


County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisory District Two
Supervisor George Shirakawa



BOS2-092909-2

DATE: September 29, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:  AFS
George Shirakawa
Supervisor, District 2

SUBJECT: Public Safety & Justice Committee - September 3, 2009

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Accept report from Public Safety and Justice Committee relating to meeting of September 3, 2009. (Shirakawa)

Possible action:

- a. Accept the Jail Facilities Needs Assessment Report from the Office of the County Executive. (Referral from March 11, 2008, Board of Supervisors meeting, Item No. 26 -c)
- b. Approve referrals related to the Jail Facilities Needs Assessment Report.
- c. Approve recommendations from Probation Department on the redesign of the Restorative Justice Program. (Referral from June 19, 2009, Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing, Item No. 111)
- d. Accept Item 8 as informational only.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Committee accepted a presentation by the County Executive's Office and the consultants, MGT of America, Inc. who conducted the extensive '*County of Santa Clara, Department of Corrections Needs Assessment/Facilities Study, 2009*' otherwise known as the *Jail Needs Assessment Report*. The Committee made three referrals for a future report back to Committee:

1. Direct Department of Correction, Custody Health, and Facilities & Fleet to return to PSJC with the offense and medical profiles of the chronically ill inmates that are creating a burden on the infirmary. Include fiscal analysis comparing the cost of converting Elmwood M1 into an infirmary as suggested by the consultants, housing them in a secure, community-based facility, and working with the Court on 'judicial reprieve' options pending the offense and medical profiles.
2. Direct the County Executive's Office to return to PSJC with an assessment of the business technology needs of the Department of Correction by March 2010.
3. Direct the Department of Correction to return to PSJC with an explanation related to the data point in the 'Release Population Demographics 2008' table (Pg. 52, Exhibit 3 -17) indicating 3,553 males inmates and 252 females inmates were released to 'INS' now known as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Committee also received a report from the Probation Department on the proposed redesign of the Restorative Justice Program (RJP), which is the County's juvenile diversion program for early offenders who are 'cited and released' for crimes that do not rise to the level of detention. Back on April 16, 2009, as a member of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, I asked the Probation Department to look at a new model for RJP given its recent program evaluation and the substantial budget cuts from the State. Probation staff led an inclusive ad-hoc committee to review its proposal and has come up with a streamlined, service delivery model based on objective tools to be administered by Probation Officers. All youth cited by law enforcement will receive a sanction but service delivery will be targeted based on need rather than the former 'one size fits all' approach.

The 'new' RJP is proposed to have a positive impact on probation officer caseloads by reducing the number of youth who require supervision. In the RJP evaluation, caseload data from FY 2007 -2008 indicated that 9.0 FTE Probation Officers served 5,871 youth. Their caseloads averaged 652 cases each. Furthermore, three probation officers had caseloads of 724, 789, and 817. More manageable caseloads will result in more time being spent by P.O.s on the initial intake and assessment to determine sanctions and services as well as supervision.

Finally, Probation identified a potential funding gap if the number of youth and their families needing high-level counseling services bares out. Probation is in discussions with the Mental Health Department on this issue. The Probation Department is not requesting support from the General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS

- 9/3/09 Agenda
- Jail Needs Assessment Transmittal
- JNA_Exec Summary & Recs
- JNA-Full Report_Part 1
- JNA-Full Report_Part 1
- RJP_transmittal
- RJP_presentation
- RJP Evaluation