

**COUNTY OF SONOMA  
AGENDA ITEM  
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only  
Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Held Until: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agenda Item No: \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda Item No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Probation

**( ) 4/5 Vote Required**

**Contact:**  
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**Phone:**  
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**Board Date:**  
6/9/2009

**Deadline for Board Action:**

**AGENDA SHORT TITLE:**

Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program ART Training

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTIONS:**

- (1) Resolution authorizing the Chief Probation Officer to submit the 2009 Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) California Gang Reduction and Intervention Program application;
- (2) Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to sign the Standard Agreement with the State to receive JABG funding.

**CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT**

**EXPENDITURES**

**ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL**

**Estimated Cost**

**Contingencies**  
(Fund Name:)

**Amount Budgeted**

**Unanticipated Revenue**  
(Source:)

**Other Avail Approp**  
(Explain below)

**Other Transfer(s)**  
(Source:)

**Additional Requested:**

**Add'l Funds Requested:**

**Explanation (if required):**

**Prior Board Action(s):**

08/05/08	08-0666	Juvenile Accountability Block Grant 2008
04/10/07	07-0243	Request to Submit Application for 2007-2008 JABG Grant
05/09/06	06-0429	Juvenile Accountability Block Grant
05/10/05	05-0409	Request to Submit Application for 2005-2006 JABG Grant

**Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval:**

Sonoma County Probation Department will not accept Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Funding for the purpose of Aggression Replacement Training and this model program will not be offered as a programming option for the County's juvenile offenders.

**BACKGROUND:**

In support of California’s efforts to reduce gang and youth violence among youth in the juvenile justice system, the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) is accepting applications to identify county probation departments that are prepared to implement and/or expand Aggression Replacement Training (ART) programs to youth in custodial settings and in the community. Sonoma County’s 2009 Application for Aggression Replacement Training is on-file with the Clerk of the Board. A resolution in support of the Application is attached to the Agenda Item.

**Overview.** The Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) Program, administered at the federal level by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), supports state and local efforts to reduce juvenile crime through programs that focus on offender accountability (Public Law 107-273). As California’s administering agency for this federally funded program, the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) distributes annual allocations to those localities meeting the federal funding threshold to receive direct allocations as well as distributes discretionary funds for projects addressing juvenile offender accountability.

Funding for this grant award will be used to reimburse county probation departments for training staff and implementing an evidence-based model of Aggression Replacement Training for juvenile offenders.

**Project Purpose and History.** In May 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger established the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) initiative to combat gang and youth violence and created the Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (OGYVP) to coordinate statewide gang and youth violence reduction efforts. At the Governor’s request to support the CalGRIP initiative, the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (SACJJDP) which oversees the use of JABG funds, recommended to the CSA Board that \$1.1 million of federal JABG funds be used to reduce gangs and youth violence. At the recommendation of OGYVP, the SACJJDP specifically recommended that those funds support efforts to build capacity within probation departments to implement or expand the evidence-based model of Aggression Replacement Training for juvenile offenders.

**Background Page 1 of 3**

**Attachments:** Resolution for submission of an application for Aggression Replacement Training Technical Assistance and Training Program for FY 09-10.

**On File With Clerk:** 2009/10 Application for Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Aggression Replacement Training for Probation Departments.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY**

**Board Action** (if other than "Requested")

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Vote:**

The CSA Board formed an Executive Steering Committee (ESC) to develop an application process for selecting one or more providers to deliver the Aggression Replacement Training and technical assistance to county probation departments statewide.

The CSA staff worked with the subject matter experts on the ESC to develop a list of qualified providers who will utilize an Aggression Replacement Training program as identified by the Model Programs Guide of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Funds are to be used by probation departments to contract for services with qualified providers from this list.

