

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: January 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Report Back by the California Department of Justice on the Use of Fiscal Year 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) Penalty Funds.

AGENDA ITEM: F

**ACTION:
INFORMATION: X**

RESOURCE PERSON: Daryle McDaniel

Issue:

The purpose of this Agenda Item is for the California Department of Justice (CDOJ) to provide the Board a status report on projects being funded by a reallocation under the 2013 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for purposes consistent with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The funds are being used by CDOJ for: 1) database improvements and enhancements to ensure the data integrity of registrant records; 2) statewide training for law enforcement agencies on the best practices for sex offender registration; and 3) implementing an automated interface to obtain risk assessment scores for registrants on parole and probation.

Background:

Under SORNA, states were required to comply with federal standards regarding how to classify and monitor registered sex offenders by July 27, 2011. For each fiscal year after the deadline, states that are not deemed substantially compliant with the law incur a 10percent reduction of their Byrne JAG funds.

Penalized jurisdictions may reacquire funds by submitting a Request for Reallocation in writing to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Office. The CDOJ's Request for Reallocation for fiscal year 2013 was approved. These funds are being used for multiple projects consistent with furthering the efforts of SORNA.

The CDOJ has several updates to provide the Board, as the State Administrative Agency for the Byrne JAG funding in California. The shutdown of the federal government in October 2013 delayed the release of grant funds, but all projects are currently on schedule. Details are below.

1) Project to Ensure Data Integrity (Record Merge Functionality)

The CDOJ maintains a consolidated record for each registered sex offender. A statewide database tracks the movement of each registrant across jurisdictions, including their most recent location(s) and historical information. To ensure the data integrity of the system, grant funds are being used to increase the efficiency of merging duplicate records. A contract was awarded to secure additional resources, and a vendor is on-site. The project team is in the process of validating the requirements, and developing Use Cases. The schedule shifted to a new start date due to special conditions attached to the grant, but the CDOJ team is trying to compress the schedule to fit within the original grant period.

2) Training on Best Practices in Sex Offender Registration

The CDOJ is hosting the first annual statewide conference on sex offender registration and evidence-based best practices. The conference will be March 23 - 25, 2014. Our mission is to provide law enforcement training and resources that will enhance public

safety and set standards for the use of evidence-based practices in registration. The event is open to a range of staff involved in the registration process: local law enforcement agencies, courts, probation departments, parole offices, state hospitals, district attorney offices, etc. The conference has the capacity to hold up to 400 attendees. As of January 6, 2014, 338 attendees have registered.

3) Project to Obtain Registrant Risk Assessment Scores

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 1844 (Chelsea's Law), the CDOJ is required to obtain and post risk assessment information on registered sex offenders. Grant funds are being used to implement an automated interface for the CDOJ to obtain offender scores for the instrument used to assess risk of violent reoffending, known as the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LSCMI). The LSCMI is used by sex offender management professionals to assess registered sex offenders while they are on probation or parole. The project is on schedule. The CDOJ will deploy the new interface to obtain LSCMI scores by March 1, 2014.

Recommendation/Action Needed:

Not applicable. This report is informational only.

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