

7 – YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS, PROBATION

1. **Program Area:** Public Protection
2. **Agencies and Departments involved:** Probation Department, Health Care Agency
3. **New or previously identified in earlier Strategic Financial Plans, if previously identified what has changed and why:**

Previously approved strategic priority which funded three center locations. Because of budget reduction strategies, the Probation Department terminated the South YFRC and the second YFRC program in Anaheim in June 2003, and plans to close two additional sites by July 1, 2004.

This strategic priority seeks to restore the four YFRC's. This restoration request replaces Probation's interest in siting a YFRC in the Newport Harbor area of Orange County and another in the central area, as reported in prior Strategic Financial Plans. If approved, the four centers could be phased in as funding permits.

4. **Description of the project/program – what it is and what it will achieve:**

The YFRC programs provide a model continuum of services including generic juvenile supervision, specialized intervention services and a day reporting program. In addition to the Probation Department services, the Health Care Agency operates a special outpatient program to provide a continuum of care for Probation wards. A Behavioral Health Unit of regular HCA staff positions is integrated with Probation staff, school personnel and a contract service provider at the Youth and Family Resource Centers. The clientele are young first-time offenders, projected to be high risk based upon profile factors contained in the Probation Department's 8% Research Study. The "8%" Research Study conducted on juvenile recidivism and the subsequent Early Intervention Program have received national attention. Overall, the study showed that about 70% of first-time offenders were so affected by their juvenile justice experience that they were not seen again during the three-year study period. On the other end of the spectrum was a troublesome 8%, who went on to become chronic re-offenders. These youths have certain characteristics, which make them recognizable before they commit their second, third or fourth offenses. This facility serves as a "one-stop shop" to house services for the families of potential "8%" youth, such as specialized educational course work, health care assessment, and parenting classes. The goal is to reduce program failure, reduce returns to Juvenile Hall and to significantly reduce subsequent criminal activity and re-arrest.

Minors who participated in the YFRC programs achieved significant improvements in school attendance and completing school credits, reducing drug and alcohol use, and maintaining lower rates of new law violations than a comparison group outside of the YFRC's. Unfortunately, as part of a budget reduction strategy to assist in the closure of an anticipated five-year structural gap in the County's Fund Balance Available, the Probation Department terminated the South YFRC program and the second YFRC

program in Anaheim in June, 2003. In order to meet available finances in FY 04-05, the Probation Department intends to close its Central YFRC in Santa Ana and another YFRC situated on the former Marine base in El Toro.

5. **Potential Funding Sources:** County General Fund General Purpose Revenue
6. **Cost – estimate and identify separately one-time and ongoing costs:**
Cost estimates for the four phases related to the restoration of the YFRC programs are approximately \$2 million per year for each phase, including start-up and operating costs.
7. **Community Awareness (stakeholders):** Juvenile offenders and their families, and the County communities that would benefit from reduced criminal activity and behavioral problems in schools and in public.
8. **Personnel – will the program/project require additional staffing? If so, estimate number of positions:** A total of sixty additional Probation Department staff and twelve additional Health Care Agency staff are needed for Phases I, II, III and IV.
9. **Mandated or discretionary:** Discretionary
10. **Implementation period if funding were available:** Probation is requesting funding for Phase I (South YFRC) starting in FY 2005-06, Phase II (North YFRC) in FY 2006-07, Phase III (Central YFRC) in FY 2007-08 and Phase IV (Central/South YFRC) in FY 2008-09.