**Provider Services.** Probation Departments that participate in the technical assistance and training program can expect to receive the following services from qualified providers over a two-year period:

- A need and capacity analysis to develop an agency's Implementation Plan
- Consultation to help select appropriate staff for training
- Training that adheres to the OJJDP model core components (as described in the OJJDP Model Programs Guide for ART)
- Train the trainer courses
- Consultation conference calls and/or a mutually agreed upon process for continuous feedback
- Evaluation of service delivery
- On-going technical assistance to ensure program fidelity and effective, sustainable service delivery
- Tools for ongoing self-monitoring by trainers
- Video tape or in-person reviews of all trainers by the provider
- Corrective action plans to support program fidelity and component service delivery
- Site visits with feedback to the county probation departments
- Team meetings
- A process and outcome evaluation

**Aggression Replacement Training (ART).** CSA selected the Aggression Replacement Training model for the CalGRIP effort because it is one of the few evidence-based programs recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) as appropriate for youth gang intervention. As described in the OJJDP Model Programs Guide, ART is:

“...a multimodal psychoeducational intervention designed to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive adolescents and young children to improve social skill competence, anger control, and moral reasoning. The program incorporates three specific interventions: skill-streaming, anger-control training, and training in moral reasoning. Skill-streaming uses modeling, role-playing, performance feedback, and transfer training to teach prosocial skills. In anger-control training, participating youths must bring to each session one or more descriptions of recent anger-arousing experiences (hassles), and over the duration of the program they are trained in how to respond to their hassles. Training in moral reasoning is designed to enhance youths' sense of fairness and justice regarding the needs and rights of others and to train youths to imagine the perspectives of others when they confront various moral problem situations.

The program consists of a 10-week, 30-hour intervention administered to groups of 8 to 12 juvenile offenders thrice weekly.... During these 10 weeks, participating youths typically attend three 1-hour sessions per week, one session each of skill-streaming, anger-control training, and training in moral reasoning. The program relies on repetitive learning techniques to teach participants to control impulsiveness and anger and use behaviors that are more appropriate. In addition, guided group discussion is used to correct antisocial thinking.”

**Sonoma County Probation Department.** Sonoma County Probation Department seeks to bring effective programs to the County in order to provide the most effective services to our target populations. In a recent review of the County’s moderate high and high risk probationers, it was assessed that 52.1% of the juveniles believe that physical aggression is sometimes or oftentimes appropriate. Also, only 27.0% of the juveniles assessed claimed to know or use techniques to deal with aggression. An Aggression Replacement Training curriculum would be an excellent fit to our service population.

In a review of the literature, Probation believes that the ART format would be a good programming match to the County’s moderate-high and high risk youth. The Probation Department has been actively seeking to establish a strong programming core for its juveniles, focusing on cognitive-behavioral interventions that address low levels of self-control, poor values, and criminal thinking. If funded, this training effort would establish ART as a core program to the County’s Probation youth.

ART is a relatively expensive model to deliver with fidelity. This proposal would save the County more than \$22,000 in training costs over the next two fiscal years. Additionally, Sonoma County would greatly benefit from the training services of the California Mental Health Institute, one of the State’s premier organizations that delivers training of nationally-recognized model programs to behavioral health organizations including mental health, substance abuse treatment, and foster care organizations.

The Sonoma County proposal outlines the training of 10 Probation staff to deliver ART to juvenile probationers in the community and in the County’s Juvenile detention facilities. If successfully funded, training activities will begin in the third fiscal quarter of FY0910; program activities are expected to begin in the fourth fiscal quarter. It is expected that as many as 50 incarcerated juvenile probationers a year will benefit from this new program. Ongoing efforts to monitor this new program will be established to evaluate program effectiveness on lowering the juvenile recidivism rate.

**Matching Funds.** Successful applicants are required to provide a 10% cash match to the awarded funds. Probation will meet this obligation through an administrative match, in the amount of \$2,285.00. Probation will meet this match requirement with administrative overhead expenses. No additional monies from the General Fund will be required. If JABG funding is discontinued or diminished, the County will not be expected to supplement or sustain the training effort with general fund dollars.

**Summary.** Authorize the Chief Probation Officer to submit the 2009 Application for Aggression Replacement Training Technical Assistance and Training to the Corrections Standards Authority.