

County of Santa Clara

Probation Department

Juvenile Division
840 Guadalupe Parkway
San Jose, California 95110

Administrative Offices
840 Guadalupe Parkway
San Jose, California 95110



Laura Garnette
Chief Probation Officer

DATE: August 12, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Laura Garnette, Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: Temporary Housing Solutions for Justice-Involved Girls and Gender-Expansive Youth

At the June 22, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting, the Board approved a referral to Administration regarding options for consideration relating to providing temporary housing solutions for justice-involved girls and gender-expansive youth (Item No. 19).

The referral included a request for the following components:

- An inventory of existing residential solutions available to systems-impacted youth, including those who are justice-, foster care-, dually-involved-, or CSE-involved.
- Recommendations on enhancing existing residential solutions available to systems impacted youth as well as establishing new residential solutions that address housing instability infrastructure gaps for girls and gender-expansive youth who have been pre-adjudicated or exiting Juvenile Hall. The report should include the following information:
 - Current and proposed funding for enhancing existing residential options.
 - Cost estimates for establishing new residential solutions, including one-time and ongoing costs, based on whether the County contracts with an outside provider or maintains any new initiative in-house.
 - Staffing capacity needs for either enhancing existing or establishing new residential solutions.
 - Programming and services that are gender-responsive, including mentorship, case management, crisis intervention, and family mediation, and how these services may continue to be made available to youth after their stay.
- Assessment of legal regulations and licensing requirements that would need to be accounted for in establishing a new residential solution, in consultation with County Counsel and organizations like the Vera Institute of Justice.

The Probation Department is currently partnering with the Vera Institute of Justice (Vera) who has been engaged in the Juvenile Justice Gender Responsive Task Force (GRTF) and supporting the effort of eliminating girls from the juvenile justice system. The Probation Department has been a member of the GRTF since 2016. Vera has provided similar information

to the Court and GRTF in the past but has requested additional time to work with system partners and stakeholders on a menu of services/service delivery models that would be responsive to the referral.

The California Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) legislation, passed in 2015, limited the use of congregate residential care for youth and led to the closure of many residential options throughout the state. The Probation Department was recently informed that the County's last Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program will be closing soon, leaving no in-County residential options available to youth in foster care or those involved with the juvenile justice system. As such, additional time is needed to develop and vet residential placement and resource family options that may be available to girls and gender-expansive youth. Additionally, the Probation Department is working with the Office of the County Counsel to identify the legal regulations and licensing requirements that may impact the options available to the County.

As a result, the Probation Department is requesting an extension of this referral to the November 16, 2021 Board of Supervisors to ensure that the response is comprehensive and fully addresses the topics requested.

Cc: Chief Board Aides
Dr. Jeff Smith, County Executive
Miguel Márquez, Chief Operating Officer
Ky Le, Deputy County Executive
Tiffany Lennear, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator
Debbie Dills-Thompson, Principal Budget and Public Policy Analyst