

December 20, 2022

**REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN  
AND HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

**Creating Less Restrictive Programs For Eligible Secure Youth Treatment Facility and  
Division of Juvenile Justice Youth Essential For Successful Transformation and  
Community Reentry**

On September 30, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 823 which, among other actions, realigned the care of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth to their respective counties, and announced the closure of the DJJ effective June 30, 2023. The intent of SB 823 is to protect Probation youth from transfer to the adult system once DJJ is no longer available. SB 823 provides realignment funds to counties for this purpose. On May 14, 2021, the Governor signed SB 92, creating a “Secure Youth Treatment Facilities” (SYTF) track for youth found to have committed serious offenses. SB 92 creates the framework for counties to house SYTF youth who otherwise would have been remanded to State custody.

Since July 1, 2021, the Delinquency Court has ordered 78 SYTF youth to Probation’s custody. Approximately 66 of these youth are housed at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall, and approximately 12 of these youth are housed at the SYTF-designated Campus Kilpatrick facility. There are over 100 additional youth who are scheduled to transition back to the County by June 30, 2023.

A significant number of incarcerated youth would benefit from essential services which are

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designed to best prepare youth/young adults for reentry in their communities while being provided in less restrictive, community-based settings outside of Probation juvenile detention facilities. It is the responsibility of the County to provide quality, evidence-based services and programming that best prepare youth for reentering their communities while also promoting opportunities for their successful independent living and breaking the cycle of recidivism.

Historically, there have been limited opportunities to create effective pathways for youth/young adults transitioning from DJJ back to their communities following long periods of incarceration. To address this major gap, the Probation Department (Department), in collaboration with the Department of Youth Development, is pursuing the development of a re-entry continuum of care model that enhances and expands services to youth in SYTF facilities and in step-down facilities as they transition back into the community. The model will include the introduction of Credible Messengers in SYTF facilities and in community settings and the inclusion of community-based partnerships able to establish and implement a pilot program for youth and young adults, ages 17 -25, under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court and on juvenile probation, for whom a step-down opportunity is more appropriate as demonstrated by substantial progress toward the goals of their Individual Rehabilitative Plan (IRP).

The IRP, developed in consultation with a Multi-Disciplinary Team, requires Court approval and identifies the youth/young adults' needs, describes programming, treatment, and education to be provided, and reflects principles of trauma-informed, evidence-based, and culturally responsive care. The IRP informs and guides all case planning efforts, and the court will review

the youth's progress towards completion and/or adherence to the IRP when either a reduction in confinement time or a less restrictive step-down program/facility option is being considered. Therefore, SYTF and DJJ youth have the ability to complete their disposition in a community-based step-down program which should also include reduced confinement.

This step-down program is designed to provide a continuum of care, treatment and supervision while also creating a pathway for youth to safely and successfully transition back to the community. While in custody, before a youth can go to a community-based step-down program, substantial progress toward the goals of their IRP needs to be demonstrated. They will then have an opportunity to live in a furnished unit, with supervision and access to supportive services, including mental health services, substance use treatment and/or counseling and relapse prevention, educational services, transportation and employment assistance, goal setting, parenting, life and socialization skills, family engagement, health and well-being, safety skills, food, clothing, personal care allowances, money management, and budgeting. Agencies will be expected to provide various services, to include outreach and engagement, intake and enrollment, care plan development, case management, care coordination and supportive services, and enrichment programming.

The Superior Court recently announced its plan to begin Jurisdiction Transfer hearings in early 2023. Therefore, time is of the essence to ramp-up much needed programmatic services delivered by a "step-down" program for eligible SYTF and DJJ youth, recognizing that a lengthy competitive solicitation process will not be viable at this time. The Department should

immediately implement the step-down program as a pilot. The pilot program will therefore serve as a bridging opportunity while a competitive solicitation process is initiated.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Probation Officer to work with the Department of Youth Development to design and execute the step-down pilot program with the goal of enhancing and expanding services for youth as they transition into the community.
2. Authorize the Chief Probation Officer or his designee to prepare and execute four, two-year agreements, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, with community-based agencies, that considers the Anti-Recidivism Coalition and the Amity Foundation, to implement a pilot program of less restrictive placement, to include, but not be limited to, housing and supportive services, for eligible "Secure Youth Treatment Facilities" (SYTF) and Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth at an estimated annual amount for each agreement, not to exceed \$1.5 million for the first year, and \$1,250,000 for the second year, fully funded by SB 823 revenue.
3. Instruct the Chief Probation Officer to initiate a competitive solicitation process for less restrictive programs for such eligible youth who would have been committed to the DJJ and to work with the Department of Youth Development on the development of the solicitation.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Probation Officer, or his designee, to prepare and execute amendments to the agreements for any decrease or increase to each agreement amount

and/or agreement term, not to exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the annual amount of the agreement and/or 180-days to the period of performance, pursuant to the terms of the agreement.

5. Delegate authority to the Chief Probation Officer or his designee to negotiate and amend each agreement, upon approval as to form by County Counsel, and to provide for an option to terminate for convenience.

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