



Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Realignment Planning Workgroup

Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2021

Zoom

CCP Realignment Planning Workgroup Members in Attendance:

Ethan Bertrand, 2nd District Representative

Michael Cash, Chief of Police – Guadalupe Police Department

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

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

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

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

Kimberly Shean for **Holly Benton**, Deputy Chief Probation Officer – Santa Barbara County Probation Department, Chair

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

Members Absent:

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

Darrel Parker, Court Executive Officer – Santa Barbara County Superior Court

Staff and Other Attendees:

Baldueza, Julius – Probation Department

Budwani, Deepak – Public Defender’s Office

Callahan, Kenneth – SBSO

Cross, Spencer – Probation Department

Ellsworth, Judge Sherrill – Consultant

Grossi, Dana – Probation Department

Grossini, Jason – SBSO

Heck, Michael – Community Solutions Inc.

Lipman, Rachel – County Executive Office

Meza, Ben – Probation Department

Milligan, Karyn – Probation Department

Ochoa, Alejandra – Probation Department

Overall, Jack – Neurofeedback Recidivism Reduction Project

Paine, Carrie - Community Solutions Inc.

Ribeiro, Chris – Behavioral Wellness

Roney, Rick – Neurofeedback Recidivism Reduction Project

Saafir, Emir – Probation Department

Smedley, Julie – Workforce Development Board

Walter, Lindsay – County Executive Office

I. **Call to Order** – Deputy Chief Probation Officer (DCPO) Kimberly Shean

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

II. **Approval of Minutes** – All

- A motion was made by Mag Nicola and seconded by Vincent Wasilewski to approve the minutes of the August 25, 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: 6
(Ethan Bertrand, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Kimberly Shean, Vincent Wasilewski)

Nays: 0

Abstention: 2 (Tracy Macuga and Michael Cash arrived after the vote)

III. **Comments from the Chair** – DCPO Kimberly Shean

- No comments at this time.

IV. **Neurofeedback Recidivism Reduction Project** – Rick Roney

- Rick Roney delivered a presentation on the Neurofeedback Recidivism Project that is seeking assurance of County support if the project is able to demonstrate cost-effective recidivism reduction. This project asserts brains affected by trauma, such as those of the criminally justice involved, exhibit atypical brain wave patterns. Neurofeedback measures and then uses feedback “rewards” to teach brains a pattern that more closely resembles brain maps of those unaffected by trauma.
- Kimberly Shean – For data related to COVID and days in jail, how many people did it look at and over what timeframe. Rick responded there were 80 clients total with 40 in a control group and 40 in treatment and the timeframe was a year from beginning treatment. Kim responded that there are not many parolees in jail, maybe eight to nine at a time and wondered where the 80 came from. Rick responded data was from March 2020, Commander Sullivan did the analysis of a list of inmates.
- Kimberly Shean – Mentioned a 50% recidivism reduction would be a huge unprecedented reduction for any type of intervention, what is the 50% projection based on. Rick – There have been historical studies, not very well designed, that have shown significant results in the order of 30-50% reduction, these numbers may not be a reality but we think this is going to be big.
- Kimberly Shean – How would releases be handled, many clients would not be in jail long-term to complete treatment. Since this is going beyond the parolee population, many may not even be released on supervision, what would the model look like in the community? Rick – The entire plan has not been worked out yet. A participant would need six weeks to receive full neurofeedback treatment; the plan for the jail is daily sessions, five times a week for five weeks. There could be an option to accommodate people who have been released to the community at the DRC, however, not desirable because it still has the possibility of them not showing up for treatment.
- Chief Wasilewski – The STP program is an eight-week session so treatment could fit in with the STP program, most clients that enroll in STP do finish even after release. The participants that would be used for this program would be those that have more criminogenic needs and longer criminal histories that would keep them in jail for longer periods of time. The average length of stay is in the 20 day range, however, once you get past four to five days in custody, the length of stay becomes much longer. Chief Wasilewski does not believe there will be an issue finding candidates for this program in custody. Rick then mentions that on the opposite end, if clients are in custody for too long, data from them would be inconclusive as their recidivism for the year following treatment would be 0 if they are still in custody.
- Mag Nicola – For the cost savings projections, were new statutory and local custody changes such as zero bail, low bail, and AB1950 factored in to the average cost saved. Rick – Used the Results First model and confirmed the estimate with Probation but was told the number is being reassessed and can be updated in projections if necessary. Mag – If the project is looking at recidivism three years out, many clients will no longer be on probation due to new statutory changes. Kim replied that data could still be tracked through the DOJ.
- Ethan Bertrand – Other than cognitive behavioral therapy, would participants be receiving medications or other interventions while going through the neurofeedback treatment. Rick –

