

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

January 21, 2021
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.
Eddie Perez, Impact Prison Ministry
Deirdre Smith, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
Kimberly Shean, Santa Barbara County Probation

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
John Savrnoch, Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
Vincent Wasilewski, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Other Attendees:

Amy Adargo, D&J's Counseling
Cesar Arroyo, CommUnify
Julius Baldueza, Santa Barbara County Probation
Jennifer Barretto, Community Solutions Inc.
Keturah Carter, Goodwill
Barton Clark, Santa Barbara County Probation
Ashley Gibbons, Good Samaritan Shelters
Christina Grabowksy Viani, Sanctuary Centers
Dana Grossi, Santa Barbara County Probation
Edwin Hodges, Allan Hancock College
Jerry Huerta, Community Solutions Inc.
Chelsea Jensen, Good Samaritan Shelters
Yolanda McGlinchey, City of Santa Barbara
Karyn Milligan, Santa Barbara County Probation
Erica Morales, Good Samaritan Shelters
Nicole Moses, Good Samaritan Shelters
Alejandra Ochoa, Santa Barbara County Probation
Rick Rantz, Allan Hancock College
Cheech Raygoza, Allan Hancock College
Bret Reynolds, Good Samaritan Shelters
Roselyne Romero, Santa Barbara County Probation
Emir Saafir, Santa Barbara County Probation
Michael Sam, Santa Barbara County Probation
Saul Serrano, CommUnify
Dawnette Smith, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley
Edwin Weaver, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley
D'ondra Williams, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

- 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, and November 19, 2020, RSC Meetings**
 - The draft minutes of the September 17, 2020, and November 19, 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 March 18, 2021.
- III. **Public Comment – All**
 - No public comments.
- IV. **RSC Membership Review – All**
 - The RSC is interested in expanding voting membership to bring in new partners and re-establish partnerships with organizations where our voting membership has changed over time. A request for applications was distributed and six applications were received. In addition to expanding membership, there is also a need to replace John Lewis' voting position for Behavioral Wellness.
 - Action Item: Behavioral Wellness is to nominate a voting member replacement for John Lewis.
 - Applicants in attendance provided self-introductions and detailed the reasons for their interest in becoming a voting member of the RSC.
 - The next step for expanding voting memberships will be to have the current voting members review applications in February and bring their recommendations back to this group on March 18, 2021. Membership selections will be taken to the CCP WG on March 24th and the CCP on April 2nd for final approval.
- V. **Comments from Co-Chairs – Kimberly Shean and Deirdre Smith**
 - Deirdre Smith is excited to see the number of applications received and the strong representation from Allan Hancock College.
 - Kim Shean provided an update on where the county stands with financial planning for the next year. Through AB109, when many individuals formerly in state prison were redirected to the counties, the counties were given funding to provide for the influx of new clients. The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) is primarily responsible for determining how to allocate AB109 resources. The CCP is composed of county department heads in addition to community organization and victim representation; the main role of the CCP is to approve a yearly realignment plan outlining how AB109 resources received from the state will support departments, community organizations, treatment, resources, programming, etc. The goal is to have the budget approved by the CPP and submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the end of May.
- VI. **Jail Programming – Deirdre Smith**
 - There is a new tentative substantial completion date of April for the North County Jail, making the tentative population the end of July. Work continues arranging programming and training staff for assessment-driven evidence-based programs, technical issues are being figured out and looking forward to working with Allan Hancock College (AHC).

- The South County Jail will stay open with some population remaining while others are moved to the North Branch. The Sheriff's Treatment Program (STP) will be continued in both locations along with programs from AHC in the North and Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) in the South.
- Both contract positions for discharge planning are filled and onboard.

VII. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) – Amy Lopez and D'ondra Williams

- BeWell MAT services for substance use disorders are available outside of opioid treatment programs. Typically, MAT is considered as Methadone only but it has been expanded for persons who have an addiction severe enough to require medications to help cope with substance use disorder and treatment. Medications prescribed are for opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder. Medications can be daily pill form or long-term dose injectable and are monitored by providers, hoping that clients eventually come off these medications and continue to work on their sobriety. MAT services include order prescribing and monitoring of medications for substance use disorder particularly opioid and alcohol dependence.
- The in-custody MAT program consists of treatment and discharge planning to continue services with an outside provider. It is like a treatment rehab program that provides maintenance medication for opiate use disorder and substance use disorder. Naltrexone is used for patients with heavy alcohol use or opiate dependency as it is an opiate receptor blocker. When patients are released, they are prescribed Suboxone because it contains Naloxone and provides extra protection.
- For MediCal beneficiaries, CVSATC and LAGS provide countywide MAT services. The referral process for treatment still goes through the Access Line. If the client is already in treatment, the provider can work with the Access Line to refer to MAT services while treatment is continued with their current provider. Aegis is also considered a MAT provider; they primarily serve clients on Methadone but have expanded to include Buprenorphine and Suboxone. Any client who is criminal justice-involved should be receiving a full ASAM assessment at the provider location. The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Wellness Recovery and Access Point has opened for clients who need access to MAT and may not already be in the ADP system of care or are being discharged from jail who need to continue MAT. This is an access point for clients to receive a prescription and be referred to a provider to continue treatment.
- In-custody, most patients are met after they have relapsed and gone through the withdrawal process. If they are not already on MAT, they are screened for the program and start the enrollment process to begin SUD counseling in-custody. Over 200 patients have been enrolled in the program, with 40 currently enrolled. Discharge planning on the in-custody end is to make sure follow-up appointments are made and medications available to avoid relapse.

