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**Agenda Item  
Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025**

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**Item Number: 1.10**

**MEETING DATE:** 10/14/2025

**DEPARTMENT:** PROBATION

**AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:** Ashlyn Canez

**DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:** Ashlyn Canez

**SUBJECT:**

**PROBATION DEPARTMENT - A. CANEZ**

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the San Benito County Probation Department and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Benito County for the period of October 14, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the mutual agreement to implement CASA advocates to work with justice-involved youth in juvenile delinquency court as referred by the Superior Court of California, County of San Benito; and

2. Authorize the Chair to sign.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 510

**AGENDA SECTION:**

CONSENT AGENDA

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:**

The Superior Court of California, County of San Benito amended its local rules in July of 2025 to allow for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to work with justice-involved youth in delinquency court, similarly to what they currently provide to dependent youth in Child Protective Services dependency court.

The Chief Probation Officer and Executive Director (Jessica Ravetz) for CASA of San Benito County met and conferred about the mutual agreement and the following scope of services were developed:

1. Probation hereby engages CASA to perform, and CASA hereby agrees to perform the services described herein. The services are to support youth in the juvenile justice delinquency system as assigned by the Superior Court of California, County of San Benito.
2. CASA will match trained Court appointed special advocates with individual youth in juvenile

justice, following the established CASA model of advocating for their needs and attending court to support youth outcomes.

3. CASA will initiate new recruitment efforts to explicitly seek advocates to work with justice involved youth in San Benito County.
4. The CASA Supervisor for advocates assigned to work with justice involved youth will do the following:
  1. Oversee the CASA advocates
  2. Ensure attendance of CASA advocates at delinquency court proceedings for justice involved youth
  3. Establish and strengthen community connections with local community-based providers, stakeholders, and other community partners
  4. Develop appropriate training for CASA advocates
  5. Recruit additional CASA advocates
5. CASA may serve up to twenty (20) youths, subject to volunteer availability and judicial assignment.
6. CASAs advocacy efforts will seek to improve school attendance, provide advocacy for referred youth, improve their knowledge and understanding of delinquency proceedings, improve the adherence to terms or conditions of probation, enhance prosocial and life skills, and improve self-efficacy.
7. CASA may provide written reports to the Court as needed and may provide further information for 241.1 WIC proceedings.
8. CASA shall work with justice involved youth that have open referrals or cases with Child Welfare/Protective Services as well as work with probation placement youth and their legal guardians/families.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 5.655(b)(3), no CASA program may function under the auspices of a probation department or department of social services. CASA programs may receive funds from probation departments, local child welfare agencies, and the California Department of Social Services if:

(A) The CASA program and the contributing agency develop an MOU stating that the funds will be used only for general operating expenses as determined by the receiving CASA program, and the contributing agency will not oversee or monitor the funds;

(B) A procedure resolving any conflict between the CASA program and contributing agency is implemented so that conflict between the two agencies does not affect funding or the CASA program's ability to retain an independent evaluation separate from that of the contributing agency's; and

(C) Any MOU between a CASA program and the contributing agency is submitted to and approved by Judicial Council staff.

Based on the above, the following MOU has been established and has been submitted and vetted with the Judicial Council and San Benito County Counsel.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

\$10,000.00 non-general fund dollars through the use of Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA - 101.50.1215.1000) and Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG- 411.15.4041.4100) will be used for services to support youth in the juvenile justice delinquency system as assigned by the Superior Court of California, County of San Benito.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the San Benito County Probation Department and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of San Benito County for the period of October 14, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the mutual agreement to implement CASA advocates to work with justice-involved youth in juvenile delinquency court as referred by the Superior Court of California, County of San Benito; and
2. Authorize the Chair to sign.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Agenda Fact Sheet - CASA Advocates](#)

[Probation-CASA-MOU- 10.14.25-06.30.26](#)

[CA Rules of Court 5.655](#)

[2025 Local Rules of the Superior Court of San Benito County](#)