



San Diego County Probation Department

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Adolfo Gonzales, Chief Probation Officer

Community Corrections Partnership Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2019 at 1:00pm

Probation Training Center, 10111 Carroll Canyon Rd., San Diego, CA 92131

CCP Committee Members Present:

1. Ruben Leyva, Assistant Chief Probation Officer - Representing the Chair
2. Judge Peter Deddeh, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
3. Dorothy Thrush, Chief Operations Officer of the Public Safety Group
4. Rachel Solov, Deputy District Attorney V – Representing the District Attorney
5. Randy Mize, Public Defender of San Diego County
Angela Bartosik, Chief Deputy Public Defender
6. Undersheriff Mike Barnett – Representing the Sheriff
7. Captain Mike Moulton – Representing the Chief of Police of the El Cajon Police Department
8. Nick Macchione, Director of the Health and Human Services Agency
9. Andy Hall, Chief Operating Officer of San Diego Workforce Partnership
10. Dr. Rebecca Mendiola, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and Programs of the County Office of Education
11. Charlene Autolino – Community-Based Organization Representative from Reentry Roundtable
12. Linda Pena, District Attorney's Office – Victim Representative

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm

Welcome and Introduction:

Assistant Chief Leyva welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) biannual meeting. Assistant Chief Leyva is excited about the continued commitment to working collaboratively as a County to further enhance the delivery of client centered care, to best serve clients and the community.

Probation Training Center:

Assistant Chief Leyva was pleased to host this meeting at the Probation Department's new state-of-the-art Probation Training Center, which opened in March 2018. Training is the foundation for a successful department and this building hosts everything Probation's staff members need to be successful in their jobs. From classrooms, a defensive tactics room, a video simulator, a simulation

house with moveable walls to practice entering homes, and large conference rooms to host meetings such as this one, the Training Center allows Probation to be self-reliant. All meeting attendees participated in a virtual tour of the Probation Training Center.

Initiative Highlights:

In addition to the opening of the Training Center, Probation has embarked upon initiatives that will continue to improve service delivery and support to Probation clients. Assistant Chief Leyva took a moment to highlight a few.

- **Re-Entry Services Division**

The Department is proud to announce the creation of the Re-Entry Services Division. Karna Lau was promoted to Division Chief in December and is enthusiastically and energetically leading this Division. The vision of this Division is to remove barriers to re-entry and to increase client access and engagement in services designed to reduce recidivism. Located within this Division is Probation's Community Transition Center (CTC), the Adult and Juvenile re-entry teams, and the Work Furlough/Residential Re-Entry Center. The Division is bringing consistency to all re-entry efforts. Additionally, the Division is working collaboratively with Probation's Treatment Division and partners to further implement the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System.

- **1203 (Formal Probation) Community Transition Center (CTC)**

It is well known that the Community Transition Center is one of the primary reasons why Probation has been so successful as a criminal justice system in responding to Public Safety Realignment. The CTC is a one-stop shop that assesses clients re-entering the community, offers short-term housing until permanent homes or treatment programs are available, and provides a supportive environment which creates the conditions for clients to achieve success. CTC's positive impact is a result of more than just the physical building, it is the collaborative case planning, the linkages, referrals, and client-centered approach that has contributed to success. Expanding and applying these successful and Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) to the formal probation population is the foundation of a pilot program started in the Central Region. This pilot program began on July 1st. These services include a behavioral health screening and immediate linkage to services at the CTC. Probation is very excited and optimistic about this pilot and hope to have an update to share at the next CCP meeting.

- **Citizen's Academy**

Lastly, related to the importance of enhancing community connections and understanding the role of Probation in the community, Probation is very pleased to share that the first ever Citizen's Academy was held. This was a 10 week-long course which provided members of the community a

“behind the scenes” look at what the Probation Department does, what Probation’s role is, and education on how laws, policies, and procedures guide the decisions and actions of Probation’s officers. The Academy also incorporated some hands-on experiences to help provide participants with better insight into some of the activities in which officers engage. Most importantly, the Academy was a chance to build relationships with members of the community, encourage dialogue, and discover new ways to better serve the community and those supervised. Probation is very excited to have had eleven community members “graduate” in June and are looking forward to continuing to provide this Academy opportunity in the future.

