical utility of the assessment by gender, race, and/or ethnicity. Additionally, data gathered from the research study will be used to determine if predictive validity in distinguishing recidivists from non-recidivists would be improved by moving to the COMPAS-Revised (COMPAS-R) assessment tool. As the name suggests, the COMPAS-R is a revised version of the COMPAS that combines dynamic needs and historical factors for a single score to assess recidivism risk.

Through General Fund and Senate Bill (SB) 678 revenue, the attached Agreement with equivalent, will continue to provide officer training in the evidence-based risk and need assessment instrument COMPAS, as well as inform if utility of the tool by gender, race and/or ethnicity would be improved through adjustment to the COMPAS thresholds used to categorize individuals into different risk levels or through the adoption of the revised software, the COMPAS-R.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Current FY Cost:</b>	<b>Annualized On-going Cost:</b>	<b>One-Time Project Cost:</b>
General Fund	\$ 61,892.00	\$ 140,585.00	
State			\$79,950.00
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 61,892.00</b>	<b>\$ 140,585.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,950.00</b>

**Narrative:**

The attached Agreement is fully funded through the General Fund in the amount of \$202,477 and State funding from SB 678 of \$79,950, not to exceed the total contract amount of \$282,427 for FY 2023-2025. The General Fund will provide funding for risk and needs assessment subscriptions, maintenance and support services, and staff trainings in Years 1 and 2 of the contract term and the State funding will provide funds for a one-time research study. Execution of the Agreement will not increase the General Fund Contribution to the Probation Department.

**Key Contract Risks:**

A risk assessment has been completed and key contract risks were not identified.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

No effect

**FTEs:**

No effect

**Special Instructions:**

Please return one (1) fully signed original of the Agreement to:  
 Probation Department  
 Attn: Fiscal Services  
 117 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara CA 93101

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: equivalent FY 2023-2025 Agreement

**Authored by:**

Karyn Milligan, Manager  
 Probation Department