



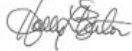
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

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 9, 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: Karyn Milligan, Probation Manager
SUBJECT: Authorize Chief Probation Officer to Execute License Agreement

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 Chief Probation Officer to execute a license agreement for publishing with Wiley Periodicals LLC for publication of *Implementation of Youth Empowerment Services (YES) juvenile justice diversion program: A first-person account* in the American Journal of Community Psychology. The license agreement for publishing provides for open access publication under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) license.
- b) Determine that this activity is 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 exemption 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 your Board to approve and authorize the Chief Probation Officer to execute a license agreement for publishing ("agreement") with Wiley Periodicals LLC for publication of *Implementation of Youth Empowerment Services (YES) juvenile justice diversion program: A first-person account* ("article") in the American Journal of Community Psychology.

The article will be published as Open Access under the Creative Commons Attribution–Non Commercial–No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) license, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium.

Under the agreement, Wiley Periodicals LLC will publish and distribute the article in multiple formats and media, while the County retains the ability to use the work for non-commercial governmental, educational, and training purposes. Publication of the article will provide peer-reviewed, global dissemination of the County’s work related to the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) diversion program.

Discussion:

Approval and authorization of the Chief Probation Officer to execute this license agreement for publishing will allow the County to publish the article and disseminate findings of the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) diversion program in a peer-reviewed academic journal. The article provides a first-person account of the development, implementation, and outcomes of a structured juvenile diversion model designed to reduce formal system involvement for youth charged with low-level offenses.

The article describes how the YES program formalized pre-adjudication diversion to youth ages 12 to 17. Through eligibility criteria, standardized referrals, and coordinated service delivery, the program provided youth and families with voluntary access to community-based interventions without requiring probation supervision. Services included mental health support, substance use treatment, and family-based programming, delivered in partnership with a community-based provider.

The article highlights the County’s collaborative approach involving the Probation Department, the Santa Barbara Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA), and University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) researchers. It also reflects program adaptations over time, including operational changes during the COVID-19 pandemic and refinements based on ongoing evaluation and stakeholder feedback. The program demonstrated low rates of subsequent justice system involvement among participants and has continued beyond the initial grant period through sustained partnerships.

Publication will benefit the County by demonstrating leadership in evidence-informed juvenile justice reform and showcasing a replicable diversion model. Open Access publication ensures broad dissemination to practitioners, policymakers, and researchers, supporting knowledge sharing and potential replication in other jurisdictions.

Wiley Periodicals LLC was selected as the publisher due to its strong reputation in academic publishing and its role in producing the American Journal of Community Psychology, which aligns with the article’s focus on community-based interventions and applied research in juvenile justice.

All co-authors, including the County through County staff, community-based partners, and academic collaborators, contributed to the development, implementation, and documentation of the program and have agreed to the terms of publication. The agreement requires author accountability, transparency in reporting, and compliance with ethical publishing standards.

Under the agreement, the County retains the ability to use the work for non-commercial governmental, educational, and training purposes, while the publisher receives rights to publish and distribute the article under an Open Access model. Overall, publication supports the County’s goals of advancing diversion strategies, improving outcomes for youth and families, and contributing to broader system reform efforts.

Background:

The County's involvement in this article originated from its ongoing efforts to strengthen juvenile justice diversion and reduce formal system involvement for youth with low-level offenses. In 2017, the Probation Department conducted an internal data review that identified a group of youth on probation whose needs could be more effectively addressed through community-based services rather than formal supervision. This analysis prompted a shift toward expanding and formalizing diversion as a primary intervention strategy for eligible youth.

Building on this work, the County successfully secured funding from the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to implement the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program. The YES program was designed as a structured pre-adjudication diversion model for youth ages 12–17, providing voluntary access to behavioral health, substance use, and family support services while minimizing contact with the juvenile justice system.

The County has an established research partnership with the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), which supported program development, implementation, and evaluation of YES. This partnership included Dr. Sharkey and her research team, who contributed expertise in juvenile justice systems, program evaluation, and data analysis. The collaboration ensured that program implementation was informed by evidence-based practices and continuous quality improvement.

The article was developed to document the implementation of the YES program, support evaluation requirements associated with grant funding, and contribute to the broader field of juvenile justice diversion. While diversion programs are widely used, there is limited implementation-focused literature describing how these models are operationalized within specific county systems and diverse community contexts. This publication provides an opportunity to share lessons learned and inform other jurisdictions.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval of this item authorizes the County to enter into a publishing and licensing agreement with Wiley Periodicals LLC for the article *Implementation of Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Juvenile Justice Diversion Program: A First-Person Account* in the American Journal of Community Psychology.

Under the terms of the agreement, the publisher is granted an exclusive license to publish, distribute, and commercially produce the article. This includes the right to reproduce, license, sublicense, and distribute the final published version in all formats and media, including use in databases and other licensed platforms.

While the publisher retains these rights, the article will be published under an Open Access model using a Creative Commons Attribution–Non Commercial–No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) license. This allows the article to be freely available to the public at no cost and to be accessed and shared with proper attribution, provided it is not modified or used for commercial purposes.

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. The Article Processing Charge (APC) required for Open Access publication has been covered by the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), and no costs will be incurred by the County.

There is no direct revenue generated for the County from publication of the article. However, the agreement provides indirect benefits, including increased visibility of County programs, dissemination of best practices, and potential support for future grant funding and program development.

Special Instructions:

Please scan and electronically submit a fully signed copy of the Agreement to:

Probation Department

Attn: Fiscal Services Unit

ProbationFiscal@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – AJCP License Agreement.

Attachment B- American J of Comm Psychol - 2026 - Implementation of Youth Empowerment Services YES Juvenile Justice Diversion.

Contact Information:

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Probation Manager

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