

STANISLAUS COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday – March 10, 2020

Stanislaus County Probation Department – Training Room

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT

MARK FERRIERA, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department

JEFF DIRKSE, Sheriff

DAVE HARRIS, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, FOR BIRGIT FLADAGER, District Attorney

LAURA ARNOLD, Public Defender

RUBEN IMPERIAL, Director, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

STEPHANIE KENNEDY FOR HUGH SWIFT, Superior Court

GUESTS:

Leticia Ruano, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department

Vicki Martin, Administrative Services Manager, Probation Department

Emily Herrera, Division Director, Probation Department

Tracie Martin, Realignment Manager, Probation Department

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 a.m. by Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera. Dave Harris, District Attorney's Office advised DA Birgit Fladager was listening to the meeting on speaker phone.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 6, 2020 MEETING

MOTION: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. SECOND: Public Defender Laura Arnold. The minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. REVIEW RFP PROPOSALS

Emily Herrera, Division Director, Probation Department, advised the programming RFP closed in mid-February 2020 and a meeting was held by the Evaluation Committee to review the submitted proposals. The members of the Evaluation Committee included Cindy Duenas, Director (Center for Human Services), Sgt. Pedro Beltran (Sheriff's Office), SPO Belinda Putnam (Probation Department), and Division Director Leah Valenti (Probation Department). Three vendor proposals were chosen: Nirvana, Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA) and Sierra Education. Two-year contracts will be prepared and executed. Each vendor offers different services. Nirvana provides substance abuse treatment and residential care services, LCA offers employment services, and Sierra Education conducts domestic violence classes at the Day Reporting Center (DRC).

Ms. Herrera noted Nirvana offers six residential treatment beds with an option for two more beds, and they conduct the STIC (Successfully Transitioning into the Community) classes at the DRC. LCA offers services to both in-custody offenders and at the DRC. Sierra Education will conduct classes at the DRC. In addition, other programming funds will be used to contract with Sierra Vista to offer in-custody domestic violence classes with transition to classes at the DRC upon offender's release from custody.

The amounts requested by each vendor is as follows:

- a. Nirvana: \$207,320 annually
- b. LCA: \$762,869 annually
- c. Sierra Education: \$235,163 annually

Ms. Herrera acknowledged the total of these amounts does supersede the \$1 million budgeted amount for the RFP contracts; therefore, LCA will take out a couple of items on their scope of work to reduce their amount by approximately \$200,000, to bring their request to \$609,729 annually. In addition, with services being provided by Sierra Vista, the amount requested by Sierra Education could be reduced to \$185,163, which will bring the amount for RFP contracts to the budgeted \$1 million. In addition, funds from the programming and services line item could be used, if necessary.

MOTION: Dave Harris, District Attorney's Office. Second: Ruben Imperial, BHRS. To propose to utilize the \$1 million line item for CBO contracts with Nirvana for \$207,320 annually, and approval to negotiate with Leaders in Community Alternatives for \$609,729 annually, and Sierra Education for \$185,163 annually to arrive at the \$1 million amount was approved unanimously, noting the RFP process does have the caveat to negotiate contracts upon awarding the contract.

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

CPO Mark Ferriera reviewed that six requests for CCP funding were received, and advised the February 6th CCP Executive Committee meeting discussion centered around the CARE proposal from the CEO's Office. The following requests for funding were received:

- a. **Public Defender's Office:** Remove one Supervisor and add an imbedded part-time Behavioral Health Clinician to supervise the Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS) with an attorney overseeing this unit. This will form a connection between BHRS and Community Services Agency (CSA). The full cost for the Behavioral Health Clinician would be \$113,660 (FY2020-21).

The group discussed the funding available to fund all requests and Vicki Martin, Administrative Services Manager, Probation Department, advised that funding for FY2020-21 and FY2021-22 would be available; however, in FY2022-23, CCP would not be able to cover all expenses.

