



County of Santa Cruz ⁰⁰⁵¹

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 1812, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-1812
(831) 454-2150 FAX: (831) 454-3035

JOHN P. RHOADS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

February 2, 2000

Agenda: February 15, 2000

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

REPORT ON JUVENILE HALL OVERCROWDING TASK FORCE AND DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONFINEMENT TASK FORCE

Dear Members of the Board:

During Final Budget Hearings for Fiscal Year 1999-00, your Board requested that the Probation Department provide a status report on the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force, at mid-year.

JUVENILE HALL OVERCROWDING TASK FORCE

The Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force (OCTF) was initially convened in April, 1999, by the County Administrative Officer, at the direction of your Board, to identify activities, services, and/or policies and procedures that might assist in reducing overcrowding at the Juvenile Hall. Members of the task force include representatives from the County Administrative Office, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Health Services, Human Services and Probation, in addition to two members from the local community.

The OCTF filed a report and made recommendations to your Board on June 17, 1999. Since that date, the task force has continued to meet to review the Juvenile Hall facility improvements plan and to monitor progress toward implementation of the fourteen recommendations that were developed by the task force. Attached is a recent status report of those recommendations. An update of this list will be provided to your Board at budget hearings in June, 2000. In addition, a chart tracking Juvenile Hall population for the period 1997 through 1999 is attached for your information.

The Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has for several years sponsored a project designed to assist jurisdictions that wish to alleviate overcrowding in juvenile facilities across the country. This project is being conducted by the National Juvenile Detention Association in partnership with the Youth Law Center. In September, 1999 the Youth Law Center chose Santa Cruz County as a project site. A departmental level work group was formed

0052

and has now met three times. The Youth Law Center is offering technical assistance to the work group. This group has been **examining** admissions, screening, assessment, and court and placement processes in an effort to maintain safe population levels at the Juvenile Hall.

Additionally, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has chosen Santa Cruz County as a model site for implementation of its Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, which will further support local efforts to provide effective alternatives to detention and improve conditions of confinement.

In conclusion, the recommendations of the OCTF have now all been implemented or are in development. As a result, the task force has agreed to meet only if needed to review facility improvement plans or if the average daily population of the Juvenile Hall exceeds 50 for two consecutive months. The departmental work group will, however, continue to meet with the Youth Law Center on an on-going basis.

We are pleased to report that the average daily population count for calendar year 1999 was 40.6 residents, which is below the Juvenile Hall's rated capacity of 42. Also, the Board of Corrections requires Probation Departments to file a Crowding Assessment Report when a unit of the Juvenile Hall is over-capacity for more than 15 days in any calendar month. We have not had to file such a report since August, 1999.

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONFINEMENT TASK FORCE

As your Board will recall, the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force (**DMCTF**) was convened by the Chief Probation Officer in partnership with the **Latino** Strategic Planning Collaborative and the **Latino** Affairs Commission, in April, 1999 to develop a plan to reduce **over-**representation of **Latino** youth in the Juvenile Hall. This broad-based community task force has been meeting on a regular basis and is reviewing the various processes in the community or justice system that may play a part in the problem. Thus far, the task force has reviewed the following systems: Probation, Juvenile Court, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender, and Local Law Enforcement. Following presentations by various community groups, County Office of Education, Human Resources Agency and Health Services Agency, the task force will develop a master document of issues, concerns and recommendations that have surfaced from the system-by-system review. The task force also plans to **identify** the key decision points from arrest of a youthful offender to his or her release, and develop statistical reporting capability by ethnicity at each point along the continuum for purposes of tracking progress and **identifying** challenges.

In addition, the Youth Law Center is involved in a project sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to address disproportionate minority representation in the Juvenile Justice System. They are currently working with the City of Seattle, Washington, and are interested in offering technical assistance to Santa Cruz. To that end, Mr. James Bell from the Youth Law Center is scheduled to address the DMCTF at its meeting on February 7, 2000 to discuss the project. If the DMCTF is interested in working with the Youth Law Center, Mr. Bell will schedule a series of individual appointments with key stakeholders to determine interest and

JUVENILE HALL OVERCROWDING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKING SHEET

Recommendation	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
REFERRALS AND ADMISSIONS CRITERIA			
1. The Probation Department and Sheriff to work with law enforcement agencies regarding additional training on booking criteria	Probation Sheriff	In process	Probation Dept has completed their in-house training on booking criteria, and will work with law enforcement to ensure consistency.
2. The Probation Department to explore cost/benefits of implementing offsite intake in Watsonville	Probation	Next JHOTF meeting	Probation currently conducts informal offsite intake in Watsonville. The Department will present a written review at the next meeting of the JHOTF.
SCREENING AND PRE-DISPOSITION			
3. Completed (see below)			
4. Completed (see below)			
5. Completed (see below)			
6. Completed (see below)			
PRE AND POST DISPOSITION PROGRAMS			
7. Completed (see below)			
8. Completed (see below)			
9. Completed (see below)			

