



Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Realignment Planning Workgroup

Meeting Minutes
November 17, 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

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

Julie Smedley for **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:

Michael Cash, Chief of Police – Guadalupe Police Department

Staff and Other Attendees:

Baldueza, Julius – Probation Department

Barnard, Sylvia – Good Samaritan Shelters

Budwani, Deepak – Public Defender's Office

Brooks, Dulce – SBSO

Callahan, Kenneth – SBSO

Cross, Spencer – Probation Department

Ellsworth, Judge Sherrill – Consultant

Grossi, Dana – Probation Department

Grossini, Jason – SBSO

Hernandez, Laura – Probation Department

Lozada, Eddie – Probation Department

Meza, Ben – Probation Department

Milligan, Karyn – Probation Department

Ochoa, Alejandra – Probation Department

Ribeiro, Chris – Behavioral Wellness

Saafir, Emir – Probation Department

Sibley, Christina – Probation Department

Stevenson, Caressa – District Attorney's Office

Swanson, Brian – Probation Department

Vasquez, Hope – SBSO

Walter, Lindsay – County Executive Office

Winckler, John – Behavioral Wellness

Zeitz, Laura – Behavioral Wellness

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

- The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. attendees provided names on-screen and roll call was taken.

II. Reconsider the Circumstances of the COVID-19 State of Emergency – DCPO Holly Benton

- Last month County Counsel presented AB361, which amended portions of the Brown Act to allow voting bodies to continue meeting virtually as long as two conditions are met; a state of emergency has been declared, and a local health official has recommended social distancing. If

the CCP WG would like to remain virtual, the voting body must meet and vote to continue virtually every 30 days. At this time, both conditions are met, so today's vote would be to continue conducting CCP WG meetings virtually for the next 30 days.

- A motion was made by Tracy Macuga and seconded by Mag Nicola 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, Julie Smedley, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 0

III. **Approval of Minutes – All**

- A motion was made by Mag Nicola and seconded by Tracy Macuga to approve the minutes of the October 27, 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, Julie Smedley, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 0

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**

- Pretrial Services – Probation Manager Spencer Cross
 - Handouts were provided and reviewed.
 - Probation is making enhancement requests to fund two additional DPOs, one of which would be a Sr. DPO. Included in the proposed budget is the increased cost of existing staff, as well as two Pretrial Service Navigators as the judicial grant for Mental Health Navigators will be expiring; these positions have been invaluable to the Pretrial population. Also, due to the increase in Pretrial clients, budget increases are requested for additional SCRAM, STOP (GPS), and software licenses; these services are ordered by the Court and not at Probation's discretion.
 - Paul Clementi asked for clarification on what the CCP and general fund are currently funding. Manager Cross responded the CCP is paying for one Sr. DPO and 3 DPOs in the Pretrial Unit, and there are some general fund positions as well, but it is not sufficient to fund enough positions to cover the caseload. Current staffing is appropriate for the 200-250 client caseload range, but the number of clients has doubled, and the Probation Department is now pulling staff from other caseloads to help support Pretrial.
 - Ethan Bertrand asked for additional data on the 750+ clients served by the program to determine how many were entered because of Zero Bail or related emergency measures. Ethan also asked for data on how many clients are released on Own Recognizance (OR) versus Pretrial.
 - Tracy Macuga asked for data on the percentage of Pretrial recommendations made by Probation that are being followed by the Court, Research Manager Karyn Milligan can gather this data. Tracy also asked why it might be that nearly 50% of failures on Pretrial release are Failure to Appear (FTA). Manager Cross commented FTAs are the biggest

concern as the number one goal is to get all clients to Court. The mental health population is the most difficult to get to Court, and during COVID, more high-risk people were released, many of which are transient, and if we cannot connect with clients upon release, they are more likely to fall back onto old habits of substance use and become difficult to contact or locate.

