

**Reentry Steering Committee / Quality Assurance Committee
(RSC/QA)**

November 19, 2020
MEETING MINUTES

*Participation by Teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(b) was available via
Zoom*

RSC Members in Attendance:

Amy Lopez, designee for John Lewis, Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness
Carrie Paine, Community Solutions Inc.
Deirdre Smith, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
Kimberly Shean, Santa Barbara County Probation

RSC Members Absent:

Paloma Arnold, Santa Barbara City College
Sylvia Barnard, Good Samaritan Shelter Services
Christina Kelly, Changes Outpatient Wellness Center
Anthony Ivanich, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
Tracy Macuga, Santa Barbara County Public Defender
Eddie Perez, Impact Prison Ministry
John Savrnoch, Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
Vincent Wasilewski, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Other Attendees:

Julius Baldueza, Santa Barbara County Probation
Jennifer Barretto, Community Solutions Inc.
Rebecca Christian, The Salvation Army
Barton Clark, Santa Barbara County Probation
Rachel Cook, The Salvation Army
Gabriela Dodson, Family Services Agency
Christina Gonzalez, CommUnify
Dana Grossi, Santa Barbara County Probation
Seth Miller, CommUnify
Karyn Milligan, Santa Barbara County Probation
Lisa Moschini, Sanctuary Centers
Bret Reynolds, Good Samaritan Shelters
Roselyne Romero, Santa Barbara County Probation
Emir Saafir, Santa Barbara County Probation
Michael Sam, Santa Barbara County Probation

I. Call to Order/Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. and attendees made self-introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2020, RSC Meetings

- The draft minutes of the September 17, 2020, Reentry Steering Committee (RSC) meetings were reviewed. A quorum was not present at this time; the approval will be carried over to the meeting on January 21, 2021.

III. **Comments from Co-Chairs** – Kimberly Shean and Deirdre Smith

- The last meeting in September and subsequent workgroup meeting in October have served as brainstorming sessions to refocus, revamp, and reboot the Reentry Steering Committee. There were two main items generated in these meetings, the need to increase participation and extend our reach to organizations and partners who have not been involved yet, and how to stretch our resources and distribute information to all who are involved. This generated the idea of creating a resource fair; Carrie Paine and Jennifer Barretto of CSI have taken the lead on this project.
- The application deadline for voting membership will be extended through January 2021; please reach out to individuals you feel may want to be involved with our committee.
- Kim asked Carrie about the progress of the resource fair; Carrie said they are exploring the use of Zoom in a webinar capacity and the different functions available for use along with having in-person pick-up points for packets of information located in the PRRCs and DRCs. The suggestion is to go with a more controlled provider fair with panelists presenting services they offer over having breakout groups for each different service or provider; the first goal is contacting providers for information to present. Carrie would like to hold the initial fair as a live event as she feels it is easier for people to follow along with live information but also have it recorded and available for view. Invitations for the fair will include organizations and individuals as well as clients. Carrie and Jennifer will reach out to committee members to arrange dates for a January fair.
- Assembly Bill 1950 (AB1950) goes into effect on January 1, 2021; this legislation is changing and limiting the length of probation for adult clients on most cases, excluding violent or serious cases, to two-year terms for felonies and one year for misdemeanors. This will make reentry even more important and create a need to accelerate the intake processes to maximize time spent in programs and services. This legislation is anticipated to cause a 25-30% drop in the probation population. The Santa Barbara County DA is opposing retroactivity; PD is in favor of retroactivity. As a department, we believe this legislation should be retroactive so we will be taking cases to the court in batches to see how it will be litigated.
- Senate Bill 823 (SB823) changes many aspects of juvenile sentencing. The intent of this bill is to eventually close the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), returning responsibility from the state back to counties. Moving forward, sentences out of juvenile court will stay with counties. SB823 also extends the period of jurisdiction through age 21 with some exceptions. This removes the authority to detain minors in jail, and also allows probation departments to petition the court for a change of area when someone over 18 is being detained. This may also mean clients that are under juvenile court could be placed into PRRC groups with adults and would create a need to ensure risk levels are not being mixed.
- Deirdre commented that she appreciates the energy and willingness of everyone stepping up to work on the rejuvenation of this committee and for moving forward with the resource fair and the challenge of getting people engaged during a pandemic. Deirdre gave special acknowledgment to Carrie and Jennifer for leading the organization of this project.

IV. **Jail Programming** – Deirdre Smith

- The North Branch Jail ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for December 16, 2020, and will be held virtually for those who cannot attend. Major completion is set for mid-January with occupation anticipated in February. The Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP) will be mirrored to the South Branch.

