



Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Realignment Planning Workgroup

Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2021

Zoom

CCP Realignment Planning Workgroup Members in Attendance:

Holly Benton, Deputy Chief Probation Officer – Santa Barbara County Probation Department, Chair

Ethan Bertrand, 2nd District Representative

Angela Braun for **Darrel Parker**, Court Executive Officer – Santa Barbara County Superior Court

Michael Cash, Chief of Police – Guadalupe Police Department

Paul Clementi, Principal Analyst – County of Santa Barbara County Executive Office

Pam Fisher, Ph.D., Acting Director – Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness

Tracy Macuga, Public Defender – Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office

Ray McDonald, Executive Director – Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board

Mag Nicola, Chief Deputy District Attorney – Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office

Vincent Wasilewski, Chief Custody Deputy – Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office (SBSO)

Members Absent:

None

Staff and Other Attendees:

Albers, Kimberlee – Housing and Community Development

Budwani, Deepak – Public Defender's Office

Brooks, Dulce – SBSO

Cross, Spencer – Probation Department

Gibbs, Lynne – National Alliance on Mental Illness

Grossini, Jason – SBSO

Kyle-Griffiths, La Mer – Public Defender

Lozada, Eddie – Probation Department

Meza, Ben – Probation Department

Milligan, Karyn – Probation Department

Novatt, Maria – County Counsel

Ochoa, Alejandra – Probation Department

Ribeiro, Chris – Behavioral Wellness

Saafir, Emir – Probation Department

Sibley, Christina – Probation Department

Swanson, Brian – Probation Department

Walter, Lindsay – County Executive Office

Wooton-Raya, FayAnn – Behavioral Wellness

Zeitz, Laura – Behavioral Wellness

I. Call to Order – Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) Holly Benton

- The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. attendees provided self-introductions and roll call was taken.

II. Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements – Maria Novatt

- Maria Novatt explained the updated Governor's legislation AB361 regarding Brown Act meetings. AB361 amended portions of the Brown Act to allow voting bodies the option to continue meeting remotely if certain conditions are met. There must be a declared state of emergency, and a local health official must recommend social distancing. If these conditions are met, voting bodies may decide to continue meeting remotely. If the desire is to remain virtual, the voting body must meet every 30 days and vote to continue virtually, as long as the state of emergency and local health order is in place.

- A motion was made by Mag Nicola and seconded by Paul Clementi to continue conducting Community Corrections Partnership Realignment Planning Workgroup (CCP Workgroup) meetings virtually.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
 - Ayes: 9
(Ethan Bertrand, Pam Fisher, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski)
 - Nays: 0
 - Abstention: 1 (Michael Cash arrived late)

III. **Approval of Minutes** – All

- A motion was made by Mag Nicola and seconded by Vincent Wasilewski to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021, Community Corrections Partnership Realignment Planning Workgroup (CCP Workgroup) meeting as submitted.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
 - Ayes: 9
(Ethan Bertrand, Pam Fisher, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski)
 - Nays: 0
 - Abstention: 1 (Michael Cash arrived late)

IV. **Comments from the Chair** – DCPO Holly Benton

- No comments at this time.

V. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Realignment Planning Process** – DCPO Holly Benton

- Community Response Team (CRT) Presentation – Lieutenant Grossini
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
 - In October of 2020, the CRT went through a reboot to align its focus with the goals of the CCP. The team is now focused on client wellness, providing assistance and resources to the realigned population whenever possible, and using arrest or citation as a last resort. The CRT teams support local law enforcement and are deployed countywide as needed; they have successfully removed narcotics, firearms, and other weapons from the community.
 - From October 2020 through September 2021, CRT conducted 985 compliance checks, of which only 53 or 5% resulted in arrests. Last year, 592 compliance checks were conducted, and 77 or 13% resulted in arrests. Of the contacts made this year, 120 arrests were averted by getting clients back into programs or back into contact with their Probation Officer.
 - Tracy Macuga asked if the locations, charges, and demographics of contacts could be tracked. Lieutenant Grossini confirmed the charges and demographics can be made available but to date, locations have not been tracked. Tracy also asked if there has been a pattern seen with the 120 averted arrests. Manager Cross commented the Probation side of CRT tracks results of contacts, offender supports, and interventions. The majority of interventions have involved drugs or paraphernalia, and clients are taken to CREDO 47.
- Supportive Housing Presentation – Spencer Cross and Kimberlee Albers
 - Handouts were provided and reviewed.
 - The target population for supportive housing includes justice-involved individuals under community supervision by the Probation Department that are medium to high risk to recidivate and are exiting jail or prison without support and are ineligible for other types

of subsidized housing. These individuals may also present with some vulnerability such as mild to moderate mental health concerns, and those with substance abuse challenges.

○ Spencer shared two supportive housing success stories.

1. Client 1 arrived on April 7, 2021, having lived on the train tracks for years and struggling with addiction. Client 1 successfully completed program after three months, and through case management meetings created obtainable goals for housing, employment, and mental and physical health. He continues to attend outpatient groups, has accomplished his goals, and is receiving an emergency housing voucher.

