

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

May 20, 2021

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**RSC Members in Attendance:**

Edwin Hodges, Allan Hancock College  
Amy Lopez, designee for John Lewis, Santa Barbara County Department of Behavioral Wellness  
Nicole Moses, Good Samaritan Shelters  
Carrie Paine, Community Solutions Inc.  
Eddie Perez, Impact Prison Ministry  
Arturo “Cheech” Raygoza, Allan Hancock College  
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  
Sylvia Barnard, Good Samaritan Shelter Services  
Monie De Wit, volunteer with Freedom 4 Youth and Human Rights Watch  
Anthony Ivanich, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Tracy Macuga, Santa Barbara County Public Defender  
Yolanda McGlinchey, City of Santa Barbara Fire  
John Savrnock, Santa Barbara County District Attorney’s Office  
Edwin Weaver, Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley (FBSMV)

**Other Attendees:**

Julius Baldueza, Santa Barbara County Probation  
Jennifer Barretto, Community Solutions Inc.  
Holly Benton, Santa Barbara County Probation  
Kelly Berger, Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (CADA)  
Ethan Bertrand, 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative  
Barton Clark, Santa Barbara County Probation  
Maureen Earls, Clergy and Litany United for Economic Justice  
Diane Esparza, CADA  
Christina Grabowksy Viani, Sanctuary Centers  
Dana Grossi, Santa Barbara County Probation  
Karyn Milligan, Santa Barbara County Probation  
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

**I. Call to Order/Introductions**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. and attendees made self-introductions.

**II. Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2021, RSC Meetings**

- The draft minutes of the March 18, 2021 Reentry Steering Committee (RSC) meeting were reviewed. A quorum was not present at this time; the approval will be carried over to the next

meeting on July 15, 2021.

### III. **Approval of FY 21-22 Meeting Calendar**

- The draft of the FY 21-22 Meeting Calendar was reviewed. A quorum was not present; the approval will be carried over to the next meeting on July 15, 2021. The draft FY 21-22 calendar will be posted on the Probation website.

### IV. **Public Comment – All**

- No public comments.

### V. **Roundtable**

- Bret Reynolds reported Good Sam is moving back toward in-person groups at the PRRC for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Seeking Safety (SS), and relapse prevention. A new Stabilization Center has opened and currently has 15-20 clients; a third have secured housing. Probation refers the most clients to stabilization instead of jail for homeless or housing-insecure clients who have relapsed.
- Amy Lopez provided an update on LAGs closing their doors. Care coordinators are contacting each of 52 Drug Medi-Cal (DMC) clients to ensure they are discharged and receive the services they need. For any clients needing referrals, contact BeWell.
  - For DMC clients receiving medication assistant treatment services (MAT), refer to BeWell for medical and outpatient referrals.
  - Probation clients are to call the access line for re-referral and provider information.
- Amy Lopez added that BeWell is currently working on a drop-in center for transitional aged youth in Lompoc with funding from the YOR Grant. BeWell also received a Prop. 64 Grant to employ alcohol and drug specialists to work with resource officers in identifying needs for prevention and treatment of marijuana and cannabis use in junior and high schools.

### VI. **Comments from Co-Chairs – Kimberly Shean**

- Deputy Chief Holly Benton will be taking over the Adult Division and will become the co-chair of the RSC; DCPO Shean will still stay involved with reentry planning from the juvenile perspective. DCPO Shean will be taking over the Institutions Division. The rotation will be effective as of May 24, 2021.
- New voting members were welcomed, as this is their first meeting in an official voting capacity. DCPO Shean expressed the desire for two non-government voting members to attend the CCP and CCP WG meetings to represent the community while developing the next Realignment Plan.

### VII. **Client Survey – Kimberly Shean and Emir Saafir**

- The goal is to administer this survey within the next 90 days to individuals involved or connected to the justice system. The survey will be anonymous, and data will be aggregated and used to help drive the FY22-23 Realignment Plan.
- Manager Saafir presented the first draft of the Client Reentry Interview Survey. Group members reviewed and added input to the survey during the presentation. Send additional suggestions to Manager Saafir or AOP Sr. Stewart. Once feedback is incorporated, the survey will be finalized and sent out with a process for delivery.

## VIII. **Shared Safety** – Kimberly Shean

- DCPO Shean shared a video on Shared Safety led by the Californians for Safety and Justice. This concept was introduced by the Chief Probation Officer and endorsed by the CCP voting members as a framework to move the County forward in looking at criminal justice and addiction through a public health lens. The five steps of the Shared Safety Blueprint are shifting to a public health frame; well-being is safety; crime survivors at the center; breaking the cycle of harm; making the system work. A consultant will be brought in and focus groups held to move this initiative forward.
- Chief Wasilewski commented that it is refreshing to see the focus on the result of incarceration and the need to reform how incarceration is approached. There is a need to do a better job while clients are incarcerated and make it a better place inside to improve success upon release.
- Maureen Earls asked about a more holistic approach to custody release. Chief Wasilewski replied that they recently received a COVID relief grant to address discharge planning and reentry services.

## IX. **Jail Programming** – Deirdre Smith

- Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) is transitioning from the first to the second semester. Several people completed a three-credit Personal Development Stress Management class. Females were prioritized for Pre-Professional Development classes and have finished one of the three courses that will provide a certificate to present to future employers. Currently, SBSO is assisting individuals with enrolling for the next semester.
- Deirdre Smith is collaborating with Allan Hancock College (AHC) and the Santa Maria Humane Society to create a dog-training certificate program at the North Branch Jail. Participants will receive a certificate, earn credits, and have the option to create a program path at Allan Hancock College. The collaboration will also focus on making partnerships with employers in the Santa Maria Valley willing to hire individuals from the program.
- An in-custody presentation was coordinated between SBCC, Cal State San Marcos, and formerly life-sentenced individuals via Zoom about their experiences moving from prison and jail into education. A discussion was held about creating mentorship programs with incarcerated individuals.
- A new collaboration with Westmont College is underway to provide pen pal mentorship and writing clubs with plans for creating entrepreneurial opportunities.
- SBSO's second poetry book has been published. It is composed of poems written by incarcerated individuals. For a copy, please email Deirdre Smith.
- The North County Jail opening date is undetermined. SBSO is in the process of finalizing the classification plans, which will then give information for programming units.
  - Maureen Earls asked about updates on the CLUE and the Freedom to Choose (FTC) Project for the jail. FTC is known for re-entry preparation success in jails and achieving a low recidivism rate with clients.
  - Deirdre Smith met with FTC before the pandemic and discussed modifying the program to fit the jail population of Santa Barbara County. Due to the program being heavily volunteer-based, the plan is to move forward with the program once the jails are open to the public.
  - DCPO Kimberly Shean cautioned about quoting the robustness of the recidivism rates of the study without reviewing keynotes such as how recidivism is defined, what their baseline is, how recidivism is determined, etc.

- i. Karyn Milligan added that recidivism has a variety of definitions and clarification of the measurements, time-period, and comparison group would need to be examined.
- ii. Maureen Earls will send the FTC pilot program information to DCPO Kimberly Shean.

**X. Jail Discharge Planning – Deirdre Smith and Barton Clark**

- The Jail Discharge Planning Team is funded by Realignment (AB109) and is composed of six members; two people from the Public Defender’s Office, two from Probation, and two from SBSO. The team coordinates reentry for clients in jail and meets weekly to discuss clients’ needs.
- As jail populations decrease, it has allowed time to modify the discharge planning process to target specific populations working with each department and connect them to resources, workgroups, and support services.
- A COVID relief grant allowed the team to contract a new Discharge Planner through Good Sam. A gap had emerged with discharge planning services with individuals released during the IRC quarantine period before meeting with discharge planners. The new planner will be housed in the IRC and provide support services to the Holistic Defense Advocate and the Treatment Court Deputies in regards to medication prescriptions and transportation. She will also inform clients of discharge services provided, assist in obtaining Medi-Cal, get them on access line, enrolled in programs (if needed), connect with local resources, residential treatment programs, etc.
  - Deirdre Smith and Barton Clark will provide a presentation on discharge planning for the next meeting on July 15, 2021.

