

EL DORADO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council Members

FROM: Brian J. Richart, Chief Probation Officer

DATE: March 6, 2014

RE: Community Alliance to Reduce Truancy (CART) Program

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) is presently being reconvened as required by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) of 2000.

History

The JJCPA bill enables California counties to receive funding, through the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), for juvenile justice programs. The BSCC maintains oversight of the JJCPA programs statewide and is responsible for the disbursement of the funding. On October 26, 2000, your council was established and approved the recommendation of the Probation Officer to implement the Community Alliance to Reduce Truancy (CART) Program. Upon receipt of the first allocation of funding from BSCC, the CART Program became operational on March 26, 2001. Each year thereafter, your council has reconvened and supported continuation of the CART Program. Upon approval from BSCC, the CART Program has received funding from the JJCPA every fiscal year since 2001.

Current Status

During this last year the CART Program has continued with no changes in program goals. Currently, there is one Supervising Deputy Probation Officer that oversees the program and five Deputy Probation Officers assigned to supervise juvenile offenders and to act as a resource at ten El Dorado County high schools. This past year, funding allowed the Probation Department to add a Senior Deputy Probation Officer to the CART program part time. Deputy Probation Officers providing services at each of the schools have become part of the campus culture, developing alliances and partnerships with students and their parents, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement, and the community where the schools are located. Our schools value the presence of a Deputy Probation Officer on their respective campuses and are hopeful the partnership that has developed over the last thirteen years continues.

Results

The original legislation identified specific outcome areas to be measured and required reports on these measurements to be provided to BSCC and the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (BOS) annually. BSCC created an Internet-based system for these annual reports. The outcome areas to be measured in the CART Program include attendance and grades at school, payment of restitution and fines, completion of community service work, completion of probation, rate of arrest and incarceration, and rate of violations of probation. Since the inception of the CART Program in 2001, all annual reports have been approved by BSCC and the BOS, and have reflected the CART Program has shown continuous positive trends in all goals specified above.

Evaluation

The services and actions of the Deputy Probation Officers assigned to the CART Program schools have continued to assist juvenile offenders with improving school attendance, school behavior, and academic performance. The CART Program identifies appropriate services for youth and their families, holds juveniles accountable to their conditions of probation, and continually strives to deter future delinquent activity. The CART Program also continues to assist in establishing and maintaining collaborative alliances with the school and community to assess and provide appropriate services for families and “at risk” youth who are not under probation supervision, providing safer schools and neighborhoods throughout El Dorado County.

Recommendation

Due to the continued success of the CART Program as indicated above, and should the state continue funding, it is recommended the CART Program continue at the level supported by available funding.