

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

July 16, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

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

RSC Members in Attendance:

Sylvia Barnard, Good Samaritan Shelter Services
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
Vincent Wasilewski, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

RSC Members Absent:

Paloma Arnold, Santa Barbara City College
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
Kimberly Shean, Santa Barbara County Probation

Other Attendees:

Amy Adargo, D&J's Counseling
Cesar Arroyo, Community Action Commission
Julius Baldueza, Santa Barbara County Probation
Erica Bottorff, Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office
Barton Clark, Santa Barbara County Probation
Spencer Cross, Santa Barbara County Probation
Gabriela Dodson, Family Services Agency
Christina Grabowsky Viani, Sanctuary Centers
Dylan Griffith, Freedom 4 Youth
Dana Grossi, Santa Barbara County Probation
Ginny Kuhn, Prison Yoga
Ray McDonald, Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board
Karyn Milligan, Santa Barbara County Probation
Racy Ming, Racy Ming Associates
Alejandra Ochoa, Santa Barbara County Probation
Bret Reynolds, Good Samaritan Shelters
Michael Sam, Santa Barbara County Probation
Dee Torres, Community Solutions Inc.

I. Call to Order/Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. and attendees made self-introductions.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2019, November 21, 2019, and January 16, 2020, RSC Meetings

- The draft minutes of the September 19, 2019, November 21, 2019, and January 16, 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 September 17, 2020.

III. Comments from Co-Chairs – Deirdre Smith

- No comments.

IV. Jail Programming – Deirdre Smith

- Jail programming has been modified and has been undergoing continuous evolution depending on the COVID status. The Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP) is operating with the use of virtual components. North Branch Jail construction continues with an anticipated "major completion" in August with a tentative ribbon cutting set for December.
- Amy Lopez inquired approximately how many inmates are still in custody after conducting early releases due to COVID. Chief Wasilewski responded with a count of 578 as of July 15, 2020.

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

- Spencer Cross reported on early releases from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Due to an emergency bail order from the Judicial Council in April of 2020 we have seen multiple waves of releases with 49 inmates released in July alone. Those who have tested positive during release are offered housing through Project Hope which offers temporary housing in local motels. The CDCR continues to send updates on early releases and each region now has an intake teams to handle these releases. The teams focus on utilizing supportive housing and/or sober living for those listed as transient in an attempt to avoid overwhelming local shelters. Amy Lopez asked if inmates are being screened for substance use needs prior to release. Barton Clark responded that each PRRC has an AmeriCorps worker available to assist clients with navigating through the system and enrolling into MediCal.
- Barton Clark reported that PRRC enrollment numbers have remained consistent. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been successful working with clients on Zoom. Due to the increase of releases Barton has been working with Community Solutions Inc. (CSI) on case management and case plan numbers to ensure there will be enough room for incoming clients. There have been successful program completions throughout the duration and Probation has begun conducting virtual WAGE\$\$ courses.

VI. Overview of Pretrial Services (PTS) Program – Alejandra Ochoa and Michael Sam

- Michael Sam gave an overview of the Pretrial Assessment Unit which is new to the Probation Department. Formerly the Court's ORBR unit, it was absorbed by Probation on December 30, 2019. Six staff transitioned from Court into Probation and four new hires were also added. These staff assess inmates' suitability and eligibility for pretrial release within hours of being booked into jail with interviews currently being conducted through video conferencing. The Pretrial Unit utilizes the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) which evaluates the risk of recidivism and risk of failure to appear (FTA). Based off of the VPRAI numbers and interviews, pretrial assessment staff write reports for the court with their recommendations for pre-arraignment release, pretrial release, or remaining detained. If the presiding Judge is in concurrence with the recommendation then the paperwork is sent to the jail to begin the release.
- In April of 2020 the Judicial Council issued a zero bail release order which required the assessment of eligibility for approximately 1000 inmates in the Santa Barbara County Jail

followed by assessment of the suitability of release for a few hundred inmates identified as eligible.

- Alejandra Ochoa gave an overview of the Pretrial Supervision Unit. After arraignment inmates are either released on their own recognizance (OR), on bail, or on Pretrial Supervision (PTS). The case is then assigned to a pretrial caseload. Supervision staff also utilize VPRAI to determine the level of supervision each client will need and how often they will be required to report. Due to COVID and the zero bail release there was a significant increase in the PTS caseload requiring staff to be redeployed from other units to assist with the workload. 2019 saw 145 clients on the pretrial supervision caseload; today that number has risen to 321 with 80 of those clients also being on GPS. On June 1, 2020, the Probation Department contracted with the Good Samaritan Shelter for two mental health navigator positions to assist with the mental health needs of clients on PTS. During the first week of implementation 14 clients from the supervision unit were referred.

