



Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Realignment Planning Workgroup

Meeting Minutes
December 15, 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

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:

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

Michael Cash, Chief of Police – Guadalupe Police Department

Staff and Other Attendees:

Baldueza, Julius – Probation Department

Bassett, Aidan – AmeriCorps

Beach, Benjamin – Public Defender's Office

Bottorff, Erica – Public Defender's Office

Brooks, Dulce – SBSO

Budwani, Deepak – Public Defender's Office

Burzon, Bryan – AmeriCorps

Contreras, Elaine – District Attorney's Office

Coulson, William – SBSO

Cross, Spencer – Probation Department

De Hoyos, Iliana – Public Defender's Office

Dominguez, Jaime – Public Defender's Office

Earls, Maureen – Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)

Ellsworth, Judge Sherrill – Consultant

Epstein, Vanda – Public Defender's Office

Espinoza, Alex – AmeriCorps

Gibbs, Lynne – National Alliance on Mental Illness

Grossi, Dana – Probation Department

Grossini, Jason – SBSO

Gutierrez, Claudia

Horne, Susan – Formerly with Santa Barbara County Public Health

Kim, Audrey – AmeriCorps

Kyle-Griffiths, La Mer – Public Defender's Office

Lara, Julia – Public Defender's Office

Lozada, Eddie – Probation Department

Lyons-Pruitt, Lawanda – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Merta, Audrey – Public Defender's Office

Meza, Ben – Probation Department

Milligan, Karyn – Probation Department

Navarro, Toni – Behavioral Wellness

Ochoa, Alejandra – Probation Department
Ornelas, Clarissa – AmeriCorps
Orozco, Angelica – Public Defender’s Office
Paison, Amanda – Public Defender’s Office
Parmelee, Nicole – County Executive Office
Plastino, Rob – SBSO
Rheinschild, Megan – District Attorney’s Office
Ribeiro, Chris – Behavioral Wellness
Riordan, Suzanne – Families Act!
Rios, Rosie – Public Defender’s Office
Rothschild, Sarah – AmeriCorps
Saafir, Emir – Probation Department
Severance, Laurence - CLUE
Sibley, Christina – Probation Department
Soderman, Michael – District Attorney’s Office
Spevak, Noah – Probation Department
Stevenson, Caressa – District Attorney’s Office
Wakefield, Tona – Public Defender’s Office
Walter, Lindsay – County Executive Office
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

- In October, 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 Mag Nicola and seconded by Tracy Macuga 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: 8
(Ethan Bertrand, Pam Fisher, Tracy Macuga, Julie Smedley, 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 November 17, 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: 8
(Ethan Bertrand, Pam Fisher, Tracy Macuga, Julie Smedley, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 0

IV. Comments from the Chair – DCPO Holly Benton

- DCPO Benton provided a reminder that the salary model has been updated by the Auditor-Controller's Office. For those who have budget requests for the FY22-23 Realignment Plan, please provide updated requests before the family-friendly closure week no later than December 23, 2021, so Fiscal has time to incorporate requests into the budget for the CCP WG meeting on January 5, 2022.

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

- Holistic Defense – Public Defender La Mer Kyle-Griffiths
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
 - Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt commented on how proud she is of the PD's office. Holistic Defense was needed while she was employed with the PD and Lawanda is very happy to see the work that is now being done.
 - Ethan Bertrand thanked La Mer for a great presentation and commented it is impressive to see how many people are connected to services and that they are following through with their obligations within the justice system.
 - Sherrill Ellsworth thanked La Mer for the professional presentation. Sherrill commented this work makes a difference and is an opportunity for the County to step forward and help those individuals, which helps the whole community. Holistic Defense makes a difference, and it is not solely for individuals receiving assistance it is geared toward building a better community.
 - Maureen Earls commented the community would appreciate understanding more about this program; it is discouraging to hear about increased numbers in the jail. Maureen also suggested sharing this presentation with the Santa Barbara Independent or media.
- Collaborative Courts – District Attorney Chief Deputy Mag Nicola
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
- Victim Services – District Attorney Victim Witness Director Megan Rheinschild
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
- Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program (NRJP) – District Attorney Legal Support Manager Elaine Contreras
 - A handout was provided and reviewed.
 - DCPO Benton thanked Elaine for the presentation and commented that she believes the NRJP is a great model. DCPO Benton then asked if any clients have been served and how much money has been expended to date. Elaine replied that clients have not been served yet as panelists and facilitators must be trained first; it is anticipated clients will begin being served in the spring. Regarding expenditures, Michael Soderman replied that first-year CCP allocations were not spent as the program was not functional yet but some funds have been expended now that a coordinator has been hired. The DA will not be asking for ongoing funds at the time but will request an extension to one-time funds. Mag Nicola added the slow start to program implementation was directly related to COVID lockdowns.
 - La Mer commented she is a huge fan of restorative justice programs and asked what the DA's involvement will be in conferences or when the process breaks down. Elaine responded Joann Flores the coordinator will sit in on conferences while the DA will play a more supportive role and make sure participants follow through with their agreement.
 - Deepak asked what metrics the DA will be reporting to the CCP WG. Michael replied some metrics will include clients served and programs clients have gone into.
- Discharge Planning – Probation Manager Emir Saafir

