



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: February 21, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Beverly A. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer 805.882.3652
Contact Info: Tanja Heitman, Probation Manager 805.739.8537
heitman@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

SUBJECT: Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A) Authorize the County Executive Officer to sign the attached letter authorizing the Probation Department to apply for the FY 2012 Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

Summary Text: The Probation Department is prepared to submit an application to the BJA for a grant that would support full implementation of a Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in Santa Maria. This Court will specialize in the treatment of our nation's military veterans who have become involved in the Criminal Justice system. VTCs are a response to the growing trend of veterans appearing before the courts who face criminal charges stemming from substance abuse or mental illness. Drug, Mental Health and other Problem Solving Courts (PSCs) have always served veteran populations, but research has shown that traditional services do not always adequately meet the needs of this population. Moreover, while most veterans are entitled to certain benefits, some are either unaware of those services or never engage services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) due to the complexity of navigating the bureaucracy in order to file a claim. The formation of a VTC will allow the screening and assessment of eligible veterans with substance dependency and/or mental health issues, who are charged

with a non-violent felony or misdemeanor, to be directly linked to available treatment resources and other benefits offered by the VA.

Background:

Since September 11, 2001, over 1.7 million veterans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. A majority of these troops served two (2) or three (3) tours in a combat theatre of operation. Research has indicated that one (1) in four (4) veterans aged 18 to 25 met the criteria for having a substance abuse disorder and one (1) in five (5) returning veterans reported symptoms of a mental disorder, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). These afflictions have been shown to lead to depression, substance abuse, joblessness, and homelessness. It has been found that war related illnesses may contribute to escalated suicide attempts, arrest, incarceration, domestic disputes, divorce, and despair. These issues are typically exacerbated due to many veterans possessing the “warrior’s mentality,” which often causes them to interpret any help for their physical and psychological health care needs as a sign of weakness. In addition to those who have fought in current conflicts, it is equally important to aid those who have served in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, as well as those who did not spend time in a combat zone. There are still many problems to address from non-service connected issues veterans face.

The purpose of the Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program is to provide resources to state, local and tribal governments and state and local courts to establish adult drug courts and systems for nonviolent substance abusing offenders. Drug courts help reduce recidivism and substance abuse among offenders and increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous and intense judicially supervised treatment, periodic drug testing, community supervision and appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

During FY 2011-2012 Budget Hearings, this Board expressed support for sustaining the local Drug Court program. The proposed implementation of the VTC program is aligned with the Board’s goal and extends this evidenced based program to a select group of individuals who have served in this nation’s defense. On November 22, 2011, the Santa Maria Superior Court launched a pilot VTC program; however, currently there are inadequate resources to fully implement this model.

By addressing this population’s needs with the appropriate treatment opportunities offered by the federal government and local resources, as well as the support and accountability of the Substance Abuse Treatment Court (SATC) model which has proven to be effective over the last 20 years in Santa Barbara County, it is anticipated that this continuity of care can greatly assist those who have served our country. The Probation Department proposes to utilize the grant funding to ensure there is a Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) in VTC to monitor eligible veteran-participants and improve their chances of sobriety; to support them as they try to work through their mental health conditions; and to promote their law abiding behavior with dignity and respect. Funding will also be utilized to develop a Veterans Mentoring component to assist in the screening of potential veteran volunteers who will work in a more direct and intimate capacity with the veteran offender in attaining their treatment goals.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$ -	\$ 116,667.00	
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ 116,667.00	\$ -

Narrative:

The proposed grant application is for a period of three (3) years commencing in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012-2013 on approximately September 1, 2012, and continuing until August 31, 2015, with a total grant award of \$350,000 and a required match of \$116,667. In FFY 2012-2013, year one, the grant will provide funding for \$116,667 for case management, supervision, training and supplies. The annual required \$38,889 match will consist of indirect costs of DPO salaries.

There is no increase to the Probation Department’s General Fund contribution and no impact on facilities associated with this grant.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:
1.0

FTEs:
1.0

Special Instructions:

Please return two (2) Certified Minute Orders to Michael Cameron, Fiscal Manager, Probation Department, 117 E. Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Attachments:

- Attachment A – Department Mandates
- Attachment B – Authorization Letter

Authored by:

Ronald Mose, Supervising Probation Officer