

STANISLAUS COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday – January 7, 2021

Stanislaus County Probation Department – Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

MEMBERS/DESIGNEES PRESENT

MARK FERRIERA, Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department
JEFF DIRKSE, Sheriff, Sheriff's Department
BIRGIT FLADAGER, District Attorney
LAURA ARNOLD, Public Defender
RUBEN IMPERIAL, Director, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
STEPHANIE KENNEDY FOR HUGH SWIFT, Superior Court

GUESTS:

Vicki Martin, Administrative Services Manager, Probation Department
Tracie Martin, Realignment Manager, Probation Department
Dave Harris, District Attorney's Office

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera. Members of the group present on the TEAMS meeting were identified.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JULY 7, 2020 MEETING

MOTION: Public Defender Laura Arnold. SECOND: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. The minutes of July 7, 2020, meeting were approved unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL OF NEW FUNDING PROPOSALS

CPO Mark Ferriera advised the consideration of new funding proposals for FY 2021/2022 was announced during the General CCP meeting in December. Two proposals were submitted and reviewed for FY 2021/2022: (1) the Public Defender's Office and (2) the CEO's Office.

- **The Public Defender's Office:** A proposal was submitted to remove a Mitigation Specialist currently funded for \$50,000 and receive half the funding for an embedded BHRS Mental Health Clinician. This position is designed to assist clients with severe mental health, including clients eligible for mental health diversion. With their experience, they can facilitate that warm hand-off and provide support to case managers. The funding request for the Mental Health Clinician would be \$56,500 (FY 2021/2022).
- **CEO's Office-CARE 2.0:** Chief Ferriera reviewed this funding request for \$1.8 million for costs associated with the program's startup the first year and additional staffing. Chief Ferriera noted that although being in favor of the program, he had some concerns last year with funding the entire proposal for CARE 2.0 given the financial situation and advised the CCP Executive Committee discussed it at length several months ago.

Chief Ferriera summarized three options available for funding CARE 2.0: (1) fund and add the program to the five-year plan and vote to fund the program every year for the next five years; (2) fund the first year of the program in the amount of \$1.8 million and based on the outcomes decide whether it requires renewed funding the following year; or (3) fund the program for two years. He noted there is plenty of flexibility in funding the program. District Attorney Birgit Fladager expressed concerns regarding the lack of detail in the CEO's request for additional staffing and past difficulties BHRS experienced in filling the positions in question. BHRS Director Ruben Imperial noted filling these positions would not be an issue given the department's current restructuring. CPO Ferriera advised a notation would be made of

any questions about the CEO's funding request to discuss and address at the next CCP Executive Committee meeting, such as:

- Identifying who will be assigned as the Operations Supervisor and their classification.
- The specific number of Mental Health Clinicians, Social Workers, and Behavioral Health Specialists being requested.
- Details of what department will be staffing the requested positions.

CPO Ferriera mentioned that although an Operations Supervisor has not been identified, he does anticipate that the manager overseeing CARE 1.0 would manage CARE 2.0. Sheriff Dirkse recommended funding CARE 2.0 focused on what this program offers regardless of who runs it.

Administrative Services Manager Vicki Martin reviewed and discussed the Adjusted Proposed Plan for CARE 2.0. She advised this year's funding request had increased from the previous year's funding request. The CCP is budgeted for \$3.6 million with an added contingency line of \$1 million; however, if all the proposed expenditures occur, it could go into deficit beginning in FY 2023/2024.

Public Defender Laura Arnold pointed out that recruitment, training, and implementation of the added positions would take time; therefore, the measures and outcomes would not be substantial in the first year to determine the program's effectiveness. The BHRS Director Ruben Imperial agreed with Ms. Arnold, noting large scale programs such as CARE 2.0 require that first year for on-boarding and development. She mentioned numerous changes in the Criminal Justice System have gone into effect that could result in the shifting of Probation services to the Community and Behavioral Health services. Considering what is happening, CARE 2.0 would be beneficial to have as an added resource. She suggested funding the program for a minimum of two years, then revisiting the CCP changes outcomes to decide on renewed funding the following years. Sheriff Dirkse recommended funding the program through FY 2023/2024 for a minimum of three years, allowing enough time for evaluation of subsequent budget and giving the program enough time to provide performance measures.

Mr. Imperial expressed his support and commitment to the CARE initiative and addressing the CARE population. This population is of high priority in the community, and other than CARE, a service system does not exist that can meet their needs. He noted a specified time commitment is unnecessary; if the budget goes in a downward direction or the program is not producing, funding flexibility exists to make the necessary adjustments. He expressed the importance of strengthening the program by having CARE Leadership Meetings for program discussion and outcome reporting. District Attorney Birgit Fladager noted she is in favor of putting the resources where they are needed. She agreed that there is a need for ongoing leadership meetings from different departments to communicate and discuss CARE updates. CPO Ferriera noted his expectation would be for the CEO's Office or manager overseeing CARE to attend the CCP meetings and report updates, data, and outcomes, as do other CCP funded programs.

CPO Ferriera provided an update of the CCP revenue. He reported that the revenue decrease was not as substantial as anticipated, and the State Sales Tax Revenue had fully restored the CCP revenue. Administrative Services Manager Vicki Martin noted the expected reduction was between 15% and 18% and is currently projected to be 3%, with no added growth for the following two years, possibly three. The Governor's Budget for FY 2021/2022 is set to be released tomorrow, and amendments to the revenue, if any, would be submitted for approval at the following CCP Executive Committee Meeting.

CPO Ferriera expressed the need to right-size the budget and suggested changing the current 6% increase for salaries and benefits to 3% for a more realistic budget. Ms. Martin advised the CEO's Office requires a 3% maximum increase when doing the overall budgeting; anything over 3% must be a unique circumstance.

MOTION: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse. Second: Public Defender Laura Arnold. The proposal to fund CARE 2.0 in the amount of \$1.8 million the first year, \$1.4 million the second year, and \$1,529,164 million in the third year was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Director Ruben Imperial. Second: Sheriff Jeff Dirkse: The proposal from the Public Defender's Office to remove the Mitigation Specialist, add the Behavioral Health Clinician, fund the Behavioral Health Clinician, the CCP will fund half of the Mental Health Clinician was approved unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL ON THE FIVE-YEAR SPENDING PLAN

CPO Ferriera reviewed the budget spreadsheet displaying the positions approved by the CCP Executive Committee and Board of Supervisors. The costs associated with the positions and built-in 3% increase for FY 2020/2021 and onward have been entered. He suggested reducing the CSA line item for two Family Support Specialist positions to one, decreasing the funding amount of \$132,000 by half. He noted CCP has always been invoiced under \$28,000, and there is only a need for one Family Support Specialist at the Day Reporting Center. CPO Ferriera proposed the following: (1) discuss and approve the five-year spending plan agreeing to add the revenue based on the January budget, or (2) have a subsequent meeting to review the revenue before voting on the five-year plan.

Mr. Imperial advised the department is currently undergoing planning developments, which he plans to present to the Board of Supervisors in the following months. He noted the focus is geared towards adult treatment and with a possible connection to CCP funding. Additionally, Mr. Imperial stated he wishes to start the hiring process for CARE 2.0 as soon as possible, noting the program could be up and running as soon as July 2021. CPO Ferriera stated contingency funding is readily available and does not see any issue in Mr. Imperial's request to move forward with his plan to start hiring for CARE 2.0.

The CCP Executive Committee Discussed the options proposed by CPO Ferriera. Based on the projected CCP revenue being released tomorrow under the Governor's budget and the current BHRS planning processes, the five-year spending plan's approval will be revisited in March.

6. DEVELOPMENT OF BENCHMARK RESERVE FUNDING LEVELS

CPO Ferriera stressed the need for the CCP Executive Committee to discuss establishing a benchmark reserve funding level. He noted CCP has always maintained a sizeable reserve; should the budget go in a downward direction, he suggested having a minimum reserve funding level that would cover yearly costs associated with CCP would be a good idea. He advised the CEO's Office suggested having a 30% reserve funding level of the annual expenses. CCP funds over 100 positions, and because it's regulated by state sales tax, it is very unpredictable.

The CCP Executive Committee discussed the importance of having a policy related to having a benchmark reserve funding level of 20% to 30%. Mr. Imperial agreed the CCP needs to have a benchmark for reserve funding levels to avoid excessive funding reserves. He noted funding should be designed to meet the community's needs before setting the bar. District Attorney Birgit Fladager agreed with Mr. Imperial to use the funds and not let them sit for too long, recalling several years back the state's intent to take back any funding not being used. Mr. Imperial reported the Governor was reviewing the County Mental Health Department's budgets before the pandemic started intending to seize funds and use them where they are needed. He questioned if there would be a need to reduce programs and positions if a benchmark was set. Administrative Services Manager Vicki Martin stated that with today's budget situations, the contingency money available eliminating positions would not be necessary until FY 2022/2023. She will be presenting a budget outlining the CCP funding availability with a 20% and 30% reserve funding level for the CCP Executive Committee to review and discuss at the next CCP Executive Committee Meeting.

7. AMENDMENTS TO CURRENT CCP GOALS

CPO Mark Ferriera reviewed the current CCP Goals established by the CCP Executive Committee in 2015. (A copy is attached to the minutes.) He noted addressing some of the goals and objectives have been difficult due to a couple of areas being worked into other initiatives with the County. He stressed the importance of simplifying the CCP goals for more measurable outcomes. Mr. Imperial and Ms. Arnold agreed with CPO Ferriera. Ms. Arnold noted this discussion should occur after everybody's had a chance to give it some thought and suggested revisiting this discussion during the next CCP Executive Committee meeting.

CPO Mark Ferriera advised the CCP Executive Committee will reconvene the first week of March to continue discussing the following:

- Discussion/Approval of the Five-Year Spending Plan
- Further Discussion and Development on the Benchmark Reserve Funding Levels
- Possible Amendments to the Current CCP Goals
- CCP Priorities

8. DEVELOPMENT OF CCP PRIORITIES SHOULD BUDGET SHORTFALLS OCCUR

CPO Ferreira expressed concerns noting the importance of developing a strategy if the COVID-19 situation worsens and budgets go downward. He said funding priorities should be established moving forward, and should things worsen, having those conversations now is essential in preparing for what may come.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

five-year plan. To help mitigate the risk of experiencing an actual deficit, I am supportive of designating this program as lower priority for funds within the CCP program should future reductions become necessary. Therefore, the CARE 2.0 application is being resubmitted for your review and consideration at your January 2021 meeting.

I believe strongly that the mission and design of, and need for, CARE 2.0 still aligns quite strongly with the goals of the CCP. The uniqueness of this program and the void it fills in the community have attracted much interest in other communities throughout the County. As such, as is the case with CARE 1.0, I, along with our team, am dedicated to including evaluative measures to ensure that the intent of CARE manifests itself in meaningful outcomes.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to your consideration of our application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jody L. Hayes
Chief Executive Officer

Community Corrections Partnership Funding Request

Agency Name:

Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office

Contact Person:

Damian J. Martinez

Phone Number:

209-353-6435

Email:

martinezda@stancounty.com

Amount of New Funding Requested:

\$1,864,615

Total Number of New Positions Requested:

12

Description of New Positions:

1 Operations Supervisor
6 Social Workers/Behavioral Health Specialists/Mental Health Clinicians
3 Peer Navigators
1 Data Analyst
1 Public Health Nurse

*We may request a slightly accelerated start date depending on County operations.

Target Population:

Individuals who are homeless, exhibit high-risk health behaviors, and experience mental illness and substance abuse.

