

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 26

**SUBJECT: IMPROVING YOUTH SAFETY IN JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITIES
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On April 25, 2017 (4), the Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to negotiate with the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators, Inc. (CJJA) for the procurement of a contract for Youth in Custody Practice Model (YICPM) Training and Technical Assistance services to be provided to the County of San Diego's Probation Department (Probation) for a period of 18 months. Under this authority, on August 9, 2017, the County of San Diego (County) awarded Contract 556648 to CJJA (then known as Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, Inc.), to expire on February 28, 2019. The County has since continued renewing its contract, currently under Contract Number 568295, to receive technical assistance and training from CJJA on policies, procedures, and operating practices specific to the Youth Transition Campus (YTC), the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (EMJDF), A.B. and Jessie Polinsky Children's Center, and the SB 823 Youth Development Academy Program. Technical assistance includes site visits, virtual meetings with identified staff, and review of all related records, including incident reports and videos related to incidents of violence, use of restraints/force, use of confinement, and facility design.

The YICPM is designed to assist state and county juvenile correctional agencies and facility providers in implementing a comprehensive and effective service delivery approach. Utilizing the YICPM as a roadmap, CJJA, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, and a team of consultants provided participating agencies with technical assistance and training to align core, research-based principles with everyday practice, and achieve more positive outcomes for youth, families, staff, and communities by reducing the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

On May 13, 2025, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced the opening of a civil rights investigation to determine whether the County has engaged in a pattern or practice of unlawful treatment of youth at EMJDF and YTC. The announcement did not outline any specific incidents or allegations that may have prompted the investigation; however, recent reporting by several oversight organizations highlight concerns with excessive use of force in youth detention facilities, including the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, and the failure of Probation officers to utilize de-escalation techniques. Moreover, while Probation has contracted with CJJA since 2017, the Board is rarely apprised of complaints filed against Probation or of CJJA's findings due to the contract directing CJJA to provide their Training and Technical Assistance solely to Probation.

This is a request to establish an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice, renew the County's contract with CJJA with a provision requiring CJJA to provide the Subcommittee with its reports, and direct the Chief Probation Officer to report back to the Board within 60 days with a plan for (1) the phased elimination of the use of OC spray, and (2) the promotion of de-escalation techniques as opposed to excessive use of force and room confinement. The Chief Probation Officer's plan must include mandatory Mandt training for all Probation officers working in the County's youth detention facilities and proposed policy changes.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

VICE-CHAIR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

1. Establish an ad hoc subcommittee of this Board of Supervisors, entitled the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice (Subcommittee), and appoint Supervisor Monica Montgomery Steppe and Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, for the purpose of analyzing, planning and proactively addressing concerns, recommendations, and opportunities for improvement in youth detention facilities.
 - a. To advance the purposes described above, the activities of the Subcommittee will include, but will not be limited to, the following: (i) working with Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators, Inc. (CJJA), Probation, County staff, and, if relevant, other stakeholders, to track concerns and recommendations regarding the County of San Diego's youth detention facilities; (ii) identifying and analyzing opportunities to improve Probation operations through changes in policy, training and practices; and (iii) working with the Chief Probation Officer, Chief Administrative Officer and others on developing and implementing steps for any recommendations presented to and approved by the Board.
 - b. The Subcommittee will report back by memo to the Board quarterly on the activities of the Subcommittee, and in closed session as needed and authorized by statute.
 - c. The Subcommittee will bring forth recommendations for approval by the Board as needed.
 - d. Once the purposes outlined above have been achieved, the Subcommittee will conclude its work.
2. In accordance, with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, direct, approve, and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to enter into negotiations with CJJA and, subject to successful negotiations and a determination of a fair and reasonable price, amend Contract Number 568295 with CJJA to extend its contract terms through December 31, 2026, subject to the availability of funds, and to add a provision that requires CJJA to provide the Board with a copy of CJJA's reports, including its Training and Technical Assistance services.
3. Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with CJJA, to report back to the Board within 60 days with a plan for the phased elimination of the use of chemical agents, including OC spray, in all San Diego County youth detention facilities within two years. The Chief Probation Officer and CJJA are to work with the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency, County Counsel, the Public Defender, the Alternate Public Defender, the San Diego County Office of Education, and employee associations, consistent with the meet and confer labor obligations, and community advocates in creating the plan, as deemed appropriate. The plan must also implement pilot programs at all of the youth detention facilities currently using chemical agents, including OC spray, which restricts access to chemical agents while it is being phased out.
4. Direct the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with CJJA, to report back to the Board within 60 days with a plan that considers best practices, both short- and long-term, to reduce and de-emphasize the use of force and room confinement. The plan must include, but not be limited to, mandatory Mandt training for all Probation officers working in youth detention facilities, a timeline of implementation of alternate forms of supervision and behavior management, and

related amendments to Probation's policies and procedures. The Chief Probation Officer and CJJA are to work with the County of San Diego's Health and Human Services Agency, County Counsel, the Public Defender, the Alternate Public Defender, the San Diego County Office of Education, and employee associations, consistent with meet and confer obligations, and community advocates in creating the plan, as deemed appropriate.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Encouraging effective government oversight of juvenile detention and updating use of force policies demonstrate a commitment to promoting equity, justice, and inclusivity.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Encouraging effective government oversight of juvenile detention and updating use of force policies will further the County of San Diego's commitment to promoting justice for all San Diegans.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for the actions requested are included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan based on existing staff time in the identified departments based on various funding sources. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years resulting from these recommendations. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and approval.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Lawson-Remer, the Board of Supervisors took the following actions:

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 - a. To advance the purposes described above, the activities of the Subcommittee will include, but will not be limited to, the following: (i) working with Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators, Inc. (CJJA), Probation, County staff, represented labor organizations with employees in the Department, and, if relevant, other stakeholders, to track concerns and recommendations regarding the County of San Diego's youth detention facilities; (ii) identifying and analyzing opportunities to improve Probation operations through changes in policy, training and practices; and (iii) working with the Chief Probation Officer, Chief Administrative Officer and others on developing and implementing steps for any recommendations presented to and approved by the Board.
 - b. The Subcommittee will report back by memo to the Board quarterly on the activities of the Subcommittee, and in closed session as needed and authorized by statute.
 - c. The Subcommittee will bring forth recommendations for approval by the Board as needed.
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AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

NOES: Desmond

State of California)

County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed

by Andrew Potter