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

- A handout was presented with PRRC statistics covering November 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.
- Throughout COVID-19, both reporting centers have been doing well and continue to meet the needs of clients referred. There has been an increase in referrals for standard cases in South County while AB109 referrals have risen slightly in North County. Clients have been very appreciative of the continued personal connections through virtual programs.

- SB678 and AB109 cases were defined. SB678 is funding for individuals that have not gone to prison; these are standard cases. AB109 is funding to provide services for individuals released from prison.

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

- As a department, pretrial supervision began in 2016 with one pretrial compliance officer; the creation of the pretrial supervision unit followed in 2018. The basis behind pretrial supervision is that there were individuals in jail that the court was not comfortable releasing on Own Recognizance (OR) without someone to monitor them and assist in connection to services while pending court. In 2020, the department also took over the assessment portion of pretrial services; this is funded through a judicial grant as a pilot program.
- Pretrial Assessment – Eight Pretrial Specialists are covering the entire county and evaluate every individual that is booked and stays in-custody. The unit is staffed seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. to allow for clients to be seen within 24 hours of booking if not less. The Pretrial Specialists utilize the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI), an evidence-based tool, to assess the risk of recidivism or failure to appear in court. Assessments conducted determine if clients can be safely released into the community and under what terms and conditions. Once a determination is made, recommendations are made to the court regarding release.
- Pretrial Supervision – Once the Assessment Unit has determined a defendant should be released to Supervision, SPO Ochoa will receive a referral from the court and assign the case to a pretrial compliance officer. The Supervision Unit consists of seven pretrial officers, one senior officer, three administrative assistants, and three GPS officers. The initial goal was to keep caseload ratios at 20 individuals per officer. COVID-19 and the Zero Bail order impacted caseloads and increased caseload numbers from a total of 170 pre-COVID up to 280 cases, exceeding the initial caseload ratios. Caseload numbers have begun decreasing slightly as pending court cases are being resolved but this varies week by week.
- Mental Health Navigators – Two Mental Health Navigators have joined the team, they are employed through the Good Samaritan Shelters. Navigators attend initial court hearings, provide information on service coordination, create case plans, follow-up and connect clients with mental health service providers, and provide updates on subsequent court hearings. They discuss cases with compliance officers and provide discharge plans when cases are resolved. The addition of Mental Health Navigators has been an enhancement to the pretrial program in guiding clients through the court process successfully.

X. Prison to Employment (P2E) Initiative – Barton Clark

- The P2E program is in partnership with the Workforce Development Board and Goodwill providing employment resources to individuals who are housing insecure or homeless. This resource provides clients a case management component that works with clients while they are receiving on-the-job training. The goal is to help clients retain employment long-term. In November and December, 13 referrals were received with three clients enrolled and five pending enrollment.
- All referrals are received through one point of contact. Once a referral is received, intakes are conducted, eligibility and career assessments are completed, and clients are enrolled into CalJobs. Once CalJobs has approved the client, enrollment in the program begins with the creation of an individual program plan followed by work experience with supportive services

including job readiness training; the program will also pay for incidentals like interview or work clothes and gas. The program offers 170 paid hours of work experience at \$14 an hour, for up to 29 hours a week. Clients can select two worksites they would like to interview with so they can make a choice if they are accepted at both. The goal is to find a worksite that will want to employ the client full-time, if that happens, they are enrolled in subsidized employment for the first 30 days of their regular employment.

XI. Day Reporting Center (DRC) Report – Carrie Paine

- A handout was presented with DRC statistics for the second quarter of FY2020-21 covering October 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.
- In Santa Maria there was an increase in referrals with 120 where the normal non-pandemic capacity is 70. CSI is accommodating the increased number of referrals by having more employees conduct case management. There have been many requests from clients to have more in-person services and relationship building time; it has been a struggle to keep clients engaged.
- For discharges, there have been more people with an increased need for substance abuse counseling. Employment numbers in Santa Barbara are lower than they ever have been.

XII. Roundtable – All

- Carrie Paine of CSI reported that the Virtual Provider Resource Fair is scheduled; she will be reaching out to the registered providers with more information about what to expect during the fair. Dates scheduled are February 2, 2021, for North County and February 9, 2021, for South County.

XIII. Quality Assurance Updates – Julius Baldueza and Dana Grossi

A. FY20-21 Program Fidelity Measures Update

- A reminder to providers to submit self-assessments if not already completed. If there are any questions please feel free to reach out to Julius for Adult programs and Dana for Juvenile. Fidelity reviews via virtual assessments are being conducted, either by participation in Zoom sessions or review of recorded sessions. For Adult Division program providers this will be the second year of assessments, this will provide the opportunity to compare data to the previous year to see areas of growth and where more improvements may be needed.

B. Quarterly Performance Reports

- To providers, please submit invoices for December. Referrals for Juvenile programs have seen a slow start. There was an improvement in the second quarter but overall referrals are low this year due to difficulties seen from the pandemic. Youth are beginning to complete programs and data is now available for pre and post survey measures. This is the first year measures of this nature have been conducted; the intent is to show the outcomes of programs and the changes in thinking patterns after completing intervention programs. By the third quarter, more youth should be exiting and more data will be available.

C. FY21-22 Contract Kick-off Meetings

- Meetings with service providers to discuss contracts for the upcoming fiscal year are being scheduled. The process will begin with drafting agreements and looking at improving and adapting performance measures to better measure the success of programs and their impact on outcomes.

XIV. Confirm Next Meeting, March 18, 2021, and Adjourn – Kimberly Shean

- The next RSC meeting will be held on March 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional, Senior