



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Jeff Irwin, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Julie M. Chaffee
Director of Community Corrections

Dan Dwyer
Trial Court Administrator

DATE: July 6, 2005

SUBJECT: 2006 Comprehensive Community Corrections Plan Application

Board Action Requested:

The Community Corrections Advisory Board requests the Board of Commissioners ratify the County Administrator's signature on the grant application to the Department of Corrections for the annual Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan for the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. Approval of the budget and authorization to sign delegate contracts will be brought back to the Board for consideration upon award of the grant.

Background:

In November 1991, Washtenaw County and the City of Ann Arbor developed a Comprehensive Corrections Plan pursuant to Public Act 511 (PA 511) for the purpose of offering diversion and alternative sentencing options to the Washtenaw County Trial Court. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved the original Comprehensive Corrections Plan on November 9, 1991 by resolution number 91-0280. The mission continues to be for Community Corrections to a) reduce prison commitments for non-violent offenders, b) protect public safety and reduce jail crowding so that priority for scarce and costly jail beds will be reserved for dangerous offenders, and c) improve treatment effect to reduce recidivism through credible alternatives to incarceration. These objectives align with County Guiding Principles to ensure provision of mandated services, reduce the cost of doing business and promote intergovernmental cooperation to improve services, and focus on the root causes of problems. Community Corrections is uniquely positioned within the Trial Court in that services span the spectrum of the criminal justice system from pretrial intervention to jail based programming to treatment initiatives aimed at probationers and parolees.

Discussion:

The FY2005/06 application includes provisions to contain costs and increase the success of the Community Corrections programs through the following initiatives:

Staffing

Fund a Court Services Liaison Officer position to complete the tasks of assessing offenders in the jail pretrial and placing offenders in programming following a risk/needs assessment. The “gatekeeper” duties assigned to this position are utilized for assessment and placement of offenders into programs inside the jail and upon release. The Court Services Liaison position will be staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week, utilizing 3.0 FTEs to cover the hours of availability. This approach meets the mission of the newly formed Criminal Justice Collaborative Council (CJCC).

All in-jail programming identified will be based upon offender classification and program eligibility criteria established by the Community Corrections Advisory Board. The program eligibility has been expanded to provide additional alternative sentencing options to a number of defendants and offenders. With the expanded eligibility and the addition of the Court Services Liaison Officer position, the CCAB is in line with the mission of the CJCC in identifying the service gaps in the local criminal justice system in an effort to utilize the limited jail space with public safety needs addressed.

Fund an additional Supervision Agent position to handle increased referrals from the courts due to the eligibility expansion and the screening and verification process for which the Court Liaison position will have responsibility. It is anticipated that the referrals will increase the pre-trial supervision caseload requiring this to be a full-time position.

Probation Residential Services

PRS reimbursement is tied entirely to utilization on a per diem basis. The expansion of the eligibility criteria allows for request of additional PRS monies for placement of offenders into probation residential services. As noted in the contractual conditions of the Midyear report, the state endorses placement of probation violators into the PRS population and notes that with addressing this population in the new grant it may assist in reduction of the local offenders in jail by up to 23 days. These resources, if approved by the state, are fully reimbursed by State funding and may have a positive impact on county resources as it relates to jail bed days saved.

Programming

The CCAB has expanded the options for in-jail programming to allow for appropriate programming options that meet the needs of offenders in Washtenaw County. The objective is to reduce the potential to re-offend and to support reintegration into our community in a manner consistent with public safety needs with our program options. A new program will require offenders sentenced to jail for a domestic violence violation to complete a cognitive program. Based on a risk/need assessment, this group of offenders may also be placed in additional in-jail programs. A second new program

allows offenders with mental illness and substance abuse issues to be placed in intensive supervision for program placement and substance abuse treatment.

Impact on Human Resources:

If the application is approved by the State, the Trial Court will create 4.0 FTEs for inclusion within this grant.

Impact on the Budget:

The total Community Corrections budget proposed in the application is \$1,856,061. This represents a funding request to the Michigan Department of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections in the amount of \$640,694 for programs and administration and \$549,325 for Probation Residential Services, for a total request of \$1,190,019. In addition, it is estimated that \$405,748 will come from program generated fee revenue, with the remaining \$260,294 in county general fund match. These budget figures are contingent upon approval of the application.

Indirect Costs:

It is requested that the county continue to waive the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) for the Community Corrections program. This is \$189,788 for the 2005 fiscal year. The 2006 amount has not been calculated at this time. The county has waived the CAP for Community Corrections throughout the existence of the program.

Impact on other County Departments:

Effective implementation of programs and services results in improved systems approach to effectively reducing recidivism. It ensures that proper placement and programming is being offered and the offenders are adhering to court orders. This positively affects nearly every County department and improves the quality of life for County citizens. The increased supervision levels with technological advantages assist the Sheriffs Office and Courts specifically providing them with alternative sanctions to the jail.

Conformity to County Policies:

This request conforms to Washtenaw County policies.

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE SIGNATURE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ON THE APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS, FOR THE FY 2006 WASHTENAW COUNTY/CITY OF ANN ARBOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2005 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2006 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,856,061.

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 6, 2005

WHEREAS, on August 6, 1989, by resolution #89-0219, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners established, in conjunction with the Ann Arbor City Council, a city/county Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB) pursuant to PA 511 of 1988; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2004 the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioner passed a resolution #04-0023 approving revisions to the originally adopted CCAB By-Laws 1989 resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Advisory Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of every month pursuant to By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, the application for FY 2005/06 programs and descriptions have been reviewed and approved by the CCAB and recommended for forwarding to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and Ann Arbor City Council for review and approval; and

WHEREAS, this agreement represents and demonstrates thirteen successful years of implementation of the original Comprehensive Corrections Plan, which was developed and approved by this body on November 9, 1991 by resolution #91-0280; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County continues to have one of the lowest prison commitment rates in the state and a high utilization of Community Correction community-based supervision programs; and

WHEREAS, the budget request provides total program funding in the amount of \$640,694 for programs and services and \$549,325 for Probation Residential Services for a total request of state funding in the amount of \$1,190,019; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget includes a request for general fund cash match of \$260,294, which is anticipated based on estimated program revenues of \$405,748; and

WHEREAS, needed program enhancements have been funded by strategically allocating resources, collaborating with local agencies to eliminate duplication of service, and utilizing new technologies for electronic monitoring and drug testing to optimize efficiency, and identification of court liaison officer position to fulfill infrastructure support to the courts, programs, jail and county; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Office of Community corrections will be reviewing and considering this application for approval by the State Board of Community Corrections regularly scheduled meeting in July; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Human Resources, Finance, the County Administrator's Office and the Ways & Means Committee

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratify the County Administrator's signature on the application to the State of Michigan, Michigan Department of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections for the FY 2006 Washtenaw County/City of Ann Arbor Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan in the amount of \$1,856,061 for the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006, as on file with the County Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners takes this action with the understanding that if the grant is awarded it will be brought back to the Board for approval, appropriation of funds, review of positions, and authorization of delegate contracts.