

Process and Evaluation Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

In attendance:

- **Rodney Brooks**, Alameda County Public Defenders Office
- **Mas Morimoto**, Office of the Alameda County District Attorney
- **Jason Sjoberg**, Office of the Alameda County District Attorney
- **Karen Chin**, Urban Strategies Council
- **Gina Temporal**, The Alameda County Probation Department
- **Janene Grigsby**, The Alameda County Probation Department
- **Shawn Rowland**, Our Road Prison Project
- **Charlie Eddy**, Urban Strategies Council
- **Naseem Badiey**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Juan Ventanilla**, Alameda County Social Services Agency
- **Rezsín Gonzalez**, Alameda County Probation Department

The meeting started by introducing the attendees, who then reviewed and approved the minutes.

Juan Ventanilla, of the Social Services Agency provided an update on the County's efforts to enroll people who are leaving Santa Rita Jail into Medi-Cal. A summary of his presentation, questions, and answers are below.

Presentation and Medi-Cal Enrollment Discussion:

- Alameda County staff worked on this issue prior to the CalAIM updated state requirement to enroll individuals leaving county jails into Medi-Cal.
- The Social Services Agency, the Healthcare Services Agency & Probation were required to develop a plan of how to enroll individuals by 2023.
- Initially, the Social Services Agency worked with Wellpath in 2023 to develop the pre-release application.
- Wellpath outreaches to individuals scheduled to be released in 90 days. Social Services then determines who on that list is eligible for Medi-Cal and contacts them.
- Social Services receives about 85 names a week, about 75% already have Medi-Cal.

- About ½ of the identified eligible individuals apply.
- Social Services and the other County agencies are working with ITD to develop a platform to automate the process.
- The platform will cross-reference CRIMS and the Social Services databases.
- A separate initiative is underway to develop a platform that can pre-populate the application.
- In addition, Social Services has a team of navigators working in the Jail, connecting people to services and resources provided by the Agency and others.
- Many individuals are in Santa Rita for a short stay, making it difficult to contact them for Medi-Cal enrollment. Many of our community partners attempt to connect with “short stay” individuals as they are leaving the facility.
- The number of referrals to Social Services has increased from about 12 a month to 85 a month in the past two years.
- Social Services is working on getting individuals enrolled sooner, closer to booking.
- CalAIM has amended other regulations. For example, Medi-Cal suspension is now indefinite for incarcerated individuals. Previously, the suspension was only for 90 days, requiring individuals incarcerated beyond that time to start the application process from the beginning, which is more difficult.
- Do the County collaborative partners meet regularly? What is the difference in enrollment between youth and adults?
- The County agencies have separate meetings with the Sheriff and share their data separately.
- The process is primarily the same for youth and adults, Social Services evaluates eligibility. Discharge planners assist those in the jail with the application. Probation often needs to contact the parent/guardian of the youth for permission to enroll.
- How close can you get to the booking date? What do you do for people who are out of the County?
- Early enrollment depends on how quickly Medi-Cal can identify/contact the individual.
- Are there expectations that Wellpath can reach people within 24-72 hours?
- Social Services identifies who is going to be in Santa Rita for an extended period. People who are short stays are the most difficult to enroll.
- For the short-stay individuals, you need a strategy since you know who they are.
- The challenge of reaching people who are there for less than 72 hours is a staffing issue.
- If the person is not an Alameda County resident, Social Services tries to determine if they plan to stay in Alameda County, if yes, Agency staff reaches out to the other county to transfer the clients’ Medi-Cal here, ideally, it happens in less than 30 days. There is no loss of services during the transfer process. If they are released prior to enrolling, individuals can report their county address to OPTIONS which allows them to access Medi-Cal services.
- What were the issues in creating a data-sharing agreement?
- The partners developed an MOU that expanded some of the information to be shared. DOJ has rules about law enforcement agencies sharing social security numbers; however, if the

individual gives the social security number to the Sheriff, then it can be shared with the Social Services Agency. Social security numbers are essential for the Social Services Agency to determine if someone received Medi-Cal previously.

Next, the group brainstormed what assistance the Process and Evaluation Workgroup can provide to AB 109 clients and service providers. A summary of the conversation is below.

- Continue to influence the process of Medi-Cal enrollment for people leaving Santa Rita Jail.
- Providing a voice for clients receiving AB 109 services.
- Assisting the CAB with the development of their website.
- There were some questions and discussion about whether assisting the CAB with their website is appropriate for the Process and Evaluation Workgroup.
- A suggestion was made to develop dashboards to provide data & information about AB 109 activities in the County.
- Currently, there are dashboards displaying Probation data, but not information on AB 109 client outcomes.
- Probation is looking for a new platform that would allow them to post AB 109 data dashboards.
- Probation is also working on updating its website.
- It was suggested that the CAB develop a proposal of what they would like to see on their updated website.
- Medi-Cal enrollment/access impacts clients in numerous ways – could we do a simple survey of one or two questions? Can we look at what services we are providing that Medi-Cal should fund, addressing this would allow AB 109-funded services to be more impactful.
- All AB 109 services are funded by AB 109 so, it does not matter if you have Medi-Cal.

Announcements:

- On April 4th there will be a convening at San Francisco State University sponsored by the Bay Area Systems Impacted Consortium (BASIC) highlighting programs supporting students who are returning to the community.
- The Public Defender is hosting the Oakland Community Block Party on April 20th, a free event with services and family-friendly activities.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM