

Merced County  
Public Safety Realignment  
&  
Post Release Community Supervision

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**2017 / 2018**

**STRATEGIES – YEAR 7**

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**Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership**

Donald Proietti, Presiding Judge, Superior Court

Larry Morse, District Attorney

Vern Warnke, Sheriff

Yvonna Brown, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Norman Andrade, Chief, Merced Police Department

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## I. Update on AB109 Programs and Activities

**The Trident Center:** The Center occupies employees of the Sheriff's Office (SO), Human Services Agency (HSA), Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), 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 (BHRS)
- Leadership for Life
- Child Support Collection Efforts (Department of Child Support Services (DCSS))
- Literacy Referrals (Library – held at the County Library)
- Educational Assessments (Merced County Office of Education (MCOE))
- Employment Testing (Workforce Investment Agency (WIA))
- Behavioral Health Client Services (BHRS)
- PACT Re-entry Meeting Representation (HSA, BHRS, Probation, DCSS, WIA)

**Leadership for Life:** "L4L" was developed by the Merced County HSA and is facilitated by employees of the 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 2016/2017 plan, enhancements were made to the Day Reporting Centers and Jail Re-Entry Program to include a transitional counselor to assist clients as they return to the community from custody setting.

**Behavioral Health Court:** The specialty Court commenced in April 2012. The Probation Department's behavioral health caseload currently has 46 clients with mental health diagnoses. The Court is staffed by the Superior Court, including the Bench, Probation, Behavioral 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 4,000 bed-days / year for adult clients.

**In Custody Risk and Need Assessments:** The Static Risk Offender Needs Guide (STRONG) was fully implemented in FY 2012/2013. Probation officers conduct the assessment on all incoming clients. A probation officer is assigned to the jail facilities to conduct a portion of 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:** PRCS and Mandatory Supervision 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 less-serious in nature. Earlier this year a Sanction and Incentive Matrix was added for Deputy Probation Officers to gauge appropriate sanctions and incentives for individuals under our supervision. The overall goal of the Response Matrix is to enhance community safety and promote behavior change by swiftly responding to non-compliance and creating opportunities to promote clients success.

**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. The program has seen additional services added over the past couple of years and this past year, a transitional counselor was added to provide better assistance to individuals as they leave the custody setting.

**Jail Pre-Trial Supervision Program:** The Probation and Sheriff's Office continue to collaborate on a program intended to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals pending adjudication. Deputy Probation Officers utilize a nationally-recognized assessment tool 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.

During the past year, the CCP approved a full time Probation Assistant to be housed at the jail facility. This position will be dedicated to conducting pre-trial assessments of individuals in custody and providing recommendations to the Court.

Last year, it was agreed upon to provide additional Mental Health Services to the pre-trial supervision population. This population was identified as needing additional services in order to aid in their success when they are released from custody pending the criminal court process. No funding was approved by the CCP for the two positions agreed upon for Behavioral Health. Recently, a presentation was made to the Mental Health Services Act board for funding to expand a current program to add pre-trial services.

### **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.

### **Educational and Vocational Services**

This past year, the Probation Department entered into contract with the Merced County Office of Education to provide educational and career assessments. This program began in March of this year and is servicing clients in Merced and Los Banos. After the initial assessment, MCOE is making referrals to the appropriate service providers for education and/or vocational training. It is too early to determine success of this program, but initial feedback has been positive from MCOE staff as well as probation clients.

### **Transitional Housing**

During 2016-17 it was determined after meeting with the Adult Services Committee of the CCP that transitional housing was an unmet need for our clients as they transition from custody to the community. The CCP approved adding a transitional housing component. Due to many factors, the RFP for the services was not released until June 13, 2017. It is anticipated to add this service to our clients in the upcoming months.

## **II. 2017 / 2018 Program Enhancements**

During the 2016/2017 year, many additions were made to increase services and service delivery to our adult clients. Due to a change in the budget cycle last year, many of the additions did not come to fruition until recently, with some waiting to be implemented. It is recommended that minimal changes be made to the programs this year. It is our goal to determine the effectiveness of the new programs and make recommendations next year to continue.

Below is the only addition to personnel this year.

### **Leadership for Life**

Currently we have two individuals employed to coach our Leadership for Life program at the Trident Center. Both are extra help employees. One of the individuals also assists with the peaceful warrior program at the JJCC. It is difficult to find coaches for this program due to the nature of the program, background that is preferred, and the limited hours that can be worked. If a full time position would be available, it would

allow us to provide added consistency to the leadership for life program as well as expand the interaction with our clients during the program. During 2016/2017 initial strategies, a full time Probation Assistant was approved to provide services to the Leadership for Life program. During the course of the past year, the aforementioned position was changed to be dedicated to pre-trial services.

A new position was identified to provide the most appropriate and effective services to the Leadership for Life program. A Consumer Assistance Worker will be responsible for coordination of all services surrounding this program.

### III. Realignment Data & Outcomes to Date\*\*

<b>Caseload Impact</b>	9/30/2011	5/31/2017
Total Merced Co. Adult Population	3507	3629 (+3.5%)

<b>AB109 Cases (Thru 6/15)</b>	Estimated	Actual
PRCS	480*	1173
1170	(No Count)	904

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

<b>Local 1170 Sentence Data</b>	Merced Co.	State Wide
Jail Only (No Sup or Re-entry)*	6	299
Split (Jail Followed by Services)	415	605

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

<b>PRCS Recidivism (Felony Conviction during Period of Supervision)</b>	
Total Closures	841
Total Felony Convictions	295
<b>Recidivism Reduction Outcome</b>	<b>35%</b>

\*\*With the addition of a Management Analyst the case management system that houses all Probation data has been significantly cleaned to ensure that the most accurate information is being reported.

### IV. Est. AB109 Allocation for 2017/2018

- Community Corrections Sub-account: \$1.22b will be allocated to counties during 2017/2018, an slight increase from \$1.1b in 2016/2017
- Community Corrections "Growth" Account: It is estimated that almost \$75.4m will be allocated to counties in the fall of 2017. This is a significant decrease from \$127m in the fall of 2016.

### V. County In-Kind Expenses 2017/2018

- Deputy Probation Officer (BHRS) – \$139,536
- District Attorney & Public Defender (BHRS) – \$56,104
- Dual Diagnosis Specialist & Clinician (BHRS) – \$263,992
- Personnel & Equipment (HSA) – \$50,500
- Total – \$510,132**

## **VI. Recommended 2017/2018 Strategies**

- 1. Maintain Existing Programs**
- 2. Expand Personnel to Respond to Workload Increases**
  - Consumer Assistance Worker (Leadership for Life program)**



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Scott Pettygrove, Director, Human Services Agency

Larry Morse, Merced County District Attorney

James Brown, County Executive Officer

Daron McDaniel, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Yvonnia Brown, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Robert Morris, Director, Workforce Investment Agency

Steve Tietjen, 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