**ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP**

**ADULT REENTRY STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

July 24, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Glad Tidings COGIC, 1027 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward, CA 94544

**Present**:

Wendy Still

Aneeka Chaudhry (for Colleen Chawla)

Eric von Geldern (for Nancy O’Malley)

Kamarlo Spooner

Monica Vaughan (for L. Karen Monroe)

Raymond Banks

Rodney Brooks (for Brendon Woods)

**Guests**:

Charles Eddy

Damon Johnson

Danny Thongs

Dieudonné Brou

Donald Barlow

Donald Frazier

Douglas Butler

Erik Valeriano

Greg Pierce

Jeannette Rodriguez

Jenna Russo

Jon Simon

Joseph Cotton Jr.

Kevin Bremond

Leslie Arroyo

Linda Gardner

Marcus Dawal

Neola Crosby

Nicole Spooner

Patti Castro

Phyllis Nance

Sophia Lai

Stacey Guillory

LaLisha Norton (Recorder)

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order and Introductions** – Chief Still called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

**Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes**

The minutesfrom April 3, 2019 were reviewed and adopted as written.

**Sub-Committee Reports/Updates**

1. **Community/Civic Engagement** – Raymond Banks and Kamarlo Spooner (Co-Chairs)

Kamarlo discussed the CAB survey, which is designed to provide CAB with feedback of attendees’ experiences in the various meetings and help them determine if justice-impacted individuals are at the table. Kamarlo was unsure who was completing the surveys and Neola confirmed that anyone in attendance at the meetings where the survey was distributed. Raymond had additional questions pertaining to who was responding and Neola indicated that the survey has been very informative in terms of feedback on the meeting, presenters, and other aspects of the meetings. Raymond further stated that he wanted to know what could be done so that anyone participating in the meetings had the ability to make motions, which he believed would increase civic and community engagement. Neola advised that for the Programs and Services Workgroup, anyone attending the meeting can participate and everyone receives an equal vote. Raymond noted that he wanted the survey to reflect that anyone participating can vote. Neola stated that she worked with the CAB to develop the survey, CAB voted on and approved the survey that has been in use for the last three months, and CAB has the ability to modify it, if they would like to do so.

1. **Education** - Monica Vaughan (Chair-Designee)/Dr. Tina Vasconcellos (Co-Chair)

Monica reported that the Education Sub-Committee met on April 5th at Five Keys in Oakland. She noted that the Sub-Committee was very interested in the work being done by Five Keys since they hold two education-related contracts, one with Probation and the other with the Sherriff’s Office. Five Keys had many of their staff present and there was significant discussion.

The Sub-Committee has had great success in engaging the adult schools and has seen increased participation. A challenge that they have been working through is the fact that there is not a county-wide approach to adult education; it is siloed into three separate adult education consortiums in Alameda County (NACC, MACC, and SACC.) A significant outcome from this work thus far has been a focus on the Adult Reentry Strategic Plan as a source document when people are referring to the reentry population as part of education.

1. **Family Reunification/Stability** - Phyllis Nance (Co-Chair) and Kevin Bremond (Co-Chair)

Phyllis and Kevin provided an overview of the [Family Reunification Sub Committee Report](https://www.acgov.org/calendar_app/DisplayDetailServlet?site=Internet&ag=PRO&ty=DEPT&m=8&d=4&y=2019&t=M&i=2019-06-11%2015:55:22.757). The first meeting took place in October 2018. Family reunification listening sessions were conducted with the Alameda County Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (ACCIPP) in order to develop strategies that would support the Sub-Committee’s goals and to produce the desired outcomes.

Kevin stated that part of their strategy was to train providers so that they would be ready to support families that have been touched by the criminal justice system and work directly with the families. The performance measures are tied directly to the strategies developed. Co-parenting and parent education were major issues that continued to surface, as well as ensuring that parents had adequate and consistent access to information and the ability to maintain relationships while incarcerated. One of the guiding principles for the created strategies was that children impacted by the criminal justice system should be a focus in family reunification. Accordingly, one of the strategies created was to utilize the Bill of Rights as a guiding framework for policies and services to children, families, and parents impacted by the criminal justice system. Another key strategy is to ensure that the continuum of reentry providers receive training and resources that include topics such as: gender and cultural responsiveness; culturally relevant services; impact of trauma on families; family dynamics; explicit bias; and healthy relationships as they pertain to the incarcerated and returning populations.

