



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: June 4, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer,
Director(s) (805)803-8537
Contact Info: Melinda Barrera, Deputy Chief Probation Officer,
(805)882-3715

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Combined Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file the County of Santa Barbara FY 2024-2025 Combined Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP); and
- B. Determine that the above recommended actions are 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 significant effects on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

This item is before your Board to receive the Santa Barbara County FY 2024-2025 Combined CMJJP and JJRP ("Combined Plan"). The Combined Plan (Attachment A) was developed and approved by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and its Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS).

The Combined Plan addresses the required elements of both the CMJJP and JJRP, and highlights the continuum of community prevention and intervention services to youth in the county, as well as the strategies to support success for justice-involved youth, from prevention and intervention to supervision, long-term custody, and reentry. It details the strong collaborations and partnerships among County of Santa Barbara youth-serving community-based organizations and school districts, as well as the Probation Department and other County agencies. The ultimate goal of the JJCC and its JJRS is to prioritize prevention, intervention, positive youth development, treatment, and support services for at-risk and justice-involved youth, with the goal of improving outcomes for youth and families, and reducing juvenile crime rates.

Background:

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), which was enacted in 2000 as Assembly Bill (AB) 1913 and codified in Government Code Section 30061, provides counties with a reliable funding source for local programs and services aimed at reducing juvenile crime and delinquency. It mandates a local JJCC whose multidisciplinary membership collaborates on identifying local needs, supports the development of relevant programs, and considers budget priorities. Additionally, it requires the development of a CMJJP, which is updated annually and submitted to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), the State agency that oversees the JJCPA.

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 new to county probation departments. In addition, YOBG funding was utilized to provide services that would divert youth from potential commitments to DJJ. In 2016, SB 81 was amended to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, drug and alcohol, and other county departments to provide appropriate rehabilitative services to youthful offenders. Within these guidelines, counties were expected to tailor YOBG-funded programs to meet local needs.

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 JJCC, locally operated as the 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.

Beginning in FY 2021-2022, each county's JJRS was required to create a plan, locally referred to as the Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP), detailing how JJRBG funds would be spent and how local departments were going to serve realigned youth. The JJRP describes the facilities, programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies currently in place, and those planned to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for the realigned youth. In 2023, Section 1995 of the WIC was amended to require the JJRP be updated and submitted to the State Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) annually. Section 1995 further specifies that in making allocations, the Board of Supervisors shall consider the plan. Santa Barbara County's FY 2024-2025 estimated allocation is \$1,037,000 and is included in the Department's FY 2024-2025 proposed budget.

In FY 2023-2024, the Probation Department combined the CMJJP and JJRP into one governing document in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the continuum of services and strategies to assist youth in Santa Barbara County. The FY 2024-2025 CMJJP was approved by the JJCC on April 5, 2024 and submitted to the BSCC as required by statute on April 30, 2024. The FY 2024-2025 JJRP was approved by the JJRS on April 5, 2024, and the Plan was provided to the OYCR as required by statute on April 30, 2024.

As described in the Combined Plan, the JJCC has set four overarching goals for its CMJJP, which are: maintain public safety by reducing recidivism; enhance the use of diversion opportunities for appropriate youth; coordinate efforts and improve system collaboration to support connection of youth and families to the community; and support a systemic approach to studying and addressing disparities in the juvenile justice system, including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. To meet these goals, the JJCC and JJRS outline a full slate of objectives each year, and describe progress toward these objectives in the plan.

County departments and non-governmental organizations offer a vast variety of services to prevent youth from entering into the justice system and to assist those who are system-involved. Collaboration is a hallmark of these efforts, and the variety of programs offered for youth and families illustrates cross-systems commitment to eliminate silos and coordinate efforts to improve outcomes for youth.

As the responsibility for realigned youth has shifted back to Santa Barbara County, it has become even more important that a rich complement of services be established for the youth who are serving long-term commitments in juvenile facilities. As documented in the JJRP, this population in Probation's PEAK (Perseverance, Equity, Accountability and Knowledge) Program may remain in custody until age 25, and these youth and young adults are provided many treatment services, as well as opportunities for post-secondary education and vocational training. The Probation Department continues to implement best practices, individualized case management approaches, and evidence-based programming to address the unique needs of each justice-involved youth.

Performance Measure:

Contract-based services funded by JJCPA and JJRBG and described in the Combined Plan have incorporated performance-based measures and are evaluated on a quarterly basis by the Probation Department for successful outcomes for youth. Departmental-related goals outlined in the Combined Plan on pages 60-66 include: the implementation of Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM) to occur within 30 days of identification as at risk for out-of-home placement (Probation); securing a Youth Defender Social Worker to connect youth and families to support services (Public Defender); and implementation of two full-time reentry navigators to serve youth in the Juvenile Justice Center, including those committed to PEAK (Probation).

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

The staffing and services delivered under the Combined Plan are budgeted through a blended funding approach utilizing State JJCPA, YOBG, and JJRBG funds, for purposes described in the Background

section of this Letter, as well as Federal Title IV-E funds. The Combined Plan does not have a budget section and the budget is therefore not presented. Both the expenditures and revenues associated with these funding streams and the Combined Plan are included in the Probation Department's FY 2024-2025 proposed budget.

Key Contract Risks:

Funding from JJCPA, YOBG, and JJRBG is utilized to support the efforts and goals outlined in the Combined Plan. These funds have statutory requirements and there is a risk of audit finding if the requirements are not followed. Contracts related to the Combined Plan include the statutory requirements in their Scope of Work and Payment Arrangement sections. The Probation Fiscal Unit monitors monthly invoices and support documentation to ensure compliance.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) & Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP) 2024 Consolidated Plan

Authored by:

Tiffany Phillips, Probation Manager