- b. **District Attorney's Office:** The funding provided from CCP is designed to be used for salary and benefits for one Attorney I-II, one Attorney III-V, and one Legal Clerk IV. CCP does fund these positions and has been for a nine-month period each year; however, the District Attorney's Office is looking for funding for a 12-month period in the amount of an additional approximately \$360,000 (FY2020-21).
- c. **Friends Outside:** This CBO did not utilize the RFP process and Chief Ferriera questioned why they did not use this avenue to receive funding. Sheriff Dirkse advised the Sheriff's Office presently utilizes Friends Outside for inmate programs funded through Inmate Welfare. His recommendation is to delete this request for funding altogether.
- d. **Workforce Development:** A proposal was submitted to provide a job readiness program for in-custody offenders, and Workforce Development is not eligible to submit through the RFP process because they are not a community-based organization (CBO). Sheriff Dirkse advised his department is looking into funding this program through his department's programming and services funds utilizing the Services and Supplies line item in the CCP budget. Sheriff Dirkse and PD Arnold recommended support of Workforce Development funding.
- e. **BHRS:** A proposal was submitted to fund Drug Court and Chief Ferriera questioned use of CCP funds for Drug Court. He noted that Debra Buckles, BHRS, indicated there could be another funding source available for this request. Ruben Imperial, Director, BHRS, advised BHRS is experiencing a significant budget shortfall and other funding streams are being assessed to assist with this SUD program. He proposed the option to bring this matter to the CCP Executive Committee in the future

- f. **CEO's Office – CARE 2.0:** Chief Ferriera reviewed this funding request is for \$1.7 million. He expressed concerns about the five-year plan moving forward if CARE is funded entirely. He advised an evaluation of CARE 1.0 is presently being done and the evaluation is not expected to be completed until December 2020; therefore, the effectiveness of CARE has not been determined. He noted CARE is an important program in the County because this program serves the highest users of County resources and there is definitely a need for outreach and engagement for these individuals. He noted that CCP overseeing CARE makes sense. Dave Harris, Chief Deputy District Attorney, expressed concern over depleting the CCP budget and that some of the proposed positions in CARE 2.0 may not be needed. The suggestion was made to start with one team vs. three teams and test the effectiveness of this program.

Chief Ferriera summarized three options available for funding CARE 2.0: (1) full funding of the program; (2) do not fund this program; or (3) fund part of the program. He suggested the possibility of funding a Peer Navigator, Social Worker, Behavioral Health Specialist, and a data person at approximately one-third of the cost. The Executive Committee discussed the issue of serving the realignment population in the County and noted the CARE population is not part of this group. The realignment population has decreased since 2014 since the passing of Prop 47 and the statute is being interpreted more broadly; however less than three percent of the realignment population was served through CARE. Sheriff Dirkse recommended funding the CARE proposal in its entirety because partial funding would not properly benefit this population. CARE is probably not going to be funded at the general fund level by the Board of Supervisors, and if CARE is funded through the general fund, department budgets will be affected. Services are provided through CARE before offenses are committed and public safety will be better served through CARE. The question is to decide if this is the right plan for providing services since an evaluation of CARE 1.0 is still being completed to determine its effectiveness. This population is a high priority for the County and this proposal might need to be changed, i.e. strategy, and CEO Hayes noted at the February 6, 2020 meeting that funding could be offset with utilizing the general fund for other CCP costs, such as jail costs. The CCP fund balance is large; however, many full-time positions are funded by CCP. If department budgets do go in a downward direction, reserves might be needed to continue to fund these positions. The CCP budget and CCP Plan is reviewed every year and adjustments can be made year by year. Ms. Martin pointed out that more of the total budget is being spent every year and the fund balance is being utilized, plus the growth funding amount will be decreasing year by year. The approval required presently is for the FY2020-21 CCP budget with a five-year spending plan.

Sheriff Dirkse proposed to fund the proposals from the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, BHRS and CARE for FY2020-21 with the spending plan approved through FY2022-23, and to continue through FY2024-25 with additional use of general funds as needed. CPO Ferriera pointed out, however, that Drug Court could be funded through BHRS realignment and Collaborative Courts funding; therefore, he proposed to fund the proposals from the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and one-third of the costs of CARE 2.0 with the stipulation the presentation to the Board of Supervisors include a re-evaluation every year.

MOTION: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. Second: Public Defender Laura Arnold. The proposal to not fund the requests from Friends Outside and Workforce Development was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Public Defender Laura Arnold. Second: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. The proposal to fund the requests from the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, BHRS, and CEO's Office for CARE 2.0 was approved with four aye (yes) votes and two nay (no) votes. CPO Ferriera and the District Attorney's Office voiced opposition to the full funding of the CARE 2.0 request.

The group emphasized that as part of the funding proposal for CARE 2.0, the CEO's Office and Board of Supervisors are informed this program will be evaluated on an annual basis. CARE is overseen by Probation Manager Raul Dominguez; therefore, he and CEO Senior Management Consultant Damien Martinez will be responsible for reporting on CARE outcomes.

MOTION: CPO Mark Ferriera. Second: DDA Dave Harris. Proposal to fund CARE 2.0 for one-third of the request, fund the District Attorney's request, and fund the Public Defender's request was not approved with two aye (yes) votes and three nay (no) votes.