- Tracy asked if there has been a regional breakdown of FTAs as transportation is a major issue in the County, is there a disparity in the distribution. Research Manager Milligan responded that a deep dive is conducted for FTAs and absconds, including a thorough case review of individual client needs and what Probation did or did not do and areas for improvement; the geographic component can be added to this.
- Mag Nicola asked if there is a breakdown of successful completion or failure rates for the 101 clients served by Mental Health Navigators (MHN) as this would help determine if the Navigator positions were advantageous to the population. Manager Cross responded Sylvia Barnard of Good Sam may be able to provide this data as they are the contractor that provides MHN services.
- Mag also asked about the large SCRAM increase. Manager Cross responded 100% of SCRAM is funded by the current budget, and the increased population seen is likely due to older DUIs coming out of arraignment courts; anyone with a DUI or high BAC is ordered to SCRAM. Mag asked if there is a mechanism for Probation to recoup costs from non-indigent clients. Fiscal Manager Christina Sibley answered that AB1869 abolished the ability to collect EM fees.
- Holistic Defense – Public Defender
 - This item will be carried over to the December 15, 2021, meeting.
- Treatment and Psychiatric Services – Probation Manager Emir Saafir and Behavioral Wellness Director Dr. Pam Fisher
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
- Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP) – Sheriff's Lieutenant Dulce Brooks
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
 - Tracy asked if there is coordination to programming out of custody for the 200 people that are released before completing the STP. Lieutenant Brooks responded all classes for inmates are offered at the PRRCs at well. Tracy asked if there is data for how many individuals continue programming at the PRRC. Lieutenant Brooks responded that this is not currently tracked. Tracy also asked if there is programming for mothers similar to the fatherhood programs offered to men. Lieutenant Brooks said they are working on increasing programs for women but implementation has been impacted by COVID.

VI. Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion (REEI) Subcommittee Survey – Ethan Bertrand

- As part of Goal Five of the FY21-22 Public Safety Realignment Plan, for reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system, we have an objective to solicit input from justice involved clients and/or victims on challenges faced and receive feedback on the treatment within the criminal justice system to ensure all are treated with dignity, respect, and humanity. After three meetings of the REEI Subcommittee, a draft survey has been prepared to better understand how community members experience racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system. The survey is designed to collect feedback from victims, survivors, and witnesses of crime as well as justice involved individuals and people who fit into both categories.

- The draft survey was shared and reviewed. The survey will be presented to the CCP in February for approval.
- VII. **Crestwood MHRC Pilot Program** – Dr. Pam Fisher and DCPO Holly Benton
- The MHRC subcommittee is still discussing where to find and how to comprehensively look at the desired data. There will be more to report in December.
- VIII. **Felony Diversion** – Chief Deputy DA Mag Nicola
- The project is still waiting for the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) site visit to evaluate County needs. The visit is unlikely to happen before the end of the year.
- IX. **New/Expanded Program Updates**
- **Neighborhood Court Pilot Program** – Chief Deputy DA Mag Nicola
 - The program has changed names to the Santa Barbara County Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program and is anticipated to launch in the first quarter of 2022.
 - **Edovo Tablet Program** – Chief Custody Deputy Vincent Wasilewski
 - No updates at this time.
- X. **Criminal Justice Funding Opportunities** – DCPO Holly Benton
- The Workforce Development Board applied for a \$500,000 grant in partnership with Probation for clients at the Juvenile Hall and Los Prietos Boys Camp. This grant would mirror the Pathway Home Grant with job training and work experiences for juveniles. If the award is received the program would begin in January.
- XI. **Criminal Justice Funding Updates**
- **Prison to Employment (P2E) Initiative** – Workforce Development Board Julie Smedley
 - P2E is in partnership with Goodwill and Probation and provides job and career services and paid work experience to clients on Probation. This grant period ends in June 2022, additional funding is anticipated but it is unknown when and how much will be received.
 - **Pathway Home Grant** – Workforce Development Board Julie Smedley
 - Partnership with SBSO, \$2.5 million received in June to help incarcerated clients transition out of custody and into employment. Clients will receive pre-release services, job and training opportunities and once transitioned out they will continue with case managers to be placed into paid work experience and eventually permanent employment. This program is currently in the implementation phase finalizing contracts and agreements. Enrollment is anticipated to begin in late January or early February 2022.
 - **Department of State Hospitals (DSH) Diversion (AB1810)** – Department of Behavioral Wellness Director Dr. Fisher
 - A total of six clients have been served. Three are currently active, two successfully graduated, and one left after 30 days. Eligibility for Life House is going to be expanded to other criminal justice-involved clients outside of the AB1810 population. Dr. Serena Cyr will be the contact for Life House placements.
 - **CREDO 47** – Public Defender Tracy Macuga
 - No updates at this time, the program continues to thrive and a more thorough update will be prepared for December.
 - **COVID Relief Grant** – Department of Behavioral Wellness and Sheriff’s Office

- This is in partnership with Good Sam and has been used to set up times outside of the jail lobby on Wednesday and Friday afternoons to provide basic resources like phone, water, PPE, resource guides, and transportation. In addition, Good Sam will continue to provide linkage to services for any individuals interested in assistance.

XII. Public Comment – All

- No public comments.

XIII. Confirm Next Meeting for December 15, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. and Adjourn – DCPO Holly Benton

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional Senior