Probation is very excited about these new initiatives and potential for the positive impact they can have on the clients served and the community.

SB 678 – Revocation and Trend Data Review. Division Chief Gonzalo Mendez:

The Legislature designed the California Community Corrections Performance Incentive Act of 2009, also known as Senate Bill 678 program, with two main goals: to alleviate state prison overcrowding and save state General Fund monies by reducing the number of adult felony probationers who are sent to state prison for committing a new crime or violating the terms of probation, and to meet those objectives without compromising public safety. As part of the SB 678 legislation, county probation departments report information to the Judicial Council on the use of EBP and on a variety of quantitative probation outcomes including those related to recidivism.

For the presentation today, data was reviewed on the return to prison rate, which is the main measure used by the state to evaluate the Probation Department’s performance. The State evaluates the County by comparing the County’s return to prison rate to the statewide return to prison rate. The State also evaluates the County by comparing the County’s return to prison rate for the current year to the previous year. Today focused on the return to prison rates for calendar years 2014 through 2018. Because the data is analyzed on a calendar year cycle, the data for CY 2019 is not yet complete so it is not included. The overall return to prison rate is for all individuals on felony probation, Mandatory Supervision, and Post Release Community Supervision. The return to prison rate is calculated by dividing the total number of individuals on supervision who are sent to prison by the total supervised population. Individuals on multiple supervision types are counted only once according to the following supervision hierarchy: felony probation, Mandatory Supervision, then Post Release Community Supervision.

Division Chief Mendez discussed the data on return to prison rates including information on how the Collaborative Courts have been working with the Sheriff’s Department where clients are housed at East Mesa Detention Facility and receive a myriad of services to include vocational training and substance abuse education.

During FY 2018 through FY 2019, there was \$1,508,000 in SB 678 funding allocated to community partners for treatment and rehabilitative services, such as vocational, cognitive behavioral, residential stability, and substance abuse treatment. As shown on slide ten, the monies saved are being re-invested in the community services for Probation clients. These identified services correlate with the assessed needs of Probation clients, which will be further discussed today.

Committee Discussions:

Representing the District Attorney, Rachel Solov: Clarification on the felony probation return to prison rate, are those on violations and new convictions or only on new convictions?

Answer by Division Chief Gonzalo Mendez: For both.

Community-Based Organization Representative from Reentry Roundtable, Charlene Autolino: I noticed that for every year, for every one of the statistics, 2017 appeared to have a higher number, why is that?

Dr. Erinn Herberman responded by indicating that while there have been fluctuations in the rates over time, the percentages are really small and the actual values fall within a certain range.

Division Chief Karna Lau responded to questions regarding the tracking of success in services such as clients being able to find jobs by indicating that Probation has information on the outcome measures specific to services.

Additional Comments, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Ruben Leyva:

In addition to reviewing the SB 678 revocation and trend data, the Probation Department's Research, Policy and Science Division also reviewed the needs of the adult client population in order to better understand the needs of the populations and to help guide the decision making process with regard to how the Department's resources are allocated and how services are delivered.

CY 2018 Needs Assessment Report, Division Chief Karna Lau:

Moving forward, the COMPAS Assessment is a comprehensive assessment tool that evaluates the degree to which a client's needs contribute to their criminal behavior, their involvement in the criminal justice system. As shown in the presentation, these are the things Probation tracks and looks at in order to engage and ensure that appropriate services are being provided. For CY 2018, Probation completed the third needs assessment analysis. The Probation Department reviews the needs of the entire adult client population to help guide the decision-making process for allocating resources and delivering services. As part of this process, the Department identified the top four COMPAS needs of its' adult client population on supervision in CY 2018 looking at three different populations based on their legal status: Mandatory Supervision (MS), Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), and formal probationers supervised as high-risk (HRF). It was

found that the top four criminogenic needs are consistent across these different legal statuses, which are:

1. Substance Abuse - drug or alcohol problems that may need substance abuse treatment intervention.
2. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) - a combination of cognitive behavioral, criminal associates/peers, criminal opportunity, criminal personality, and criminal thinking. Individuals assessed as having a high need in any one of these domains were considered to have a high need for CBT.
3. Residential Instability – degree to which the individual has long term ties to the community.
4. Vocational/Education – degree of success or failure in the areas of work and education.

