PROBATION DEPARTMENT
Stuart J. Forrest, Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

DATE: October 21, 2011

TO: Community Corrections Partnership Members

FROM: Stuart J. Forrest

SUBJECT: Evidence Based Practices

Evidence Based Practices Defined

California Penal Code Section 1229 defines evidenced-based practices as follows:

> "Supervision policies, procedures, programs, and practices demonstrated by scientific research to reduce recidivism among individuals under probation, parole, or post release supervision."

Eight Evidence- Based Principles for Effective Intervention

According to a 2009 study compiled for the National Institute of Corrections, the following eight principles are effective intervention tools. However, each principle does not necessarily have similar impact on outcomes[1]. They are as follows:

1. Assess Actuarial Risk/Needs
2. Enhance Intrinsic Motivation
3. Target Interventions
    a. Risk Principle: Prioritize supervision and treatment resources for higher risk offenders
    b. Need Principle: target Interventions to criminogenic (correlated to crime) needs
    c. Responsivity Principle: Be responsive to temperament, learning style, motivation, culture, and gender when assigning programs
    d. Dosage*:* Structure 40-70% of high-risk offenders' time for three to nine months
    e. Treatmen*t* Principle: Integrate treatment into the full sentence/sanction requirements
4. Skill Train with Directed Practice (use cognitive behavioral treatment methods)
5. Increase Positive Reinforcement
6. Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities
7. Measure Relevant Process/Practices
8. Provide Measurement Feedback

Evidenced Based Practices and Public Safety Realignment

Senate Bill 678 (Chapter Number 608, Statutes of 2009) established a system of performance-based funding to support evidence-based practices relating to the supervision of adult felony probationers.

Please see the attached table for San Mateo County Probation's current use of evidence-based practices.

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[1] National Institute of Corrections, Community Corrections Division, U.S. Department of Justice, *Implementing Evidence- Based Practice in Community Corrections-* Second Edition (2009)

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