

## **FY 2017-18 Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) Plan Review February 23, 2017 MAJJCC Meeting**

### **DISCUSSION: FY 2017-18 YOBG Plan Review:**

- Beginning in fiscal year 2007-08, the State through the auspices of Senate Bill (SB) 81 made funding available to counties for juvenile justice activities to support and respond to those chronic and serious youth offenders who were statutorily defined as being ineligible (non-WIC 707 (b) offenders) for consideration of commitment to the State Division of Juvenile Justice (formerly California Youth Authority)
- SB 81 requirements include the need for the county to annually review and approve its YOBG plan and the program to be funded under the plan.
- The matter now before the Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (MAJJCC) for consideration is to complete a review of the local FY 2017-18 YOBG Plan

### **HUMBOLDT COUNTY 2017-18 YOUTHFUL OFFENDER BLOCK GRANT PLAN**

The FY 2017-18 Humboldt County Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) Plan has as its foundation the basic mission to ensure the safety of our communities by implementing a balanced community justice model which includes the following core strategies:

- Community Protection by assessing the risk and threat offenders pose to the community, by imposing the level of restrictive control offenders require, and by providing programs necessary to bring about successful lifestyle changes.
- Encourage Youthful Offender Accountability and Competency through the use of graduated sanctions, provide needs-based services and intervention referrals to meet individualized needs and enhance capacity to function as productive adults.
- Emphasis on Wraparound Service Philosophy by utilizing individualized strength-based case planning to ensure that services are designed to effectively meet the changing needs of the youth and family in a holistic and culturally sensitive manner.
- Emphasis on the Use of Evidence-Based Practices to improve outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Stakeholders in the Humboldt County juvenile justice system have continually stressed the need to develop and implement a system of graduated and intermediate sanctions which incorporate a continuum of targeted services for juvenile offenders. The continuum of rehabilitative programming and services must be integrated in such a way so as to maintain an adequate balance

between prevention, diversion, intervention, supervision, and secure detention. Our juvenile justice system must incorporate restorative justice principles and practices that promote offender accountability and reconciliation with the community, as well as ensure the capacity for secure incarceration when responding to those more chronic and serious juvenile offenders unable to benefit from less restrictive rehabilitative services.

Consistent with the principles as outlined in the county's Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) Plan, the following key YOBG planning elements are included in the development of program, facility, and service options for Humboldt County.

1. Stress development and adequate funding support for a continuum of facility and intermediate sanctions which incorporates accountability and rehabilitative services for youthful offenders.
2. For intermediate sanctions to be effective, they must be swift, certain, consistent, fair and proportional to the violation behavior and risk to public safety. As a result, developing and maintaining a continuum of responses, up to and including secure detention, are critical to effect behavior change and protect community safety.
3. Probation programs must integrate and expand upon the use of evidence-based practices and community corrections principles.
4. Continue to foster and participate in the development of cost-effective local and regional public/private/tribal partnerships in order to develop consistent, reliable funding source(s) which are sustainable over time.
5. Implementation plans for new proposed community-based program options must include data and outcome evaluation requirements that will permit the county to assess the benefit and impact of each program and its services on the targeted juvenile populations.

Recognizing the need to serve the highest risk juveniles in our system based upon the core strategies of a balanced community justice model, *the plan for YOBG funds is to provide funding to support programming and re-entry services at the Northern California Regional Facility New Horizons Program which provides a unique regional concept and integrated approach for providing specialized evidence-based intensive care and treatment for troubled youth with mental health and substance abuse problems in a secure setting.*

Humboldt County, much like other Probation Departments throughout California, has experienced tremendous difficulty in placing and meeting the needs of seriously emotionally disturbed hard-to-place delinquent wards. This particular population, while not meeting the criteria for being designated as gravely disabled within the mental health system, nonetheless manifests a myriad of psychological disorders, learning disabilities, and acting-out behaviors. This population requires more structure and direct supervision than available in foster and/or group home care and more treatment and longer-term remedial care than is available in less restrictive settings. Although these youth may be chronic offenders, the severity of their crimes does not meet the threshold for commitment to the State Division of Juvenile Justice. These youth benefit from local programming which relies upon evidence based services, individualized youth and family care plans, and inclusion of family members in treatment services.

Humboldt County is unique in having a regional program which (1) meets the identified need for a secure treatment program, and (2) is designed with services specifically targeted to address the treatment needs of this youthful offender population. Therefore, it is recommended the 2017-18 Youthful Offender Block Grant funding be utilized to support operation of the New Horizons program and to assist program participants in their successful re-entry to community.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Accept and approve the FY 2017-18 YOBG Plan.
2. Support the 2017-18 YOBG Application for Continuation Funding to sustain services of the New Horizons program at the Northern California Regional Facility.  
(FY 2015-16 allocation was \$456,329 see attached; current FY 2016-17 is on pace for approximately \$480,000 so it is anticipated FY 2017-18 will be in that range.)