The group wants to ensure that all services are integrated, in an effort to remove potential barriers to reunification for parents, such as housing, joblessness, etc. that would impact their ability to have a successful reunification with their children and families. Child support can also be a barrier and the group wanted to find ways to join efforts in conjunction with existing programs that allow for successful reentry of families in the reunification process.

Kamarlo stated that the CAB has been looking into the possibility of families being compensated to house their loved ones instead of living in county-funded housing programs. It was noted that there are existing programs that can facilitate this type of request. Chief Still stated that it is important to have a central location on the website where all resources are listed so that people can easily access this type of information. Chief Still said that this website item should be placed on the next CCP meeting agenda for further discussion. Chief Still asked Neola to provide Phyllis and Kevin with copies of the contracts for family reunification so that they could review them with their group and discuss any further recommendations. Neola advised that she had previously provided the RFP and would make sure that they received a copy of the contracts, as well. Chief Still also requested that Monica Uriate provide copies of the contracts for Education so that feedback could be provided, and everyone could be in sync.

Raymond asked how individuals would get access to the funding, if they wanted to reside with a family member instead of county-paid programs. Linda noted that the individual would need to be referred by their DPO. Kamarlo asked if the process was the same or if there was anything in place for individuals being released from Santa Rita Jail. Linda stated that the individual would have the opportunity to work with someone pre-release to discuss their housing options.

Charlie stated that he can understand the great emphasis that is placed on reunifying with children, but he also acknowledged that there is a great strain on the family members of loved ones that are returning home after years of incarceration. Charlie noted that the family unit may be fractured or even non-existent and he did not recall there being emphasis on family reunification absent a child(ren). He wanted to know if the workgroup had or if they could look at reunification broadly to include siblings, parents, and other family members, which would hopefully improve the individual’s success. Neola confirmed that it would be very helpful to follow-up with this point and Eric asked if there was any additional support that could be offered to assist the workgroup with this task. Chief Still mentioned that the contracts for family reunification were not just for individuals with children, but for families, and she recommended that the group look at the concept through that lens. Neola noted that the RFP had a broader definition of family that extends to an individual’s support networks - whomever they consider to be family. Chief Still asked Neola to provide the definition to Phyllis and Kevin. Chief Still also asked about the process for housing individuals with family. Linda indicated that people have the opportunity to live with whomever they choose, even non-blood relatives, but the DPO would need to evaluate the living conditions to determine if it is a suitable placement. Chief Still suggested that a flyer or FAQ sheet be created and sent to all the DPOs regarding this effort.

1. **Health** – Collen Chawla (Chair)/Aneeka Chaudhry (Designee)

**Physical Health** - Aneeka reported that no official Sub-Committee meetings have been held; however, background meetings have taken place with various partners. There have been some challenges around data collection, which the group will need to tackle. Several anticipated invitees have been identified in the health community. The goals of the meeting are to:

1. Clearly identify target population(s)
2. Evaluate usefulness and feasibility of existing measures in the reentry roadmap
3. Make recommendations for updated measures
4. Make recommendations for data collection/reporting responsibilities

Charlie commented that medi-cal needs to be more proactively re-established post release from Santa Rita Jail. It is a long-standing issue that has been discussed for years, but there still has been no resolution. He is hopeful the Health Sub-Committee can get involved with working towards the resolution of this issue. Aneeka agreed that this is an issue and something that the Sub-Committee should address. Chief Still indicated that by August the County will have the ability to view the status of prison inmates’ eligibility status prior to release and this is the type of system that needs to be created for Santa Rita Jail. Neola suggested that it would be helpful to have someone from the Federal system participate in this conversation, as well.

**Mental Health** - Chief Still asked Sophia to provide an update on the Mild/Moderate and Serious Mental Illness (SMI) RFPs. Sophia reported that the Mild/Moderate RFP was released in the spring and that two providers had been selected. As it pertains to SMI, the RFP was released in June and is due August 6th. Information can be found on the GSA website. Click on the following link to view the [CCP Health Sub-Committee Report](https://www.acgov.org/calendar_app/DisplayDetailServlet?site=Internet&ag=PRO&ty=DEPT&m=8&d=4&y=2019&t=M&i=2019-06-11%2015:55:22.757).

