

Process and Evaluation Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2025

In attendance:

- **Rodney Brooks**, Alameda County Public Defenders
- **Gina Temporal**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Shawn Rowland**, Our Road Prison Project
- **Rick Wood**, Rubicon Programs
- **John Jones III**, Urban Strategies Council
- **Doug Butler**, The Alameda County Community Advisory Board
- **Karen Chin**, Urban Strategies Council
- **Mas Morimoto**, Alameda County District Attorney's Office
- **Charlie Eddy**, Urban Strategies Council
- **Annette Briscoe**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Alex Garcia**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Janene Grigsby**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Celina Cuevas**, Alameda County Probation Department
- **Darryl Stewart**, Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's Office
- **Faris Wallace**, Alameda County Probation Department

The meeting started by outlining the responsibilities of the Workgroup and an explanation of Participatory Action Research, highlighting the success of using the practice in Richmond, California.

Next, the meeting participants introduced themselves and were given time to review the January minutes.

An update was provided on the challenges individuals with lived experience are having entering Santa Rita Jail for work related activities. It was reported that representatives from the Urban Strategies Council are in discussions with the Alameda County Sheriff about the issue. The conversation shifted to how the Urban Strategies Council and the Workgroup could collaborate to improve the situation.

Representatives from the Urban Strategies Council provided an update on their meetings with the Sheriff. The highlights are below:

- The Sheriff agreed to meet with representatives of the Urban Strategies Council quarterly.
- The Sheriff's Office would interpret the clearance policy with some flexibility.

The question was raised whether the Urban Strategies Staff could provide an update at an upcoming Process and Evaluation Workgroup meeting, or if the Council would allow the meeting to be recorded. Urban Strategies staff agreed to report back and explore how to record the meeting and make it available to the Workgroup if possible. The Sheriff's office has proposed creating a group of guidelines for Urban Strategies staff which has not happened to date.

A meeting participant noted that the culture inside Santa Rita relies on the relationships individuals have with Sheriff's staff. Focusing on strengthening the relationships with the classification staff would improve the clearance rate for individuals with lived experience to enter the jail.

It was also suggested the Workgroup bring issues of the clearance policy and the Sheriff's related practices to the Public Protection Committee.

Meeting participants voted to approve the January meeting minutes.

The group then reviewed a list of challenges people have when re-entering our communities advanced during the January meeting. Next, attendees were split into two smaller groups and developed research topics based on the issues outlined in the January meeting, which could be forwarded to probation who would potentially issue an RFP for a Participatory Action Research project.

One meeting participant encouraged others to think about how to recognize the agency and qualities possessed by each individual.

It was stressed that the Workgroup can't recommend the goals of a potential Participatory Action Research project, only the topics. This is required for no meeting participants to be deemed ineligible if the Probation Department moves forward with developing an RFP on the subject.

Potential research topics developed by the meeting participants:

- The relationship between the length of time engaging in a probation program and the outcome for clients.
- The relationship between the level of trust a client has in a program/service provider and the "successful" outcomes.
- The relationship between an organization's definition of success and client outcomes.
- Understanding each client's assets and abilities as part of a program model.

The “bare bones” description of perspective topics created by some Workgroup participants is listed below:

- Job readiness and employment services
- External support network
- Support for client agency and self-sufficiency
- Barrier removal
- Support for client engagement

Finally, participants talked about Asset Based Community Development, a book that explores looking at communities and individuals as asset based, where nothing is seen as deficit based.

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM