

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 12, 2017
1:00 p.m.

Supervisor Richard Valle, Chair, excused
Supervisor Scott Haggerty

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th Fl
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Alameda County Probation Department Reorganization [Attachment](#)

Wendy Still, Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County Probation Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Probation Departments Reorganization.

The Probation Department went through an extensive assessment process and conducted an in depth review of current departmental resources. The process included community stakeholders, clients and staff in several listening sessions to identify gaps in the department.

The assessment identified:

- A lack of use of evidence-based practices
- Inadequate ability to collect, store and analyze data
- Lack of effective program evaluation strategies
- Outdated or non-existent policy and standards

The goal of the reorganization is to maximize use resources to:

- Ensure effective use of evidence-based practices for improved outcomes
- Data driven client decisions to improve public safety
- Timely and effective contracts for services
- Valid consistent current policy and standard

Reorganization

The Professional and Standards Unit will house the background investigations and also Internal Affairs.

The Policy Unit is a new unit and the department's policy teams will review over 300 policies within four manuals. Many polices are missing and or outdated

The Re-Entry Services Unit handles the employment, housing, education, family reunification, barrier removal, substance use disorders and mental health support.

The Program Design and Development Unit is a new unit and will be focused on best practices, outcomes, scope of language, program efficacy and reducing RFP contract time.

The Contracts, Procurements and Audits Unit is a new unit and is focused on contract compliance, improve timeframes for contract development and awards to community based organizations and integrate data driven decision making.

The Research Unit is a new unit and will produce demographic and recidivism statistics.

The Dedicated Title IVE Unit focused on increasing reimbursement potential.

The Evidence-based Practices Unit is a new unit and will focus on achieving measurable outcomes and ensuring effective services.

The proposed reorganization results in the need to increase staff positions. The Probation Department requests the Public Protection Committee's support for the proposed reorganization.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position**
- Other:

Recommendation from the Public Protection Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

II. Alameda County Collaborative Courts

[Attachment](#)

Honorable Victoria Kolakowski, Judge, Alameda County Superior Court, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Alameda County Collaborative Courts.

A collaborative court combines, judicial supervision, rehabilitation services, rigorous monitoring, and focus on mental health treatment and/or recovery from addiction. The goal of collaborative courts is to tackle the underlying substance addiction and/or mental health condition that is causing criminal behavior, and reduce recidivism.

Collaboration in place of confrontation is a non-adversarial team approach, consisting of a multi-disciplinary team includes judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, Probation/Parole, case manager, treatment and mental health professionals trained in the drug court model. There is written criteria for admission/exclusion, and for discharge from the program. There are individualized substance abuse treatment plans and drug testing with less frequent court dates as participant makes progress in program. Criminal charges dismissed or reduced upon graduation.

Infrastructure of a Typical Collaborative Court

What is offered to participants in collaborative court is free access to mental health treatment, job-skills and training. Free access to residential or out-patient drug treatment, sober living, public transportation vouchers, gift cards and symbolic tokens to participants to celebrate their progress with identified goals for completion/graduation.

Federal and state grants are available for establishing or enhancing collaborative courts with sustained funding through County budget support. Collaborative courts receive almost no money from the Superior Court budget. Federal and state grants will expire in 2018.

The partnership between the Court and BHCS achieves positive outcomes which are not always achieved when these governmental entities are working independent of each other.

- The collaborative courts refer participants to the County's addiction and mental health programs;
- Many of these participants have been previously unsuccessful in overcoming substance use and mental health challenges despite repeatedly participating in programs offered by BHCS;
- Likewise, repeated sanctions imposed by the Court in the absence of integration with the County's social services have not been as effective in reducing recidivism; and,

The combination of the programs offered by BHCS (carrot) and the authority of the Court to sanction nonparticipation (stick) has achieved remarkable outcomes for even our highest-risk/highest-needs participants.

Purpose:

- Report progress**
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Public Protection Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.