

**ALAMEDA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
PUBLIC PROTECTON COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

**Supervisor Elisa Márquez, Chair
Supervisor Nate Miley, excused**

**Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Suite 512
Oakland, CA 94612**

Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99247500951>

SUMMARY/ACTION MINUTES

I. A Vision for the Future: Advancing Positive Youth Development in Juvenile Facilities

[Attachment](#)

Brian K. Ford, Acting Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County Probation Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation on A Vision for the Future: Advancing Positive Youth Development in Juvenile Facilities.

A vision for juvenile facilities, emphasizing a culture change since the implementation of SB 823. The focus is on rethinking resources, operational practices, rehabilitative approaches, and partnerships. To create an environment where youth and families experience care and support.

Ford discusses population trends, guiding principles, and strategic directions. Positive youth development, a supportive environment, authentic partnerships, data-informed decisions, and culturally relevant approaches.

Importance of staff investment and family involvement in the treatment process. Plans for expanding clinical services, educational opportunities, and reentry support. The need for data-driven metrics to measure outcomes.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. Reducing the Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray and SB 823 Program Update

[Attachment](#)

Shauna Conner, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County Probation Department and Brian K. Ford, Acting Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County Probation Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Reducing the Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray and SB 823 Program update.

The presentation included an overview of relevant legislation, progress and challenges with program implementation, program data, and future plans. The SB 823 program, now renamed the Firm Roots Youth Academy, aims to provide alternatives to juvenile justice involvement, including housing, programming, treatment, and supervision at the local level. Legislative changes include raising the age of local jurisdiction and confinement to the age of 25 years.

As of March 2024, forty-four (44) youth have participated in the program, with an emphasis on education, vocational services, and mental health/substance use support. Accomplishments include high school graduations and college enrollments. Various programs, including coding and music production, have been introduced to support skill-building.

Challenges include staffing vacancies, reentry issues, and family engagement. Strategies to address these challenges include improved recruitment and retention efforts, revamped program models, and enhanced aftercare services.

Regarding the reduction of use of OC Spray, data shows a decrease in its use, with ongoing efforts to train staff in alternative intervention methods. The presentation emphasizes a commitment to improving outcomes for youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system.

Speaker

Elana Metz, Alameda County Juvenile Justice Commission, commented on Reducing the Use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray and SB 823 Program Update is item.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. Review Operational Status and Address Staffing Issues at the Office of Emergency Services

[Attachment](#)

Matthew Farruggia, Captain, Alameda County Sheriff's Office and Brentt Blaser, Emergency Services Supervisor, Office of Emergency Services, Alameda County Sheriff's Office presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Review Operational Status and Address Staffing Issues at the Office of Emergency Services.

The presentation highlighted urgent concerns about critical staff shortages in the Office of Emergency Services (OES). The County needs to address the shortages to ensure the safety and resilience of the community. The central role of OES is responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery efforts within Alameda County, ensuring an effective response to emergencies and disasters within the operational area.

Recent events, including wildfires, civil unrest, and cyberattacks, underscore the need for robust emergency management. OES staffing levels have remained the same since 2013, severely limiting the capacity to respond effectively.

Brentt Blaser, Emergency Services Supervisor, reported that there is a disparity between OES staffing levels in Alameda County compared to other counties in the Bay Area.

The Office of Emergency services requested the Public Protection Committee to direct the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and County Administrator to propose staffing solutions at the next Board meeting.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education**
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other

Recommendation from the Public Protection Committee: The Public Protection Committee is in support of addressing the staffing issues in the Office of Emergency Services. The item will be brought to the full Board of Supervisors through budget deliberations, the Sheriff and the County Administrator will be directed to present the Board with options on how to identify funding for the sixteen (16) positions within the Office of Emergency Services for the FY 2024/2025 budget cycle.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Zilliac commented that the County is out of compliance and there is no legal way to call a special election for a recall. She is opposed to spending a d \$25 million on a Special Election that is going to end up in the courts.

Merle Lustig spoke on behalf of Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails (ICJJ) commented that the coalition is strongly opposed to a special election funded at \$20 million by the taxpayers.

Rivka Polatnick commented that she is opposed to holding a special election for the recall of the District Attorney.

Reisa Jaffe commented that Alameda County residents were required to be signature gatherers, and many were from out of state and against the charter rules and those signatures should not count.

Shirley Golub commented that the rules were not followed in reference to the recall. She asked that the Board say no to a special election for the recall of the district attorney.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned to Thursday, May 23, 2024.

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