



PROBATION DEPARTMENT



Kalisa Rochester
Chief Probation Officer

Adult Services Committee of the Local Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Meeting via BlueJeans

CCP Committee Members and Guests Present

- 1. Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer- Chair Probation Department
2. Sarah Austin, Director of Administrative Services Probation Department
3. Lisa Maples, Adult Probation Manager Probation Department
4. Joel Daffron, Juvenile Probation Manager Probation Department
5. Zach Robertson, Supervising Probation Officer Probation Department
6. Jason Garcia, Supervising Probation Officer Probation Department
7. Christopher Henn, Supervising Probation Officer Probation Department
8. Dionne Loera, Supervising Probation Officer Probation Department
9. Melvin McKinney, Peer Support Specialist Probation Department
10. Christina Flores, Staff Services Analyst Probation Department
11. Jessica Mazlum, Business Development Director, Western Region BI
12. Joe Johnson, Director of Partnership Development, Western Region BI
13. Nick Loret de Mola, Deputy Director Department of Workforce Investment
14. Joe Campbell, Central California Regional Manager GEO
15. Mai Yang, Merced/Los Banos DRCs/JRP Program Manager GEO
16. Feliza Gray, Deputy Director Human Services Agency
17. Monika Grasley, Executive Director Lifeline CDC
18. Holly Newlon, Director of Educational Services Merced County Office of Education
19. Toula Eccles, Career Educator Merced County Office of Education
20. David Carr, Director of Bridge to Hope Merced Rescue Mission
21. Amanda Toste, Court Executive Officer Merced Superior Court
22. Brankel Nobari, Sergeant Merced Sheriff's Office
23. Britt Howell, Corrections Officer Merced Sheriff's Office
24. Frank Swiggart, Lieutenant Merced Sheriff's Office
25. John Hendon, Corrections Officer Merced Sheriff's Office

Absent CCP Committee Members

- 1. Dave Lockridge, Executive Director ACE Overcomers
2. Lori Newman, Executive Director Community Social Advocates, Inc.

Meeting commenced at 2:08 PM

I. Introductions

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves if attending meeting by phone.

II. Public Comment

Congratulatory remarks were addressed to new Chief Probation Officer Kalisa Rochester.

III. **Approval of Minutes- February 6, 2020**
Monika Grasely/Toula Eccles/Unanimous

IV. **Chief Rochester Updates**

Chief Rochester announced that for future CCP meetings the new Deputy Chief Probation Officer will be conducting the meetings, however Chief Rochester will still be in attendance.

The Los Banos modular renovation is completed. The name of the Los Banos modular will be Breaking Barriers. The modular will be providing different kinds of services for the probation department. Probation will be funding two full time positions which will consist of a Program Specialist and a Peer Support Specialist. There will be classrooms and a computer lab in the modular. Probation will be working with Workforce Investment in obtaining an Instructor to provide services to clients such as resume building and there will be job postings of local businesses whom receive tax credit when hiring individuals whom contain felony convictions. One of the major issues on the Westside is the inability to afford rent. Agencies are unable to afford rent, therefore Probation decided to renovate the modular and bring the services to this location to hold programs such as Leadership for Life classes. AB109 funding was used to renovate the building, however the concern is that the clients will not want to step foot in the building if they believe the building is operated by sworn Probation staff. The building will not have a star in front of it nor will have anything affiliated with Probation.

The PowerPoint slide provided indicates a \$1 million-dollar shortfall in AB109 monies, however the amount changed to about \$ 2 million. It takes \$ 10 million to operate AB109 annually, however next fiscal year Probation will only be receiving \$ 8 million. There is some talk in regards to backfilling the shorted amount, however that is not promised.

