

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 8, 2015

1:00 p.m.

Supervisor Richard Valle, Chair
Supervisor Scott Haggerty

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th Fl
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Juvenile Justice Transition Center

[Attachment](#)

Sherron Lee, Supervisor, Juvenile Investigations Unit, Alameda County Probation Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Juvenile Justice Transition Center.

The Juvenile Justice Transition Center partners with the following agencies/departments: Alameda County Office of Education, City of Oakland/Unit, Oakland Unified School District, Public Health Department and Behavioral Health Care Services. The purpose of the transition center is to address the needs of children detained in and being released from juvenile hall.

Established in 2009, the Transition Center began as a collaborative effort between the Alameda County Probation Department and Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. It was designed as a one-stop resource center to provide a seamless transition and assistance to youth and their families upon exiting the juvenile justice system. The goal is to reduce recidivism and encourage positive outcomes.

Resources provided at the juvenile justice center including, school placement, academic planning, career resources, counseling and substance abuse assistance.

Ms. Lee invited the Public Protection Committee members to the Juvenile Justice Transition Center Open House, Monday, October 12, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. Freedom School

Dale Tafoya, Institutional Supervisor II, Alameda County Probation Department and Mykeisha Lewis, Unit Supervisor, Alameda County Probation Department and some of the students from Freedom School made a live presentation to the Committee.

Students expressed their interest in their favorite books and assignments in addition to other activities at Freedom School.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. Juvenile Probation Fees Study

[Attachment](#)

Stephanie Campos, Clinical Teaching Fellow, Berkeley Law and Policy Advocacy Clinic and Alex Kaplan, Clinical Law and Policy Student, Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy Clinic presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Juvenile Probation Fees Study.

Counties are authorized to charge administrative fees for probation supervision, juvenile detention, electronic monitoring, drug tests, investigations and public defender.

Administrative fees for the average youth in Alameda County which is approximately twenty-four (24) days in juvenile hall totals \$2,861. In comparison, Orange County charges \$2,994, Contra Costa County charges \$1,281 and San Francisco and Los Angeles County do not charge administrative fees.

Prior to 2009 Alameda County charged \$243 in administrative fees for juvenile hall and Camp Sweeney. In the height of the fiscal crisis, Alameda County Board of Supervisors doubled administrative fees for juvenile hall and Camp Sweeney and added five (5) additional fees.

The fees disproportionately affect African American and Latino youth and their families. The Alameda County Probation Department's data reflects youth of color pay significantly more in administrative fees than white youth. In addition, County bills over \$750,000 in fees but only collects approximately \$250,000. State law requires that administrative fees be assessed only if a family has the ability to pay.

The Berkeley Law and Policy Advocacy Clinic request the Board of Supervisors institute a moratorium on the imposition and collection of administrative fees against youth and their families in Alameda County.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other:

Recommendation from the Public Protection Committee: The Public Protection Committee directed the County Auditor's Office to complete an analysis and fee study of the administrative fees and report back to the Public Protection Committee.

IV. Mental Health Services in Santa Rita Jail

[Attachment](#)

Lieutenant Jason Arbuckle, Alameda County Sheriff's Office, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Mental Health Services at Santa Rita Jail.

The design process of Santa Rita Jail (SRJ) began in the early 1980's and the facility officially opened in 1989.

During that time mentally ill persons were held in institutions designed to treat them for their illness.

Santa Rita Jail is over 25 years old and needs some remodeling to meet the current needs for those in the care, custody, and control of the jail.

The Criminal Justice Mental Health Department at Santa Rita Jail currently cares for 1,056 inmates or 44% of the total jail population.

The Criminal Justice Mental Health Staff consists of 5.5 full time equivalent (FTE) psychiatrists and 12 mental health clinicians. Due to the limited number of staff, inmates are seen based on immediate need. Inmates in crisis are seen first and others are prioritized. There are no locations inside SRJ designed for any therapy or counseling. Inmates needing mental health services are often seen in the dining area of the housing unit, which provides little to no privacy.

The Governor signed SB 863 a part of the FY 2014/2015 State Budget, which provides funding for county jail construction designed to improve correctional housing and expand medical and mental health treatment space.

Sheriff's Office has applied for \$54 million to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for funding under SB 863 to construct additional space at SRJ for treatment of mentally ill inmates. The funding will refurbish two existing housing units and add a new building between the two housing units. The Sheriff's Office will not acquire new beds with the funding. As a result in remodeling the units the jail will remove eighteen beds.

The Board of State and Community Corrections will hold an Executive Steering Committee on October 22, 2015 to rank all proposals and will announce conditional awards on November 12, 2015.

Alex Briscoe, Director, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, was available to answer questions from the Public Protection Committee.

Speakers

Tovah Frye, Eleanor Levine, Susan Harman, Darris Young, Tracey Corder, Helen Duffy, Micky Duxbury, Colette Winlock, Tash Nguyen, Andrew Szeto, Emily Harris, Fiza Najeeb, Kamau Walton, Lauren Mateo, Virginia Hollins-Davidson, Thomas Luce, Dr. Prince White, Lizzie Buchen, John Jones, Erika Martinez, Jesse Fernandez, Brandon Sturdivant and Katie Loncke, Public Defender Brendon Woods does not support the mental health jail expansion.

Speakers requested the Board of Supervisors urge the Sheriff's Office to reject the funding if the grant is approved.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Recommendation from the Public Protection Committee: The Public Protection Committee requested this item be referred to the Health Committee. The referral to the Health Committee: The existing level of planning and organization to address the mental health needs of Alameda County residents. The report will include information on the creation of the Mental Health Authority in 1991, and realignment funds the County received to fund mental health services, including Alameda County's role in Medi-Cal managed care. Staff will also address mental health services of inmates upon release from custody.

Supervisor Valle advised as the County moves forward with a broader discussion on mental health services, to keep in context that this issue began with the conditions of mental health patients in the county jails.

Supervisor Haggerty requested information on the seven percent (7%) of inmates charged with misdemeanors, if they are in custody because they cannot afford bail.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

P:\BOS comms\Public Protection- October 8, 2015 minutes