



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: December 15, 2015
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Guadalupe Rabago, Chief Probation Officer 882.3652
Director(s)
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SUBJECT: Implementation Status of *Results First Initiative*

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file a presentation on the implementation status of the *Results First Initiative* project, and
- B. Determine that this is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15378, including subdivisions (b)(2) ["Continuing administrative or maintenance activities, such as purchases for supplies, personnel-related actions, general policy and procedure making"] and (b)(5) ["Organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment"] and direct staff to file a CEQA Notice of Exemption on that basis (Attachment A).

Summary Text:

On August 27, 2013, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors acknowledged the importance of implementing innovative, evidence-based recidivism reduction solutions through a commitment to partner with the *Results First Initiative*. The Pew-MacArthur *Results First Initiative* is designed to assess the cost/benefit of various criminal justice interventions and provide guidance to public safety policy makers on program enlargement, enhancement, reduction, or elimination.

Background:

The Pew-MacArthur *Results First Initiative* is a project of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Key objectives of the *Results First* model are:

- Analyze all available research to identify which programs work and which don't, rather than relying on a few studies or anecdotal evidence.
- Rank the projected benefits, costs, and risk of all programs as a guide to policy options.
- Identify ineffective programs that could be targeted for cuts or elimination.
- Calculate the potential return on investment of policy options, taking into account both the short and long term and the effect on taxpayers, program participants, and residents who are most directly affected.

The *Results First* model is based on a cost-benefit model originally developed by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy at the direction of the Washington Legislature. Since the mid-1990's Washington State policy makers have used their cost-benefit model to make decisions to invest in crime-prevention and treatment programs. The State experienced improved results in crime rates as compared to the national average, an incarceration rate lower than the national average, and a savings of \$1.3 billion per two-year budget cycle. After conducting a thorough validation by a national panel of experts, the *Results First* team determined that it would bring Washington State's highly successful cost-benefit model to other states and to counties in California, and would provide technical assistance to help them use the model to compile and analyze data, interpret results, and present findings to policy makers. Through outreach from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Santa Barbara County had the opportunity to be considered as one of four pilot counties for *Results First*. The *Results First* team presented to local stakeholders involved in the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), as well as to community based organizations delivering services to the criminal justice population. The District Attorney, Sheriff, Chief Probation Officer, Public Defender, and Chief Executive Officer of the Courts all endorsed the project and executed memorandums of understanding.

Results First has worked closely with all four counties in the pilot effort. They are assisting in the development of customized tools to help leaders identify and invest in effective programs that yield high returns on investment. *Results First* has also supported cross county collaboration by hosting an annual California County Summit and publishing a case study regarding the work being done by the pilot counties (Attachment B).

This innovative work is also being endorsed by California State Association of Counties (CSAC). CSAC has embarked on a partnership with *Results First* to develop a technical assistance hub to help other California counties engage in evidence-based policymaking. They will work with the four pilot counties and plan to eventually expand the Results First concept.

County staff have worked closely with the *Results First* technical assistance team towards the goal of analyzing long-term cost and benefits for local criminal justice programs. Through intensive technical assistance from Pew-MacArthur policy analysts and an economist, local recidivism rates, costs associated with recidivism, and cost of local programs have been established. With this information in hand, the model has assisted the County in arriving at cost-benefit ratios for several local programs.

Key findings:

- On average, 63% of high-risk probationers are reconvicted within a 7-year period; 29% are reconvicted within the first year of being placed on probation.
- Recidivism is costly to the community. Each high-risk probationer that is reconvicted costs approximately \$66,000 in criminal justice system and victimization costs.
- Rigorous research has demonstrated that quality programs can improve public safety and reduce future crime. The Santa Barbara County Results First model identified several highly effective and cost beneficial interventions currently operated in the County. For example, Reasoning and Rehabilitation when delivered to high-risk offenders delivers \$20.87 in benefits per dollar of cost while achieving a 10.4 % reduction in recidivism. The cost-benefit of several local program have now been established through the use of the model (Attachment C).

An update regarding the project, as well as initial results of the County's work with *Results First*, was presented to the CCP on October 2, 2015. The CCP noted that the new information provided through the model should be used as an additional resource to assist in funding and allocation decisions. The group recognized that the model should serve as a tool to assist with treatment and programming efforts whether local, state, federal, or private resources are being considered. Integrating *Results First* with jail programming, mental health and substance abuse treatment focused on the criminal justice population, as well as Realignment planning efforts were all identified as immediate opportunities.

Santa Barbara County's criminal justice system has made tremendous strides in the implementation of evidence-based principles. The Results First work presents an opportunity for the County to establish an organizing principle to structure continued progress in this arena. Some areas of focus are:

- Incorporation of evidence-based monitoring outcomes in contract requirements enterprise-wide;
- expansion of the program inventory and assessment of the evidence behind current expenditures; and
- continued use of the Results First approach in decision making and budget development.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

N/A

Narrative: There are no costs to Santa Barbara County for continued participation in the *Results First Initiative*.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

N/A

FTEs:

Special Instructions:

N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment B: *Results First* at the Local Level - Evidence-based policymaking in 4 California counties

Attachment C: *Results First* - Santa Barbara County

Attachment D: PowerPoint

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