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CONTINUED FUNDING SUPPORTS PAROLEE REENTRY COURT PROGRAM

San Joaquin County Superior Court is pleased to announce that it has been awarded continued funding for its Parolee Reentry Court program from the California Judicial Council. The \$488,109 in continued funding will be used to support program operations and services between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

The Parolee Reentry Court was implemented in 2010 to reduce incarceration rates, recidivism among parolees, and increase public safety. The program began as one of six pilot programs in California, which were funded by the California Emergency Management Agency (CAL EMA). Parolees frequently experience an array of problems that interfere with successful reentry into their communities, including untreated co-occurring mental health disorders, minimal work skills, anti-social attitudes, poor impulse control that results in violent and threatening behaviors, low self-esteem, dysfunctional family and social relationships, and few community supports. The Parolee Reentry Court program integrates an evidence-based model of collaborative problem-solving courts with a “managed care” system of substance abuse treatment for parolees that addresses co-occurring mental health disorders and offers comprehensive community services all designed to overcome the multiple problems described above that serve as barriers to successfully completing parole.

The Parolee Court Team, which consists of two compliance officers, three parole agents, monitor parolees in the program. Components of the Parolee Reentry Court program include: regular court appearances, regular drug and alcohol testing, home inspections to ensure their parole compliance, substance abuse treatment as mandated by the court, continuing education opportunities, and assistance with job placement.

There are currently 111 clients actively participating in the program. One hundred thirty eight (138) clients have successfully completed the program and have been discharged from parole. According to an evaluation report from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation published in 2010, 82% of parolees are charged with a new crime or parole violation within 3 years. Only 10% of Parolee Reentry Court participants have been charged with a new crime or parole violation while participating in the program.

Judge Richard Vlavianos had this to say about the program and its continued funding, “Evaluations show the program has resulted in a significant decrease in revocations and prison time for those individuals, as well as a tremendous cost saving for the public. I am pleased that the Governor, Legislature, and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation recognize that and are willing to invest in the model.”

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