1. **Housing** – Chris Bazar (Chair)/Linda Gardner (Chair-Designee) and Jeanette Rodriguez (Co-Chair)

Linda reported that five meetings have taken place. They had a total of 33 unduplicated attendees and some individuals attended multiple times; there was great representation from a variety of agencies. She acknowledged that it was difficult to get a solid core group which is something that they would like to improve upon, moving forward. However, the input received from everyone was very helpful. Jeannette reported on the various performance measures, which can be viewed, along with the full report, by accessing the following link [Housing CCP Sub-Committee Report](https://www.acgov.org/calendar_app/DisplayDetailServlet?site=Internet&ag=PRO&ty=DEPT&m=8&d=4&y=2019&t=M&i=2019-06-11%2015:55:22.757).

The Sub-Committee also had discussion regarding the creation of a centralized data location where people can access housing options available in their communities. Another recommended strategy is to create a reentry housing resource committee that will review benchmarks, timelines, data and develop opportunities for collaboration, on an ongoing basis. Chief Still mentioned that the Board has approved a Community and Reentry Outreach unit within the Probation Department and there will be four reentry specialists (education, housing, SUD/mental health and education). It will be highly beneficial to have these dedicated individuals in the four core areas that we are addressing.

Chief Still noted that as it pertains to recommended strategy #6 “Recommendation: Add Re-Entry staff in County Administrators Office (CAO),” there is already staff in place. There is a homeless council and an individual that is responsible for the administration of those services, in addition to other staff involved in supporting these efforts. Linda noted that the recommendation was made by a Board staff person. Chief Still indicated that she will follow up with Susan Muranishi and Darryl Stewart.

1. **Joint Education/Workforce Development Sub-Committee** – Dr. Tina Vasconcellos/Monica Vaughan/Patti Castro and Micah Hinkle (Facilitators)

Monica reported that the Joint Sub-Committee met on May 13th and had 22 unduplicated attendees. The first task was to develop a statement that addressed the purpose for combining the efforts of the two Sub-Committees. The resulting goal statement was created***: “Develop career pathway strategies to eliminate barriers that align education, workforce readiness, CBO’s and re-entry support services to achieve academic and employment success.”*** Patti reviewed the recommended performance measures and strategies, which include themes that focus on employer demand and labor market trends such as, aligning education/training programs with labor market industry (LMI) trends and ensuring that education/training providers are kept abreast of licensing requirements. Chief Still advised that there is a statewide group that is working on apprenticeship programs for individuals coming out of state prison that’s uniform and crosses sectors. Chief Still noted that Karen Baker and Chuck Pattillo are currently members of this group and that significant work is being done locally to help inform what is being done on a statewide basis.

Stacey noted that there will be a change in legislation next June or July regarding licensing boards and how they consider the underlying facts pertaining to convictions, even if the record has been expunged. Monica noted that this issue arose in one of the meetings where a person invested in education/training only to discover at the end that he was not be able to work in that field. She stated that schools do not routinely ask if someone has a criminal record and, in the example provided, if a person had a criminal record and was pursuing a career in real estate, they would be ineligible to do so. Donald “DC” Barlow mentioned the challenges facing individuals that volunteer for firefighting services while incarcerated but are denied access to become a firefighter post-incarceration because of a felony conviction. Chief Still noted that the barrier is that firefighters are considered Peace Officers and no peace officer can have a felony conviction. There was significant discussion regarding this issue.

The complete list of Performance Measures and Strategies can be accessed via the following link [Joint Education/Workforce Development Report](https://www.acgov.org/calendar_app/DisplayDetailServlet?site=Internet&ag=PRO&ty=DEPT&m=8&d=4&y=2019&t=M&i=2019-06-11%2015:55:22.757).

***Action Item: Aneeka Chaudry made a motion to approve the submitted performance measures and strategies for Housing, Family Reunification, and Joint Education/Workforce Development. The motion was seconded by Patti Castro and passed unanimously.***

**Recidivism** (Goal #1)

Chief Still reported that there is still one item that she needs to address with District Attorney Nancy O’Malley as it relates to the ACJRP and the conversation will occur prior to the next CCPEC meeting.

**“Redesigning the Pathways Home: Alameda County’s Pilot to Positive Reentry” Status Update**

Chief Still indicated that she would provide an update at the next meeting.

**Public Comments**

Neola advised that the recent appointee for CAB, Mr. Joe Anderson, passed and she would keep everyone informed regarding upcoming services.

**Current CAB Vacancies:** District 1: (2), District 2: (1), District 3: (1), District 4: (2), and District 5: (1)

**Next Meeting**

* October 2, 2019: Location TBD

**Adjournment 5:00 p.m.**