




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 24, 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: Erin Cross, Probation Manager
SUBJECT: Agreements with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026,
and with Community Solutions Inc. for FY 2025-2027

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 Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV, a local vendor) to provide a program of targeted interventions for youth in the Santa Maria area, Cannabis Education classes and related services to youth with a qualifying citation in the Santa Barbara, Lompoc, and Santa Maria regions, conflict mediation services utilizing a restorative approach at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), Restorative Justice Mediation services to youth in Lompoc, Santa Maria, Buellton, Santa Ynez, Orcutt, and Guadalupe, and re-entry services to youth housed at the JJC, with a total contract amount not to exceed \$914,317, from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026;
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor ("Agreement") with Community Solutions Inc., (CSI) to develop, implement and provide age-appropriate education, programming, recreational activities, educational support and assistance, and other services to youth detained in the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), with a total contract amount not to exceed \$252,849, from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027;
- 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 Agreement

in an amount not to exceed 10% of the stated line-item budgeted amounts for each service. Immaterial 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 is before your Board to approve two agreements designed to provide a variety of programs and services to youth involved in the juvenile justice system from diversion through reentry.

Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley's (FBSMV's) Cannabis Education Program and Restorative Justice Program reduce the number of youth who are formally processed through the juvenile justice system, and provide statutorily required cannabis education responses for low level offenses. For youth that proceed through the system, FBSMV offers the Targeted Interventions Program to help youth succeed in school, obtain employment, and engage in pro-social activities. For youth detained in the JJC, FBSMV provides conflict mediation and conflict resolution skill building, as well as preparation for reentry into the community, and services in the community upon release that further support their success.

CSI provides services to positively occupy youth's time at the JJC through the introduction of age-appropriate education, programming, recreational activities, educational support and assistance, and other services, all of which aid in youths' reentry success.

Discussion:

Execution of the FBSMV Agreement will provide targeted interventions to youth under probation supervision in Santa Maria. Services include school-based mentoring and support, employment readiness and coaching skills, and guiding youth in advocating for their needs to be met in the school setting. The Agreement also provides for Cannabis Education classes, paired with assigning and ensuring the completion of community service for youth cited for qualifying cannabis offenses in the county. The latter also includes case management to support youth in completing education courses and community services requirements. The FBSMV Agreement is a renewal, with the prior agreement offering restorative justice services to youth as a diversionary option. Youth eligible for diversion have been offered an opportunity to explore the harm caused by their actions, accept responsibility, and work to make the victim whole. This renewal Agreement expands this service to youth not just as pre-filing diversion, but after a petition has been filed in Juvenile Court. This potentially allows for youth to complete this intervention in lieu of being placed on probation and also provides an intervention for those already on probation, to avoid drawing youth further into the juvenile justice system.

The Agreement with FBSMV also provides Conflict Mediation at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), a near immediate response to youth experiencing conflict that deescalates the situation and provides restorative justice tools to repair harm caused. This program also offers proactive services to help youth build conflict resolution skills when not in imminent conflict to minimize the number of future conflicts that may arise while increasing coping skills. Finally, the FBSMV Agreement also provides services to youth detained at the JJC, whether for a short period of time, or for long commitments to the PEAK (Perseverance, Accountability, Equity and Knowledge) program. FBSMV facilitates

assessments and programming while youth are at the JJC to prepare them for release, and continues to provide services and linkages upon their release.

CSI provides age-appropriate services, including education, programming, recreational prosocial activities, and educational support, to youth at the JJC. Positive adult and peer engagement with youth in detention facilities is important and can serve to minimize behavioral disruptions, youth isolation, and safety concerns for youth and staff alike. This agreement, will engage youth to reduce conflict and to positively redirect their attention. CSI works with the Probation Department staff to plan positive, pro-social group and individual activities.

Background:

In 2007, the Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) program, also referred to as Juvenile Realignment, was established under Senate Bill (SB) 81 and provided counties funding to supervise local youth released from the State Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), a population that was new to county probation departments. YOBG supports the concept that public safety is enhanced by keeping youth close to their families and communities. In recognition of the increased county responsibility for supervising and rehabilitating these youth, the State provides annual funding through the YOBG program. The State Department of Finance calculates each county's allocation amount annually using its own demographic information for the juvenile population and State Department of Justice data for juvenile felony dispositions. As provided by statute, allocation from the YOBG fund may be used to enhance the capacity of county probation and to deliver appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services to youth.

In 2020, Senate Bill (SB) 823 established Section 1995 of the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), which required each county to create a subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC,) locally operated as the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS), in order to receive Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) funding. JJRBG was established for the purpose of providing county-based care, custody and supervision of youth who were realigned from the state DJJ, or who were otherwise eligible for commitment to DJJ prior to its closure. Programs funded by JJRBG may include rehabilitative treatment services, housing, and community supervision and supports.

The contract for FBSMV involves the use of both of these funding sources described above. The contract for CSI utilizes YOBG funding.