VII. **Prison to Employment Initiative** – Ray McDonald

- Ray McDonald gave an overview of the Workforce Development Board which is federally funded through the US Department of Labor with funds disbursed at the State level. The State then allocates funding down to the local level for the business sector as well as for job seekers. The Workforce Development Board works in partnership with county and/or city government. The decisions for funding allocation come from the board with the county handling contracts. The Workforce Development Board also provides services to business and individuals when business close and/or jobs are lost.
- One of the goals set at the state level is to provide services to the formerly incarcerated community which drove the creation of the Prison to Employment initiative. Santa Barbara County is receiving \$300,000 to provide vocational skills training to formerly incarcerated individuals. Due to existing partnerships with groups such as Probation, funds will be focused on individuals in supportive housing to help them obtain the ability to exit housing and be successful on their own. The Probation Department will augment their existing contract with Goodwill to implement this initiative with the targeted population.

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

- A handout was provided with data for the end of the fiscal year for both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara DRCs.
- COVID overview: Santa Maria has been more impacted by increased reports with 92 people whereas the average is around 70, the Santa Barbara location is staying near average at 31. Currently everything is conducted over the phone or via Zoom.

IX. **Quality Assurance Updates**

A. **FY20/21 Overview of Contracted Services** – Julius Baldueza and Dana Grossi

1. **Adult** – The following curriculum based services will be provided at PRRCs in both Santa Barbara and Santa Maria: Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Reasoning & Rehabilitation(R&R), Seeking Safety, Courage to Change, Batterers Intervention Programming (BIP), Reentry Drug Court (RDC), and Withdrawal Management. Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center (CVSATC) and Sanctuary Centers will be conducting their services directly in office. There will also be continued services with

residential support such as sober living, transitional housing, and residential alcohol and drug treatment. New services provided this year include Mental Health Navigator case management support through the Good Samaritan Shelter and outpatient treatment services for the dual diagnosis (DDX) population provided by Sanctuary Centers through the PRRC in Santa Barbara. The new DDX program is an individualized assessment driven service for those with co-occurring mental health disorders and substance abuse. The Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) provided by the Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (CADA) through the PRRC will return this year, building personal responsibility and strengths for drug and alcohol issues as an alternative to the 12 step program.

2. **Juvenile** – There are several new programs available to the juvenile population provided by our Community Based Organizations: Seeking Safety an intervention to provide youth with coping skills helping them to obtain safety from trauma and substance abuse. Cannabis education classes through Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV), classroom based drug education class intended for youth adjudicated for marijuana possession. CADA will provide Youth Empowerment Services (YES) through the youth reinvestment grant received by the department, which pays for diversion services geared towards youth with low level offenses with the goal of diverting youth away from the justice system and towards services they need such as mental health services or substance abuse treatment. Targeted interventions – similar to the diversion services but provided to youth on probation addressing specific needs such as truancy, mentoring services, abuse or neglect. Services continuing to be provided: El Joven Noble, mentoring services, multi-dimensional family therapy, and the strengthening families program.

B. Contract Monitoring – Julius Baldueza and Dana Grossi

- The contract monitoring process for this fiscal year was started in June by reaching out to service providers to review statements of work and performance measures and to provide an overview of the fidelity oversight. Oversight will include review of employee certification and curriculum checks. We plan to share our findings with individual vendors, compare to previous year assessments and discuss any improvements that need to be made. We also discussed monthly performance measures that include the continued use of summary of service worksheets.
- This will be the first year of implementation of performance measures on juvenile services for data on which programs are particularly successful. One measure will be pre and post surveys administered to youth before and after completing an interventional program. These surveys will measure thinking and behavioral patterns. The implementation of measures will help to quantitatively capture the level of changes taking place. We will also measure academic factors such as GPA, time spent attending school, and homework completions.

C. Results First – Karyn Milligan

- Results First is an ongoing partnership with the McArthur Foundation since 2013. This partnership ultimately allows us to create a benefit cost map model to monetize the benefits of each programs using local costs and effects on recidivism. This allows us to better understand the services offered as well as available evidence and to visualize the concentration of services across the county.

X. **Roundtable and Public Comments - All**

- No comments.

XI. **Confirm Next Meeting, September 17, 2020, and Adjourn** – Deirdre Smith

- The next RSC meeting will be held on September 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional, Senior