

Memorandum

ROUTE TO:

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RETURN INSTRUCTIONS:



Date: July 23, 2008

To: Honorable J. William McLafferty
Presiding Judge of the Santa Barbara County
Superior Court

Ted Sten, Foreperson
2007-2008 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury

From: Patti Stewart, Chief Probation Officer

Subject: Response to 2007-2008 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury Final
Report on June 12, 2008.

CC: Honorable Arthur A. Garcia, Assistant Presiding Judge
Honorable James Herman, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Honorable Thomas R. Adams, Juvenile Court
Michael F. Brown, Santa Barbara County Executive Officer
Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission
Probation Department Administrative Staff

Please find enclosed the Probation Department's response to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury finding and recommendation of June 12, 2008 regarding mentors for youth on probation.

Enclosures: Response
Computer Disk (Foreperson Sten only)

MENTORS FOR YOUTH ON PROBATION

Finding 5: *The Probation Department needs mentors for probationary youth in their aftercare programs.*

Response to Finding 5: *The Probation Department agrees with this finding as it relates to the Juvenile Probation Institutions and Juvenile Field Services.*

Recommendation 5: *The Probation Department should partner with community groups and non-profits to find mentors for youth recently released from Probation programs, including Los Prietos.*

Response to Recommendation 5: *The recommendation has been partially implemented and will be fully implemented within 120 – 180 days when the updated Probation Department website is launched.*

One of the single most important influences in a youth's development is having one or more positive adult role models. The Probation Department has Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) who provide supervision and referrals to programs for at-risk juvenile offenders. Commencing in FY 2008 – 2009 Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funding is being used to finance Juvenile Institutions Officers (JIOs) deployed as Community Transition Officers (CTOs) assigned to work countywide with pre and post Camp graduates. Additionally, three YOBG enhanced supervision officers will be deployed, one in each region. Together these DPOs and CTOs will assess and identify youth requesting mentors or who could benefit from mentor services. Probation staff will continue to make appropriate referrals to existing resources, such as:

- Y Strive for youth, Inc.
- Community Action Commission Los Compadres / Las Comadres
- All-For-One Youth Mentoring
- Santa Barbara Fighting Back School Based mentor program
- Franklin Neighborhood Center Advisory Committee
- Police Activities League Programs
- FSA Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Arts Mentorship Program
- Community Mediation Program of Santa Barbara County
- Boys and Girls Clubs

Pending enhancements to the Probation Departments Internet Website will include a link that will provide information on volunteer opportunities, including mentoring. The opportunity to integrate mentoring services into the Alternative Detention Program sites will also be investigated. Outreach will be made to service organizations such as Kiwanis, Elks Lodges, Rotary and Lions Clubs, and the Hispanic Business Council to invite new mentors to participate and positively influence the lives of youthful offenders.