

Process and Evaluation Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2021

In attendance:

Rodney Brooks: Alameda County Public Defender's Office

Dr. Noha Aboelata: ROOTS Community Health Center

Bob Britton: Faith in Action East Bay (FIABEB) Live Free

Shauna Conner: Alameda County Probation Department

Janene Grigsby: Alameda County Probation Department

Shahidah Lacy: Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's Office

Sophia Lai: Alameda County Behavioral Health

Joey Mason: Alameda County Probation Department

Jean Moses: Faith in Action East Bay (FIABEB) Live Free

Darryl Stewart: Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's Office

Rashad Eady: Alameda County Behavioral Health

Shawn Rowland: Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS)

Nancy Taylor: The Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails(ICJJ)

Shanice Smith: ROOTS Community Health Center

The meeting started with introductions and postponing the approval of the January 2021 meeting minutes.

Shanice Smith updated the group about the successes and challenges Roots Community Clinic is having operating the Safe Landing trailer, a summary of the conversation is listed below:

- The trailer is small and cramped so only two people can occupy it at one time, the steps are not accessible to everyone. The ROOTS staff would like something larger like an office which is more effective to conduct intake and other activities.

- What are ideas for funding?
- Dr. Aboelata plans to ask the County for more resources.
- Lack of visibility to the trailer from the ramp at the jail is a challenge.
- Are there any plans to expand hours, if you expand the hours, can ROOTS be paid more?
- There has been talk about going back to overnight service based on the original plan.
- Question: Can the Sheriff release inmates during certain periods of time in coordination with the hours of operation for the trailer?
- Answer: Legally the County cannot do that, people have the right to exit Santa Rita Jail in a certain time after the court releases them.
- It takes time to process people once they are approved for release.
- The Sheriff has been releasing data on the release times from Santa Rita; in reviewing nine weeks of the release data, it shows that 40% of the releases from the facility occur when the ROOTS trailer is not in operation.
- The trailer cannot be used long-term or continuously for 24 hours. The need is for a large space that we can use that has electricity and supports the other needs of the clients.
- Question: How can the workgroup continue to be supportive?
- Answer: One of the big challenges is transportation. In addition, ROOTS staff is also looking at the scope of services. ROOTS staff needs to assess how long releasing and processing takes and what percent of people want to engage with us and are we capturing all those people? Not everyone needs these services.

The group briefly engaged in a conversation about receiving medication upon release from Santa Rita Jail.

- If an institution knows an inmate is leaving, the policy is to provide a 30-day supply of their medication?
- Maybe there is a delay – in the Alameda County Sheriff's office notifying health providers immediately to process meds.
- It may be helpful to notify the medical staff immediately, but also note that Alameda County Behavioral Health is significantly understaffed right now, so they might not have capacity to process the request in a timely manner.
- According to the Sheriff's staff, 40,000 people are in and out of Santa Rita each year; there are some people who need meds whose info will not get to the medical staff by the time of release. In addition, once a judge orders a release, they will run warrant checks, and may hold inmates longer for another case – this nuance is also important.

The Workgroup looking at connecting returning citizens to Medi-CAL gave an update on their activities:

- The ICJJ took the petition signed by 1000 people in 11 churches in October 2020 and met with Shahidah who explained the challenges in getting people connected to Medi-Cal. The jail has begun providing info to people on reinstatement.
- There were multiple categories: people who stay in Santa Rita Jail for less than 30 days (they are not removed from Medi-Cal.) Medi-Cal is suspended or revoked for people who are in Santa Rita for more than 30 days.
- We then heard about the upcoming state mandate for Medi-Cal proposed through Cal AIM, requiring jails to develop a process for connecting people to Medi-Cal next year, and full implementation is required by January 1, 2023.
- The Workgroup would like to see Alameda County develop a process before that time.
- Legislation from Nancy Skinner enables Social Services to go into the jail.
- ROOTS is providing support for people who want to get reinstated for Medi-Cal and CBO's willing to assist in that process.
- The Workgroup met with Dr. Aboelata – reinstatement can occur 30 days before release – we would like to see more people take advantage of this opportunity.
- Upon release, people need to be a resident for 14 days before they can apply for Medi-Cal.
- This is still true; ROOTS is sometimes allowing people to use their address as the address of record to get Medi-Cal.
- Some people working on the Cal ID issue are trying to ensure people leaving prison have IDs., they are developing legislation. DMV has a project with Santa Rita Jail – not sure if it's effective or not; our group should find out more and see if there is an opportunity for expansion.

Finally, the group agreed to address the following issues in the future:

- Meet Alameda County Sheriff/Medical staff to discuss release procedures, include WellPath and Alameda County Behavioral Health staff in the discussion.
- An update on the transportation contract for people leaving Santa Rita Jail.
- Medical reinstatement group update

The meeting Adjourned at 11:29