

Merced County
Public Safety Realignment
&
Post Release Community Supervision

2015 / 2016

STRATEGIES – YEAR 5

Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership

Brian McCabe, Presiding Judge, Superior Court

Larry Morse, District Attorney

Vern Warnke, Sheriff

Ana Pagan, Director, Human Services Agency

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I. Update on AB109 Programs and Activities

The Trident Center: The Center occupies employees of the Sheriff's Department, Human Services Agency, Mental Health, and Probation. Through evidence-based practices, the multi-disciplinary effort employs a three-pronged approach: public safety; reduced recidivism through rehabilitation; and alternatives to incarceration. Client services include the following, on-sight or through referrals:

- Dynamic Risk & Need Assessments
- Release from Custody Assessments
- Flash Incarceration for Violating Program Rules and Court Orders
- Alternative Sanctions through GPS Monitoring
- Community Supervision
- Warrant Apprehension
- Drug Testing
- Alcohol and Other Drug Counseling (Mental Health Department)
- Leadership for Life (Human Services / See Description Below)
- Child Support Collection Efforts (Department of Child Support Services)
- Literacy Referrals (Library – held at the County Library)
- Employment Testing (Workforce Investment Agency)
- Behavioral Health Client Services (MH)
- PACT Re-entry Meeting Representation (HSA, MH, Probation, DCSS, WIA)

Leadership for Life: "L4L" was developed by Ana Pagan and is facilitated by employees of the Human Services Agency and Probation Department. Facilitators provide an array of one-stop-shop services: life skills; cognitive therapy; education and career assessments; referrals to homeless assistance; Section 8 housing assistance; general relief / food stamps; parenting skills; and assistance with obtaining driving licenses.

Day Reporting Centers (Cities of Merced & Los Banos): Behavioral Interventions, Inc. (BI) continues to serve clients with intensive rehabilitative treatment, educational services, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Identified in the 2014/2015 plan, a Westside Day Reporting Center was opened in the City of Los Banos in 2014.

Behavioral Health Court: The specialty Court commenced in April 2012. The Probation Department's behavioral health caseload currently has 30 clients with mental health diagnoses. The Court is staffed by the Superior Court, including the Bench, Probation, Mental Health, District Attorney, and Public Defender employees.

Residential Treatment: Contract with Community Social Model Advocates (CSMA) for long-term, residential treatment for male and female clients with acute drug and alcohol diagnoses. The contract reserves 3,200 bed-days / year for adult clients.

In Custody Risk and Need Assessments: The Static Risk Offender Needs Guide (STRONG) was fully implemented in FY 12/13. Probation officers conduct the assessment on all incoming clients. A probation officer is assigned to the jail facilities to conduct the assessments, which enables probation officers to assign clients to services that fit their individual needs and to the most-appropriate levels of supervision.

Flash Incarceration & Alternative Sanctions: Clients in violation of conditions of supervision continue to be subject to up to 10 days in custody as an alternative to long-term sentences when violations are less-serious. In addition to flash incarceration, officers are utilizing options such as GPS monitoring and community service when violations are of less-serious nature.

Warrant Reduction Advocates Program: The program commenced in fall 2014 as part of a contract with Behavioral Interventions, Inc. A BI program facilitator serves as a nexus between the Probation Department and clients at-risk of being returned to Court and/or jail for violations of probation. Modeled after the highly successful Santa Cruz County program, it is anticipated that this effort will reduce the number of inmates being held in custody under pre-trial status.

Jail Re-Entry Program: The program, which is facilitated by Behavioral Interventions, commenced in July 2014. It provides a wide-array of rehabilitative, cognitive, and educational services not unlike those provided in the community Day Reporting Centers. The program has already demonstrated success toward reducing expensive jail bed-days and supporting clients in transitioning from jail to community services.

Jail Pre-Trial Supervision Program: The Probation and Sheriff's Departments continue to collaborate on a program intended to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals pending adjudication. Deputy Probation Officers utilize a nationally-recognized release assessment to determine which individuals are most likely to await adjudication without reoffending. Individuals in the program are supervised by the Sheriff's Department and are open to services offered within the Trident and Day Reporting Centers.

Adult Services Committee of the CCP

Formerly known as the Re-Entry Sub-Group of the CCP, the Adult Services Committee (ASC) meets quarterly and welcomes all members of the CCP, concerned citizens, County service providers, and community based organizations. Serving as official CCP meetings, the ASC complies with Brown Act requirements, including public posting in County Administration locations and on the Probation Department's website. The meetings serve several functions, not limited to the following: report back on program outcomes and progress by probation personnel; opportunity for program facilitators to provide updates; information on related community activities; notices concerning program transition celebrations; consultation from County service providers; and the opportunity for citizens to receive information and provide feedback concerning Merced County CCP programs.

II. 2015 / 2016 Program Enhancements

Re-entry and Rehabilitation Program Expansion

Through a contract with Behavioral Interventions, the CCP successfully implemented in 2014 a Day Reporting Center (DRC) in Los Banos to serve the "Westside" clients of the County and a Jail Re-entry program in the Men's Honor Farm ("Jail"). Additionally, five (5) DRC slots in the City of Merced were reserved for the Sheriff's Department to place clients transitioning from the Jail Re-entry program to the community. A recent needs-assessment involving staff and administrators of the Sheriff's and Probation Departments concluded the following three primary expansion needs for 15/16:

1. Substance Abuse Therapist – Jail Re-Entry Program.
2. Expand Merced Day Reporting Center for jail transition clients to 10, for a total of 70.
3. Expand "Westside" Day Reporting Center by five (5), for a total of 25.

