



**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: June 23, 2026
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: Maria Story, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
SUBJECT: Agreements with Community Action Commission dba CommUnify (FY) 2026-2027,
and with the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (FY) 2026-2028.

Signed by:
Holly L. Benton
E9E915B6A3614F4...

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

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 (“Agreement”) with the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA, a local vendor) to provide preventative diversion services as the provider for the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program to youth, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028, with a total contract amount not to exceed \$518,158.00; and
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County, dba CommUnify, to provide services related to the South Coast Youth Safety Partnership (SCYSP) from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, for a total contract amount not to exceed amount of \$50,913.00; and
- c) Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or designee to approve subsequent changes to the agreements including authorizing additional services, amending program staffing requirements, amending service locations, and adding programs goals, outcomes, and measures, and reallocation of funds between funding sources. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or designee to approve line-item budget changes to Attachment B-1 of the Agreements in an amount not to exceed 10% of the stated line-item budgeted amounts for each service. Changes can be made as long as the total contract amount of the Agreement is not increased, and subject to the Board’s ability to rescind this delegated authority at any

time, and provided that in no event shall any such amendment extend the term of the agreement; and

- d) Determine that the above actions are government fiscal activities of funding mechanisms which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and are therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA guidelines.

Summary Text:

This item comes before your Board for approval of two agreements funded through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA). The first agreement is with the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA) and is designed to divert low-risk, first-time youthful offenders from formal processing in the juvenile justice system through a structured diversion program. This Agreement begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2028 with the total contract maximum not to exceed \$518,158.00. The second agreement is with Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County dba CommUnify (CommUnify) and supports youth safety on the South Coast, in partnership with the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria, by providing education, training, and support to youth-serving organizations to adopt a positive youth development framework. This Agreement begins on July 1, 2026, and ends on June 30, 2027, with the total contact amount not to exceed \$50,913.00.

CADA, through this Agreement, will provide diversion services to youth who are at low risk of reoffending, are first-time offenders, and have committed infractions or low-level misdemeanor offenses. The program includes an assessment of the youth's and family's needs, case management, and referrals to appropriate services, typically completed within three months.

South County Youth Safety Partnership (SCYSP) has evolved in recent years in its approach to promote youth safety in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, and Goleta. The program now focuses on educating, training, and supporting local youth-serving organizations in applying a positive youth development lens in their work. This approach aims to strengthen youth engagement and reduce involvement in formal justice systems.

Discussion:

Execution of the CADA Agreement provides preventive diversion services through the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program for low-level, low-risk youth. Participants undergo an initial screening to assess service needs and are assigned to one of three regional case managers serving Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria.

Services may include Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), substance use treatment, Seeking Safety, Motivational Interviewing, Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT), and mental health counseling or referrals as appropriate. Additional support includes Girls Circle groups, Boys Council groups, restorative practices, and educational classes focused on healthy relationships, substance use education, stress management, and coping skills. Youth may also receive academic support services such as tutoring, mentoring, and participation in community-based after-school programs.

Measuring recidivism for one year after successful completion of the YES program indicated for those who completed the program in FY 2023-24, only 5% had a matter adjudicated in juvenile court within that year, reflecting the positive impact of this program.

Execution of the CommUnify agreement for services related to the SCYSP allows for continued collaboration with the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, and Carpinteria to support youth safety and reduce violence. This is accomplished through education, training, and support for local youth-serving organizations to adopt a positive youth development framework.

CommUnify will serve as the fiscal agent for SCYSP, responsible for developing and administering the program budget and reporting on the sources and uses of funds. Additionally, CommUnify will employ a Program Coordinator who will collaborate with the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, and Carpinteria, the Probation Department, community-based organizations, youth groups, and school districts. The Program Coordinator will lead local youth serving organization in addressing the root causes of youth violence and gang involvement by supporting and monitoring their use of a positive youth development lens in their work with youth. They will also create and facilitate Youth Councils in each city to provide youth voice as a reference source to guide each organization in the implementation of their youth centered work to address violence and gang activity, focusing on a prevention lens.

Background:

The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program was originally funded through a grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to provide diversion services to low-level, low-risk youth, ensuring they were redirected from formal processing in the juvenile justice system. In 2024, the Probation Department continued funding the program through the JJCPA.

The JJCPA, enacted in 2000 through Assembly Bill 1913 and codified in Government Code Section 30061, provides counties with a stable funding source for local programs aimed at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. The Act mandates the establishment of a local Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), a multidisciplinary body responsible for identifying local needs, supporting program development, and setting budget priorities. It also requires the development of a Comprehensive Multiagency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP), which is updated annually and submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), the state agency overseeing JJCPA implementation.

The SCYSP was established following the gang-related fatal stabbing of 15-year-old Luis Angel Linares on State Street in Santa Barbara on March 14, 2007. In response, the Santa Barbara City Council directed efforts to improve coordination among government agencies and nonprofit organizations serving at-risk youth. This led to the formation of the Strategy Planning Committee on Youth Violence in January 2008 and, subsequently, the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs (now known as SCYSP) in March 2009.

In 2009, the Board of Supervisors appointed Supervisors Carbajal and Wolf as County representatives to the SCYSP and authorized the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining the County's and participating cities' roles. Subsequent MOUs have been executed since 2010, and updates were provided to the Board by CommUnify in 2012, 2013, 2016, and 2017. More recently, the Probation Department entered into a contract with CommUnify for services related to SCYSP for the period of September 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026, funded through JJCPA.

