



**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: July 10, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: No

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Tanja Heitman, Chief Probation Officer
Director(s) 805.739.8537
Contact Info: Kimberly Shean, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
805.882.3675
SUBJECT: Juvenile Justice Data Presentation

County Counsel Concurrence

Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file a presentation regarding the Juvenile Justice Data project (Attachment A);
- B. Determine that the acceptance of the Juvenile Justice Data Presentation are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

Summary Text:

The field of juvenile justice has evolved significantly with the advancement of evidence based practices and increased reliance on data to inform decision making. In support of "Renew 22", the County's 5-year initiative that in part challenges departments to evaluate and make strategic changes to operations and improve the efficacy of its services, the Probation Department conducted a comprehensive analysis of the local juvenile justice system. This eight month process included comparing data elements of our local juvenile justice system of care with four other counties selected for proximity, demographic similarity or progressive practices. Additionally, the project encompassed a comprehensive review of all 597 youth who, at the time, were under supervision of the Department. The data captured from these efforts identified opportunities to better inform local practices. In response to this data mining and county comparison effort, needed changes were recognized and strategies, some currently deployed and some to be advanced in the coming year have been identified.

Background:

The Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC) reports that from 2013, the number of youth in the juvenile probation system is down 42% to just over 30,000 youth statewide in 2017. Further, consistent with this declining population, the number of bookings into juvenile halls has decreased 14% statewide since 2015.

The field of juvenile justice has continued to advance and has experienced numerous improvements over the past decade. Much has changed as the field has adopted evidence-based practices and focused on the delivery of treatment and other services to improve youth and system outcomes. Accurate and timely data have become a priority and are required to ensure interventions and operations reflect evidence-based practices and are aligned with rehabilitative goals.

In late 2017, the Probation Department began a local comprehensive juvenile data mining project. A multiple county comparison review culled data from other jurisdictions to better understand local trends, while internal data review explored the drivers of those trends including demographic information, geographic distribution, types and locations of offenses, ways in which youth entered the justice system, factors that contributed to arrest and subsequent legal adjudications, and decision points and their possible impact.

This project has revealed that in many realms, Santa Barbara County juvenile justice system of care has not kept step with state and other county trends and strategies. Through this analysis, opportunities to inform local practices were identified and data-driven approaches were developed with a focus on reducing recidivism, engaging families, and improving the resiliency of youth. The data has been shared with numerous stakeholders and juvenile justice partners to help identify and prioritize strategies to positively impact the trends. While some strategies indicated below contain an existing framework from which to build, others are new endeavors requiring further development and collaboration.

- Analysis of evidence-based risk/needs assessment tools to guide objective and data informed decision making
- Implementation of juvenile intake assessment process and booking criteria
- Utilize diversion opportunities for low risk youth.
- Implementation of evidence based treatment interventions for medium and high risk youth and family.
- Minimize exposure of low and medium risk youth to higher risk youth
- Develop an inventory of local programs utilized by justice-involved youth
- Institute Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Workgroup

New evidence-based strategies going forward are strength-based and family focused, and provide for a risk-need-responsivity approach to all justice interventions, improving the match between youth and specialized treatment services. A detailed overview, including goals, objectives and corresponding strategies for FY 18/19, is provided in the attached *2018 Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan*.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Budget Narrative:

The receiving of this presentation has no fiscal impact; however, data secured through this project will aid in accurate resource allocation and inform future changes to meet potential budget challenges.

Attachments:

Attachment A: PowerPoint Presentation of Juvenile Justice Data Project

Attachment B: Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan

Authored by: Deputy Chief Probation Officer Kimberly Shean