

## **Process and Evaluation Workgroup**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**March 2, 2022**

In attendance:

**Rodney Brooks:** Alameda County Public Defender's Office

**Jean Moses:** Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails

**Shahidah Williams:** Office of County Supervisor Keith Carson

**Richard Speiglmán:** Interfaith Coalition for Justice in Our Jails

**Janene Grigsby:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Nancy French:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Shadeequa Smith:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Bob Britton:** The Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails

**Shawn Rowland:** Re-entry Private Practitioner

**Veronica Rios-Reddick:** Alameda County District Attorney's Office

**Darryl Stewart:** Office of Supervisor Nate Miley

**Dr. Laura Chavez:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Joey Mason:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Charlie Eddy:** Urban Strategies Council

**Holly Axe:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Jamaica Sowell:** ROOTS Community Clinic

**Mike Cheng:** Asian Prisoner Support Committee

A summary of the meeting activities is listed below:

- The meeting started with attendees agreeing to participate virtually in accordance with AB 361.
- Introductory remarks were made about the developing process for evaluating the County's AB 109 programs and services. A summary of the status and discussion is listed below:

- The first step is to take an inventory of the programs that are available to AB 109 clients administered by Community-Based Organizations (CBO's) and the County.
- The evaluation will have an equity focus.
- The inventory will inform an RFP to execute a contract with an external evaluator.
- Discussion has occurred with the Community Advisory Board (CAB) leadership about the metrics that should be used to measure program outcomes and evaluation, specifically long-term outcomes. The County does not have most of the essential data to track the outcomes recommended by the CAB, but there are ways to obtain it.
- The CAB did not recommend approval of the evaluation draft as it was presented to them.
- **Question:** How will evidence-based programs be defined and utilized vs. what community members want to know. Second, how do we address the burden on community-based organizations created by the evaluation?
- **Answer:** Moving to the new Tyler reporting system which Probation and the CBO's use should alleviate much of the reporting burden. As far as tracking, the CBO's will not be responsible, there are databases that Probation can access which will allow them to track clients.
- **Question:** Will the evaluation look at engagement and retention?
- **Answer:** Yes, the initial thought is to look at how many days people are involved and if that is aligned with success.
- A statement was made that it is important to compare the outcomes to national standards.
- **Question:** Will there be a control group comparing the outcomes to similar people not on Probation.
- A suggestion was made to use people on Federal Probation as the comparison group.
- After updating the program inventory, the contracts team will put together an RFP. Then the County will execute a contract with an outside evaluator.
- There was discussion and questions about the role the Process and Evaluation Workgroup will play in the development of the RFP.
- A suggestion was made to get County Counsel to advise the Workgroup on the appropriate level of engagement.
- A suggestion was made to compare outcomes to the other 57 counties.

Below is a summary of the discussion about examining the eligibility requirements to access AB 109 services:

- Probation outlined which of their clients are AB 109 eligible:
  - The Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) population.
  - Individuals charged under 1170(h).
  - Individuals on formal probation.
  - Individuals on pre-trial status.
  - Participants in specialty courts with felony convictions.
  - People who had probation terminated as a result of AB 1950 can receive services for one year.
  - Individuals on court probation are not considered part of the realigned population.
- A suggestion was made to reach out to individuals who are not on probation, who were recently discharged and people who are on state parole.
- Probation staff stated that people who are discharged are given a 30-day window to transfer away from employment services; and that about 20% of those who are eligible utilize AB 109 services.
- **Question:** Who is responsible for finding the people who are referred by probation but never make it to the service provider.
- **Answer (from Probation staff and service providers):** Once a referral is made in Tyler it may not get to the provider. Probation staff and the providers are responsible for following up with clients which may take some time; staff turnover can contribute to this problem. The client may not want to access the service, or the service may not be the right fit. Organizations are not always informed when changes are made in Tyler, and messages don't always get to the CBO's. Organizations are at capacity for housing services, so there is a waiting list. Clients have issues, keeping their phones and sometimes keeping the same phone number. The client may request services beyond the scope of what the provider can do and are not interested in the actual services provided.
- A summary was given on the process in Contra Costa County where they provide services to people who are outside of the AB 109 eligibility requirements:
  - Contra Costa has eight tiers, Alameda County provides AB 109 services to five of the eight.
  - The three other tiers are: people who have been released from parole for over three years; people on parole; and people released from a facility less than three years ago and are not under supervision.

- It was stated that in Contra Costa once someone enrolls in a service they will never be terminated.
- A question was raised about how much Contra Costa spends on realignment services.
- Many Alameda providers continue to work with clients after discharged from probation, but they can't always provide all the services funded by the probation contract.
- Probation's Re-entry Coordinators are having conversations with the Deputy Probation Officers to address some of the issues being raised, including informing DPO's about the services provided by the contracted CBO's.
- The DPO's and Re-entry Coordinators are responsible for finding a service if the client needs it, and Probation does not contract for it.
- It was agreed to further examine:
  - The outcomes for the expanded population that are receiving AB 109 services.
  - The issues related to referrals.
  - If probation is the best entity to provide services for people who are no longer on Probation.
- The people listed below agreed to participate in a smaller group to address the issues raised related to eligibility and usage:
  - Rodney
  - Shahidah
  - Darryl
  - Janene
  - Mike/A member(s) of the Justice Involved Reinvestment Coalition

It was also agreed to get individuals from the following organizations:

- ROOTS Community Clinic
- Rubicon
- Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS)
- The CAB

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM