

STANISLAUS COUNTY

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday – December 16, 2019

Stanislaus County Probation Department – Juvenile Counseling Center

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT

MIKE HAMASAKI, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department

JEFF DIRKSE, Sheriff

BIRGIT FLADAGER, District Attorney

LAURA ARNOLD, Public Defender

STEPHANIE KENNEDY for Hugh Swift, Superior Court of California, Stanislaus County

RUBEN IMPERIAL, Director, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

GUESTS:

Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department

Vicki Martin, Administrative Services Manager, Probation Department

Emily Herrera, Division Director, Realignment Manager, Probation Department

Mark Ferriera, Facility Superintendent, Institution Services

Brooke Freeman, Sheriff's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 2:40 p.m. by Chief Probation Officer Mike Hamasaki.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 7, 2019 MEETING

MOTION: DA Birgit Fladager. SECOND: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. The minutes of the February 7, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP (CCP) PLAN FOR FY2020-2021

Chief Hamasaki advised the CEO's Office is requesting the FY2020-2021 CCP Plan be presented to the Board of Supervisors early for budgeting purposes. Last year, the CCP Plan for FY2019-2020 was presented to the Board of Supervisor on April 2, 2019; therefore, the final CCP Plan for FY2020-2021 will need to be completed by mid-February 2020. A follow-up CCP Executive Committee meeting will be scheduled in January 2020 to review funding requests received.

5. NEW ELECTRONIC REQUEST FORM

Chief Hamasaki advised that Emily Herrera (Probation Department) and Angelica Ramos (CEO's Office) attended a CSAC (California State Association of Counties) meeting where a **CCP Request Form** was presented that is used by Santa Barbara County for CCP funding requests. This form has been put into a "Google Docs" format and will be available as a link on the Stanislaus County / PROBATION DEPARTMENT website. The following information is indicated:

- a. Organization Name
- b. Name of Person Submitting
- c. Preferred Contact Phone Number
- d. Contact Email
- e. Brief Project Description
- f. Target Population
- g. Projected Number to be Served
- h. Evidence-Based or Promising Practice
- i. Brief Narrative
- j. Anticipated Outcomes (Measurable)
- k. Anticipated Recidivism Reduction
- l. Total Amount Requested for Upcoming Fiscal Year

6. PUBLIC DEFENDER SOCIAL WORKER PROGRAM

Public Defender Laura Arnold reviewed changes that occurred in the Social Workers program at the Public Defender's Office in 2019 and presented the following information regarding **Justice-Involved Adult Clients in Stanislaus County** (Power Point presentation attached to original copy of minutes):

- a. Justice-Involved Adult Clients in Stanislaus County:
 - i. Low needs population – 15%
 - ii. Mild/moderate needs population – 40%
 - iii. High needs local reentry population – 25%
 - iv. State Prison population – 20%
- b. Local Reentry Population – Stanislaus County:
 - i. High Needs – similar to CARE program with serious mental illness
 - ii. Mild/Moderate Needs - Mental health population who are functioning. They may be homeless and they have substance abuse disorders.
 - iii. Low Needs – Collaborative courts population and candidates for diversion.
- c. Population Descriptions:
 - i. Low Needs:
 - Little to no criminal history.
 - Some prosocial community ties and traits.
 - Socio-economic challenges.
 - Transportation/Driver's License/insurance issues.
 - Employment options limited.
 - Typically facing misdemeanor or low-level felony charges.
 - Excellent candidate for diversion, collaborative courts, or probation (formal or informal).
 - ii. Mild/Moderate Needs:
 - All low needs issues, plus
 - Current or prior SUD or SA.
 - Antisocial traits, behaviors, or lifestyles; possibly gang-involved.
 - Evidence of reduced emotional self-regulation and impaired decision-making for a period of at least six months.
 - Some ACE (adverse childhood experiences) factors, but some resilience/plasticity/desire for help.
 - Possible SMI, but treatable, and client is somewhat amenable to treatment.
 - Possible DD, but eligible/suitable for services, and functional.
 - Possible candidate for MH diversion or DD diversion or collaborative courts.
 - iii. High Needs:
 - Low need and mild/moderate plus
 - Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
 - SMI and SUD and personality disorder(s).
 - Complex trauma (multiple ACEs).
 - Brain damage – from traumatic injury, pre-natal exposure to drugs/alcohol; TBI, chronic SA, dementia, etc.
 - Needs stable housing, treatment, supportive services, peer support, and case management.
 - "Success" must be redefined with this group – rehabilitation, not recidivism.
- d. Readily Available County Services for Justice-Involved Adults
 - i. Day Reporting Center
 - ii. Collaborative Courts and Diversion Programs
 - iii. REACT Center
 - iv. Unknown – for high-risk population
- e. Proposed Client Support Program (three staff members):
 - i. One embedded Behavioral Health Staff (i.e. Behavioral Health Clinician or Behavioral Health Specialist) with \$118,000 place-holder for salary plus benefits. This position is necessary for the program to work and could be started on a part-time basis of 20 hours per week.
 - ii. Two Social Work Staff contracted through CSA or CBO with \$235,200 budgeted for salaries and benefits plus overhead support. The social workers would be beneficial for low and mild needs population.

- f. Clients must be needs-assessed at earliest possible stage of local-reentry criminal cases (in and out of custody). High needs clients could be routed by assigned attorney to embedded MH clinician for psycho-biological services, referrals to SA treatment programs, and referrals to other agencies who can provide services, including case management. Mild/moderate clients could be routed by assigned attorney to embedded CSA Social Worker for further assessment, prioritization of needs, identification of agencies/resources in county of residence to address those needs, referrals, and warm hand-off. Low needs clients can be routed by assigned attorney to embedded CSA Social Worker for specific assistance, as needed; i.e. referral to vocational training, literacy programs, AA/NA, etc.
- g. The goal is PREVENTION. If you improve the health of the sickest person in the home, you improve the health of the entire family.
 - i. The "Parent Fix" – Children model the behavior of their same-sex parent/guardian/authority figure. They repeat the sins of their fathers. When parents improve, kids improve.
- h. You can't force your will on people. If you want them to act differently, you need to inspire them to change themselves.
- i. Available Services for **family members** of Justice Involved Adults in Stanislaus County: Learning Quest, United Way, Aging & Veterans Services, Teen Challenge, Senior Advocacy Network, Central Star Programs, Family Justice Center, Child Welfare Program, Leaps & Bounds Program, Sierra Vista Programs, Aspiranet, CSA, Center for Human Services Programs, School-Based Services, Telecare, Salvation Army, Discovery Challenge Academy, Haven Women's Center, Children's System of Care, Day Reporting Center, Family Partnership Center and Project Sentinel.

Public Defender Arnold noted the Board of Supervisors wants services to be provided to the family members of offenders, who in many cases are victims and witnesses of domestic violence cases because that is the nature of a lot of the crime that occurs in this county. In the past, a Mitigation Specialist was funded to teach the Social Workers how to do social histories and how to write sentencing reports. The Social Workers wrote sentencing reports, took social histories, and connected some mild/moderate offenders to programs offered through CSA. The request is to keep the Social Workers and change the Mitigation Specialist to a Behavioral Health Clinician who would stay with a client and their family up until sentencing. Referrals to programs and treatment plans would be provided. The \$50,000 general fund contribution for the Mitigation Specialist would be used for the Behavioral Health Clinician along with a funding request of \$68,000 from CCP; and a request for CCP funding of \$235,200 for the two Social Worker positions.

7. CIRCLES OF SUPPORT AND ACCOUNTABILITY – MODESTO

Public Defender Laura Arnold presented information on the **Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)** ((Power Point presentation attached to original copy of minutes), which is a program that started in Canada and there is a local chapter in Fresno. In addition, Alameda and San Diego Counties are implementing this program. Ms. Arnold noted this program is not a Public Defender based program and is going to be implemented through the Probation Department in San Diego County. It is a volunteer based program designed to inspire and activate the power of the community to improve outcomes for justice-involved adults reentering society and enhance public safety. Information presented about this program included the following:

- a. Core Values of the CoSA Model include no one is disposable, no one does this alone, no more victims, the community is responsible for its victims and those who offend against them, and health and safety are among the primary concerns of the community.
- b. CoSA Model focuses on the safe reintegration of people returning home from incarceration, usually high-risk, high-needs people convicted of a felony offense. The "Circles" are volunteer driven where the volunteers establish relationships with core members (i.e. the defendant/supervisee/probationer), based on mutuality, equality, and an agreement to work toward building lasting the responsible relationships.
- c. Volunteers meet with core member weekly to discuss various challenges of reentry.
- d. Community professionals provide training and support to volunteers and hold core members accountable to their commitment to the project.
- e. CoSA adheres to the principles of risk, need, and responsivity (RNR) and is used to help reduce a person's likelihood of reoffending, thereby increasing public safety. When implemented correctly and consistently, RNR principles help staff focus resources to where they will have the greatest impact on reducing recidivism.
- f. The Core Member is the defendant who is identified while still in custody, preferably about six months prior to their release. The Circle Coordinator is a liaison between the inner and outer circles who recruits and organizes volunteers. The Volunteers are local members of the community, often drawn from the faith community. The Outer Circle are professionals volunteering to support the CoSA project.

- g. How does the CoSA Model Help Facilitate Public Safety? CoSA volunteers participate in the first step of increasing public safety by choosing to be active participants in protecting the community and helping to lessen the chances that someone who was previously convicted of a felony offense reoffends. Volunteers understand public safety is not just the responsibility of the police (and those in authority) to enforce, but also of the people in the community.
- h. Does CoSA Work? Preliminary results show that former prisoners involved in Circles of Support and Accountability are considerably less likely to commit new crimes than those who are not. A study from the University of Vermont indicated a 74% reduction in reconvictions of sexual offenders, 36% reduction for violent offenders, and 27% reduction for general offenders. For felony reconvictions, this study indicated an 86% reduction for sexual offenders, 80% reduction for violent offenders, and a 57% reduction for general offenders.
- i. What to do next?
 - i. Funding Source – placeholder request - \$62,000 would support start-up and coordination of 10 circles.
 - ii. Arrange a presentation and Q&A with representatives from CoSA-Fresno, and criminal justice and community stakeholders (CCP).
 - iii. Identify local organization(s) to provide support and host a Phase I training.
 - iv. Get the word out and conduct Phase I training in Modesto for potential volunteers.
 - v. CoSA and local organization would recruit, assess, and train volunteers (Phase II) while criminal justice stakeholders would identify possible core members.
 - vi. Nature of extent of ongoing CoSA support varies depending on needs of jurisdiction. Data will be tracked to insure program integrity.

Ms. Arnold suggested inviting CoSA-Fresno to present at a CCP meeting. Chief Hamasaki suggested inviting them to a gathering of stakeholders in the community for consideration and funding could be approved by the CCP Executive Committee from the \$1 million contingency fund if this program was deemed to fit in with the CCP offenders. An RFP for programming is already being conducted and closes in early January.

Chief Hamasaki advised a memo was received from the CEO's Office with a proposal for CCP to fund the CARE Program. The CEO's Office is proposing to place the CARE Program under the supervision of the Probation Department.

The Executive Committee reviewed dates for the next CCP Executive Committee meeting and the date chosen was January 7, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. Proposals for consideration for the next CCP Plan will need to be submitted by January 2, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.