



COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE



October 30, 2013

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael Antonovich

FROM: Mark Delgado, Executive Director *MD*
Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK ON MECHANISM TO CONDUCT ANALYSIS AND
EVALUATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS AND AB 109**
(Related to Item S-1 of the October 15, 2013 Board Agenda)

On October 15, 2013, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Office, in consultation with the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, to report back on plans to establish a mechanism to conduct analysis and evaluation of criminal justice programs and AB 109 efforts. CEO and CCJCC staff met to discuss and coordinate current efforts in this regard, which are outlined below.

Current Efforts

The Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee's primary charge is to coordinate multi-agency responses to criminal justice issues and assist with program development and analysis. To that end, CCJCC has been working with the CEO and partnering agencies to establish a pathway for ongoing evaluation of the County's criminal justice and AB 109 programming efforts.

In particular, CCJCC is drafting a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) for criminal justice research and evaluation services. This RFSQ will establish a Master Agreement list of vendors to provide consultant services encompassing:

- Evaluation of criminal justice and rehabilitative treatment programs to determine their efficacy in promoting public safety and reducing recidivism;
- Statistical analysis of crime and offender populations;
- Analysis, validation, and norming of criminal justice assessment tools; and
- Research and development of programs, policies, and practices.

CCJCC has consulted with the CEO and multiple departments on this initiative to ensure that this approach responds to the broad range of criminal justice/treatment program evaluation and research needs. The draft RFSQ will be provided to County Counsel for review by the end of October. It is anticipated that the RFSQ will be released by mid-November, with the goal of presenting to the Board a Master Agreement list for approval by February 2014.

When implemented, the Master Agreement will provide the County with consultant resources that will significantly augment our evaluation and resource capacity for both AB 109 and criminal justice efforts in general. Ultimately, the establishment of this Master Agreement will help promote evaluation-oriented, results-driven decision-making in criminal justice initiatives and programming going forward.

Funding

The Master Agreement list of qualified vendors will be made available to all County departments. The Master Agreement will not include funding. Should an agency or County department seek use of a Master Agreement vendor, that agency/department will be responsible for identifying, securing, and allocating funding.

The CEO and CCJCC have identified three potential funding scenarios:

AB 109 Programs

Funds have been set aside within CCJCC's AB 109 budget allocation for evaluation/analysis of AB 109 and County implemented programs. CCJCC and partnering departments are identifying priority AB 109 evaluation areas so that activities can be initiated swiftly following establishment of the Master Agreement. The CEO has also indicated that funding from the AB 109 Contingency Reserve is available for program evaluation services. Contingency Reserve funding will require CEO recommendation and Board approval.

Grant-Funded Programs

Departments receiving grant funds are often required by the granting agency to include an evaluation component to their funded program. In such cases, services available through the Master Agreement would streamline the process to implement an evaluation; grant funds can be budgeted to support the evaluation activities.

Net-County Cost (NCC) Programs

The CEO's Office has discussed the potential for a countywide evaluation policy for NCC-funded programs – specifically, a policy that promotes and prioritizes the ongoing evaluation of criminal justice activities.

The CEO, CCJCC, and partnering departments will develop a Public Safety Program Evaluation Policy proposal for Board consideration. Conceptually, departments requesting to implement or expand programming with NCC funding would be requested to set aside funds for program evaluation.

The amount of funding required will be subject to the scope of the program and whether a short-term or longitudinal evaluation is appropriate. As this is a preliminary concept, participation and input from departments will be vital for developing policy proposals and practices that promote the identification and funding of effective programs and termination of ineffective programs. We anticipate returning to the Board with a Public Safety Program Evaluation Policy recommendation in early Spring 2014.

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We believe that through the establishment of a Master Agreement for Research and Evaluation Services, our justice partners and the County as a whole will be far better positioned to determine program effectiveness on an ongoing basis. Such analysis and information will be critical to operational, funding, and policy decision-making efforts.

We will continue to keep your offices apprised of the status of this effort. In the meantime, your staff may contact Mark Delgado, Executive Director of CCJCC, at (213) 974-8399 or Georgia Mattera, Senior Assistant CEO, at (213) 893-2374 with any questions.

c: Chief Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors Executive Officer
County Counsel