



Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Realignment Planning Workgroup

Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2022

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 – Santa Barbara County Executive Office

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:

Toni Navarro, Director – Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness

Staff and Other Attendees:

Baldueza, Julius – Probation Department

Budwani, Deepak – Public Defender's Office

Coulson, William – SBSO

Cross, Spencer – Probation Department

Flynt Tambo, Pam

Franklin, Tom – National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Gibbs, Lynne – NAMI

Grossini, Jason – SBSO

Horne, Susan – Formerly with Santa Barbara County Public Health

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

Lozada, Eddie – Probation Department

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

Meza, Ben – Probation Department

Milligan, Karyn – Probation Department

Nunez, Monica

Osherenko, Gail

Riordan, Suzanne – Families Act!

Saafir, Emir – Probation Department

Severance, Laurence - CLUE

Sibley, Christina – Probation Department

Soderman, Michael – District Attorney's Office

Suel, Brianna

Swanson, Brian – Probation Department

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 Michael Cash and seconded by Ray McDonald 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, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski, Michael Cash)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 0

III. **Approval of Minutes – All**

- A motion was made by Mag Nicola and seconded by Vincent Wasilewski to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022, Community Corrections Partnership Realignment Planning Workgroup (CCP Workgroup) meeting as submitted.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
Ayes: 7
(Tracy Macuga, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Angela Braun, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski, Michael Cash)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 2 (Ethan Bertrand, Ray McDonald)

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

- The next scheduled CCP WG meeting will exceed the 30-day window needed for voting to continue virtually pursuant to AB361. A short special meeting will be held on February 9, 2022, to conduct a vote to continue virtually. For voting members, if you anticipate a conflict, please let DCPO Benton or AOP Sr. Stewart know so an alternative plan can be made.

V. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Realignment Budget for Submission to the Community Corrections Partnership – DCPO Holly Benton**

- Budget handouts were provided and reviewed with the group.
- Presentations have been held for several months outlining proposed budgets and expansion requests. The budget outline now includes earmarks for the growth funding not previously allocated at the last meeting; \$832,510 is listed under Detention Alternatives for Diversion Services and \$209,430 under Collaborative Efforts for Co-Response Teams. These are the only changes to the budget presented at the last meeting, bringing the total to \$18,136,309. The budget is balanced with no need for reserve funding.
 - Chief Wasilewski asked for clarification as to why the Discharge Planning Coordinator and Discharge Planning Services are under Probation as previous discussion indicated these funds were not tied to a specific agency. DCPO Benton clarified this discharge planning and diversion funding is not allocated specifically to Probation; it is temporarily parked there for budget approval and can be moved anywhere once responsibilities are decided.
 - Tracy Macuga asked when the decision will be made regarding the Discharge Planning Coordinator project. DCPO Benton replied she has been asked to set up a meeting to begin discussions quickly.
 - Ethan Bertrand expressed gratitude to the departments for earmarking funds for diversion, he is happy to see the funding set aside for Co-Response as well and asked if the intention

is for funding to expand the current level of service or if it would be a safety net for when grants expire in the coming years. DCPO Benton replied that this is a great question that will need to be discussed more in-depth at future meetings.

- Laurence Severance urged the group to reach a decision soon on how to implement the discharge planning coordinator position and diversion earmarks. CLUE favors Probation for coordination as they already monitor those released from jail and are in a more neutral position. The decision needs to be made quickly as the COVID-19 crisis in the jail is an impetus to accelerate risk assessment and coordination between departments.
- Susan Horne commented that we see the desperate need for alternatives to jail especially for the mentally ill who need treatment. As the grand jury wrote recently, the current situation is disturbing with a lack of treatment opportunities. The current dilemma about diversion from jail is “divert to what,” and we have to build the answers to that question, and to Susan, that means developing in-county forensic MHRCs for those with both felonies and misdemeanors and serious mental illness.
- A motion was made by Tracy Macuga, and seconded by Ray McDonald, for the one time allocation of \$190,000 for the Neighborhood Restorative Justice Program (District Attorney) and Data Needs (Criminal Justice Data Committee) out of the programmatic restricted fund balance.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
Ayes: 8 (Ethan Bertrand, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski, Michael Cash)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1 (Angela Braun)
- A motion was made by Paul Clementi and seconded by Tracy Macuga, to fund \$75,000 in one time allocations from the planning restricted fund balance (reserves) for the evaluation contract and the annual training allocation.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
Ayes: 8 (Ethan Bertrand, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski, Michael Cash)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1 (Angela Braun)
- A motion was made by Mag Nicola and seconded by Tracy Macuga to approve the FY2022-23 realignment ongoing and expansion budgets for a total of \$18,136,309 to be forwarded to the CCP for consideration.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
Ayes: 8 (Ethan Bertrand, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski, Michael Cash)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1 (Angela Braun)
- DCPO Benton thanked all partners for their discussion, debate, and work on this budget to ensure this process went smoothly, particularly each department’s fiscal unit, with special thanks to the Probation Fiscal Unit for preparing budget materials.
- The FY2022-23 Realignment budget will be presented to the CCP members on February 4, 2022, for approval.