Projected Number to be Served:

690

Evidence-Based or Promising Practice:

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Multidisciplinary Team Approach (MDT)

Project Title and Description (Include agencies that will receive funding and general description):

Community Assessment, Response, and Engagement (CARE) 2.0

Intensive outreach, engagement, and case management services conducted by the CARE Team have identified that case management services do not exist in the current service system for the non-severe mentally ill homeless population. CARE Team members have identified that intensive case management is needed and may result in successful outcomes for all CARE clients, both severe mentally ill and non-severe mentally ill.

Adding case management staff to the CARE MDT, as proposed in this application for CCP funding, will supplement the existing CARE staffing model. Currently, each agency/department that is part of the existing CARE Team bears the cost of their personnel assigned to the CARE Team. There is no funding available in the current model to add additional staffing to support the non-severe mentally ill client population, which would fill critical gaps in service identified by the CARE Team. Full case management services, which wrap services around CARE clients, exist only for individuals who have been diagnosed with a severe mental illness. These clients qualify for an intervention "hand-off" to the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) Department. Current CARE Team outcome data show that 70% of CARE clients do not have a severe mental illness and therefore, do not receive case management services. These critical case management services include connection to medical treatment, housing, mental health services, substance use treatment, court case resolution, and connection to income and benefits.

By adding the case management component to the CARE Team, outreach and engagement team members can operate as the program was originally designed by connecting clients to either BHRS for the severe mentally ill or CARE case management staff for the non-severe mentally ill. CARE case management staff will monitor and assist individuals with navigating the various systems to help them avoid "falling through the cracks." CARE case management staff will provide support to the CARE Team, help broker access to service and community supports, and ensure that each client is tracked throughout the entire engagement process. Additionally, CARE case management staff will implement an intensive case management approach with a low staff-to-client ratio that will allow for daily and weekly engagement with clients. In short, CARE case management staff will continuously engage and monitor individuals who might otherwise be ineligible for traditional case management services.

The following agencies are under consideration for possible representation on this expansion:

- Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
- Community Services Agency
- Probation Department

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Improvements in health (behavioral and physical)
2. Reduction in homelessness
3. Reduction in incarcerations
4. Reductions in hospitalizations
5. Decrease the occurrences of public and anti-social behavior

Anticipated Recidivism Reduction:

WestEd, a leading nonprofit research evaluation agency, has been contracted to evaluate the initial CARE 1.0 program. The results of their evaluation will help inform and identify the proper recidivism reduction levels.

Goal: Prevention

Objectives:

- Health - Our families are healthy – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
- Strong and Safe Neighborhoods – Our families are supported by strong and safe neighborhoods and communities.
- First Rate Education – Our children and young people are getting a first-rate education – from cradle to career.

Goal: Housing

Objectives:

- People who are homeless in Stanislaus County permanently escape homelessness.
- People who are at risk of homelessness in Stanislaus County do not become homeless.

Outcome Measures:

- Reduce the average length of time someone is homeless.
- Increase the percentage of people who are homeless who access resources to improve their well-being.
- Increase the percentage of people who are homeless who are experiencing improved well-being.
- Increase the percentage of people who are homeless who are experiencing well-being.
- Improve the safety of parks and neighborhoods negatively impacted by people engaging in anti-social and criminal behavior who struggle with homelessness.
- Decrease the occurrences of public anti-social behavior committed by and towards people struggling with homelessness.

Goal: Data Assessment

Objective:

- Identify specific data elements for analysis.
- Develop appropriate interfaces and applications.
- Develop reports that measure outcomes and costs.
- Share data to agencies, as appropriate.
- Establish an evaluation process (data, programs, etc.).

Goal: Increased Efficiency In The Public Safety System And Implement Effective Programs And Services

Objective:

- Reduce recidivism and increase pro-social attitudes in adult offenders who complete programming in-custody and/or at the Day Reporting Center.

Outcome Measures:

- The number of offenders receiving a referral
- Number of offenders who completed a program.
- The number of offenders satisfied with the program.
- Was the group information and content clear and understandable?
- Number of offenders with a clear plan of action upon completing a program.
- Did we treat them well?
- Did we help them with their need?
- Percentage of offenders who completed a program that did not recidivate.
- Percentage of offenders reporting they have the skills and knowledge to improve their lives.