



County of Santa Cruz

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 1812, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-1812

(831) 454-2150 FAX: (831) 454-3035

JOHN P. RHOADS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

June 5, 2000

Agenda: June 20, 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 periodic status reports on the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force.

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 and provided an update on February 15, 2000. 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 the final status report of those recommendations, all of which have been addressed. In addition, a chart tracking Juvenile Hall population for the period 1997 through April 2000 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

Board of Supervisors Agenda: June 20, 2000

Report on Overcrowding Task Force and Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force
Page 2

Center chose Santa Cruz County as a project site. A departmental level work group was formed and has now met six times. In April, 2000, Santa Cruz County was featured in a national teleconference on overcrowding, hosted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, in recognition of the model work being done here. The Youth Law Center continues to offer technical assistance to the 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, all of the recommendations of the OCTF have now all been implemented or are continuing. As a result, the task force has agreed to meet semi-annually to review the status of the juvenile hall population 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 the current fiscal year, through April 2000, is 37.2 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, Local Law Enforcement, 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, James Bell of the Youth Law Center is involved in a project sponsored by several private foundations to address disproportionate minority representation in the Juvenile Justice System. He is currently working with the City of Seattle, Washington, and is interested in

Board of Supervisors Agenda: June 20, 2000

Report on Overcrowding Task Force and Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force
Page 3

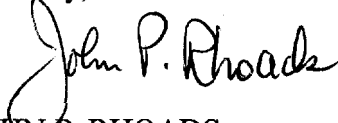
offering technical assistance to Santa **Cruz**. To that end, Mr. Bell addressed the DMCTF at its meeting on February 7, 2000 to discuss the project and has scheduled a series of individual appointments with key stakeholders to determine interest and commitment to the effort. The technical assistance offered by Mr. Bell will allow our local group to move forward and address issues that are identified in the final report.

Finally, the Probation Department continues to report statistics on disproportionate minority confinement to the task force on a quarterly basis. We are pleased to report that there has been a reduction in the percentage of **Latino** youth in the Juvenile Hall over the past year. **Latino** youth comprise 32.5% of the youth ages 10 through 17 in Santa **Cruz** County. In 1998, **Latino** youth represented 64.3% of the youth detained in Juvenile Hall. For the quarter ending March 31, 2000, the percentage dropped to 46.1%. The Probation Department will continue to support and facilitate work with the DMCTF to further reduce the over-representation of minority youth in the Juvenile Justice System. However, it is our hope that the community stakeholders will elect to participate in the project with Mr. Bell, which would have the effect of moving this very important issue to a broader-based community initiative.

In conclusion, efforts by both the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force have been and are expected to continue to be effective in abating the issues of overcrowding and over-representation of minority youth in the Juvenile Hall.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this status report on the Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Confinement Task Force.

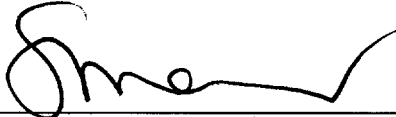
Sincerely,



JOHN P. RHOADS
 Chief Probation Officer

JPR:JAC:fn

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
 County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Officer
 courts
 District Attorney
 HRA

