

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
June 15, 2009

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Countywide Service Agency, Probation Department

Subject: Report Back On Possibility Of Combining Drug Court And Proposition 36 Programs And Exploring Alternate Funding With Other Agencies.

Contact: Suzanne Collins, Interim Chief Probation Officer 875-0310
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BACKGROUND:

On May 13, 2009, Probation presented the impacts of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget reductions to the Board of Supervisors. As the result of the massive budget shortfall, the Probation Department is recommending removing \$1,160,312 in General Fund from the Adult Drug Court Program. The Board requested information regarding the possibility of combining the Adult Drug Court and Proposition 36 programs and exploring alternate funding with other agencies.

DISCUSSION:

Without General Fund dollars, there is no way to continue Probation participation and the current multi-disciplinary Adult Drug Court model. A committee comprised of members from Probation and the Department of Behavioral Health Alcohol and Other Drug Services Division met on May 19, 2009 and again on May 28, 2009 to discuss combining the Adult Drug Court and the Proposition 36 programs and to explore alternate funding. The committee was unable to identify additional outside or alternative funding. Probation has since recently been informed there is stimulus grant funding that may be able to fund this program. Instead of completely eliminating participation, Probation is asking the board to continue funding the bare minimum costs of \$112,000 to transition the program for the next three months until stimulus grant information is received. If the stimulus funding is not available, additional General Fund dollars will be required to continue Probation participation in the program.

The Sacramento Superior Court Judge, Public Defender and Deputy District Attorney currently assigned to hear the Drug Court and Prop 36 calendars have tentatively indicated approval to hold Drug Court for both programs on Fridays, thereby streamlining Court processes. Additionally, the preliminary program proposal includes developing a curriculum modified for both populations in order to further streamline services. However, due to the reductions in

funding, probation officers for the Proposition 36 program have already been reduced from five (5) to two (2). With these reductions, the Proposition 36 officers cannot take on the dual workload and maintain Probation presence in the Adult Drug Court. Also, the Governors May revision proposes to eliminate Proposition 36 program funding entirely, which in turn eliminates the last two (2) probation officers in the program. Therefore, combining the Proposition 36 and Adult Court programs would still require a significant amount of General Fund to combine and continue with Probation participation.

If no General Fund is allocated to continue Probation involvement in the current multi-agency Adult Drug Court model, the Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Services Division would assume the responsibilities for operating the program. The Supervising Probation Officer position, which is paid for by grant funding through the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, could remain to oversee the re-designed program. The preliminary planning for this scenario indicates it would not be possible to follow the current evidence based “Drug Court Model,” as defined by Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and may lack some of the key elements for this high-risk population such as Probation Field Supervision. Not following the evidence based “Drug Court Model” may have ramifications including a possible reduction in program effectiveness.

The budgeted Prop 36 and Offender Treatment Program (OTP) amounts are: \$3,089,756. The breakdown is as follows: Administration - \$848,384, Probation-\$265,701, Contracts-\$1,975,671. Should the Prop 36 and OTP funding be eliminated, the following will be defunded:

- Seven ADS Staff
- Two Probation Officers
- Funding for 12 community treatment contractors

A restructured Prop 36 program is being developed and was discussed at the Intermediate Punishments Committee of the Criminal Justice Cabinet on June 5, 2009. Present were representatives of the Court, District Attorney., Public Defender, Probation, Alcohol and Drug Services Division, and the Prop 36/Adult Drug Court judge.

The committee will be meeting with collaborative partners including the Courts, the District Attorney and the Public Defender in ongoing discussions regarding combining these services.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

SUZANNE COLLINS, Interim Chief Probation Officer
Probation Department

TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive