

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

March 18, 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
Tracy Macuga, Santa Barbara County Public Defender
Carrie Paine, Community Solutions Inc.
Deirdre Smith, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
Kimberly Shean, Santa Barbara County Probation
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
Eddie Perez, Impact Prison Ministry
John Savrnock, Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office

Other Attendees:

Cesar Arroyo, CommUnify
Julius Baldueza, Santa Barbara County Probation
Jennifer Barretto, Community Solutions Inc.
Ethan Bertrand, 2nd District Representative
Rebecca Christian, The Salvation Army
Barton Clark, Santa Barbara County Probation
Monie De Wit, volunteer with Freedom 4 Youth and Human Rights Watch
Vanessa Dominguez, Allan Hancock College
Diane Esparza, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA)
Nancy Gottlieb, CADA
Christina Grabowksy Viani, Sanctuary Centers
Dana Grossi, Santa Barbara County Probation
Cathleen "Katie" Haycock, Goodwill
Edwin Hodges, Allan Hancock College.
Chelsea Jensen, Good Samaritan Shelters
Karyn Milligan, Santa Barbara County Probation
Nicole Moses, Good Samaritan Shelters
Alejandra Ochoa, Santa Barbara County Probation
Arturo "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
Edwin Weaver, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV)

I. Call to Order/Introductions

- The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. and attendee's names were provided on screen.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2020, November 19, 2020, and January 21, 2021, RSC Meetings

- The draft minutes of the September 17, 2020, November 19, 2020, and January 21, 2021, Reentry Steering Committee (RSC) meetings were reviewed. A motion was made by Amy Lopez and seconded by Deirdre Smith to approve the minutes as submitted.
 - A roll call vote was taken of the RSC members present.

Ayes: 7
(Sylvia Barnard, Amy Lopez, Tracy Macuga, Carrie Paine, Deirdre Smith, Kimberly Shean, Vincent Wasilewski)
Nays: 0
Abstention: 0

III. Public Comment – All

- No public comments.

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

- Deirdre Smith – no comments at this time.
- Kimberly Shean – A request for voting member applications was sent out in January 2021, the goal was to add additional community voices to the membership. Six applicants will be taken to the CCP for approval to add as RSC voting members. Kimberly introduced and congratulated the six members selected. All attendees were invited to attend the CCP meeting on April 2, 2021, for membership approval as well as a presentation of the FY21-22 Realignment Plan. The Probation Department website (www.sbprobation.org) now has a community board page, which provides a list of Department Brown Act meetings and links to the meeting calendars, which includes the Zoom links.

V. Client Survey – Kimberly Shean

- Input received from community members has demonstrated a need for additional surveying of clients. A new objective in the FY21-22 Realignment Plan is to obtain input from justice-involved individuals about their experiences throughout the re-entry system. The goal is to evaluate what about the re-entry process is working, what can be done better, and what could be added to the process. A sub-workgroup will be necessary to brainstorm questions to ask, how to deliver the survey, and how to capture data.
 - Action Item: A doodle survey will be sent out to select a meeting date for the sub-workgroup.

VI. Jail Programming – Deirdre Smith

- Deirdre reported some in-person classes are being resumed in the Medium Security Facility (MSF), and correspondence courses are still being utilized in the main jail. The first Spanish-speaking cohort of the STP program will begin in the MSF next week with 15 people signed up for the course.
- Chief Wasilewski shared an update; the Northern Branch Jail is set to open in May with occupation expected by July. With vaccinations moving forward in the community, programming will begin to open up. Once the inmate population is vaccinated, visitations can resume.

VII. Jail Discharge Planning – Deirdre Smith and Barton Clark

- One of the process improvements begun in February is to reach out weekly to all individuals booked in the previous seven days rather than waiting for client to submit an application for discharge planning. Many of those booked in are released before they are even moved out of their 14-day quarantine period, this is causing a need to be more proactive and reach out earlier to help with connections to services and housing prior to release.
 - Action Item: Barton will provide an updated discharge planning target population and process flowchart for the next meeting in May.
- AB109 has funded six positions at the jail specifically for discharge planning; two Jail Assessors from Probation, two from public defender's office, and two through Sheriff's department who all work with medical staff at jail for MAT and medication linkages. The team has had an opportunity with the jail population down to work on process improvements.
- Chief Wasilewski mentioned a funding opportunity from the BSCC for discharge and re-entry services. Dr. Gleghorn submitted a proposal and received \$570,000 for a discharge planner, a mental health navigator, and two transporters. Good Samaritan Shelter will be the contracted provider for this grant. Chief Wasilewski also noted that 70% of the booked population is released in the first five to six days and recommended getting discharge discussions down to the three-day mark in order to reach a larger population.

