

Process and Evaluation Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023

In attendance:

- **Rodney Brooks**, Alameda County Public Defenders Office
- **Shawn Rowland**, Our Road Prison Project
- **Janene Grigsby**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Mas Morimoto**, Office of the Alameda County District Attorney
- **Jason Sjoberg**, Office of the Alameda County District Attorney
- **Gina Temporal**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Charlie Eddy**, The Urban Strategies Council
- **Francesca Barua**, Alameda County Behavioral Health
- **Jenica Wilson**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Pujya Pascal**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Jamaica Sowell**, ROOTS Community Health Center
- **Karen Chin**, The Urban Strategies Council

The meeting opened with a review of the current Workgroup activities, and a summary of the questions to be addressed during the meeting, focusing on how Alameda County is assessing the work of their AB 109 contractors.

Attendees engaged in an open discussion around two questions:

- Many contractors struggle compiling and submitting data, what changes can be made to assist in this area?
- What are some suggested solutions for the communication challenges between vendors and the Probation Department?

Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves.

Summary of the Discussion

Many contractors struggle compiling and submitting data, what changes can be made to assist in this area?

- Many of the collection issues are related to the data utilized by the Enterprise system, none of the vendors using Enterprise are attending the meeting.
- Many people who work with community-based organizations don't see the value or connection between the data and providing direct service. The question is how to get Community Based Organizations (CBO) staff excited about data collection.
- Often direct service providers question if there will be changes based on the data collected.
- What is the feedback loop to let service providers know the data is making an impact? The County often does not communicate how the needle is being moved. Some organizations collect data they see as essential which is outside of what the county requires.
- Much of the data the County requires are things like how many people attend the program, which does not tell the full story.
- The Probation Department is not able to get proposals approved by the CCP-EC without data. Therefore, moving forward, organizations awarded a contract will need a dedicated data staff person.
- Requiring a data person also requires another salary, which can be challenging for community-based organizations. In addition, the amount offered in contracts often does not support organizations doing the work effectively which includes appropriate data collection. Finally, is there a Probation Staff person for CBO staff to meet to discuss data issues.
- Probation has changed their process; they now hold quarterly meetings to discuss what is working and not working, including data collection. Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI), Center of RE-Entry Excellence, (CORE) and Re-Entry Court contracts are the first to utilize this new system. Finally, the people who are interested in providing "storytelling data" need to be better utilized.
- It was clarified that the implementation meetings happen as needed which can be more often than quarterly. The Probation Research Unit also attends the meeting since they interpret the data that is collected.
- The contract implementation meetings address different issues for the various Probation Units and CBO staff.
- Probation's Research Unit staff look for similarities to programs nationwide; once the contract is awarded the Unit confirms that the data collected matches the benchmarks of the contracts and is in a format that can be evaluated and analyzed.
- The question was raised, how widely and how often is this information distributed and/or available to the public, including the performance metrics of the contracts. Probation staff agreed to discuss the appropriate process for releasing the data once collected.

What are some suggested solutions for the communication challenges between vendors and the Probation Department?

- Since none of the vendors who utilize the Enterprise System are in attendance, the meeting ended early without addressing this question.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28.