County of Sonoma
Agenda Item
Summary Report

Clerk of the Board
575 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

To: Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County

Board Agenda Date: April 14, 2015
Vote Requirement: Majority

Department or Agency Name(s): Probation

Staff Name and Phone Number: Robert Ochs, Probation: 565-2732

Supervisiorial District(s): Countywide

Title: Evidence Based Training Project Grant

Recommended Actions:

Approve a resolution authorizing the Chief Probation Officer, on behalf of the County, to submit an Evidence-Based Practices Training Project grant application to the California Board of State and Community Corrections and to accept funding for the period May 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, in the amount of $10,000.

Executive Summary:

The Evidence Based Training (EBP) Grant would support the Probation Department’s implementation of EBPs. Specifically it would help maintain fidelity to the current risk/needs assessment tool used by officers to determine levels of service for justice involved youth. By maintaining fidelity to EBPs, the Department is best able to reduce recidivism among delinquent youth. The department has been notified that Sonoma County is being recommended for funding, subject to final approval by the Board of State and Community Corrections on April 9th.

Background—EBP Training Project

The EBP Training Project is intended to support probation departments that are prepared to receive training that will assist them in implementing or expanding the use of evidence-based practices within their local juvenile justice communities. Specifically, the project is intended help fund training for probation staff and their juvenile justice partners and/or community stakeholders to increase skills, competency, and proficiency in implementing effective correctional practices that promote rehabilitation and are known to reduce recidivism.

Proposal Concept

The Department seeks to implement an inter-rater reliability (IRR) training program for their current risk/needs assessment tool—the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT). The accuracy of assessment
data is particularly important given the key role the risk-needs assessment tool plays in the Department’s system-wide plan for implementing evidence-based practices.

The proposed project is to implement a web-based inter-rater reliability training system for approximately 45 staff currently using the tool. The system allows users to watch videos of interviews conducted by Probation staff, and subsequently perform an assessment based on that interview. Probation staff receives instant feedback from the training site on the correctness of their assessment, and administrators will review the results of IRR exercises and identify training needs. Follow up training will then be conducted in necessary areas of the assessment tool. IRR exercises and training will be repeated annually.

The provider of this web-based system and training is Noble Software Group, the Department’s contractor for all assessment and case planning software since 2012. Noble currently provides similar services to several other Probation Departments across the nation. The proposed project is included as an option in the Department’s contract with Noble but the funding is not currently available to exercise this option.

Prior Board Actions:

None.

Strategic Plan Alignment

Goal 1: Safe, Healthy, and Caring Community

The proposed project promotes safe, healthy and caring community by supporting implementation of EBPs designed to reduce recidivism among delinquent youth.

Fiscal Summary - FY 14-15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Funding Source(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted Amount</td>
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<td>County General Fund</td>
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<td>State/Federal</td>
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<td>Use of Fund Balance</td>
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<td>Contingencies</td>
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<td>Total Expenditure</td>
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<td>Total Sources</td>
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Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (If Required):

The total cost for the first year will be $15,000. The Dept will appropriate revenue and expenditures in the supplemental budget for FY 15-16 budget. In future years, there will be an annual maintenance fee of $3,000 which will be paid out of the County General Funding beginning in FY 16-17.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title (Payroll Classification)</th>
<th>Staffing Impacts</th>
<th>Monthly Salary Range (A – I Step)</th>
<th>Additions (Number)</th>
<th>Deletions (Number)</th>
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Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

Attachments:

Resolution authorizing the Chief Probation Officer to submit a JABG application and accept funding.

Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board: