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Date: April 19, 2006
To: Lane County Board of Commissioners
Department: Health & Human Services
Presented By: Rob Rockstroh, Director H&HS
Agenda Item Title: Report Back: Policy Choices for Parole & Probation Supervision

I. Motion

Not applicable.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

On March 21, 2006 we had a discussion with the Board concerning policy choices on supervision of misdemeanor offenders (both domestic violence and sex offenses). At that meeting the Board of Commissioners requested that we report back after we had a meeting with what we termed the "Enhanced SAT" (Supervisory Authority Team). This group was also to include District Attorney representation.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background/Analysis

On April 6 the "Enhanced SAT" met. The persons present were Judge Karsten Rasmussen, Russ Burger, Doug Harclerod, Linda Eaton, Alex Gardner, Kevin Williams, Bob Hickok, Doug Hooley, and Rob Rockstroh.

The meeting started with the comment that there is no cheap solution and there is no easy solution, otherwise we would have already done it. We listed various options or models to solve our problem of the potential loss of misdemeanor supervision. After listing the options, members of the group discussed each one. The options listed were (in no particular order):

- Domestic Violence Court
- Review of Community Corrections Act Dollars/General Funds, if rollover is higher than anticipated in budgets.
- Hearings Process (Probation Officer as Hearings Officer)
- Bench Probation combined with Lane County Mental Health evaluation and referral to a treatment provider
- Increase casebank of offenders (assign offenders a data base)

- Adding 2 or 3 Probation Officers with a limited caseload (e.g., 70:1 ratio) to work with judge(s)
- Continue to push “discharge form” process with DA and Court
- Domestic Violence Deferred Sentencing

After some discussion the group settled on a combination of a “DV Court” (DV Docket) and having some additional POs dedicated to working with the offenders assigned to this docket. There was some brief discussion about funding, such as reallocating some current funding, looking at a budget add package, and looking at “match” from various parties. No budget details were worked out.

The presiding judge of the Circuit Court of Lane County has agreed to the concept of a “Domestic Violence Docket,” working in conjunction with a certain number of probation officers assigned to work with that docket. The number of officers assigned would depend on the amount of funding made available for this caseload. The supervision would include home and office visits, assistance to victims, referral to treatment, and all other basic supervision services. The probation officers would also attend court hearings, to report on the offender’s progress or lack of progress on probation.

B. Alternatives/Options

N/A; update on group recommendation.

C. Recommendation

The recommended option is the DV Docket, in partnership with Circuit Court. This option dedicates three probation officers, supervising 70 offenders each, to work with the docket. This option represents the best balance of all factors, including the best use of the County’s limited resources. While fewer misdemeanor offenders would be served (about 210 out of an estimated 375), there is a greater likelihood of serving the highest risk misdemeanant DV offenders with this option. While a caseload of 70 domestic violence offenders is still a little high, it is much more manageable than current caseloads.

Our estimate for the full cost (salary/benefits/indirects/supplies/equipment) of three probation officers is \$281,657. Equipment costs include one shared vehicle and three computers.

IV. Implementation/Timing

As directed by the Board.