



County of Santa Cruz

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JOHN P. RHOADS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

May 25, 1999

Agenda: June 15, 1999

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Accept and File Report on Continuation of Services Provided by BASTA Program and Development of Other Juvenile Justice Programs

Dear Members of the Board:

On May 4, 1999, your Board directed the Probation Department to report back at budget hearings to address concerns regarding the continuation of services provided by the BASTA (Broad-based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment and Alternatives) multi-component, gang violence suppression program, and the development of other Juvenile Justice programs.

BACKGROUND

The BASTA program has been funded since 1992 by the State Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP). The project will encounter its final funding year in FY 2000/2001. The grant supports staff and/or services in Probation, the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, Watsonville Police, FENIX Services, Watsonville Recreation, and Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc. (PVPSA), for a total of \$500,000 per year. During the past seven years of operation the Project has been a valuable resource in the effort to prevent gang violence within the boundaries of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in South County.

In addition to BASTA, the Probation Department has seven other positions (Deputy Probation Officers) providing a continuum of services to youthful offenders in South County, as well as two special contract service programs (Intensive Supervision by FENIX Services and Watsonville Juvenile Community Court by PVPSA). Four of the positions and the two contracts are supported by funds other than County general funds; all of these funds are scheduled to be terminated at various times within the next three years. This represents a loss of over one million dollars annually in current services and resources.

SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

Planning for the on-going maintenance of grant-funded projects is always a challenge. The BASTA Steering Committee will be actively involved in efforts to identify sources of continued support for project services during the final year of the grant. An example of these efforts can be found in the **OCJP-funded** High Risk Early Offender Project. This grant funds a Deputy Probation Officer and \$175,000 worth of services provided by PVPSA to youthful offenders who are at high risk of recidivism. This three year project will end on August 31, 1999. In anticipation of the loss of this funding and the services being provided, the Probation Department and PVPSA, Inc. have applied for another grant which may provide similar services. Additionally, the Probation Department has recently been notified that Santa Cruz County is a recipient of a \$3.5 million Juvenile Challenge Grant which will provide site-based, day treatment services for court wards in both South and North County.

SUMMARY

Although the Probation Department has been highly successful at developing new resources and maximizing revenues to sustain the Juvenile Justice System continuum of services, it is **difficult** to maintain continuity without a stable funding source. Many states provide a subsidy for local justice programs, which unfortunately, is not the case in California. We are fortunate to have received both Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Challenge Grant funds which will allow the Probation Department to maintain services for the next several years, however, it will be necessary to identify new sources of revenue if we are to sustain the Juvenile Justice continuum.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report on the continuation of services provided by the BASTA program and the development of other Juvenile Justice Programs in Santa Cruz County.

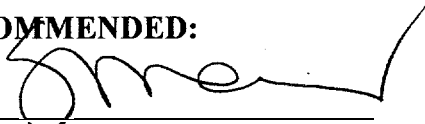
Very truly yours,



JO & P. RHOADS
Chief Probation Officer

JPR:FN

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Officer
Probation