The Department of Justice Administration has decided to close the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Youth will be held who have been committed until DJJ is fully shutdown in January 2023 based on projections. DJJ will stop accepting new youth January 20, 2021. It's up to Probation departments to figure out what to do with the youth who are committed beyond the 2021 date. The Department of Justice Administration is going to be offering a competitive grant for three counties to apply for youth who have been committed to DJJ. Merced County lacks the resources in order to provide these services to treat these youth. Merced County would not be able to compete for this grant due to the lack of resources. One of the biggest concerns is that the district attorney's office is going to file for an increase of transfer hearings which will ultimately be sending more youth to state prisons.

Probation Program Specialist is funded by a different funding stream, not AB109. The Peer Support Specialist is funded through AB109. The Executive Committee meeting has been scheduled to discuss the budget to see if they would like to utilize the reserves for next fiscal year's budget.

Director of Administrative Services, Sarah Austin provided an update in regards to the AB109 budget. Sarah provided the AB109 Operational Expenditure Tracking for fiscal year 2019/2020 slide to the group. For fiscal year 2019/2020, \$10.5 million allocation was budgeted for AB109.

Based on current circumstances, probation will not meet the \$10.5 allocation as vehicles were not purchased, a few positions were not filled and other budget items were not utilized. In fiscal year, 2019/2020 there was also a shortfall which \$1.966 million was used from the trust account in order to meet the \$8.2 million. For fiscal year 20/21, the budget is set for \$10.1 million. There is approximately a \$400,000 reduction from FY 19/20 due to one-time expenses, such as fixed assets for vehicles and costs associated with the FY 19/20 building projects. Probation used \$1.966 million of the trust account to bring up to budget allocation, since the state is only providing \$ 8.2 million. Probation is not receiving any growth payments either, which \$ 2 million was anticipated. Therefore, probation might need to use approximately \$2 million from the trust account.

V. **Leadership for Life Update- 3rd Quarter**

Cohort 22, had 98 referrals (on 5/28/20, since this meeting took place, it has been corrected to read 49 referrals), 21 graduates and 10 have been employed. There was no graduation ceremony for this cohort as they picked up their certificates and toolkits in person.

Melvin McKinney, Leadership for Life Coordinator, provided the committee with an update on cohort 23 to start on June 22, 2020. Due to the current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, Leadership for Life will be conducted differently in order to meet protocol guidelines. The plan is to have six men per workshop. The father's group will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 am and another group at 2 pm. The non-father's group will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9 am and another group at 2 pm. When the clients enter the room, they will be provided a mask and asked to read through the Merced County COVID 19-Screening List each time to ensure they are not exhibiting any symptoms. Melvin will clean and sanitize the room each time the clients leave the sessions.

Chief Rochester informed the group that five foggers have been purchased to disinfect the offices. These foggers will cover a larger space and will be placed at Juvenile Hall, Adult Services, Juvenile Services, Trident Center and the Los Banos office. Protocols will be set in place prior to usage.

VI. **Lifeline Community Development Corporation- 3rd Quarter**

The PACT meetings were canceled in April and May. The PACT meeting will resume on June 24th. All the guidelines and measurements will be in place prior to re-opening. There was a total of 28 clients in attendance at PACT during quarter three. There were 15 clients that Lifeline came in contact with at Loughborough; 22 in Winton and 4 at Camelia Mobile Home Park. Chief Rochester pointed out that the numbers might have decreased in March due to the stay at home order.

Monika shared a story about a family out in the Loughborough area who lost their thirteen-year-old son in a car accident. The car accident was a gang related incident. His sixteen-year-old brother is a registered gang member and the driver of the vehicle was a gang member. There were thirty gang members who showed up at this funeral and were taking pictures and giving the family a hard time.

Monika added that Lifeline has partnered with the USDA Fruits and Vegetable program to provide food baskets to the families at these centers. Worknet is also assisting folks with job searching and resume building.

VII. **Day Reporting Centers- 3rd Quarter**

Chief Rochester reported that Los Banos had 21 referrals, 11 no show referrals, 10 enrolled clients and 0 graduates. In Merced there were 137 referrals, 46 no show referrals, 91 enrolled clients and 0 graduates.

