



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 9, 2013

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TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: MAXIMIZING JUVENILE PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION RESOURCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY

Overview

The County of San Diego provides juvenile prevention and early intervention services to youth who demonstrate behaviors typically associated with delinquency and can result in involvement and escalation in the juvenile justice system. Juvenile prevention and early intervention are alternatives to more formal action within the juvenile justice and education systems, such as detention, court, probation, expulsion and correctional camps which are all costly to taxpayers. The goal of providing these services to at-risk youth is to help prevent their involvement in illegal and risky behavior. Furthermore, these programs are designed to address community, family and individual risk factors and build resiliency skills that minimize the risk of delinquent behavior and promote positive behavioral change.

Over the decades, a variety of juvenile prevention and early intervention services and related support programs were established as part of the Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy for Youth, Family and Community. However, programs began operating in separate silos due to fragmented funding streams and multiple department oversight. In light of this existing scenario, we believe it is important to look at these programs and services with a zero-based approach, and to dovetail the array of behavioral health and delinquency prevention and early intervention services to increase access and more efficiently serve the community needs.

Approval of these recommendations will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review and assess the existing juvenile prevention and early intervention programs, such as Community Assessment Teams (CAT), CAT-Youth at Risk and Juvenile Diversion overseen by Behavioral Health Services, Community Action Partnership and Probation Juvenile Field Services to identify opportunities to improve coordination and better integrate services and provide programs on a continuum of care basis.

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Recommendation(s)

CHAIRMAN GREG COX AND SUPERVISOR RON ROBERTS

- 1) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review and assess existing County Juvenile Prevention and Early Intervention Program services and contracts funded by the Department of Probation and the Health and Human Services Agency to identify opportunities for improved coordination and consolidation.
- 2) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to engage community stakeholders through the Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy Task Force and other appropriate venues to obtain feedback on current program needs, gaps and best practices to establish an updated program design for prevention and early intervention services.
- 3) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to postpone any procurement of these services until this planning process is complete.
- 4) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board within 180 days with the updated program design.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with these actions.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

The County of San Diego provides juvenile prevention and early intervention services to youth who demonstrate behaviors typically associated with delinquency and which can result in involvement and escalation within the juvenile justice system. These are key components in a continuum of services that make up the County's Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy for Children, Youth and Community, which is a system of care for juvenile offenders and at-risk youth predicated on shared responsibility and coordinated action to prevent delinquency and provide positive youth development.

Juvenile prevention and early intervention are alternatives to more formal action with juvenile justice and education systems such as detention, court, probation, expulsion and correctional camps, which are costly to taxpayers. The goal of providing these services to at-risk youth is to help prevent their involvement in illegal and risky behavior. Furthermore, these programs are designed to address community, family and individual risk factors that minimize the risk of delinquent behavior and promote positive behavioral change. Many families of these youth have a history of substance abuse, sexual/physical abuse, poor education and underdeveloped social

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skills. As such, the spectrum of support services offered includes case management, counseling, skills building, behavioral health, and academic assistance and community services.

Over the decades, a variety of juvenile prevention and early intervention services and related support programs were established as part of the Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy for Youth, Family and Community. Through a process that included community input and gap analysis, a full continuum of services and programs were identified. However, these programs began to operate in separate silos due to fragmented funding streams and multiple department oversight. This is evidenced by the different county departments that currently oversee and operate existing juvenile prevention and early intervention programs, all with similar scopes of work and target population. In light of this existing scenario, we believe it is important to look at these programs and services with a zero-based approach, and to dovetail the array of behavioral health and delinquency prevention and early intervention services to increase access and more efficiently serve the community needs.

Approval of these recommendations will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to review and assess the existing juvenile prevention and early intervention programs such as Community Assessment Teams (CAT), CAT-Youth at Risk and Juvenile Diversion overseen by Behavioral Health Services, Community Action Partnership and Probation Juvenile Field Services to identify opportunities to improve coordination and better integrate services and provide programs on a continuum of care basis.

Recognizing that our community stakeholders are invaluable partners in delivering these services and have a unique perspective from working closely with at-risk youth and families in the field, we encourage staff to seek input on program design from our stakeholders through the Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Strategy Task Force, which is a group of subject matter experts from law enforcement, social services, education and behavioral health that meets regularly and advises the Board of Supervisors.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

These recommendations would help accomplish the County's Strategic Initiatives and advance the County's Vision of providing a safe, healthy and thriving community for all our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

GREG COX
Chairman, First District

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Chairman Greg Cox and Supervisor Ron Roberts

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

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