Sheriff's Department custodial personnel are demonstrating a cultural shift that was unthinkable prior to the implementation of Adult Realignment. Administrators and many correctional officers have embraced the core philosophies of evidence based practices and the impact of treatment versus punishment. Due to the increased involvement of correctional officers engaging clients in their treatment regimens, serving as nexuses to program facilitators, and collecting and evaluating program outcomes, the need for a dedicated correctional officer to serve in a lead capacity has become evident. The role of the officer will be to serve all aforementioned roles, in addition to educating and involving other correctional officers in rehabilitative programming for detained clients. The officer will work hand-in-hand with the assigned deputy probation officer and will serve on the Adult Services Committee of the CCP. Expectations will also include that the officers evaluate and report back on the progress of participants and overall program outcomes.

2015/2016 Program Enhancements Summary:

- Dedicate an additional \$250,000 for expanded jail re-entry, transition, and rehabilitative community and in-custody programs.
- Sheriff's Department Correctional Officer to serve as jail re-entry coordinator.

Responses to Increased Workloads

Since October 2011, deputy probation officers have been tasked with supervising an additional 1,620 adult clients and legal process clerks have processed over 1,800 additional felony cases. Industry experts on evidence based practices in providing safe and effective probation supervision recommend client to probation officer ratios as follows:

- High – Intensive Risk: 20-50/1
- Moderate – High Risk: 50/1

While the intent has been to cap all "High Risk" caseloads at 50, adult supervision officers presently supervise between 60 and 90 clients. The increase of adult clients since the inception of Adult Realignment has required the department to place many "High Risk" and the majority of "Moderate Risk" clients on one of four Administrative Caseloads, receiving little or no attention in the community. The Administrative Caseloads are intended for only "Low Risk" clients, whom account for over 800 cases alone. Currently, there are 307 "High Risk" clients, 156 of whom are violent offenders, and 271 "Moderate Risk" clients on the Administrative Caseloads.

Deputy attorneys of the offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender have also been significantly impacted by the increase of additional adult felony cases since the implementation of Adult Realignment. Increased attorney caseloads can have a significant impact on the entire justice system, resulting in delays in adjudication, which in turn extends the amount of time clients spend in jail on "Pre-trial" status.

2015/2016 Response to Increased Workloads Summary:

To close the gap toward meeting industry standards for caseload ratios, and to help offset workload impacts to the offices of Probation, the District Attorney and the Public Defender, the CCP intends to add the following utilizing AB109 funds during FY 15/16:

- Deputy District Attorney
- Deputy Public Defender
- Supervising Probation Officer
- Deputy Probation Officers (4)
- Probation Legal Process Clerk

The addition of the four deputy probation officers and supervisor will allow for, at a minimum, the "High Risk" violent offenders to be removed from the Administrative Caseload and be more actively supervised and provided with services in the community. The additions will enhance public safety through client accountability by employing intensive supervision and will ensure that all clients are referred to services specific to their individual needs. By reducing Administrative Caseload by more than 200 cases, the four officers assigned to the Administrative Caseload positions will have more manageable caseloads of 160 cases each. The addition of a legal processing clerk will help offset significant workload impacts to the adult division. The addition of deputy attorneys will help counter workload issues that demonstrate negative impacts on the justice system.

Unmet Needs

- Data Analyst

III. Realignment Data & Outcomes to Date

Caseload Impact	9/30/2011	5/15/2015
Total Merced Co. Adult Population	3507	5128 (+32%)

AB109 Cases (Thru 6/15)	Estimated	Actual
PRCS	480*	703
1170	(No Count)	642

*Does not account for subsequent early releases from CDCR to meet prison reduction threshold.

Local 1170 Sentence Data	Merced Co.	Statewide
Jail Only (No Sup or Re-entry)*	283	59,896
Split (Jail Followed by Services)	450 (63%)	24,223(34%)

*Rate of "jail only" sentences (no supervision & no services) is lower than State-wide averages.

PRCS Recidivism (Felony Conviction during Period of Supervision)	
Total Closures	221
Total Felony Convictions	28
*Outcome	13%

*4% reduction from 2013/2014.

IV. Est. AB109 Allocation for 2015/2016

- Community Corrections Sub-account: \$1.1b will be allocated to counties during 15/16, a increase from \$934m in 14/15.
- Community Corrections "Growth" Account: It is estimated that almost \$127m will be allocated to counties in the fall of 2015.

V. County In-Kind Expenses 2014/2015

• Deputy Probation Officer (Mental Health Dept) –	\$146,404
• District Attorney & Public Defender (Mental Health Dept) –	\$50,264
• Dual Diagnosis Specialist & Clinician (Mental Health Dept) –	\$238,454
• Personnel & Equipment (Human Services Agency) –	<u>\$45,900</u>
Total –	\$481,022

VI. Recommended 2015/2016 Strategies

- 1. Maintain Existing Programs**
- 2. Expand Re-Entry and Transition Programs**
 - \$250,000 - Jail Re-entry, Transition, and Rehabilitation
 - Sheriff's Office Correctional Officer
- 3. Expand Personnel to Respond to Workload Increases**
 - Deputy District Attorney
 - Deputy Public Defender
 - Supervising Probation Officer
 - Deputy Probation Officers (4)
 - Probation Legal Process Clerk

Local Community Corrections Partnership

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Larry Morse, Merced County District Attorney

James Brown, County Executive Officer

John Pedrozo, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Yvonna Brown, Director, MH and Substance Abuse Services

Robert Morris, Director, Workforce Investment Agency

Steve Gomes, Superintendent, Merced County Office of Education

Sharon Wardale-Trejo, Director, Child Support Services

Lisa DeSantis, Victim / Witness Assistance Program of Merced County

Lamar Henderson, Community Based Programs Representative