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

- A handout was presented with PRRC statistics covering January 1, 2021, through February 28, 2021.
- The Prison to Employment (P2E) grant in partnership with the Workforce Development Board and Goodwill for job preparation and placement saw a big increase in referrals with 41 referrals, nine intakes, and five enrolled.
- After a push by officers to increase CBT referrals, both direct reports and unit referrals have increased. Direct reports are clients reporting directly upon release from custody. Unit referrals are clients referred by their officers for additional programming. The uptick in referrals is also reflected in the program enrollment numbers.

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

- Michael Sam reported for Pretrial Assessment – Work has steadily increased over the last year. In March 2020, there was an initial sharp dip in client interviews due to a decrease in bookings. The Assessment Unit work seven days a week, from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. with eight staff between SB and SM. The Assessment team has expanded their work to provide courts with more assistance in the decision making process when evaluating someone for release for both new bookings as well as warrant arrests. The support and information provided to the court is intended to help move things along and reduce jail numbers, preventing people from staying in jail for extended periods of time while awaiting sentencing.
- Kimberly Shean mentioned there has been an uptick in clients with warrants as they have been destabilized due to the pandemic and may have become unreachable. If you see clients with warrants in these situations, please notify Probation so we can get them on schedule and have the warrant recalled. Clients should not have to return to jail for these instances.
- Alejandra Ochoa reported for Pretrial Supervision – Referrals are steady, the unit supervises seven caseloads across North and South County. The total supervision caseload is 292, which has increased slightly since the last report. Pretrial teams will be meeting soon to brainstorm

ways to improve processes and become more proactive at time of release; the goal is to improve and enhance connection of clients with Mental Health Navigators and improve the outcome of clients reporting to probation and court attendance. Alejandra also reiterated the comment about warrants, please have clients contact us, we have connections with justice partners and we are willing to help, our goal is to keep clients out of jail.

- Ethan Bertrand asked about how clients are selected to be put on to supervision, released on OR, or recommended to stay in jail. Michael responded that decisions are largely driven by the VPRAI risk assessment score, an evidence based tool that evaluates the risk of failure to appear and risk to recidivate. Pretrial recommendations will also include information about if there are substance abuse issues, if clients would be returning to a home with domestic violence victims, and if they will be able to continue working. Ultimately, the court makes the final decision based on these recommendations. Probation should not be making a recommendation that would override the VPRAI tool more than 10% of the time, currently overrides are slightly higher than 10% but these instances are based on risk to victims and community safety, the team is working to decrease that number.
- Chelsea Jensen provided an overview of the role of Mental Health Navigators (MHN) in the discharge process. Navigators will work with discharge planners or probation staff to coordinate transportation of clients, if they need to be picked up from jail, taken to the stabilization center, taken to pick up medications, taken to mental health intake or treatment appointments as needed and go to court with/transport to and from court if needed. The primary function of (MHNs) is to augment access to services and make sure clients attend courts.

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

- Katie Haycock of Goodwill reported the P2E program is going well but utilizing Zoom has been a bit difficult building engagement, it should be much smoother with in-person intakes. Signing paperwork has been difficult, as many clients do not want to report just to pick up paperwork.
- Barton mentioned referrals have gone up and agreed the in-person connection will help with enrollments and retention. The goal is to have P2E intakes facilitated at the PRRC once in-person can begin.

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

- A handout was presented with DRC statistics for the second quarter of FY2020-21 covering January 1, 2021, through February 28, 2021.
- This reporting period had many successful completions. The focus of the last reporting quarter seemed to be on transfers of clients with dual diagnoses (DDX) who needed a higher level of care. Employment numbers are still low and clients are experiencing difficulty getting and keeping work, anticipating a shift in this as the County opens up.
- The DRC will be re-opening partially; throughout the pandemic, it has served primarily as a pick-up and distribution point with programs and services being conducted via phone and Zoom. With the county moving into the red tier and an increase in staff vaccinations, in-person intakes will begin again. Being able to begin building a connection and rapport with clients again should be beneficial. Groups will remain on Zoom until the size of groups can be accommodated safely.

- Over the last month, there has been increased collaboration with discharge planners to coordinate programming and housing for clients scheduled to be released. Being able to provide clients a plan ahead of time is helping with their understanding and expectation of programming.

XII. Roundtable – All

- Edwin Hodges introduced Vanessa Dominguez, the director of EOP/CalWorks. Vanessa joined the team during COVID. The team came back to campus in August and are working on a plan to bring back students as soon as possible, the fall semester will return to campus. Trying to get back to normal bringing food back out for students and assembling care packages and baskets for the homeless population. Vanessa has been discussing with Cheech ways to provide additional support to the justice-involved students.
- Amy Lopez – BeWell is working on messaging, what can all organizations share across the board that is positive and informative and encourages clients to be vaccinated. ADP was awarded the Youth Opioid Response Grant. The grant is 18 months with a target population of transitional age youth (15-24 y/o) with a focus on opioid and stimulant use disorder. A youth drop in center will be provided in Lompoc where clients can get services, call access line etc.
 - Action Item: Amy will send information to be distributed to the group once details are finalized.
- Edwin Weaver – FBSMV has been open throughout the pandemic. One program being run in partnership with BeWell is Strengthening Families, a parenting program for parents with children aged 7 to 17 for improving relationships with children, this program is free of charge. There is a transitional youth permanent supportive house in SM; it is currently full with four residents, all four are employed. Edwin Hodges asked if there are any plans for housing services for the homeless population in Lompoc, Edwin Weaver replied to refer these clients to the entry coordinators at FBSMV so they can be considered for housing services, these coordinators will also assist with getting clients document ready. Coordinators will visit local “hot spots” twice a week to build relationships with these at-risk youth to begin the process of getting them off the street.
- Ethan Bertrand – The CCP sub-committee for Racial and Ethnic Equity and Inclusion will be holding a meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.
- Cheech Raygoza – Thanked the PRRC and DRC who are referring clients almost on a daily basis for enrollment into college. Cheech thinks it is awesome how many organizations are in collaboration. He also shared that he has an upcoming court date to have his record expunged, anyone coming to college and participating in the Beyond Incarceration Greater Education (BIGE) club would become eligible to have their record expunged.
- Nicole Moses – Provided a reminder that Safehouse is available to serve women 18 and older who are justice-involved. Beds are currently available; please keep Safehouse in mind if you are working with women who need housing.
- Emir Saafir – Looks forward to meeting with the sub-workgroup for Client Reentry Interview Survey discussions.

XIII. Quality Assurance Updates – Julius Baldueza and Dana Grossi

A. FY21-22 Contract Negotiations and Kick-off Meetings

- Adult contracts have been sent to providers for initial review; new performance measures added to the contracts this year are criminal thinking skills pre and post surveys that will be

conducted before and after programming to quantify the effect on thinking patterns. These surveys are already conducted for juvenile programs and are now being incorporated for adult programs. For sobering living homes adding a measure to incorporate referrals at the PRRC. Juvenile contracts will be sent to providers in the next few weeks, there are no notable changes to juvenile contracts this year. Kick-off meetings will be in May and June to discuss signed contracts and provide an overview of the fidelity measures for the next fiscal year as well as discuss the administration of the summary service reports.

B. Fidelity Assessments

- The third quarter of the program year is wrapping up, hoping to complete program fidelity assessments that are being conducted with service providers. These fidelity measures are to ensure program sessions are being delivered effectively and in accordance with their evidence-based curriculum. Fidelity measures include self-assessments, peer assessments, and on-site assessments.

XIV. Confirm Next Meeting, May 20, 2021, and Adjourn – Kimberly Shean

- The next RSC meeting will be held on May 20, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lesley Stewart, Administrative Office Professional Senior