Participants would not be receiving medication as those needing medications would be screened out. Carrie Paine replied that there would not be other mental health interventions. However, participants would be receiving other services.

- Ethan Bertrand – Will the balancing of randomly assigned groups be relative to population of Santa Barbara County or the population of the criminal justice system. Rick – The balancing of ethnicities is just balancing for population versus control group with an equal number of Hispanic and White populations in each group.
- Karyn Milligan – Is there an evaluation plan that can be shared with the group, or has one be created. Rick asked for clarification on what Karyn meant by an evaluation plan. Karyn responded something that the evaluation team has put together to talk about the sampling protocol, potentially discussing over sampling ethnicities, recidivism time periods, and statistical significance and effect sizes. Rick – A plan has been written in the past that can be recreated. It was a very simple plan, balancing populations in control and treatment groups, and using recidivism rates from a common point in time. Karyn asked who is administering the LSI-R. Rick – at the DRC it has been the case managers, at the jail it will be done by the STP program.
- Sherrill Ellsworth – In the measurement of recidivism, when does it begin and what is the criteria for timing. Rick – At the DRC the beginning was defined as the day the initial map was completed. For potential participants in the jail it will make more sense to define the beginning date as the date of release from jail.
- Sherrill Ellsworth – In terms of control for Hispanic and White populations, is everything in place to be culturally consistent. Is everything available in Spanish, are interpreters available, and are there different patterns that are more rewarding to one ethnicity over another. Rick – This was a major point of discussion when going through the application process, there is an informed consent form available in both English and Spanish written at the fourth grade reading level. Rick does not believe the Spanish form has even been used as all participants have been able to read and speak English and does not believe there is a cultural question involved.
- Sherrill Ellsworth – In the legal sense, how much is discoverable or what could be used against participants if they do not complete program. Rick – In a sense it is no different from any other programs offered at the DRCs or PRRCs, it is just an intervention, have no idea how keeping the legal system out of that works.
- Mag Nicola – Asked if arrests that result in conviction beyond the one-year mark count as recidivism. Rick – Those would then fall into the three-year category. The project is based on a one-year timeframe but Cal State Long Beach who want to continue the project to three and five-year terms will continue to gather that data but the hope is to prove project success with the one-year data. Mag recommended it would be helpful to report back in some fashion about the data of the offense; it may be more relevant than convictions that could take years to occur. Rick agreed and said they would have to look at how to gather that data from the DOJ.
- Ethan Bertrand – Curious about how the Department of Behavioral Wellness has been involved with this if at all. Rick – they were present at the CCP WG meeting years ago for the first presentation and they seemed positive about the project but no other involvement. Kim added that during the previous presentation, the project was focused on just the DRCs and would not have involved BeWell at the time but it would be a good idea to have their involvement.
- Ethan Bertrand – Are there other counties in CA employing neurofeedback treatment for criminal justice involved individuals. Rick – No, and would expand that to say it is not happening anywhere in the Country. It is one of the most frequent questions received that if it is as good as we say, why is it not seen anywhere else.

- Kimberly Shean – Commented on lessons learned from Probation control studies, informed consent should have clarity that clients do not have to opt in as it could look like coercion if they are under supervision or in custody and it should be clear that they will not receive any less treatment or programming if they opted out. Rick responded that the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects were rigorous in reviewing the form and ensured their concerns on that subject were covered.
- Chief Wasilewski – Want to say the Sheriff is fully behind Rick and his study and thinks it does have some promise. Clearly the initial data provided shows a capability of reducing recidivism and it is something we should put our weight behind, at least the study portion, to see the efficacy once participation is expanded. Given that funding is taken care of at this point, we are working with him to provide our support and help him received the data needed to make a more informed decision.

