

September 19, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF FORMAL GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE
FOR THE JUVENILE JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve a formal governance and membership structure for the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council for the purposes of conducting meetings to discuss programs funded under the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and other similar programs and make recommendations to your Board, effective immediately.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to obtain Board approval to formalize a structure for conducting meetings of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) that reflects the size and diversity of Los Angeles County.

The JJCC was established pursuant to the Welfare and Institutions Code (Section 749.22), which required counties to establish a multi-agency juvenile justice coordinating council for juvenile justice grant eligibility purposes. This section also designates the Chief Probation Officer as Chair of the council and establishes a minimum level of membership.

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To be eligible for Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, the JJCC coordinated a multi-agency planning effort that resulted in the approval by your Board of the Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (Plan) on April 16, 2002. The JJCC body continues to meet and develop on-going recommendations for the JJCPA program. However, in recognition that a minimum level of membership is not adequate to meet the needs of a county the size and diversity of Los Angeles County, and that a council membership that is too large or broadly defined dilutes the power and authority envisioned in the original legislation, we are recommending the approval of the attached formal structure.

In collaboration with the JJCC, the Probation Department has developed a governance and membership structure to (1) increase the membership of the JJCC to better represent the communities and stakeholders in Los Angeles County, while keeping within the original framework for the council; and (2) facilitate the conduct of JJCC meetings. These actions will promote obtaining balanced local input from a manageable council membership size.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended Board action is consistent with the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #1 -- Service Excellence, Goal #3 -- Organizational Effectiveness, and Goal #5 -- Children and Families' Well-Being. Implementation of the recommendation will further the ability of participants in the juvenile justice system to coordinate, collaborate and integrate services for children and families across functional and jurisdictional boundaries.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact.

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FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The JJCC meets regularly and no less than quarterly to discuss issues related to the JJCPA program and the coordination of services for probation and at-risk youth. Continued funding by the legislature of JJCPA programs and other opportunities for collaboration will result in the need for future recommendations on Plan modifications.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Approval of the JJCC governance and membership structure will enable the JJCC to continue its efforts to make recommendations for the Plan and better coordinate and integrate juvenile programs in Los Angeles County through an established process and structure. The Plan addresses the critical problems of mental health needs of probationers, provides community-level prevention and intervention strategies that target high-risk neighborhoods, and focuses on achieving school success for probationers and at-risk youth. These services are currently provided through the collaborative efforts of government agencies and community-based organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Shumsky
Chief Probation Officer

RS:jo
Attachment (1)

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
All JJCC Members