Due to COVID, the DRC services have been altered. John Campbell with GEO reported that the Day Reporting Centers have been conducting virtual groups and have continued to do one-on-one services via phone. For the homeless group, GEO prints up the MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy) booklets and materials for clients to pick up at the Trident office, GEO takes back the booklets to Trident and the clients pick up and vice versa. GEO keeps the lines of communication going to ensure the clients receive their booklets. Spring graduation was canceled. The intake process has changed as well by addressing their essential needs first and then build upon that when they go into MRT. John gave kudos to the JRP team, Deputy Howell, Sheriff staff, Lisa Maples and the probation staff.

VIII. **Other Programs/Strategies**

Behavioral Health Court-3rd Quarter

During the month of January there were 7 referrals, 20 clients enrolled, 2 terminated unsuccessfully and 2 graduates. February had 8 referrals, 22 clients enrolled, 0 terminated unsuccessfully and 2 graduates. In March, there were 3 referrals, 24 clients enrolled, 2 terminated unsuccessfully and 1 graduate. There has been a total of 5 graduates during this period. Chief Rochester gave kudos to this team.

Residential Treatment for Hobie House and Tranquility Village- 3rd Quarter

There were no referrals for the third quarter at both Hobie House or Tranquility Village. There are clients still enrolled from the previous cohort. Funding ran short for this contract. Probation was able to utilize funds already budgeted in the contracts account to cover the shortfall, therefore the CCP did not have to meet again to decide to make a budgetary decision on this contract to cover the rest of the fiscal year for this contract.

Incentives/Sanctions- 3rd Quarter

There were 270 Sanctions and 161 incentives. Of those sanctions, 1% (4) resulted in flash incarceration which is very low for a three-month period. Chief Rochester pointed out that sanctions can be a filing of violation of probation, a verbal admonishment, however it's still classified as a sanction.

Phoenix Project- 3rd Quarter

Chief Rochester reported that there were 74 referrals, 43 attended orientation, 27 enrolled, 4 graduates and 4 were gainfully employed.

Toula Eccles reported that the Phoenix Project had some referrals in April, however there was no orientation scheduled due to the pandemic so those were carried over to May. Currently, the orientations and workshops are being conducted on-line. About 6 attended orientation and 5 completed it on-line. The next orientation is scheduled for June 2nd and there will be another orientation scheduled for July. There are 13 referrals pending, however probation can keep referring. Some clients who were in training were doing distant learning for a while. However,

CVOC will re-open on June 1st, and API is still operating and there is one student attending. The issue now is that there is no behind the wheel DMV testing right now as they are trying to figure out how to maintain social distancing in a vehicle.

Sarah Austin, Director of Administrative Services, for Probation asked where the 4 clients were employed; Toula responded that 2 of them obtained employment at CVC as truck drivers, 1 at Valley Trucking and 1 at Dom's Electric Motor Shop. Toula shared a success story about a graduate who is a single father. He was stressed out about childcare and life in general. He graduated and is working and is very happy. Toula is very proud of him.

Holly Newlon addressed to Sarah that there was a mix up with the 2nd and 3rd quarter billing and she advised her that the remaining balance in the Operational Expenditure Tracking slide will be significantly lower than what is currently states.

Transitional Housing- 3rd Quarter

There was a total of 4 referrals, 3 enrolled, and at the end of March there were 5 still in the program. Chief Rochester mentioned that clients will overlap onto other months, therefore she defined "in program" as those are the number of clients who are still in the program. There was a total of 1 who found housing after completion. Most recently, Probation reduced the number of referrals to the program due to the pandemic and funding.

David Carr, from Merced Rescue Mission, reported that program is moving slowly due to funding and the pandemic, however it is now back on track with 7 in the program and another female being referred.