- A handout was provided and reviewed.
- Tracy Macuga commented support of the creation of this position and thanked Probation for suggesting this as Reentry begins at the time a person was arrested and brought into the jail.
- Chief Wasilewski added the Sheriff's Office supports the idea of coordinating discharge planning efforts but thinks the center point for coordination should be tied to the SBSO as they have all the clients. The idea had been discussed within the SBSO as well but there had not yet been a plan to approach the CCP for funding. DCPO Benton responded the funds being requested are not tied to a specific department or agency and it is just a request for the CCP to fund the position and the rest of it can be worked out.
- Megan Rheinschild offered collaboration at the DA's office and Victim Witness Assistance to whatever entity or person is engaged in Discharge Planning to contemplate the wishes and desires of victims of crime, so they have an opportunity to provide input into the discharge planning process.
- Pam Fisher thanked Emir for the presentation and echoed support of collaboration and making sure there is a seamless approach for clients' needs. Pam asked what the current process is and what this proposal would change. DCPO Benton responded, what happens now, is many entities have a hand in discharge planning, and services are not necessarily coordinated together and may not be aware of what other agencies are doing. The idea is to have a person who can help start to streamline this process so agencies are working together instead of potentially overlapping or duplicating work.
- Lindsay Walter echoed support, she has been tracking CalAIM and there will be changes to the penal code which will require us to enroll people into MediCal while in custody and conduct better care coordination and sharing of information post-release. Lindsay is happy to hear there has been thought in the staffing of a coordinator but is also in agreement with Chief Wasilewski that it will be a larger issue requiring more planning before release as well.
- Benjamin Beach also expressed support for coordinated discharge planning on behalf of the Holistic Defense team. He feels that the more agencies can get together and discuss clients in a multi-disciplinary capacity, the better able we are to serve clients and be on the same page.

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

- The MHRC subcommittee is considering a few ideas, including a proposal to expand the pilot due to a need for better data to see the populations that are being considered for the MHRC. There is a need for data to identify those sitting in the PHF, and those sitting in the jail waiting to be served, both IST and non-IST. The approach to the proposal is two-prong, how can we enhance data collection and where is that data found, and how should we proceed in the short term. The MHRC subcommittee will meet again following this meeting to finalize the proposal to bring to the January CCP WG and then on to the CCP in February for consideration.
- Lynne Gibbs commented it is amazing to follow all the good work being done here and supported Maureen Earls' observation that it would be great if the public could be aware of all the positive, constructive work being done. Lynne wanted to speak to the critical need for MHRC secured treatment beds outside of jail for those with felonies who wait long periods in the jail for a treatment bed. NAMI identified four factors that make this a more critical issue in the coming years:

- 1) In August the California Supreme Court affirmed a previous decision that people waiting in jails for state hospital beds have to be moved within 28 days;
- 2) ISTs whereas they could previously spend 2 years in a state hospital bed are now being returned to counties more quickly as non-restorable;
- 3) DSH has funded assessors to review cases every 60 days;
- 4) IST statewide solutions workgroup recommended community based treatment to address the growing IST population which include secured MHRC.
- NAMI knows that there is a \$2.3 billion mental health infrastructure program in California and would urge the County to look into competitive grants for more MHRC funding.
- Suzanne Riordan reiterated support for Lynne’s comments. Families Act has been working for 15 years to encourage the County to create more treatment beds, including secured treatment beds for those languishing in the jail with serious mental illness.

VII. **Felony Diversion** – DA’s Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Michael Soderman

- Continuing to work with CCI to confirm a target date to start their needs assessment of the County. The DA’s Offices is disappointed by the delay, as they were hoping to have already started, but CCI staffing shortages have pushed the assessment to January or February of 2022.

VIII. **New/Expanded Program Updates**

- **Edovo Tablet Program** – Chief Custody Deputy Vincent Wasilewski
 - A budget request was submitted to fund more tablets with the inmate welfare fund.

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

- **Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services (BHJIS) Project** – CEO’s Principal Analyst Lindsay Walter
 - Department of Healthcare Services released a grant application on November 29th to create \$16.25 million for public and non-profit organizations to implement BHJIS. The funding is limited in that you have to apply and start by February 15th should an award be received. Entities can apply for up to \$700,000 to support local and statewide efforts to improve first responder, law enforcement, and other community efforts to support behavioral health crises and divert individuals from criminal justice involvement. The grant focuses on crisis response, collaborative planning, hiring, building capacity, and first responder interaction. A subcommittee went to CCP for ideas on how the County could utilize funding and has come up with a three-prong approach:
 - 1) Support expansion of Santa Maria Co-Response Teams and possibly add substance use programming due to the opioid epidemic;
 - 2) Coming up with an IT plan and process to develop data sharing ability for care coordination and case management, possibly building off of the Criminal Justice Data Committee focusing on the co-response population first;
 - 3) Adding more robust CIT training and train the trainer models.

X. **Criminal Justice Funding Updates**

- **Prison to Employment (P2E) Initiative** – Workforce Development Board Executive Director Ray McDonald
 - No updates at this time.
- **Pathway Home Grant** – Workforce Development Board Executive Director Ray McDonald

- No updates at this time.
- **Department of State Hospitals (DSH) Diversion (AB1810)** – Department of Behavioral Wellness Director Dr. Fisher
 - An assessment is being finished for a seventh client utilizing the additional grant funding received.
- **CREDO 47** – Public Defender Tracy Macuga
 - Will be reapplying for the grant and reevaluating programs to find areas that can be strengthened.
- **COVID Relief Grant** – Department of Behavioral Wellness and Sheriff's Office
 - No updates at this time.

XI. **Public Comment** – All

- No public comments.

XII. **Confirm Next Meeting for January 5, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. and Adjourn** – DCPO Holly Benton

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional Senior