Recommendation	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
FACILITIES			
10. The Probation Department to work with General Services to determine the overall proposed project scope and time frame for the recommended projects and to select a design consultant for facility modifications. The design consultant is recommended to be funded through the \$700,000 proposed budget for the facility improvements.	Probation General Services	Reported to B/S on 10/19/99 and 2/15/00.	General Services Dept will complete replacement of ceiling light fixtures, replacement and abatement of asbestos floor coverings, modifications to individual room doors, and interior painting. Contract for architectural services to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors March 7, 2000.
11. Completed (see below)			
PLACEMENT			
12. Completed (see below)			
13. Completed (see below)			
14. Completed (see below)			
15. Completed (see below)			

Completed Recommendations	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
3. Probation staff to continue to use the Screening Risk Assessment tool and update it as needed to address any policy changes. Probation should provide ongoing training to staff to ensure that the criteria is applied fairly and consistently for all juveniles	Probation	Completed November 24 th	A training session on the Risk Assessment tool has been conducted for all juvenile division staff.
4. The Probation Department should reassign Probation staff to ensure that intake on a 7 day per week basis is maintained to facilitate releases as appropriate. An emphasis should be placed on utilizing culturally competent staff for this purpose	Probation	Currently operational	The Board of Supervisors approved an additional DPO II. This position has been filled, and seven day intake is now operational.
5. The Probation Department should expand the definition of "responsible adult" to include additional extended family members and should allocate staff resources for transportation of juveniles from the Juvenile Hall to avoid unnecessary detention	Probation	Currently operational	This is current operating procedure for the Department. Probation staff are being used to transport juveniles home from Juvenile Hall.
6. The Probation Department should work with the local law enforcement agencies to ensure that all reports are provided in a timely manner	Probation District Attorney Law Enforcement Agencies	Completed	The Probation Department has reviewed case records and has determined that reports are being submitted in a timely fashion.
7. Alternative to custody programs, including Home Supervision, should be expanded through the addition of a Deputy Probation Officer and the continuation of the community based program component as an alternative to detention in the Juvenile Hall and to support and strengthen family involvement and responsibility	Probation Community Based Programs	Currently operational	The new DPO II position has been filled, the Fenix Services OASIS program is now operational, and Electronic Home Monitoring is operational and at capacity

Completed Recommendations	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
8. The Probation Department should begin to collect data on Home Supervision youth to assess whether they are making court appearances and not re-offending since positive results would encourage greater use of alternatives.	Probation	Currently operational	The department is collecting data on court appearances and re-offences to measure the effectiveness of Home Supervision.
9. Alternative placement and sentencing options should be developed by the Probation Department and encouraged for use by the Court in lieu of commitment to the Juvenile Hall	Probation Court	Operational	<p>The two Challenge Grant sites are open and operational.</p> <p>Palomares group home is providing additional drug treatment services for dual diagnosis (substance abuse/mental health) Juvenile Probation wards. The Probation Department is very pleased with the program's effectiveness.</p>
11. Upon completion of the overall proposed project scope and cost estimates, the Probation Department should review the plan with the Task Force prior to presentation for approval to the Board of Supervisors on September 21, 1999	Probation	Completed on September 8, 1999.	
12. The Probation Department should allocate additional staff resources to ensure that all paperwork for potential placements is completed as soon as possible and that sufficient staff coverage is allocated for vacation and sick relief. An additional Deputy Probation Officer is recommended to assist in this area, to supervise the GROW program, and to expand family conferencing. The position should work in conjunction with the HSA substance abuse/ mental health specialist on placement evaluation and counseling for youth leaving placement	Probation HSA HRA	Completed	The Board approved a full-time DPO III for the GROW program. This has improved the department's ability to complete paperwork as quickly as possible.

27

1500

Completed Recommendations	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
13. Data should be collected on youth placed in the Challenge Grant Day treatment program to provide verification of the effectiveness of this type of program as a alternative to detention program	Probation	Ongoing	The Challenge Grant includes a stringen experimental design and evaluation component, and the Probation Department has contracted with an evaluator to monitor the effectiveness of the program.
14a. The Probation Department and the Health Services Agency should continue to review the cost/benefit and funding options for a local placement facility.	Probation HSA HRA	Ongoing	The Palomares Group Home is currently operating as a local residential drug treatment program for wards. Probation and HSA will closely monitor its operations in terms of cost and programmatic effectiveness. In addition, the departments will continue to monitor for opportunities to address further unmet needs.
14b. The departments should continue to review options for placement of girls, such as the recent expansion of two beds for girls at the Redwoods facility and should explore options for young mothers with children	Probation	Ongoing	The two beds for girls at Redwoods are now operational. The county has one to three pregnant girls in placement each year, and they are currently placed at St. Elizabeth's in San Francisco. The girls can stay there several months after their babies are born. The Probation Department will explore having young mothers with children accepted in a local group home.

Completed Recommendations	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
<p>15. The Probation Department and the Human Resources Agency should work with local group home providers to develop and strengthen treatment programs, with an emphasis on bilingual/bicultural capability and provide potential opportunities for transitional housing</p>	<p>Probation HRA HSA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This has occurred with the expansion of culturally competent drug treatment at Palomares. Probation and HSA will continue to work on strengthening bi-lingual/bi-cultural programs.</p> <p>In addition, the CAO and HRA are leading a multi-disciplinary effort to develop transitional housing for dependents and wards. Probation is participating in these efforts.</p>

21

0059

Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall Population January 1997 through December 1999