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

- Realignment goals and population projections for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 were presented and reviewed. Feedback and suggestions or modifications to existing goals and objectives is welcomed.
- Tracy Macuga commented that more meaningful discussions on the data that we would like to see for existing programs and partnerships would be helpful. DCPO Shean responded this presentation did not include the performance measures for each objective but those are outlined in the Realignment Plan and can be further addressed during program presentations.
- DCPO Shean provided feedback on Goal 1 to modify the first objective to include high risk specialized populations.
- DCPO Shean commented Probation will be asking for additional resources for Pretrial Services based on the increase in clients supervised. In addition, the Judicial Council grant that funds Mental Health Navigators will be expiring so Probation will also be asking for an extension on the Community Based Organization contracts for Mental Health Navigation Services.
- A projection for the FY 2022-23 allocation, estimated growth funding and reserve funding balance was presented.
- Ethan Bertrand asked if a priority might be to advance integration of the alternative sentencing program with Probation’s community supervision programs. Rachel Lipman commented that it is on the CEO’s list to discuss more fully but it is not ready for a full proposal yet.

VI. **Crestwood MHRC Pilot Program** – Dr. Pam Fisher and DCPO Kimberly Shean

- Direction received from the CCP was to put together a standing sub-committee of the CCP WG to discuss the MHRC and data as to who is in custody and what their mental health needs are; not just for ISTs but for higher needs individuals as well. Ideally the subcommittee will involve membership from SBSO and CEO’s Office. Volunteers included: Kimberly Shean, Lindsay Walter, Terri Nisich, Tracy Macuga, Ethan Bertrand, Vince Wasilewski, Sherrill Ellsworth, Chris Ribeiro, Pam Fisher, and Emir Saafir. A meeting invite will be sent to all volunteers.

VII. **New/Expanded Program Updates**

- **Neighborhood Court Pilot Program** – Chief Deputy DA Mag Nicola
 - No update at this time.
- **Edovo Tablet Program** – Chief Custody Deputy Vincent Wasilewski

- An additional 60 Edovo tablets have been received and available programming has been expanded. The North Branch Jail (NBJ) will be using an alternate platform, the contracted telephone provider will be providing tablets to NBJ inmates and Edovo will be added to this tablet as an app; this will reduce costs so there will be modifications to the budget for the coming year.

VIII. **Criminal Justice Funding Opportunities** – DCPO Kimberly Shean

- No opportunity updates at this time.

IX. **Criminal Justice Funding Updates**

- **Prison to Employment (P2E) Initiative** – Workforce Development Board Executive Director Ray McDonald
 - The overall goal for the P2E program is 38 clients served through June 2022, to date there have been 25 enrollments. Ten participants have gone through or are currently in paid work experience and seven have been placed into permanent employment. Once enrolled clients can be placed into skills training and can continue to receive supportive services throughout the length of the program.
- **Pathway Home Grant** – Workforce Development Board Executive Director Ray McDonald
 - \$2.5 million was received to serve incarcerated individuals. The Department of Labor allowed a six month planning period prior to beginning the program on January 1, 2022. Currently in the planning stage developing agreements and program design. A contractor was hired to assist with startup activities like logistics and working with the program manager to ensure providers are ready to start serving participants in January.
- **Department of State Hospitals (DSH) Diversion (AB1810)** – Department of Behavioral Wellness Director Dr. Fisher
 - Seeking and applying for expanded funding
- **CREDO 47** – Public Defender Tracy Macuga
 - Seeking and applying for expanded funding.
- **COVID Relief Grant** – Department of Behavioral Wellness/Sheriff's Office
 - No update at this time.

X. **Public Comment** – All

- No public comments.

XI. **Confirm Next Meeting for October 27, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. and Adjourn** – DCPO Kimberly Shean

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional Senior