

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
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March 26, 2019

Supporting a Revamped Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan and Improved JJCPA Grant Administration

Each year, Los Angeles County (County) receives approximately \$28 to \$31 million in Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, designed for local juvenile justice programs focused on delinquency prevention for at-risk youth. The Board of Supervisors (Board) has long been concerned with the allocation and mismanagement of JJCPA funds. Reports issued by the Auditor-Controller (A-C) in 2015, 2016 and 2017 showed accumulated JJCPA funds and unspent revenue of up to \$36.7 million, as well as a range of problems with contracting with community programs. In April 2017, the Board requested a comprehensive spending plan that addressed issues outlined by the A-C, as well as quarterly reports.

Furthermore, concerns with these funds have extended beyond accumulation of funds to the strategies being funded and the body responsible for the funds. In December 2017, the Board worked with the Probation Department (the Department) and community stakeholders to update membership for the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), the committee responsible for overseeing these funds and developing a Comprehensive

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Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (Plan), including adding ten community representatives. Noting that the Plan had not been changed significantly in almost two decades, the Board also directed the Plan be revamped to reflect best practices, incorporate evaluation findings, and be informed by the needs of youth.

The current state of JJCPA presents both challenges and opportunities. The JJCC is now a more diverse and robust body, with sustained community engagement. On March 18, 2019, it unanimously approved components of an updated Plan that are data-driven, prioritize prevention and community-based interventions, and include a framework for updating the Plan each year. This Plan creates the foundation for improved JJCPA allocation for years to come that can serve to enhance youth development and delinquency prevention Countywide.

However, the budget presented was inconsistent with the Plan and included programs and services that may be outdated. More work must be done to align how the County spends approximately \$30 million a year with the research-informed Plan, and ensure that the Plan and accompanying budget that is ultimately elevated to the Board for approval are the strongest versions possible that reflect needed right-sizing and adjustments.

Moreover, although the Department has pursued some innovative strategies to spend down accumulated funds, including investing in the Public Private Partnership program and youth diversion, the funds have continued to accrue at startling rates. In the January 2019 quarterly report, the Department noted that the unspent funds had amassed to \$79.1 million. This seems to be attributable to a range of issues, including continued challenges with contracts, billing and referrals to community-based organizations. The A-C is scheduled to perform shortly a follow-up audit on JJCPA, and

assess compliance with its original recommendations. The County has considerable need for youth prevention and intervention services, and too often is faced with a dearth of resources to adequately fund community-based programs. It is therefore unacceptable that the County is not effectively spending down these resources.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to align the 2019-2020 JJCPA budget with the approved and updated Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (Plan) to the best of its ability, and otherwise identify the tasks and timeframe for further aligning a 2020-2021 JJCPA budget (or subsequent JJCPA budgets) with the Plan.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Chief Probation Officer, as Chair of the JJCC, as well as other departments previously funded under the Plan that may not be funded under the updated Plan, to assess the overall budget impact a particular JJCPA shift might create and to identify potential pathways forward that are appropriate for that department, and to report back to the Board of Supervisors (Board) in writing with an update in 90 days.
3. Direct the Auditor-Controller (A-C) to:
 - a. Expedite the follow-up audit of the JJCPA funds, including but not limited to an evaluation of the contracting process and timeliness of payments, as well as addressing the continual problem of large amounts of accumulated funds, and
 - b. Present the findings and recommendations to the JJCC upon completion.
4. Direct the JJCC to develop strategies to both prevent future accumulation of unspent funds, and to expeditiously spend down the reported \$79.1 million

that currently exists in unspent funds, including formulating a transparent process for applying for and approving any one-time funds. These strategies should be consistent with the Plan referenced above and responsive to the A-C's follow up audit and any previous relevant findings, and be shared with the Board in 90 days.

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