2. Client 2 had a history of significant substance abuse, was in and out of prison, and was homeless at the time of entry into supportive housing. She has three children but due to drug use and incarceration no longer has custody. During an initial meeting with her case manager, created a service plan to help with goals of employment, sobriety, housing, reuniting with family, and probation requirements. Within two weeks, she accepted a part-time job; in a month, she was promoted to supervisor, and in three months, promoted to store manager. As part of her recovery, she attended group classes and created a relapse prevention plan that stresses healthy alternatives. Tools learned in these classes gave her the strength to rebuild her relationship with her children and father. After regular visitations and six months of program, she was able to move in with her children and father.

○ Tracy asked if this program has enough capacity to serve the community and how long clients typically stay in supportive housing. Kimberlee responded the goal is to retain clients for at least 120 days. The average length of stay is 76 days with the Salvation Army and 97 with Good Samaritan Shelter. Spencer commented the capacity for male beds in North County is low and clients do need to be diverted to other resources. Women's beds are harder to fill.

- Alternative Sentencing Programs and AB109 Population Presentation – Dulce Brooks
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.

VI. **Crestwood MHRC Pilot Program** – Dr. Pam Fisher and DCPO Holly Benton

- CCP held a discussion about the MHRC and Crestwood pilot program and the direction to take in the future. The CCP would like to determine if there is a need to continue the MHRC build and what data is being gathered for the two-bed pilot and for individuals in the jail who may be decompensating in custody. Additional items for discussion include if there is a need for continuing pilot treatment beds, are there enough clients to fill the beds, and is there a need for a larger facility in the future. Another subcommittee meeting will be held to continue this discussion and gather more data.

VII. **COVID Relief Grant** – FayAnn Wooton-Raya

- The goals for this program are to provide navigation services, transportation, and discharge planning. As of right now, it has been mainly implemented in South County as the North Branch Jail is still under construction. A budget modification was submitted to the State to change funding to help further CRT, stabilization centers, CREDO 47, and a new jail discharge pilot program to provide services such as PPE, food, beverages, socks, linkages to mental health services, and transportation. A request has also been made to obtain rapid COVID testing supplies for the jail.

VIII. **Felony Diversion** – Chief Deputy DA Mag Nicola

- The Center for Court Innovations (CCI) is tentatively scheduled for a site visit in December or January. After conducting a site visit and evaluation, CCI will be providing technical assistance with program implementation.

IX. **New/Expanded Program Updates**

- **Neighborhood Court Pilot Program** – Chief Deputy DA Mag Nicola
 - The name of the program will be changed to remove “Court” and the negative connotations that come with it. Right now local volunteers are being trained to assist with the program, and launch of the program is targeted for the first quarter of the 2022 calendar year.
- **Edovo Tablet Program** – Chief Custody Deputy Vincent Wasilewski
 - 40 additional tablets have been funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This funding is going to the BOS for final approval. SBSO hopes to include these 40 additional tablets in CCP fund requests for the following year.

X. **Criminal Justice Funding Opportunities** – DCPO Holly Benton

- Ray McDonald mentioned his team is having early discussions with the LPBC for a possible grant application to work with the youth population. More information will be available at the next meeting.

XI. **Criminal Justice Funding Updates**

- **Prison to Employment (P2E) Initiative** – Workforce Development Board Executive Director Ray McDonald
 - Additional funding will be received but currently waiting for information from the State as to when and how that funding will kick in. The program has been moving smoothly and is coming to the end of the first phase.
- **Pathway Home Grant** – Workforce Development Board Executive Director Ray McDonald
 - Pathway Home is a national grant in partnership with SBSO, Good Sam, AHC, SBCC, and more. It is still in the development phase prior to implementation anticipated for January. The grant will serve both South and North County Jails. This will be taken to the BOS in December for final approval and will run for approximately two years.
- **Department of State Hospitals (DSH) Diversion (AB1810)** – Department of Behavioral Wellness Director Dr. Fisher
 - Six clients have been served; one client is being assessed for eligibility. Currently there are three active clients, one in Life House and scheduled to move into West Cox once open. The other two active clients are doing well and three clients have been discharged. Two clients graduated and one finished his 30 days but exited early. DSH indicated counties may apply for additional funding with no match needed; BeWell is working on this application for an additional year of funding for four more clients.
- **CREDO 47** – Deepak Budwani
 - Resource Development Associates (RDA) is working on an evaluation of current data. Data that is coming out that breaks out various entry points for pre-arrests. From March 2020, to February 2021, 167 individuals were served as part of the pre-arrest co-response team; out of those, 74% were diverted. Data will be brought to CCP once the evaluation is finalized. In the one-year period, more than 500 individuals have been served with this program.

XII. **Public Comment** – All

- No public comments.

XIII. Confirm Next Meeting for November 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. and Adjourn – DCPO Holly Benton

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional Senior