

Process and Evaluation Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022

In attendance:

Rodney Brooks: Alameda County Public Defender's Office
Shahidah Williams: Office of County Supervisor Keith Carson
Janene Grigsby: Alameda County Probation Department
Nancy French: Alameda County Probation Department
Jenica Wilson: Alameda County Probation Department
Shawn Rowland: Our Road Prison Project
Veronica Rios-Reddick: Alameda County District Attorney's Office
Dr. Laura Chavez: Alameda County Probation Department
Joey Mason: Alameda County Probation Department
Charlie Eddy: Urban Strategies Council
Charles Turner: Alameda County Social Services
Tyler Zatcoff: Alameda County Probation Department
Shauna Connor: Alameda County Probation Department
Gina Temporal: Alameda County Probation Department
Audrey Club: Alameda County Probation Department
Shadeequa Smith: Alameda County Probation Department
Steven Belowich: Alameda County Probation Department
Sara Oddie: Office of Alameda County Supervisor Dave Brown
Jamacia Sowell: ROOTS Community Clinic
Mike Cheng: Asian Prisoner Support Committee
Christian Pedrotti: Alameda County Probation Department

A summary of the meeting is listed below:

The participants agreed to continue to meet virtually in accordance with AB 361.

Dr. Laura Chavez provided an update on the development of the process to evaluate Alameda County's AB 109 programs.

- Probation is working with County departments to develop an inventory of the programs that serve AB 109 clients.
- After the inventory is completed, Probation will release an RFP to hire an outside evaluator.

Dr. Chavez provided data outlining the utilization of AB 109 funded services by probation clients. The data was in response to the "learning questions" developed at the April meeting. The questions were designed to help the Workgroup decide if they should recommend expanding the eligibility for AB 109 services; or to develop recommendations for increasing the utilization of services by AB 109 clients.

A summary of the presentation and the discussion is listed below:

Summary of the Presentation:

- Eligibility includes the clients outlined in the AB 109 legislation; people in the pre-trial services program; individuals whose probation was terminated in the last year in accordance with AB 1950 and, individuals participating in collaborative courts.
- The utilization rate of AB 109 services from January through March (Q1) of eligible clients fluctuated between 18%-19%.
- 28%-30% of clients utilizing services are in more than one program.
- A Probation Officer can make the referral, then it is the responsibility of the provider to contact the client. A client can approach the provider for services and the provider will reach out to Probation; the department can then make a referral to capture the data in Enterprise Supervision, (Formerly Tyler Supervision) Probation's Case Management system.
- The goal is for the provider to contact the client within 48 hours after the referral has been made. For numerous reasons, clients can be difficult to contact.
- Probation performs a needs assessment, to identify the most pressing issues before making a referral to the appropriate provider. Participation in the programs is not mandatory.
- Clients are considered in the "referred status" when the referral has been made, but the client has not been accepted into the program.
- Clients may also be on the wait list, when the referral is accepted by the provider, but the client has not started to receive services. There are many reasons for this, the client may have a personal issue, or the program may be at capacity. The programs with the longest waitlists are housing and employment.

- In a broad definition of sex offenders, approximately 30 were referred to services each month in Q1.
- The average occupancy rate for the housing program is 92%.

Summary of the Discussion:

- **Question:** How many of the housing providers accept 290 registrants? **Answer:** four of the contracted providers accept 290 clients. However, no location can have more than six; parole utilizes some of the same providers which impacts how many 290 clients Probation can send to each location.
- Is there an estimate of the cost of expansion, some of the program areas are utilizing the funds quicker than expected; the cost has yet to be examined, the question of expansion is exploratory. If we expand, more money will need to be allocated.
- The question was raised about the utilization beyond employment and housing (they were listed as “All Programs” in the presentation.)
- If we are considering expansion, we need to look at how the money is currently allocated – 60% goes to housing.
- Probation is also developing the infrastructure to support and capture the data of people who are eligible and are not on Probation.
- **Question:** Why are the waitlists so long? **Answer:** There are a variety of reasons, sometimes programs are over capacity. Sometimes the client can't be found.
- Sometimes the DPO's are not familiar with all the programs. There are 70-75 DPOs (out of approximately 101) who are making referrals to programs. It may be beneficial to look at when new clients come onto a DPO's caseload, referrals are usually made when people are new to the caseload.
- At the conclusion, there was a summary of the outstanding questions not addressed in the discussion.
- **Question:** When addressing the issue of capacity can we look at the number of clients expected to be served under the contract? **Answer:** The initial stated capacity is often different than how many clients are actually served by the provider.
- The question about the number of referrals made by Probation Officers is nuanced and on the surface may not tell us what we need to know; if the client is resistant, it is not a good idea to make a referral.
- Many programs have vaccination requirements, and many clients don't want to get vaccinated, therefore they can't participate.
- Some people are improperly put on the waitlist. The question was raised about the possibility of adding a pending status that more appropriately identifies their status. For employment, referral accepted means the client is pending.

At the end of the discussion some participants wanted to talk about an issue at Santa Rita Jail.

- The Sheriff is proposing their Deputies perform some re-entry services and is pursuing funding that will allow Deputies to perform risk and needs assessments; and provide vocational training. The Youth and Family Services Bureau would be the entity applying for the grant.
- As a result of COVID, fewer community providers can enter Santa Rita Jail, the Sheriff argues utilizing this grant funding would address the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.