



COUNTY OF VENTURA **PROBATION AGENCY**

Mark Varela
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November 17, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Receive and File the Annual Year-End Expenditure and Data Report of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and Youth Offender Block Grant for Fiscal Year 2019-20

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the annual Year-End Expenditure and Data report of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) for Fiscal Year 2019-20 (Exhibit 1).

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

DISCUSSION:

Since its implementation in 2000, the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) has funded various programs for juvenile justice youth. Per Government Code Section 30061(b)(4)(C), the County is required to submit to your Board, by October 1 of the following fiscal year end, a report containing a description of the programs and an accounting of the expenditures funded under JJCPA or co-funded with YOBG for the prior fiscal year. The data submitted this year required an internal process to validate a few data points that delayed the submission past the October 1 deadline. Attached please find a copy of the report for JJCPA for FY 2019-20 (Exhibit 1).

Programs funded by JJCPA in FY 2019-20 included: The Evening Reporting Center (ERC) located in Simi Valley, Oxnard and Fillmore, Truancy Habits Reduced Increases Vital Education (THRIVE), Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP), Early Intervention and Prevention Services, Commercially and Sexually Exploited Case Management and Mentoring, Juvenile Justice Treatment for Sexually Abusive Youth, and The Youth Advisory Council. JJCPA Funds are provided to Probation, the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. There are no JJCPA programs co-

funded with YOBG. While YOBG programs are separate, they are included in this consolidated report, also required by Government Code Section 30061. YOBG programs funded in FY 19-20 included: The Day Reporting Center, called Keeping Engaged Youth Successful, The Leaders Program, Reins of H.O.P.E., Enrichment Program Services at the Juvenile Facilities and a Deputy Probation Officer position which is responsible for the review and processing of all juvenile citations and diverting appropriate cases to Early Intervention and Prevention Services.

The programs established under JJCPA have had a positive impact not only on the lives of youthful offenders and their families, but on communities throughout Ventura County. Based on the data for 2019, more youthful offenders were diverted from the Court system and handled informally by probation either utilizing a diversion program or a single sanction approach. In addition, fewer petitions were brought before the Court for handling and of those, the Court afforded more youth an opportunity to address their conduct on lower levels of supervision. As a result, Ventura County has experienced a decline in the number of youth that entered the justice system.


It is also significant to note that the number of technical violations of probation dropped by approximately 40%. This drop can be attributed to a variety of things, including: increased officer education surrounding adolescent brain development and behavior, a continued shift in the culture related to working with justice involved youth, increased utilization of graduated responses, and the array of community based services available to youth and their families.

The Evening Reporting Centers (ERCs) are an excellent example of community-based programs having an impact on justice involved youth. The Evening Reporting Centers now accept referrals from schools and community-based entities guiding a youth in a positive direction and as an early intervention. This has been extremely effective; approximately 60% of youth participating in the ERCs are community-based referrals. Collectively, the ERCs received referrals for 280 youth in need of services. 78% of youth have continued to participate in the program following their discharge. Another noteworthy achievement is the impact the THRIVE program has had on school attendance rates. During the 2018-2019 school year, before the intervention of THRIVE, students were attending school at an overall rate of 77.8%. After THRIVE intervention, overall attendance jumped to 85.6% and unexcused absences dropped significantly from 17.2% to 10.5%. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of THRIVE in reducing truancy in Ventura County schools.

Lastly, programming at the Juvenile Facilities is robust and provides the youth in custody many opportunities for rehabilitation and healing. For instance, the Reins of H.O.P.E. Equine Program has shown tremendous outcomes for participants. Both attention deficit and anxiety were reduced by 27% and depression was reduced by 44%. Additionally, resiliency of participants rose 14% and optimism increased by 38%. These outcomes are encouraging and validate the commitment of the JJCC and the Probation Agency to bring evidenced based programs to those youth with the highest needs.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, County Counsel, Public Defender, and District Attorney's Office. If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 654-2100 or Chief Deputy Tim Dowler at (805) 654-2103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MARK VARELA', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARK VARELA
Director/Chief Probation Officer

Exhibit 1 – Report of JJCPA and YOBG Consolidated Annual Year-End Expenditure and Data Report for Fiscal Year 2019-20