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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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February 10, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **PROBATION JUVENILE HALLS QUALITY ASSURANCE UNIT STATUS
REPORT**

At the meeting of November 23, 2004, your Board directed the Auditor-Controller to determine the feasibility of creating a quality assurance unit for the Juvenile Hall Corrective Action Plan within the Auditor-Controller's Countywide Contract Monitoring Division. On December 10, 2004, we advised your Board that the Auditor-Controller can effectively oversee the Juvenile Hall Corrective Action Plan's Quality Assurance Unit (QA Unit) and provide leadership to the monitoring process.

The QA Unit's primary responsibility is to conduct on-going monitoring of the County's progress in implementing the Department of Justice (DOJ) recommendations to improve conditions at the Probation juvenile halls. This memo is a status report on the actions we have taken to establish the QA Unit.

Background

In November 2002, the Department of Justice initiated an investigation of the three juvenile halls which are under the management of the Probation Department (Probation). At that time, DOJ made several recommendations which impacted Probation, Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health Services (DHS) and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

During the last few weeks, my audit staff have been meeting with managers from Probation, CAO, and County Counsel to obtain background information and the current status of the County's efforts regarding the DOJ's review of the Probation juvenile halls.

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In addition, we have reviewed the County's draft action plans to implement the DOJ recommendations and the related draft monitoring tools. We also met with the DOJ's lead monitor to gain a better understanding of the DOJ's expectations. Further, we discussed our role with the Superintendents and staff at the three juvenile halls.

Staffing and Work Space

The QA Unit staffing has been identified. We met with the monitors who will be determining Probation's compliance with the DOJ's recommendations: three staff from Probation and one staff each from DHS and DMH. We have temporarily arranged for workspace for the staff at our Alhambra and Downey offices. In addition, we are arranging for workspace at each of the juvenile halls that will be available to the staff during their monitoring visits to the facilities.

Additional Resources and Funding

On December 14, 2005, the Board approved funding from the Provisional Financing Uses (PFU) in the amount of \$300,000 to cover the staffing costs of the QA Unit. The staffing costs covered one Supervising Psychiatric Social Worker from DMH, one Assistant Nursing Director from DHS, three Supervising Detention Services Officers from Probation, and one Intermediate Typist Clerk. The Board directed the CAO to hold the funds in the PFU until the Auditor-Controller requests such funds.

We are currently working with the CAO and impacted departments to identify the cost of the additional resources needed.

Planned Actions

This week the QA Unit monitors began monitoring the juvenile halls. The initial monitoring visits will allow the monitors an opportunity to become familiar with the monitoring tools and to note areas in which the monitoring tools can be enhanced. During the week of February 14, 2005, we plan to meet the DOJ monitors when they visit the juvenile halls.

We also plan to meet monthly with each of the juvenile hall Superintendents (or their representatives) to discuss the results of our monitoring reviews. In addition, we are working with managers from the various County departments to develop the lines of communication to effectively report the QA Unit's monitoring results and the County's overall progress to implement the DOJ's recommendations.

By June 2005, we plan to issue our first quarterly report to your Board summarizing the results of our monitoring activity.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:MMO:DC

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