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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman
County Executive Office

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the closure of the Nevada County Carl F. Bryan II Youth Center between January 1, 2021 and June 30, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: The FY 20/21 adopted budget for the Carl F. Bryan II ("Youth Center") was \$3.04 million which included \$1.67 million of general fund. This budget includes a one-time cost of a new central control panel. Closure on or before June 30, 2021 would bring an estimated savings of a similar amount for fiscal years 21/22 and forward. Should it close in advance of June 30, 2021, there would be an unknown savings amount for the current fiscal year. The realignment savings from closing will be recommended to further enhance youth prevention programming. Budget amendments will be brought to the Board as necessary.

BACKGROUND: In 1995, the California Legislative Analyst's Office Juvenile Crime Outlook for California reported that "California's juvenile population is projected to grow over 20 percent in the next decade (through 2004). The number of juvenile arrests will increase over 29 percent over the next ten years. The number of arrests for juvenile violent crime are estimated to increase over 28 percent through 2004." Further, the County's population nearly doubled between 1980 and 2000 (from 51,645 to 92,033), and at that time the County's population was projected to have significant growth from 2000 to 2020.

The Youth Center was built in 2003 and sized according to anticipated growth in juvenile detainees. The cost was 80% funded by a Department of Justice grant and 20% County General Fund. Related to accepting grant funding, the County, by Resolution No. 00-427, had agreed to receive permission and instruction from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) prior to modifying the use of the facility. Modifying the facility's use includes closure of the facility.

Since its opening, the Youth Center has never been at capacity and over the last year the average daily population has been less than three youth and yet maintains 27 County staff. This facility was designed to hold sixty youth in order to accommodate the projected population growth in the County. However, contrary to the prior population growth projections for Nevada County between 2000 to 2020, demographic data from the United States Census Bureau revealed that the population of Nevada County plateaued in the last decade, going from 98,205 in 2009 to 99,715 in 2019. This, in addition to Nevada County Juvenile Probation's investment in alternative strategies to working with youth and families to resolve conflict and provide rehabilitative opportunities, has resulted in a substantially reduced need for secure detention of juveniles. Due to the declining population in secure detention, the average daily cost per youth has increased by over 200% over the past decade. Over several years, Probation has sought to reduce costs caused by the steady decline in the daily

Youth Center census by leasing juvenile hall beds to other counties. However, the revenue from these contracts will be reduced drastically upon the completion of El Dorado's new detention facility in 2021.

The Grand Jury has reported on the low census at Juvenile Hall twice – first in 2013 and again in 2016. Both reports recommend closing the hall and instead contracting with a neighboring county to house our juvenile offenders. Both of these reports cite financial savings and repurposing the facility to serve the community in a greater way as reasons for the recommendation.

In 2018, an interdepartmental County staff workgroup was formed to identify and analyze the opportunities to repurpose the Youth Center. The workgroup identified the needs for facilities for County programs, the limitations of changing the Juvenile Hall's use per DOJ funding restrictions, the costs of potential new uses and the pros and cons of keeping it as a juvenile facility. The stakeholder group met seven times over fourteen months to discuss options and have time to research and gather additional information between meetings. The workgroup considered using the facility for homeless services, mental health services, as a group home, an adult reentry program, and as an expanded youth facility (including the relocation of Earle Jamieson Continuation School). After analyzing each option, on June 25, 2019, the Board approved the Expanded Youth Facility recommendation.

The unanticipated high costs of renovation and tenant improvements to accommodate Earle Jamieson Continuation School, combined with insufficient commitment of youth prevention programs and the low average daily local youth population for the last year, has guided the County towards today's recommendation. Accordingly, it has been determined that the Expanded Youth Facility option is not feasible, and that the most appropriate option at this time is to close the Youth Center on or before June 30, 2021. If the resolution is adopted, the Probation Department will begin the process to secure contracts with Placer and El Dorado County for the placement of Nevada County youth upon closure of the Youth Center, which is projected to result in significant cost savings to the County. Further, the County is committed to meeting with each of the 27 Youth Center staff members to assist them in identifying and applying for other positions within the County.

This recommendation will not impact the current planned relocation of the Sheriff's Dispatch office to the Youth Center administrative area.

Respectfully submitted,

Item Initiated by: Mali Dyck, Assistant County Executive Officer

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

Submittal Date: 07/01/2020