



COUNTY OF VENTURA PROBATION AGENCY

December 17, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

SUBJECT: Approval of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that your Board approve the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Plans for FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 (Exhibit 1 and 2).

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This plan supports the County's Strategic Plan goal to lift up the most vulnerable populations, provide equitable and timely access to quality healthcare, mental health, and public health services to maintain healthy, safe, and resilient communities.

DISCUSSION:

On September 30th, 2020, the governor signed into law Senate Bill 823 (SB 823) which, among other things, realigned the juvenile justice system by phasing out the state's Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in favor of housing delinquent youth in county facilities with the intent of serving committed youth in their communities and closing down DJJ facilities statewide by June 30th, 2023. Under what is now known as "Juvenile Realignment," youth previously committed to DJJ now serve a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) commitment in county juvenile facilities. Currently, we have 22 youth serving an SYTF commitment at the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities. Another primary goal of SB 823 was to have counties provide evidence based and promising programs and practices to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism for justice involved youth.

As required by Welfare and Institutions Code section 1995(a), a subcommittee of the multi-agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Subcommittee, was assembled to develop a plan describing the facilities,

programs, placements, services, supervision, and reentry strategies that are needed to provide appropriate rehabilitation and supervision services for this population. Major components of this fiscal year's plan (in Exhibit 1) include the return of the Pawsitive Steps Dog Training program, exploration of a Barbering Licensing Program inside the facility, contracting with Success Stories to deliver an additional lived experience mentorship program, and the facilitation of the California Lutheran University Inside Out Program which brings university and justice involved students together in an experiential learning course. Additionally, improvements will be made to the facilities and its infrastructure to better support existing programming and services. The plan in Exhibit 1 was approved by the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Subcommittee. It is noted that FY plan 2023-24 (Exhibit 2) was inadvertently left off the Board's calendar last year and is submitted forthwith for consideration. Under Welfare and Institutions Code section 1991(a), the plan must be considered by your Board in making allocations for housing and supervision services under Juvenile Realignment.

The Chief Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this letter. If you have any questions regarding this item, please feel free to contact me at (805) 654-2100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Johnson".

GINA JOHNSON
Director/Chief Probation Officer

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan FY 2024-25

Exhibit 2 – Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Annual Plan FY 2023-24