

## **Process and Evaluation Workgroup**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**April 7, 2021**

#### **In attendance:**

**Rodney Brooks:** Alameda County Public Defender's Office

**Charlie Eddy:** Alameda County Behavioral Health

**Janene Grigsby:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Joey Mason:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Rashad Eady:** Alameda County Behavioral Health

**Sarah Oddie:** Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan's Office

**Darryl Stewart:** Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's Office

**Tyler Zarcoff:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Lisa Abernathy:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Juan Ventaila:** Alameda County Social Services Agency

**Nancy French:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Jamaica Sowell:** ROOTS Community Health Center

The meeting started with the approval of the minutes.

Staff from Social Services made a brief presentation about how the Agency plans to address the CALAIM requirement that all counties develop a process for enrolling inmates leaving jail in Medi-Cal and other benefit programs. A summary of the presentation and the discussion is below:

#### The Presentation

- Currently, the Agency receives applications from inmates who are leaving state prison.
- SB 74 provides the Agency with a process for collecting applications and renewals for Medi-CAL and Cal-FRESH for the re-entry and other high needs populations. The

Agency has implemented an outreach campaign with five Community Based Organizations: The Alameda County Health Consortium, the East Bay Agency for Children, La Familia, Ruby's Place, and the Korean Center of the East Bay.

- In addition, the Agency participates in a statewide sharing of information monthly meeting. The other participating counties are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, San Bernardino, Sonoma, Riverside, Orange, San Mateo, Shasta, and Merced.
- Some of these counties already have agreements with their local Sheriff's Departments about enrolling inmates in benefits programs.
- As a result of COVID, the conversations have been stalled but we expect they will start again shortly.

#### The Discussion:

- Partnering with a CBO to enroll people on the outside does not address the issue of getting inmates who are leaving jail.
- The Agency wants to enroll inmates as they are released and hopes to use their process for enrolling people coming out of state prison as a model for addressing the new CALAIM requirement.
- The challenge is still starting the application process before people exit.
- Any discussion about developing a process must address this long-standing issue.
- How can ROOTS assist in this process?
- ROOTS staff decided to locate the trailer outside Santa Rita as a result of the woman who was released early in the morning and lost her life. ROOTS staff starts the enrollment process when people are released and come to the trailer. Medi-Cal applicants need to be a resident for at least 14 days, which creates a lag time, we need to create an infrastructure so there is no lag time.
- When the Social Services Agency knows someone has been committed to Santa Rita, they suspend their benefits. Upon confirmation an inmate has been released, the Agency removes their benefits from suspension. When people don't do their yearly re-enrollment (which we understand is difficult when you are in jail) the benefits are terminated. The maximum amount of time we can keep the benefits suspended is a year.

After the presentation from Social Services, staff from the ROOTS Community Health Center engaged the workgroup in a dialogue about the Safe Landing Trailer and the related activities. Below is the summary of the discussion.

- Behavioral Health Care and the Sheriff are supportive of ROOTS getting a new trailer, they have outgrown the existing one.

- ROOTS will provide transportation to Oakland for inmates who are released during non-peak hours. The contact is being processed; ROOTS has submitted all of the essential information.
- Is there an update on amending the hours?
- The hours may be adjusted slightly, people released at 7 AM don't come out until 8 AM or 9 AM.
- Is there data on how many clients you see per hour?
- Roots does track that information.

Planning for the next meeting:

- It was decided not to have any guest speakers and allocate all of the time to developing the next steps for the workgroup on the Medi-Cal issue.

The meeting adjourned at 11:29