Probation
 Public Defender
 Sheriff
 HSA

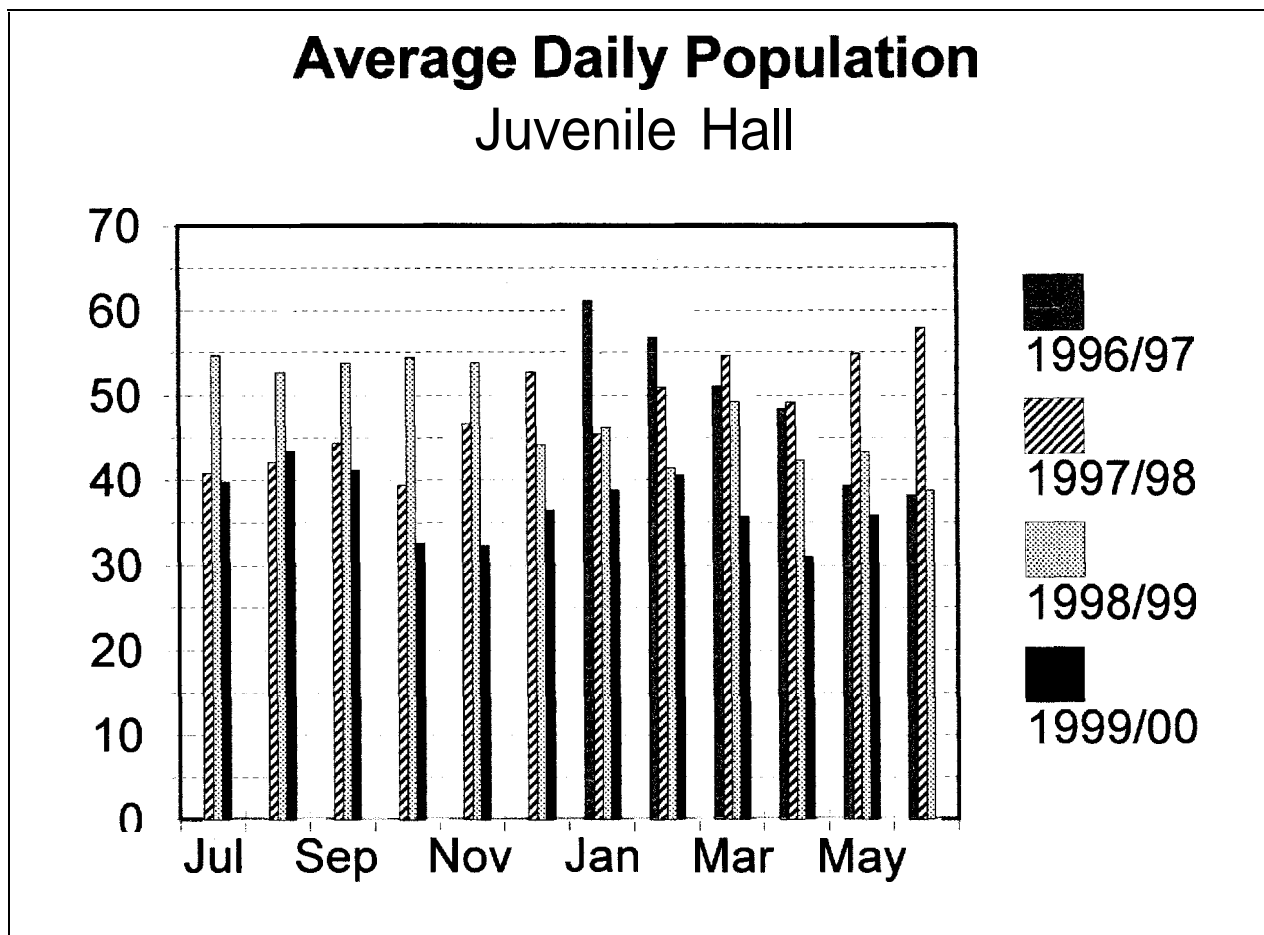
**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT
JUVENILE HALL
AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION**

0272

JANUARY 1997 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2000

Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average
1996/97							61.1	56.8	51	48.4	39.3	38.2	49.13
1997/98	40.8	42.1	44.4	39.4	46.7	52.7	45.4	50.9	54.6	49.2	54.8	58.1	48.26
1998/99	54.7	52.7	53.8	54.5	53.8	44.2	46.2	41.4	49.2	42.3	43.3	38.7	47.90
1999/00	39.7	43.4	41.1	32.6	32.3	36.5	38.8	40.5	35.7	31.0	35.9		37.05

Rated Capacity for Juvenile Hall is 42
Chart utilizes 6:00 AM Count



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	Operational	Probation Dept has developed training on booking criteria for law enforcement, and has made presentations to local law enforcement and plans to make further presentations on a regular basis.
2. The Probation Department to explore cost/benefits of implementing offsite intake in Watsonville	Probation	Completed	Probation reviewed the benefits of implementing offsite intake in Watsonville and found that the number of bookings that could have been handled in Watsonville amounted to less than one per week, and would, therefore, have had a negligible impact on Juvenile Hall overcrowding.
SCREENING AND PRE-DISPOSITION			
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	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	Operational	The Board of Supervisors approved an additional DPO in the 1999-2000 budget. This position has been filled, and seven day intake is now operational

25

Recommendation	Responsible Party	Due Date;	Status
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	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.
PRE AND POST DISPOSITION PROGRAMS			
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	Operational	The new DPO II position was filled during 1999-2000, the Fenix Services OASIS program is now operational, and Electronic Home Monitoring is operational and at capacity.
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	Operational	The department is collecting data on court appearances and re-offences to measure the effectiveness of Home Supervision.

Recommendation	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
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	The two Challenge Grant sites are open and operational. 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.
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	In process	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. Remodel and upgrade of restroom and shower facilities, relocation of medical and mental health offices, perimeter fencing modifications, and remodel of living unit controls areas will be completed by contractors.
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	

Recommendation	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
PLACEMENT			
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 during 1999-2000. This has improved the department's ability to complete paperwork as quickly as possible.
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 an alternative to detention program	Probation	Ongoing	The Challenge Grant includes a stringent 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.

Recommendation	Responsible Party	Due Date	Status
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	<p>The two beds for girls at Redwoods are now operational.</p> <p>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</p>