Performance Measures:

The FBSMV and CSI Agreements contain both 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, including 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. Information on each program's performance measures are outlined below:

FBSMV Agreement

As written, many of the performance measures define successful completion of the program as attending a minimum number of sessions in addition to completing a post-test. In the FY 2024-25, and FY 2023-25 contract cycles, the expansion of Conflict Mediation necessitated enhanced performance measures. As such, a satisfaction survey measure has been added to Conflict Mediation for FY 2025-26. Additionally, the introduction of Restorative Justice and Reentry Services resulted in the addition of performance measures designed to capture youth participation as well as goal attainment towards reentry and restorative action plans. Data pertaining to performance outcomes

has been provided for the first three quarters of FY 2024-2025 for FBSMV's Targeted Interventions, Cannabis Education, and Conflict Mediation, Reentry Services, and Restorative Justice. At this time FBSMV is meeting or exceeding the majority of their performance measures.

- Cannabis Education historically has met all performance measures, but since FY 2023-2024 has seen a decline in the perception of harm post-test scoring. The Probation Department is working with FBSMV to identify if there may be a better time to administer the post-test or if there are specific questions of interest that the scoring should be more targeted towards.
- Targeted Interventions has had mixed success, with improvement seen in grade point averages and credits earned across all years, but program completions have been challenging with the high-needs population referred. FY 2024-2025 data for Targeted Interventions is currently showing more successful completions than in prior years.
- Conflict Mediation had a temporary dip in two of its measures regarding the speed of service delivery due to a change in staffing, which is anticipated to resolve by the end of the fiscal year and places FBSMV on target to meet all performance measures. Additionally, for Conflict Mediation, the satisfaction survey measure will be modified slightly to begin gathering youth input on the types of activities they feel are most beneficial to decreasing conflict and strengthening bonds.
- Reentry Services and Restorative Justice are in their first year of operation. Current data is encouraging and FBSMV appears to be on target for all performance measures. Because full data set does not yet exist, there will be no significant changes to these performance measures at this time.
- The timelines for completion of Restorative Justice stages will be modified slightly due to changes in program delivery that emerged once the program was underway.

CSI Agreement

Outcomes were reviewed for fiscal year FY 2023-2024. Data has been provided for the first three quarters of FY 2024-2025. For FY 2023-2024, CSI met two of their three performance outcomes and concentrated on facilitating group activities to maximize the number of youth served. Group activities were regularly scheduled, and often exceeding three activities per week. CSI provided services approximately 7.5 hours per day, decreasing the amount of time youth stay idle.

Notably, significant position vacancies affected CSI's ability to deliver services, meet all measures, and evaluate services during FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025. As such, the Agreement has been modified this year to base performance measures off of one full-time employee. Additionally, the minimum number of operating hours has been adjusted to allow for weekends and holidays which should help in reaching the targeted goal in the next contract cycle. The addition of a part-time Youth Specialist Supervisor in the Agreement is intended to reinforce CSI's ability to meet all performance measures for FY 2025-2027 and provide more meaningful targeted engagement to the youth.

Child Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)

To support programs in meeting outcome measures in the upcoming fiscal years, the Probation Department is committed to holding CFTMs for all youth identified as at risk of out-of-home placement, moving toward implementing these meetings at periodic intervals. These meetings allow for an opportunity to establish a support network to include these identified programs as part of the youth and family's team. CFTMs will support increased enrollment, participation, and completion of these programs, moving toward higher outcome measures.

Contract Renewals:

The FBSMV FY 2025-2026 and CSI FY 2025-2027 Agreements are renewals. The Probation Department had similar agreements with FBSMV for the last six years for Cannabis Education, five

years for Targeted Interventions, two years for Conflict Mediation, and this will be the first renewal for Reentry Services and Restorative Justice. Community Solutions Incorporated (CSI) began providing youth services for the Probation Department on February 1, 2020, making this the fourth contract renewal.

As noted above, these Agreements are funded through the YOBG and JJRBG juvenile grants, which are governed by specific statutory requirements. Noncompliance with these requirements could result in audit findings. To mitigate this risk, the Agreements with FBSMV and CSI 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 YOBG and JJRBG grants. Sufficient appropriations to ensure financial coverage for the implementation of these initiatives will be incorporated into the department's FY 2025-26 requested budget, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, funding for FY 2026-27 will be included through the department's FY 2026-27 requested budget. These initiatives will be fully grant-funded, with no additional impact on the General Fund.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-26 Cost	FY 2026-27 Cost	Total Contracts Cost
General Fund			
State	\$1,039,235.00	\$127,931.00	\$1,167,166.00
Federal			
Fees			
Total	\$1,039,235.00	\$127,931.00	\$1,167,166.00

The attached two 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 \$923,112 from YOBG and \$116,123 from JJRBG, totaling \$1,039,235 for FY 2025-26, and an additional \$127,931 from YOBG for FY 2026-27. The total not-to-exceed amount for both contracts across the two fiscal years is \$1,167,166. Funds for the FY 2025-26 portion of the Agreements have been accounted for in the Probation Department's FY 2025-26 proposed budget. The remaining funds for FY 2026-27 portion of the Agreement will be included in the Probation Department's proposed budget for FY 2026-27, ensuring continuity of services and fiscal responsibility.

Special Instructions:

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

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

Attachments:

Attachment A – Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley, FY 2025-2026 Agreement

Attachment B – Community Solutions Inc., FY 2025-2027 Agreement

Contact Information:

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Probation Manager
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