



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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Probation
Department No.: 022
Agenda Date: October 7, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer
Contact Info: Damon Fletcher, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
SUBJECT: Agreement for Services related to the South Coast Youth Safety Partnership for FY 2024-26

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, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, dba CommUnify, for services related to the South Coast Youth Safety Partnership (SCYSP) from September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026, for a total contract amount not to exceed amount of \$95,218; and
- b) Determine that the above action 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 questions may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

The South Coast Youth Safety Partnership (SCYSP) collaborative is sponsored by the County of Santa Barbara and the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria and endeavors to develop and coordinate regional strategies to reduce youth gang violence.

Under this new Agreement presently before your Board, CommUnify will provide services related to the SCYSP for a total contract amount of \$95,218 for FY 2024-25 and 2025-26.

The County Executive Office previously acted as the administrator of an Agreement with CommUnify for services related to the SCYSP, however as of September 1, 2024, the Probation Department took over this responsibility.

Discussion:

The Probation Department seeks to enter into an Agreement with CommUnify for services related to the SCYSP for the reduction of youth gang violence for the term of September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 and a total contract amount of \$95,218.

Specifically, CommUnify will serve as the fiscal agent of the SCYSP, develop and administer the SCYSP budget, and report on the sources and uses of funds. CommUnify will also hire, employ, and supervise a Program Coordinator who will work with the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria, the Probation Department, community-based organizations, local youth interest groups, and school districts to implement a comprehensive plan to address the root causes of youth violence and gang affiliation. The Program Coordinator will also implement an evaluation tool to accurately measure the effectiveness of the plan in south county.

The development of this Agreement was delayed due to the transition of the responsibility within the County, budgeting delays from CommUnify, and the need for additional development and discussion of performance measures with the cities. The cities agree with the performance measures included in the Agreement.

Background:

The SCYSP was established after the fatal stabbing of 15-year-old Luis Angel Linares on State Street in Santa Barbara on March 14, 2007. The incident was determined to be gang-related. The Strategy Planning Committee on Youth Violence was established in January 2008, in response to Santa Barbara City Council's direction to improve communication and coordination with other government agencies and non-profit organizations that are engaged with providing services and programming to local at-risk youth. In March of 2009, the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs (now known as the SCYSP) was formed based upon a recommendation of the Strategy Planning Committee on Youth Violence. In 2009, the Board of Supervisors appointed Supervisors Carbajal and Wolf as the County representatives to the SCYSP and authorized the CEO to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for 2010 that outlined the County's and cities' roles as sponsors of the SCYSP. MOUs subsequent to 2010 were executed, and SCYSP updates were provided by the Community Action Commission (CommUnify) to the Board in 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2017.

The SCYSP's mission has been to reduce gang violence and reduce the number of youth who are active participants in gangs in south county. The SCYSP's teams include a Policy Team comprised of leaders and executives from partner agencies and the community. There is also a Strategy Team that includes selected leaders involved in the review of the SCYSP's strategic plan and its success in implementing strategies to achieve outlined goals. There is also a Service Provider Network which involves "boots on the ground" representatives from local youth serving organizations sharing services to build a collaborative network of youth service providers. Together, they work to understand the current state of youth violence in south county, available organizations to provide services to youth, and interventions to prevent youth violence collectively, rather than siloed approaches. To support the SCYSP's mission while unifying the work of the three SCYSP teams, the teams agreed to focus on one evidence-based strategy to address the root causes of youth violence and gang association. Educational workshops will also be facilitated to support this strategy for all agencies participating in the SCYSP and well as additional support to aid these agencies in ensuring

they are taking a youth-centered approach in their work.

The work of the SCYSP is set forth in its Guiding Principles and Vision Statement which is part of the Agreement between the Probation Department and CommUnify. While CommUnify coordinates efforts to reduce gang violence, SCYSP teams are collectively responsible for:

- Providing services to youth actively involved in gangs or those identified as potential participants in gangs and gang-related activities;
- Advocating for a case worker who works with youth involved in gangs to be placed in every school;
- Working with the community to obtain resources to address unmet needs that may contribute to youth's involvement in gangs;
- Establishing a mechanism for early identification of youth who may be susceptible to gang involvement; and
- Reducing gang violence through coordinating with service providers on gang violence prevention, intervention, and suppression services.

Performance Measures:

The City of Santa Barbara has taken the lead in communicating the performance measures outlined in the Agreement with the other cities. There is an agreement between them that their deliverables will match those included in this Agreement. Performance outcomes to be measured and evaluated during the duration of this Agreement include that the SCYSP Coordinator will participate in the implementation of a comprehensive plan to identify the root causes of youth violence and gang affiliation. This will include working with the Policy, Strategy and Network Provider teams to identify one evidence-based strategy to address the root causes. The Coordinator is then tasked with bringing identified youth and family serving partners to a retreat to introduce the strategy and how it can apply to their work. The Coordinator will also support at least one educational workshop to provide further in-depth training on the strategy, outlining how each participating agency can implement the strategy. Lastly, the Coordinator will create a document or database for participating agencies to share their implementation practices of the strategy, and they will design a pre- and post-survey for agencies to gauge the effectiveness in implementation based on feedback from their targeted audience. After this, the Coordinator will prepare a written report to be provided to the Strategy and Policy teams identifying the partner agencies, strategies chosen, barriers to implementation noted, and opportunities for additional training for participating agencies

Contract Renewals:

The County entered into an agreement with CommUnify for services related to the SCYSP for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. CommUnify was to develop and coordinate regional strategies to reduce youth gang violence. A first amendment to the FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 Agreement was executed on May 7, 2024, which extended the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2024 to include FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24. On August 20, 2024, the Board approved a second amendment, which extended the contract term through August 31, 2024. The second amendment was approved with the understanding that the Probation Department would take over the administration of the Agreement with CommUnify for services related to the SCYSP, as the mission of SCYSP and its ongoing work fit well into the continuum of collaborative partnerships prioritized by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and the Probation Department.

Probation now seeks to enter into a new Agreement with CommUnify for FY 2024-26. This Agreement is funded through the JJCPA Grant, which is governed by specific statutory requirements. Noncompliance with these requirements could result in audit findings. To mitigate this risk, the Probation Department's Fiscal Unit conducts ongoing oversight by reviewing monthly invoices and supporting documentation to ensure full compliance with grant requirements.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2024-25 Cost	FY 2025-26 Cost	Total Contract Cost
General Fund			
State	\$43,285.00	\$51,933.00	\$95,218.00
Federal			
Fees			
Total	\$43,285.00	\$51,933.00	\$95,218.00

The attached two-year Agreement is for services provided by CommUnify to advance the SCYSP's objectives to reduce youth gang violence in south county. The total contract amount is funded by JJCPA Grant funds, which includes \$43,285 for FY 2024-25 and \$51,933 for FY 2025-26, with the total contract amount not to exceed \$95,218. Funds for first year of this Agreement were included in the Probation Department's FY 2024-25 adopted budget, and funds for the second year of the Agreement are included in the Probation Department's FY 2025-26 adopted budget.

Staffing Impacts:

There are no staffing impacts.

Special Instructions:

Please return two (2) Agreements and retain one (1) Agreement, and one (1) Minute Order to:

Probation Department

Attn: Fiscal Services Unit

117 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara CA 93101

Attachments:

Attachment A – Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, doing business as CommUnify

Authored by:

Erin Cross

Probation Manager

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