VI. **Crestwood MHRC Pilot Program** – DCPO Holly Benton

- Handouts were provided and reviewed.

- After much discussion, the MHRC subcommittee created a recommendation to move forward to the CCP for consideration. The recommendation is to expand the Crestwood pilot from two to four beds at a cost of approximately \$730,000. The money will come from the \$1.1 million already budgeted as ongoing operational costs for the MHRC. Concurrently with the bed expansion, data will be collected by partners to examine how the beds are used and what population remains at the jail in need of treatment to gain a better picture of the County's needs.
 - DCPO Benton noted we received four letters from organizations or individuals to be entered into the official record as public comment. These letters were distributed to the group and are attached below.
 - Lynne Gibbs commented NAMI is grateful the CCP recognizes that diversion to outpatient treatment was not an option for those with the most serious mental illness and set aside money for a forensic MHRC. Since that time, the need has grown exponentially and is now recognized as a state crisis. NAMI appreciates the recommendation to add two pilot beds, but in their view, it falls short of the need, and NAMI believes the CCP should move forward with a secured treatment facility now. There is an opportunity to apply for state infrastructure planning money; NAMI recommends there is investigation into whether the County could compete for state money to build the MHRC.
 - Suzanne Riordan commented Families Act! supports NAMI's position on this issue in terms of moving forward with the creation of a secured MHRC and looking into the state funding opportunity. There has been much talk about diversion, but the question remains, divert to where. This committee is in a good position to help, and it has been painstaking to watch how long it has taken for two beds to be funded; this is part of the solution that Realignment was all about. Forensic secured mental health treatment facilities for inmates on felonies or misdemeanors, with serious mental health issues are needed. Families Act! supports the pilot beds, but they are not enough.
 - Tom Franklin thanked the CCP for the work they do and echoed Lynne and Suzanne's statements. Tom is the incoming NAMI President and on the BeWell commission and agrees wholeheartedly with NAMI's letter. Tom added that a loved one spent close to a year in county jail waiting for a bed before the effects of COVID. COVID has now brought the inequities and inequalities in our system into focus for people who do not belong in jail.
 - Lawanda Lyons-Pruitt echoed agreement with the positions of NAMI and Families Act! The NAACP supports additional beds for those incarcerated with serious mental illness. It is inhumane and unjust to let someone languish in jail and decompensate without receiving the proper treatment. This is urgent and needs to be acted upon, going from two to four beds is not adequate, and we can do better than that.
 - Monica Nunez shared a personal story of a loved one who was incarcerated for three years. Trying to be in the loop of his mental health needs and what treatment he was given while incarcerated was like pulling teeth. As her relative was diverted back home, he was not the same and had not received the proper treatment while in custody. Monica did not receive a care plan while he was in custody, nor paperwork upon release. When Monica spoke to people from mental wellness, they said they are not there to rehabilitate, just to keep inmates stable while in custody. There needs to be more long-term care and better diversion efforts.
 - Ethan Bertrand commented he appreciates the public comments today and hears the concern community members have about the need for more right now. He hopes we have been very thoughtful with data questions and can seek to take action with what is

determined by the pilot. Ethan is supportive of the expansion today but sees this as an intermediary step to a more long-term option. Ethan was happy to see MIST included in the target population as they have been underserved but he is also looking forward to seeing how SB317 will be implemented in this County and how some MIST can be taken out of the justice system entirely.

- A motion was made by Ray McDonald and seconded by Paul Clementi, to advance the recommendation to increase the Champion Center Pilot from two to four beds and to collect data to measure the need for additional mental health treatment beds to the CCP for consideration.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the CCP Workgroup members present.
Ayes: 8 (Ethan Bertrand, Tracy Macuga, Ray McDonald, Paul Clementi, Mag Nicola, Holly Benton, Vincent Wasilewski, Michael Cash)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 1 (Angela Braun)

VII. Public Comment – All

- Suzanne Riordan commented how difficult it is for parents and working people to participate in daytime meetings on top of dealing with an ongoing mental health need in the family. It is extraordinary when one of these community members can provide testimony and Suzanne wanted to highlight what it is like to advocate from the position of stakeholders in the community because it is so difficult to participate in County meetings during the daytime. Thank you for honoring our need to speak.

VIII. Confirm Next Meeting for February 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. and Adjourn – DCPO Holly Benton

Respectfully submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional Senior