The mission of the SCYSP is to reduce gang violence and decrease youth participation in gangs in South County. The partnership operates through three coordinated teams: a Policy Team composed of agency and community leaders; a Strategy Team responsible for guiding and assessing the implementation of the strategic plan; and a Service Provider Network consisting of frontline representatives from youth-serving organizations. Together, these groups collaborate to assess trends in youth violence, identify available services, and implement coordinated prevention and intervention strategies, avoiding fragmented or siloed approaches.

To strengthen alignment across all teams, SCYSP has committed to positive youth development, a shared evidence-based strategy focused on addressing the root causes of youth violence and gang involvement. This includes facilitating educational workshops for participating agencies and providing ongoing support to ensure a youth-centered, positive development approach is embedded in service delivery.

Performance Measure:

Both Agreements contain standardized and program-specific performance measures. These measures enable the Probation Department to better assess individual program effectiveness. The Probation Department utilizes a Department Business Specialist (DBS) who provides periodic quality assurance reviews of each agreement which include observations of facilitation of services, programs, treatment interventions, and curriculums, as well as review of monthly invoices that include information on service delivery and youth response to it.

While performance measures for CADA services have remained largely consistent in Agreements in prior years, additional data collection efforts will be implemented this year to strengthen evaluation capacity and support the future development of more outcome-focused performance measures. The performance measures emphasize timely outreach to referred youth, high enrollment and program completion rates, and reduced recidivism following participation. They also require CADA to submit comprehensive quarterly reports detailing participant needs, services provided, participant satisfaction, and overall program outcomes. This information will help evaluate program effectiveness, identify service gaps, and support continuous improvement efforts.

CommUnify's performance measures for prior Agreements were centered around strategizing, planning, and capacity building. The performance measures in the Agreement for services this year are more action based with the goal of assembling quantifiable data. CommUnify will establish diverse Youth Councils in each city and facilitate regular meetings to identify emerging trends and develop youth-led strategies aimed at reducing violence and gang involvement. These efforts will culminate in the development and presentation of three youth-driven strategies at a Youth Summit.

By May 1, 2027, CommUnify will submit a report summarizing survey results from participating agencies that have implemented Positive Youth Development (PYD) approaches. The report will include participation data and youth-reported outcomes related to safety and belonging.

By May 15, 2027, CommUnify will submit a final report detailing agency adoption of PYD strategies, identifying any remaining training and technical assistance needs, and summarizing the actionable items developed and implemented by the Youth Councils.

Contract Renewals:

The Probation Department has contracted with CADA for the YES program since 2019 with the most recent contract for FY 2024-2026. The Probation Department had an agreement with CommUnify for this service from September 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026. Outcomes were reviewed for CADA for fiscal year FY 24-25, noting while data exists for the first three quarters of FY 25-26, it is incomplete and does not provide a full overview of all performance measures. Historically, CADA's YES program has met all performance measures aside from timely initial contact, which has been largely due to difficulties securing the correct contact information for youth. As such, in the FY 2024-26 Agreement, the time for initial contact time allocated was extended. Although the time extension contributed to an increase in timely contact success, the measure fell just short of the goal in FY 24-25, however, through the first three quarters of FY 25-26 CADA met all performance measures and are meeting the goals.

The Probation Department has contracted with CommUnify for services related to SCYSP since 2024. CommUnify’s performance measures in FY 25-26 - which are still in progress - are more aligned with planning and capacity building. Under this Agreement, performance measures will seek to evaluate how well participating agencies and youth-led initiatives contribute to improved youth perceptions of safety, belonging, and community connectedness while identifying barriers, training needs, and actionable strategies for ongoing system improvement and violence prevention efforts.

As noted above, these Agreements are funded through JJCPA, which is governed by specific statutory requirements. Noncompliance with these requirements could result in audit findings. To mitigate this risk, the Agreements with CADA and CommUnify incorporate these statutory obligations within the Scope of Work and Payment Agreement sections. Additionally, 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:

The proposed services will be funded through the JJCPA grant. Sufficient appropriations to ensure financial coverage for the implementation of these initiatives will be incorporated into the department’s FY 2026-2027 requested budget, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, funding for FY 2027-28 will be included through the department’s FY 2027-2028 requested budget for CADA. These initiatives will be fully grant-funded, with no additional impact on the General Fund.

The Cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta are sharing the cost of the CommUnify Agreement, and the cost sharing ratios remain consistent with the prior MOU. The City of Carpinteria has not yet agreed to renewing their commitment; however, CommUnify is prepared to assume financial responsibility for that portion of the Agreement should the City of Carpinteria not renew.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2026-27 Cost	FY 2027-28 Cost	Total Contracts Cost
General Fund			
State	\$303,767	\$265,304	\$569,071
Federal			
Fees			
[Other Source]			
Total	\$303,767	\$265,304	\$569,071

The attached two (2) Agreements provide an array of services designed to support youth participating in the Probation Department’s juvenile programs. The Agreements are financed by State funding sources, comprised of \$303,767.00 from JJCPA for FY 2026-2027. The total not-to-exceed amount for both contracts across the two fiscal years is \$569,071.00. Funds for the FY 2026-2027 portion of the Agreements have been accounted for in the Probation Department’s FY 2026-2027 proposed budget. The remaining funds for FY 2027-2028 portion of the Agreement (\$265,304.00) will be included in the Probation Department’s proposed budget for FY 2027-2028, ensuring continuity of services and fiscal responsibility.

Staffing Impacts:

Not applicable

Special Instructions:

Please return one (1) fully signed original of each of the two (2) Agreements and one (1) Minute Order to:

Probation Department
Attn: Fiscal Services Unit
117 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara CA 93101

Attachments:

Attachment A – Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, FY 2026-2028 Agreement

Attachment B – Community Action Commission dba CommUnify, FY 2026-2027 Agreement

Contact Information:

Erin Cross
Probation Manager
ecross@countyofsb.org