The San Diego County Probation Department is committed to making EBP a part of the Department's culture, to help cultivate opportunities for improved client outcomes and to reduce recidivism. To that end, the Department developed a case management model to guide officers regarding case management concepts. Probation officers start by completing assessments, utilizing an empirical assessment tool to determine the individual's risk and needs. Then comes the planning component where probation officers create comprehensive and dynamic case plans. Moving forward, linking and referring to appropriate treatment and intervention services, Probation then monitors by providing incentives and/or swift and certain sanctions as necessary. Acknowledging relapse triggers, Probation revises the case plan as needed. Lastly, probation officers advocate, work with, and on behalf of clients to obtain services and resources. Probation officers also increase the client's belief in the ability to succeed, and advocate for client care.

For the last seven years the officers at the Community Transition Center lived and breathed these concepts, and continue to do so today, both with the realigned population and through the 1203 (Formal Probation) Community Transition Center pilot. Probation has seen success with collaborative programs such as STAR, the CTC and the 1203 CTC, in which Probation collaborates with the Sheriff, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), law enforcement partners and contracted providers. Probation knows that front loading assessment and planning strategies, coupled with care coordination and collaborative case management, works. The Probation Department is working collaboratively with justice and treatment partners to incorporate addressing criminogenic needs into the system of care and to address issues related to capacity. The County looks forward to working together to determine the impacts to capacity of the system of care related to DMC-ODS implementation. In addition, Probation is working collaboratively with justice and treatment partners to incorporate addressing criminogenic needs into the system of care, about which Dr. Geoff Twitchell will discuss.

Committee Discussions:

HHS Director, Nick Macchione: As mental health was not mentioned, I am curious as to the large investments we're making around mental health and clearly

substance abuse disorder, but there is a significant percent around mental health. Answer by Division Chief Karna Lau: We are in the planning stage to implement a process in which a mental health screening will be completed on clients in the pre-sentence investigation stage of the justice process. It is not an assessment; it is purely a screening to determine whether or not a further intervention is needed.

HHSA Agency Director, Nick Macchione: Currently, in your residential instability, how many are actually homeless that we are dealing with?

Answer by Division Chief Gonzalo Mendez: Last time I viewed calculations, it was about ten percent. We will verify that to get the most updated current information.

Assistant Chief Probation Officer Ruben Leyva:

Having data to assist in identifying client needs and to guide service implementation is imperative. When working with justice involved clients, Probation must bridge and intertwine treatment and corrections practices to best assist justice involved populations. As such, the County has embarked upon innovative and collaborative cross-systems work to educate treatment providers on the unique characteristics and needs of the justice involved population and to begin to infuse county-wide the importance and effectiveness of incorporating cognitive behavioral interventions into the treatment milieu for justice involved clients. Probation is extremely proud to have a Treatment Division within the Department, and Treatment Director Dr. Geoff Twitchell leading these initiatives.

Correctional Program Checklist, Treatment Director, Dr. Geoff Twitchell:

The membership of the CCP maintains a central focus on using data driven decision-making and continuous evaluation to make the most correct decisions regarding policy with the justice involved population. It is Probation's best efforts in assisting the local treatment community to provide best practices to meet the client's unique needs and characteristics. Mental illness is highly prevalent in the criminal justice involved population, which brings public safety and public health closer together, working collaboratively. Behavioral health is playing a new and increasing role in treating the unique needs and characteristics of this population, including the significant subpopulation with mental health needs. Targeting recidivism reduction is a new field and many treatment providers who do the bulk of the work with this population are somewhat unaware of the best practices.