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

- A handout was presented with PRRC statistics covering March 1, 2021, through April 30, 2021.
- Barton Clark presented the latest number of client referrals to the PRRC and their programs:
  - Santa Barbara – 15 direct reports and 57 DPO referrals.
  - Santa Maria – Eight direct reports and 43 DPO referrals.
  - Housing Assistance – Numbers increased in April with the hiring of a new AmeriCorps member. Numbers are higher in Santa Barbara than in Santa Maria due to a greater homeless need. Staff assist clients with becoming document-ready for future housing prospects.
  - Seeking Safety – Gender-specific group for clients who experienced trauma. Primarily male groups in Santa Barbara and female groups in Santa Maria. Recently, the number of female participants decreased in Santa Maria while the number of male participants increased. An in-person male group began in Santa Maria, and future enrollments are underway.
  - In-person groups – R&R, MRT, Seeking Safety, Santa Maria’s Reset (Relapse Prevention), and Santa Barbara Sanctuary groups are meeting in-person following public health guidelines. With increasing enrollments, the groups will switch to zoom to accommodate new members.
  - Prison to Employment (P2E) – A partnership program between Workforce Development and the Probation Department is seeing increased clients enrollments with positive feedback from clients as a great resource.

**XII. Day Reporting Center (DRC) report – Carrie Paine**

- A handout was presented with DRC statistics covering January 1, 2021, through March 31, 2021.
  - Santa Maria continues to have high numbers with 101 in-person appointments for rapport building, assessments, and case management sessions.
  - Evaluating options for clients with transportation issues as in-person services will be resuming in the near future.
  - Community service programs have resumed, it has been great to regain the client interactions that were absent during the pandemic.
  - The third quarter had many successful completions.
  - Community partnerships have been strengthened, which is crucial for referring clients to resources and programs.

**XIII. Juvenile Services – Holly Benton**

- Brian Swanson was not available and his presentation will be moved to the July 15, 2021, meeting.
- DCPO Benton shared that over the next few meetings, the ramifications of Senate Bill 823 (SB823) will be discussed, along with the need to increase the variety of services to accommodate the new population.
  - As the result of research into adolescent brain development and trauma, recent legislation increased the age ranges for youth in detention facilities. Following SB823, the Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) high-risk transitional-aged youth from 18 to 24 years old, will be housed at the county level.

**XIV. Overview of Pre-Trial Services (PTS) Program – Michael Sam**

- The Pretrial Assessment Unit evaluates each individual in-custody before arraignment. The number of individual's in-custody has remained steady for the last few months.
- For the Pretrial Supervision Unit, courts have begun hearing cases again and the majority are DUIs due to an accumulation of cite and releases during the pandemic. Most DUI clients are placed on Pretrial Supervision resulting in an increase in supervision numbers for South County.
- There are currently 326 supervised cases ranging from low to high-risk. These cases also include bail release cases where the court denied release but made bail conditional with reporting conditions such as SCRAM or GPS.
- The Supervision Unit continues to conduct field, home, and office visits. They also provide progress reports to the court every 90 days.
- DCPO Kimberly Shean added that the Probation Department has requested additional resources from the BOS to assist Pretrial in monitoring services. Before the pandemic started, the average number of supervised cases was 180 to 190, which has risen to 326 with no additional resources; internal demand staffing has been used to manage the increase but the department looks forward to seeing the BOS decision for the budget request.

**XV. Quality Assurance Updates – Julius Baldueza and Dana Grossi**

**A. Upcoming FY21-22 Contract Kick-off Meetings**

- The contract kick-off meetings scheduled in June will focus on programs for FY22-23. The discussion will center on performance measures, how to track performance, invoices, fidelity checks, and onsite assessments.

**B. Summary Service Worksheets**

- Julius Baldueza and Dana Grossi plan to send materials to providers regarding the use of performance worksheets. They will present a new tool streamlining the capture of responses at the next meeting on July 15, 2021.

**XVI. Confirm Next Meeting, July 15, 2021, and Adjourn – Kimberly Shean**

- The next RSC meeting will be held on July 15, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Roselyne Romero, Administrative Office Professional II