



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: October 20, 2015
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Guadalupe Rabago, Chief Probation Officer 805.739.8603
Director(s) Bill Brown, Sheriff - Coroner 805.681.4290
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SUBJECT: Transition from Jail to Community Technical Assistance Grant Exit Memo

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: None

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file the Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) Technical Assistance Grant Exit Memo.
- B. Determine that the acceptance of the TJC Technical Assistance Grant Exit Memo is not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the action is not a project as it is the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment, and direct staff to file the Notice of Exemption.

Summary Text:

The TJC Initiative seeks to improve public safety and enhance the success of individuals returning to the community from local jails through effective jail-community partnerships that utilize an innovative, evidence-based transition model developed by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the Urban Institute. In acknowledging the necessity to modify the system of services and interventions in order to respond to the needs of the Realignment population, in November 2012 Santa Barbara County applied

for the technical assistance afforded by the TJC Initiative. In this TJC application cohort, Santa Barbara County was one of only two California counties selected, which brought the number of TJC learning site communities to a total of 14. As a learning site, the County received multi-year technical assistance to implement the TJC model and developed a jail transition strategy responsive to local resources and established priorities.

At the conclusion of the technical assistance period, which occurred on June 30, 2015, the Urban Institute/NIC TJC team prepared an exit memo (Attachment A) to summarize Santa Barbara County's accomplishments in implementing its version of the TJC jail-to-community transition model since being selected as a TJC learning site. While acknowledging the tremendous strides made in the local collaborative reentry effort, the exit memo also presents key next steps that Santa Barbara County should undertake in order to solidify the progress made to date and to continue to address remaining gaps in the jail transition process.

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) has tasked the Reentry Steering Committee (RSC) with enacting the associated recommendations and next steps; thus, strengthening the ability to improve reintegration outcomes and, in turn, enhancing public safety in Santa Barbara County.

Background:

In December 2012, the County of Santa Barbara became one of two California counties chosen to receive two years of technical assistance through the Urban Institute and the NIC to facilitate a comprehensive approach referred to as TJC. The focus was to be directed towards the unique challenges that resulted from the implementation of Assembly Bill 109. The TJC Project, which was collaboratively launched by the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO) and the Probation Department, received the endorsement of the CCP.

An oversight committee was established for the TJC Project and included representatives from the SBSO, Probation Department, the Offices of the Public Defender and District Attorney, and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, as well as a community based provider representative. Technical assistance and project evaluation components included the Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP), Jail Data System Management, Pre Trial Services, the Quality Assurance Committee, and the Discharge Planning Team.

The aforementioned technical assistance portion of the project is now complete and the recommendations received are outlined in the exit memo from the Urban Institute/NIC. Among the recommended next steps to further strengthen Santa Barbara County's jail re-entry work is that TJC core team members continue to collaborate and meet regularly in order to realize common goals of implementing, formalizing, and improving comprehensive transition efforts from the jail to the community. The CCP is in agreement with members of the TJC core team and the RSC, who believe that the composition and mission of the RSC is aligned with focus of the TJC project and that addressing TJC at RSC meetings would be an appropriate function for the RSC. The RSC will ensure that this important work continues and will develop recommendations and provide regular updates to the CCP. Any policy decisions regarding interagency collaboration will also be presented to the CCP for direction.

It is also noted that to further strengthen the Jail's move to evidence based practices, in May 2015 the SBSO submitted a request (Attachment B) to the NIC for assistance in the development of training curriculum for jail custody staff. The request was approved and the effort it is in the planning phase.

Fiscal Analysis:

The current efforts are related to collaboration and coordination; thus, there are no fiscal implications at this time. As more specific action items are developed there may be recommendations that need to be returned to the Board for consideration and resource planning.

Special Instructions:

None

Attachments:

Attachment A: Transition from Jail to Community Technical Assistance Grant Exit Memo

Attachment B: SBSO Request for Technical Assistance

Attachment C: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

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cc:

District Attorney Joyce Dudley

Public Defender Raimundo Montes De Oca