One initiative is the Risk-Need Responsivity (R-N-R) model of assessment and treatment that is well known in the community corrections field. Essentially it includes the justice-involved population that has specific needs. The RNR model has been able to demonstrate the best practice model for working with the population and by following these principles, Probation is able to reliably reduce recidivism a significant proportion. These principles really focus on the risks. The most effective programs are based on principles of effective interventions: risk (who), need (what), and responsivity (how).

The Correction Program Checklist (CPC) model started about five years ago and

was developed by Dr. Ed Latessa at the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute. The CPC is similar to an audit in which at least four County, CPC-certified evaluators conduct a daylong site visit at local programs to evaluate how well they are adhering to best practices/EBP in delivering treatment services to address criminogenic needs of justice-involved clients. Evaluation includes an interview with the program director and treatment staff, observations of several groups, and interviews with clients and review of files for treatment targets and goals. The outcome of the CPC process is a report with strengths and recommended improvements for the program to implement. As a collaborative effort, CPC evaluators represent all County justice partners: Probation, Sheriff, DA, Public Defender, Court, and Behavioral Health, HHSa.

CPC Statistics: The County has conducted 36 audits: 24 initial CPCs (19 adult, 5 juvenile) and 12 follow-up CPCs over a year later. Of those 12 follow-ups, 7 of 12 programs improved, with an average increase of 75%. This upward trend is illustrated in a chart of those 7 programs; EBP adherence improves following the CPC educational intervention.

In response to this point, HHSa Director Nick Macchione stated this could lead to more County contracts with providers on a pay-for-performance basis. In addition, Dr. Twitchell noted this indicates a trend toward more direct assistance by Probation to programs.

Justice Involved Service Training Academy, Treatment Director, Dr. Geoff Twitchell:

The County is increasingly bridging the two schools of thought of Public Safety and Public Health. The criminal justice system focuses on risk of violence and recidivism and the public health system focuses on psychiatric risk, reducing symptoms, and increasing functioning. To this end, the County developed its Justice Involved Services Training Academy (JISTA). JISTA is a County – Provider Collaboration to train local service providers in specialized techniques to serve justice-involved clients with EBP. JISTA has completed two cohorts of about 30 participants each and is planning to train its third cohort soon. The ultimate goal is to build capacity to effectively meet the needs of the justice involved population, including those with mental illness. This has been well paired with the work that needs to be done where there's actually homework between sessions, including role plays in teaching how providers can role play for skilled development. There is a possibility of Probation Department to provide curriculum to providers to use in treating clients.

Several audience members commented indicating support for this curriculum; requesting Teen Age Youth (TAY) population's unique needs be included in the curriculum; expressing interest in attending JISTA; requesting expansion of JISTA to the community to encourage more accountability; and working with schools to address juveniles' mental health and applied behavior needs in relation to justice involvement.

Moving Forward, Assistant Chief Probation Officer Ruben Leyva

Having data to assist in identifying client needs and to guide service implementation is imperative. When working with justice involved clients, Probation must bridge and intertwine treatment and correctional practices to best assist justice involved populations. The County has embarked upon innovative and collaborative cross-systems work to educate treatment providers on the unique characteristics and needs of the justice involved population and to begin to infuse county-wide the importance and effectiveness of incorporating cognitive behavioral interventions into the treatment options for justice involved clients.

Closing

Assistant Chief Leyva took a moment to thank everyone who has played a role in the development and implementation of the Justice Involved Services Training Academy. He believes we are leading the way in demonstrating a model of County and provider collaboration in the learning process and development of shared foundation for our work. He is excited and supportive of the Capstone Project and believes in the importance of this work. The Probation Department believes in the importance of a shared EBP curriculum and believes this to be a foundational next step for the Justice Involved Services Training Academy in serving our clients and would strongly support the development and expansion of this curriculum.

This concludes our Community Corrections Partnership meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08pm

Minutes scribed by Xiomara Cornejo, Administrative Secretary