



COUNTY OF VENTURA PROBATION AGENCY

May 21, 2024

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

SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization for the Chief Probation Officer or Her Designee to Sign, a Contract with Coalition For Family Harmony for the Term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in the Amount not to exceed \$239,624 for Youth Advocacy Services; and Authorization for the Chief Probation Officer or her Designee to Make Minor Changes to the Contract and to Extend the Contract by up to Four One-Year Periods, Not To Exceed \$239,624 Per Year.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Approve and authorize the Chief Probation Officer or her designee to sign, the contract with Coalition for Family Harmony (Coalition) (see Exhibit 1), as recommended by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), for the term of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, in the amount not to exceed \$239,624 for youth advocacy services.
2. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or her designee to sign amendments to make minor changes to the contract regarding services, deliverables, reporting, and data collection requirements with approval from County Counsel and the CEO's Office.
3. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or her designee to sign amendments extending the contract for up to four (4) one-year periods, not to exceed \$239,624 per year.

FISCAL MANDATES/IMPACT:

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), makes funds available to Probation agencies based on juvenile per capita formula to implement juvenile crime prevention programs.
Funding Match Required: None required.
Impact on Other Departments: None.

Summary of Revenue and Total Costs:

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
Revenue:	\$0	\$239,624
Costs:	\$0	\$239,624
Direct:		
Indirect – Dept.		
Indirect – County Cap (B)		
Total Costs:	\$0	\$239,624
Net County Cost, Including Indirect	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs:		
(Dept. and County CAP)		

*Indirect costs are not material as they are incurred for the monitoring of the program and coordinating program activities.

FY 2023-2024 Budget for Probation Agency BU #2634 as of AP 9				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimate (Savings/Deficit)
Appropriations	\$4,906,644	\$4,912,963	\$3,533,977	\$1,378,986
Revenue	\$4,906,644	\$4,906,644	\$3,528,917	(\$1,377,727)
Net Cost	\$0	\$6,319	\$5,060	\$1,259

Note: Sufficient revenues and appropriations were requested in the FY 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget.

DISCUSSION:

Probation youth are screened to participate in programming, most of which is funded by JJCPA. One such program is the Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP). ROPP is an intensive, comprehensive, multidisciplinary program that seeks to identify youth that are at risk of becoming repeat offenders. ROPP youth meet at least three risk factors relating to delinquency such as substance abuse, poor school attendance, family

dysfunction, and pre-delinquent behaviors. The program utilizes substance abuse counselors, a marriage and family therapist as well as youth advocates to provide comprehensive services to eligible youth.

Youth advocates provide an essential function to the success of ROPP participants. Among other activities, youth advocates assist with the coordination of services (enrollment in school, therapy attendance, probation appointments, etc.), provide transportation, facilitate pro-social activities, and provide mentoring. On April 17, 2024, the JJCC approved the increase in funding for youth advocacy to meet the service needs, and to provide competitive wages to help retain the advocates so rapport and relationships with youth can be maintained.

The Coalition has provided these Youth Advocate services for the Probation Agency for approximately 17 years. A major challenge with providing these services is hiring and retaining qualified candidates who meet Coalition's and Probation Agency's requirements, including successfully passing a stringent background investigation.

The contract was created to permit Probation and the contractor flexibility in establishing starting hourly salaries based on education and experience to remain competitive in the job market. This also includes eligibility for annual pay increases of up to 5%, until top step is attained. This is expected to incentivize the Youth Advocates to remain in their positions for longer periods of time.

Your Board is being asked to authorize the Chief Probation Officer or designee to sign the contract in Exhibit 1, and to sign amendments to the contract in Exhibit 1 to make minor changes to the services, deliverables, reporting, and data collection requirements, with the prior approval of the County Executive Office and County Counsel, and to sign amendments to the contract in Exhibit 1 to extend the contract for up to four (4) one-year periods. "Minor changes" for purposes of this authorization will be changes required by Coalition or the Probation Agency that do not result in an increase in the costs incurred by the Probation Agency for provision of services under the contract.

These services are in line with the County of Ventura's strategic priorities, specifically, Lifting up the Most Vulnerable, Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability, and promoting Healthy, Safe and Resilient Communities. Furthermore, the Juvenile Justice Master Plan, completed by Applied Survey Research, a nonprofit social research firm identified that, "ROPP Youth Advocates were said to provide strong emotional support, are there for youth whenever they need them, help youth "understand things more clearly," and were described as "cool people" who are fun to talk to and to "just hang with," and have a "positive vibe." The youth rely on these positive, supportive adults and wanted to remain connected to them upon release."

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-2100 or Chief Deputy Carrie Vredenburg at (805) 981-5527.

Board of Supervisors
May 21, 2024
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gina Johnson", with a stylized, cursive script.

GINA JOHNSON
Chief Probation Officer

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Coalition for Family Harmony - Youth Advocate Contract