

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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October 17, 2000

AGENDA: November 14, 2000

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Report on Redwoods Adolescent Treatment Program

Dear Board Members:

Background:

In 1987 Santa Cruz County Mental Health received a system of care grant to add a range of special services for high-risk youth. In partnership with Probation, Mental Health added a 12-bed treatment program in one wing of Juvenile Hall for intensive treatment and family reunification. The program was 6 months long with an aftercare component. The program had marked success in reuniting delinquent youth with their families and reducing criminal behavior and rearrests. In 1993, the program moved from Juvenile Hall to its own building and expanded from 12 beds to 18 beds. The program operated at capacity and continued to serve its original mission related to juvenile offenders and their families.

Since 1993, Santa Cruz County has dramatically improved and expanded its services to juvenile offenders and created a wide variety of treatment and rehabilitation alternatives. These include the GROW program which was funded from EPSDT Medical funds and allowed for intensive community support with mobile crisis services for youth on Probation with mental health issues. In addition, Probation has added two youth treatment centers with the Board of Corrections Challenge Grant award. This grant established two centers with seven days per week of programming for youthful offenders, which includes family therapy, job training, supervision, school activities, and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Also, in response to your Board's support of intensive drug treatment services in a residential setting, Palomares Group Homes opened 12 local beds in 1999. In addition, this month the Tyler House treatment program opened 6 residential

treatment beds for youth not in the criminal justice system who require 24-hour drug treatment services.

Reassessment of Probation Gaps for Youth:


The large number of community alternatives has been successful at impacting the population in Juvenile Hall and the population in Redwoods. Since late 1999, the Redwoods treatment program has not been full. The population of the program has steadily declined to a point where it is important to reassess the program itself. With the significant shift in the continuum of alternatives for juvenile offenders, it is important to re-assess the needs of this population and identify the gaps that Redwoods could fulfill. Continued operations at a low census will result in funding gaps for the program and threaten its continued stability.

A Workgroup has been convened which includes Probation staff, Mental Health staff, Substance Abuse staff, Human Resource Agency staff, and County Administrative Office staff. The first task before the group is to identify currently unmet needs within the Juvenile Justice system which the Redwood program and resource could provide. This review will include analysis of all the different populations served by Probation and look at the success and failures of different groups in community reunification and stability. Once a population and need has been identified, the clinical staff at Redwoods in consultation with substance abuse staff will re-design the program to fit the profile of the youth which Probation determines need new models of intervention and care.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board

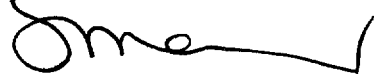
Accept and file this report and direct HSA to report back no later than January 9th, 2001 on the Redwoods Program proposal.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
HSA Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: CAO
HSA Administrator

County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

Environmental Health
County Personnel