- Allan Hancock College (AHC) will be offering credit and non-credit courses in the North Branch Jail. Credit courses will include career technical education like construction and welding, personal development courses for life and career planning, as well as interactive journaling. There is also discussion of an animal handling course in collaboration with The Humane Society that would provide participants with certificates that can be translated into job skills for veterinary offices. An agricultural program is also in discussion with the idea of growing native plants that can be sold to government agencies.
- Non-credit courses would encompass basic skill development, GED or HiSET preparation, ESL, computer applications, and vocation education.
- AHC will also provide support services for outreach, transitioning, and counseling.

V. **Probation Report and Resource Center (PRRC) Utilization** – Barton Clark

- Barton clarified the difference between direct reports and referrals. Direct reports are when upon release from prison or county jail, clients report to the PRRC first; this becomes the first point of contact before even seeing a probation officer. This allows the PRRC staff to review the client's case to determine what programming needs they may have. The PRRC also houses AB109 officers that conduct intake before having clients meet with PRRC officers. Referrals are for clients who are already under supervision; officers can refer clients to the PRRC for additional support and resources or services that were not initially identified as a programming need.
- Direct reports for September and October decreased slightly as there were fewer releases following a surge of releases over the summer months. Referrals from units have increased, with many individuals still coming through the PRRC for programming. Annual trends were not largely affected by the pandemic; clients have continued to receive services and support. The quick action of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in transitioning to virtual programming allowed the continuation of services throughout the year.
- The PRRC also has two jail assessors on staff that help with discharge planning and assessments for alternative sentencing. During COVID, an element was added to the daily duties for jail assessors, assisting attorneys with obtaining client signatures on documents like plea deals, ROIs, etc. This has alleviated the virtual court process, as attorneys do not have the ability to hand documents directly to their clients. Our staff enter the jail, locate the client, obtain signatures, and return documentation; this can all take place during court proceedings. Court and attorneys have been very appreciative of this assistance. In the last two months, there have been nearly 300 attorney requests, with YTD numbers close to 700. This process began in April when it was determined that many clients were not having their cases resolved, as attorneys could not access them with new COVID protocols. Deirdre and Barton are working together to provide probation staff with an ongoing list of those in jail custody so probation staff can identify which clients will be require discharge planning.
- Barton also presented the first edition of the PRRC Corner newsletter highlighting counselors, new programs, and clients. This newsletter will be updated quarterly and posted on our external website. If our partners have any items they would like to include in the next quarter please let us know.

VI. **Overview of Pretrial Services (PTS) Program** – Kimberly Shean

- The Probation Department has been providing Pretrial Supervision since late 2017 to early 2018. As of December 30, 2019, Probation also took over the Pretrial Assessment Unit from

the court. The Assessment Unit assesses the likelihood of clients to recidivate or not appear while pending case resolution. The Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) is used to score risk and provide recommendations to the court on who can or should be released while their case is in progress. Once a court hears an arraignment, they have the option to release to Pretrial Supervision; these clients are innocent at this point, as they have not been convicted. Supervision officers will monitor clients in the community, as their case is being resolved. Pretrial release is used in lieu of posting bail, so the financial status of a person will not be a barrier to release.

- Data from FY19-20 was shared, an increase in releases was seen beginning in April 2020, but numbers are beginning to stabilize and should hold steady around an average of 260-280. There is a completion rate of approximately 80% with 339 out of 426 clients successfully completing their cases under Pretrial Supervision.
- Pretrial is unique, these clients tend to struggle with addiction and issues like domestic violence but as they are not convicted, treatment is not mandated. Some choose to seek treatment on their own; officers will direct them towards resources like the Access Line for addressing substance abuse needs. We also have a partnership with Good Samaritan Shelters to provide two Mental Health Navigators for those who may have mental health or co-occurring issues. These Navigators will often meet clients upon release, transport them to shelters or housing, and assist in the reentry process and connection to treatment services.

VII. **Prison to Employment (P2E) Initiative** – Barton Clark

- The P2E program is a partnership with the Workforce Development Board (WDB) funded by a grant for employment services targeting people on probation who are housing insecure, homeless, or are in subsidized housing. The goal is to provide enhanced services in assisting clients with securing employment, in many cases subsidized employment with the hope that employers will eventually hire the clients as full-time employees. This program is intended to help clients move towards self-sufficiency and open the doors to employment. Goodwill is the contracted provider of these services as they are experienced in subsidized employment and vocational skills, the program is run out of the PRRCs with a Goodwill hub located in Lompoc as well.
- Goodwill has provided a contact that comes to the PRRC once a week, on the day following scheduled WAGE\$\$ classes. This Goodwill employee connects with clients and conducts intake for the program. Goodwill provides case management and additional services to help clients not only obtain but retain employment.