Project Roomkey is a new program Merced Rescue Mission is working with to employ men and women in hotel rooms in Merced and Los Banos. These group of men and women are essentially homeless and work 8-hour shifts at the hotel and are earning minimum wage. Chief Rochester stated that this program provides a great opportunity to clients to make a living while giving back to the community.

Melvin McKinney, Peer Support Specialist, with Leadership for Life inquired if Project Roomkey has been suspended as he has not been able to enroll transient probation clients into the program; David Carr responded that there was an influx of referrals, therefore they had to put a cap on the amount of people enrolling in the program. Currently the program is only taking clients who have a chronic health condition and over 65 years of age. Feliza Gray, from Human Services Agency, chimed in and stated that yes there was a cap put in place for Project Roomkey as this program was specifically designed to assist those who are homeless, age 65 or older and have a chronic health condition defined by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or at risk of COVID-19.

ACE Overcomers- 3rd Quarter

David Carr provided an update on behalf of ACE Overcomers. The last group was part of the COVID pandemic, therefore in March the session was converted over to instruction via ZOOM. There were two men who hung in there towards the end, however only one client stuck it out and graduated. The next group starts on July 15th and ACE Overcomers is trying to find others way to have group. Perhaps by calling in to attend group as others may not have the means to use

internet. David hopes that regular in person sessions will start back up again, but of course with social distancing and face covering mandates in place. Chief Rochester pointed out that it's unfortunate that the personal element is removed when attempting to have ACE Overcomers sessions via ZOOM, which is a very important piece.

David added that an inmate at Madera County Jail found out about ACE Overcomers and wanted to do the lessons. He had been released and was able to get a hold of some books on his own and did the lessons. One day he called ACE Overcomers to see if he could join a class and he began attending the Wednesday night class because he wanted to learn how to deal with his anger and children.

In January there were 14 referrals and 17 were enrolled. In February there were 4 referrals, 22 enrolled and 10 attendees. Towards the end of March there were 20 enrolled and 10 in attendance. The low number in attendance towards the end of the month was attributed to when COVID-19 came to fruition.

Probation K9 Sage- 3rd Quarter

In January Sage's services were utilized quite a bit. Sage had 14 searches and 66 finds; 3 searches and 1 find in February and 11 searches and 4 finds in March. Due to the COVID pandemic services for Sage decreased due to the guidelines and mandates that were put in place for overall safety. Chief Rochester is hopeful that Sage's services will pick up at the end of June or the beginning of July.

IX. In-Custody Program Update - 3rd Quarter

Corrections Officer Hendon reported that the numbers this quarter have decreased due to COVID-19. Currently, there are 30 males and 5 females in the JRP program. In the Day Reporting Center there are currently 8 enrolled. Sherriff Administration and GEO group have been working together to assist the inmates to have one-on-one phone interviews with their counselors. Hendon is working on a proposal to re-open the classrooms. Hendon should have something in place by Friday, May 29th. More than likely the protocol will follow suite of social distancing, wearing of masks and temperature checks.

X. Adult Services

Bail Reviews/Pre-Trial Assessment- 3rd Quarter

Chief Rochester reported that the Probation Assistants completed 126 bail reviews in Merced and 41 in Los Banos. Due to the current zero bail clause that was enacted by the judicial council, next quarter the group will see a significant decrease. During this reporting period, the courts were still in operation.

The Probation Assistants scored 95 clients as high risk (5-9) in Merced and 36 in Los Banos for pre-trial assessments. Probation is currently looking at the current Virginia scoring mechanism for bail reviews and potentially changing over to a different tool. Probation will ensure if they switch to a new scoring mechanism that the fidelity of the tool is upheld. Probation is currently looking into other scoring tools and if the tool is changed, Chief Rochester will report it to the courts.

XI. **Next Meeting- TBD**

Meeting adjourned @ 3:15 PM

Minutes scribed by Christina Flores, Staff Services Analyst