



# County of Santa Cruz

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## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JOHN P. RHOADS  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

January 18, 2000

Agenda: January 25, 2000

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

## REPORT ON JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Dear Members of the Board:

During Final Budget Hearings for Fiscal Year 1999-00, your Board requested that the Probation Department provide periodic status reports on the Care of the Court Wards and the State Correctional Schools budgets, as well as a status reports on the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force.

### CARE OF COURT WARDS BUDGET

The final budget amount for foster care payments in the Care of Court Wards Index for FY 1999-00 is \$170,000. As of this date, there are a total of eight wards in group homes and ranch/camp placement; six wards are in ranch/camp and two undocumented minors are in group homes. Current year activity in this program is a significant reduction from the prior year, when there were up to 18 wards in placement in one month. As reported in our status report for the first quarter, if placements continue at the current level, we anticipate that an additional \$75,000 will be required in the final quarter of the fiscal year. However, in addition to current strategies which have significantly reduced the Care of Court Wards population, the following efforts continue to be implemented to further control expenditures in this Budget Unit.

#### Undocumented Minors

Undocumented minors are not able to receive the **Immigration** and Naturalization Service's designation (PRUCOL - Permanently Residing Under Color of Law) which would make them eligible for State and Federal foster care funds. A series of interagency meetings was held with

the Human Resources Agency to review the current policies and regulations on this issue and determine **if the** County had any other recourse. It was determined that the PRUCOL designation is no longer available from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, however, a process has been developed which would allow the County to receive State **funding** for minors who would otherwise have been eligible for PRUCOL. The Department has submitted applications for **funding** to the State, and is awaiting approval. In addition, the Probation Department is also actively pursuing the possibility of working with the local Immigration Project to assist minors who may be eligible for citizenship.

#### Challenge Grant Day Treatment Centers

The two day treatment centers funded by a grant **from** the Board of Corrections were opened in November 1999. Currently 19 youth are enrolled in the program. It is anticipated that this new resource may be a placement option for selected minors in lieu of a ranch/camp commitment.

#### Interagency Focus Group


Various ongoing meetings with the County Administrative Office, the Courts, the District Attorney's **Office**, the Public Defender and other stakeholders continue to be held to provide a systemic focus on the juvenile population within the County's criminal justice system. Status reports on the Disproportionate Minority **Confinement** Task Force and the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force will be presented to your Board on February 15, 2000.

#### **STATE CORRECTIONAL SCHOOLS BUDGET**

The final budget amount for the support of juveniles committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA) in the State Correctional Schools index for FY 1999-00 is \$112,000. There are currently 34 juveniles in custody, at a total cost of approximately \$9,033 per month. Total costs for the fiscal year, without additional CYA commitments, is estimated at \$106,000, or 95% of the final budgeted amount. At this time, no budget issues or modifications are anticipated.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this status report on Juvenile Justice programs and direct the County Administrative Office and the Probation Department to return on February 15, 2000, with reports on the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force.

Sincerely,



**JOHN P. RHOADS**  
Chief Probation Officer

JPR: JAC:FN

**RECOMMENDED:**



**SUSAN A. MAURIELLO**  
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative **Officer**  
courts  
Auditor-Controller  
General Services  
Probation