



Mendocino County

Legislation Text

File #: 19-0576, **Version:** 1

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Brown and Supervisor McCowen and Probation

Meeting Date: July 9, 2019

Department Contact: Izen Locatelli

Phone: 234-6911

Department Contact: Cathy White

Phone: 234-6913

Item Type: Consent Agenda

Time Allocated for Item: N/A

Agenda Title:

Adoption of Proclamation Recognizing July 21-27, 2019 as Probation Services Week in Mendocino County
(Sponsors: Supervisors Brown and McCowen, and Probation)

Recommended Action/Motion:

Adopt Proclamation recognizing July 21-27, 2019, as Probation Services Week in Mendocino County; and authorize Chair to sign same.

Previous Board/Board Committee Actions:

The Board recognized Probation Services Week for the week of July 12 - 18, 2015 and signed a Proclamation on July 7, 2015; the Board recognized Probation Services Week for the week of July 17 -23, 2016 and signed a Proclamation on July 12, 2016; the Board recognized Probation Services Week for the week of July 16 - 22, 2017 and signed a Proclamation on July 18, 2017; and the Board recognized Probation Services Week for the week of July 15 - 21, 2018 and signed a Proclamation on July 10, 2018.

Summary of Request:

Probation Services Week is recognized by the State of California and Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week is recognized nationally by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA).

The field of Probation dates back to 1841 when John Augustus, a Boston cobbler (also credited as the “Father of Probation”) persuaded the Boston Police Court to release an adult drunkard into his custody rather than sending him to prison - the prevalent means of dealing with law violations at that time. His efforts at reforming his first charge were successful, and he soon convinced the court to release other offenders to his supervision. By 1869 the Massachusetts legislature required a state agent to be present if court actions might result in the placement of a child in a reformatory, thus providing a model for modern caseworkers. The agents were to search for other placement, protect the child’s interests, investigate the case before trial, and supervise the plan for the child after disposition. Massachusetts passed the first probation statute in 1878 mandating an official State probation system with salaried probation officers (National Center for Juvenile Justice [NCJJ], 1991). Other states quickly followed suit (NCJJ, 1991). Today probation is authorized in all states and is an integral part of the criminal justice system. Many foreign nations also have adopted approaches based on the United States protocol.

The Mendocino County Probation Department is charged with the responsibility of community protection and offender rehabilitation. This is accomplished through mandated services to the court (specifically, investigative reports and recommendations), and department efforts to guide youth and adult offenders under the Department's supervision. This is done by focusing services on higher risk youth/offenders, and specializing services for specific populations, such as gang members, sex offenders and mentally ill offenders, through intensive supervision and referral to appropriate therapeutic services.

The Probation Department consists of two major divisions: Probation Services and Juvenile Hall. Probation Services include investigations, diversion, intervention efforts, and supervision of adult offenders and delinquent youth. Juvenile Hall provides temporary, safe, and secure detention for youth who are beyond the normal controls of the community.

The Probation Department is comprised of a committed group of employees whose genuine desire is to protect and serve their community. It is reflected in the hard work and dedication they bring to their jobs every day. Probation employees are doing work that makes a critical difference in the safety of Mendocino County residents. Probation Officers provide supervision and treatment resources to help individuals, families and communities address the issues and problems that drive crime. Officers also intervene to prevent recurrence of crime among juvenile delinquents and adult offenders by supervising them, holding them accountable for behavior, and making referrals to community-based service providers to address behavior driving criminality. Juvenile Correctional staff provides safe and secure housing for youth, while encouraging an environment that not only promotes accountability but also provides care, support and targeted programming. These services assist residents in learning new skills and gaining insight about what brought them into the juvenile justice system and what behavior changes are needed to be successful in the community. Lastly, clerical and administrative staff competently supports all the efforts of the Department, and allow for efficient and effective daily operations and the provision of quality services to the community.

Alternative Action/Motion:

Return to staff for alternative handling.

Supervisory District: All

vote requirement: Majority

Supplemental Information Available Online At: N/A

Fiscal Details:

source of funding: N/A

current f/y cost: N/A

annual recurring cost: N/A

budgeted in current f/y: N/A

if no, please describe:

revenue agreement: N/A

budget clarification: N/A

Agreement/Resolution/Ordinance Approved by County Counsel: N/A

CEO Liaison: Janelle Rau, Deputy CEO

CEO Review: Yes

CEO Comments:

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Executed By: Lindsey Dunham, Deputy Clerk I

Final Status: **Adopted**

Date: July 10, 2019