VIII. **Day Reporting Center (DRC) Report** – Carrie Paine

- A handout was provided with data for the first quarter of the fiscal year for both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara DRCs. Santa Maria is running at 141% of capacity with an average of 100 clients. Referrals continue to come in, as long as clients can be accommodated, they will be accepted.
- Completions for the first quarter of this fiscal year have been lower than previous years, clients are dropping off as parole agents lose contact with them but they do reengage once contact has been reestablished. There has been a higher percentage of clients struggling with gaining employment and obtaining I-9 documents, CSI assists with securing proper documentation. On Halloween, there was a socially distanced trick-or-treating event for client's children where they could pick up pre-packaged treats while in costume. Thanksgiving will be different from

the typical potlucks in past years. Santa Maria will be hosting a COVID-friendly event that is more like a food pick-up opportunity; in Santa Barbara, gratitude bags will be provided

IX. Quality Assurance Updates – Karyn Milligan

- Karyn provided background on the Quality Assurance (QA) side of the RSC; it was established to reduce recidivism through the use and implementation of research-based interventions both within our county department and with our community partners.
- The collective goal is to ensure the fidelity of these models and to support skill building.

A. Progress on FY20-21 Program Fidelity Measures – Dana Grossi

- The fidelity measures used for QA pertain to the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that Probation contracts with to provide programming to adult and juvenile clients. There are three main components conducted this year for QA; the first is self-assessments. Providers were asked to complete these assessments during the first quarter of the fiscal year. Self-assessments evaluate the program sessions that clients attend and rate how well services are being delivered to the research program models. The second measure is peer assessments; CBOs are to collaborate with another organization to complete these assessments during the second quarter. The third fidelity measure is in-person visits that Julius or Dana would normally conduct by sitting in on sessions, but visits will be conducted virtually this year. Dana thanked our CBOs for their cooperation while dealing with the increased challenges of the pandemic.

B. Quarter 1 Performance Reports – Julius Baldueza

- Three months of data has been analyzed and assessed and presented to officers and management to provide an overall picture of the progress and success of programs. The QA team will be meeting with officers and management to identify opportunities and challenges that may be seen in the data. More data is anticipated in the coming months as there is a push to improve online participation particularly on the juvenile side. We hope to work closely with program providers to push more referrals and increase participation.

X. Roundtable and Public Comments - All

- Amy Lopez reported that most providers are currently utilizing a combination of in-person and telehealth services. The CA Department of Healthcare Services put out an emergency waiver in March allowing telehealth services to be completely billable. Providers are doing a great job of engaging clients and continue to provide services close to, if not higher than, pre-COVID levels. Treatment groups are being monitored for fidelity to evidence-based practices with Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; this process has slowed down during COVID because there are not as many Zoom groups available but the BeWell team will continue to monitor virtually. The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Wellness and Recovery Access Point for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services has opened in Santa Barbara on the BeWell campus. Here clients can be connected with treatment and referred to providers. This access point is primarily for clients who are not within the BeWell system of care; this is an entry point for them into the system of care with a warm handoff to a provider. LAGS is providing these services now virtually for the South County area. Marian Hospital in Santa Maria was recently awarded the bridge grant from the state of CA, they are already prescribing and inducting clients into MAT before discharge from the hospital, they can return

for three doses in three days and then are handed off to a provider in the community. This grant provides funding for a clinical social worker to act as a coordinator of services for those in the emergency department and inpatient hospital, identifying those who need MAT and connecting them to providers. The Access Line is the main entry point into our system of care for Drug MediCal patients but it can be bypassed by going to AEGIS for methadone, and Vivitrol. Clients who are not on MediCal would go directly to the provider and not through our system.

- Lisa Moschini reported that Sanctuary Centers is building a five-story center for co-occurring patients. The underground floor will be an integrated care clinic with medical, dental, and behavioral health; one floor will house the co-occurring disorder program; the rest of the building will be housing for veterans, the homeless, and those with severe mental illness. Ground break is anticipated to begin around June or July of 2021, with an estimated two to three years for building completion. Probation and the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) invested money into the building for direct access to beds for housing. The current Sanctuary Center building is not handicap accessible and the new building will fix that need.
- Rebecca Christian and Rachel Cook provided an update for The Salvation Army, which has been keeping their 12 contracted beds full; there have been some challenges with COVID as far as moving residents on to permanent housing but there have been a few successes. AB109 beds are full. Working with BeWell has been a godsend, could not do it without them.

XI. Confirm Next Meeting, January 21, 2021, and Adjourn – Kimberly Shean

- The next RSC meeting will be held on January 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional, Senior