

## **Process and Evaluation Workgroup**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**November 4, 2020**

#### **In attendance:**

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

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

**Lisa Abernathy:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Charlie Eddy:** Urban Strategies Council

**Joey Mason:** Alameda County Probation Department

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

**Brian Baker:** Alameda County Sheriff's Office

**Shanice Smith:** ROOTS Community Clinic

**Helene Henig:** Alameda County Behavioral Health

**Donald Mattison:** Alameda County Sheriff's Office

**Richard Spiegelman:** Faith in Action East Bay (FIABEB) Live Free

**Gina Temporal:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Yvonne Jones:** Alameda County Behavioral Health

**James Meters:** Alameda County Probation Department

The meeting started with a summary of the questions that were raised at the September meeting. Probation staff agreed to provide information about extending the hours and transportation contract.

#### **A summary of the initial questions and discussion is listed below:**

- Is there a status report on the ability to transport recently released individuals to a safe place?

- Is the Safe Landing trailer (which is outside of Santa Rita Jail) being underutilized?
- Probation is providing information to people about the trailer.
- Information about the trailer is on the tablet (provided to the majority of Santa Rita Jail inmates) and every inmate gets the flyer about the Safe Landing trailer.
- Dublin police arrest one or two people a month who have been released from Santa Rita Jail. (In response to an issue raised at the September meeting.)
- When ROOTS staff are on location, they are monitoring when people are released from the jail. There is a sandwich board at the end of the ramp and a large sign. However, when people are leaving custody, they are interested in getting as far away from the jail as much as possible, which may impact how many people utilize the services inside the trailer.
- The ROOTS staff provides hot meals and distributes warm sweatshirts to people.
- Does ROOTS track how many people are utilizing their services?
- Alameda County Behavioral Health (ACBH) is just starting to receive information on the number of people who are released and utilizing the services.
- Can the numbers that ACBH receives be made public?
- Can the Sheriff make the information about the release of inmates available to this workgroup?
- The Sheriff's office has few weekend releases. Currently, there are only a few sentenced inmates, so only a few get out. Also, because of a lawsuit, we try to release fewer inmates overnight.
- What about people who are booked and released?
- Only folks with a DUI fall into that category. The Sheriff's staff agreed to check in sharing the hourly release information.
- There is a buzz with inmates that the trailer is available.
- The original design of the Safe Landing program was to address the issue of people who are released overnight. ROOTS staff assessed the 8 hours in the day with the most releases to determine what are the best hours to have the Trailer outside of Santa Rita. Many evenings had zero releases. The ROOTS staff is working on acquiring an appropriate vehicle to transport people in the COVID era.
- Probation reported they are working on providing shuttle service from 8 AM – Midnight Monday through Saturday.

- For people who are using public transportation after release, do you know if they have funds?
- Sheriff's staff reported the inmate welfare fund provides BART and bus money. The bus stop is at the end of the ramp. Buses ran every ½ hr., currently they stop running at 8 PM because of COVID. Sometimes we transport people in our vehicles, we did so on the bad air days.
- The original transportation plan was more extensive. How close are we to meeting those goals?
- Probation staff reported they have a contract with Bonafide to transport county residents from CDCR facilities and are working on a larger RFP to cover a 150-mile radius.
- BART is great, but the best thing is to take someone to where they will spend the night.
- The Bridging Group (consultants) is also collecting data about inmate releases and is working on a dashboard.
- Will the dashboard be public?
- Do we know if the data provided will include Medi-Cal restoration and connection to services?
- The information is not always reported/received in real time, this makes it more difficult to track the Medi-Cal data.

**During the meeting ACBH staff was able to pull together the following information about the September releases:**

- Seventy-Six people had contact with the trailer.
  - Sixty-Three were referred to services.
  - Thirty-Eight received positive linkages – getting a service.
  - Zero people received Behavioral Health Services.
- What are the types of services that are provided?
  - Telephones; social security cards; links to employment; connection to CAL Fresh and Medi-CAL; hygiene kits, linkages to housing etc.
  - Behavioral Health Services?
  - Services do not often happen immediately, i.e. talking to a mental health professional. ROOTs is working on doing more follow up. ACBH is working with ROOTs to provide access to electronic service records, this will help people connect or reconnect with services.

- Who are the employment service providers?
- Civic Corps and Rubicon.
- Probation staff noted they are connected with several service providers.
- Can we see if gift cards can be presented to people who use the trailer?
- ACBH noted they are thinking of providing a gift card for people who follow up with services.
- If the incentive is too high, people will just go to get the card.
- The gift card can be added to the ROOT's budget.

**Next the group discussed the issue of postponing meetings. A summary of the conversation is listed below:**

- Can we look at rescheduling two weeks after the original meeting date.
- It is a problem when we don't meet for two months.
- It was agreed to try to reschedule when possible.

**The next agenda issue was a brainstorm on future issues for the group to address:**

- Update on the data discussed at this meeting.
- Update on access to Santa Rita for the service providers.
- What services are being provided and how, in the COVID era? Invite someone from Five Keys to see how they are providing services.
- Follow up on the services which are currently being provided?

**In closing the group agreed on questions/issues that needed follow up in the future:**

- How many people are released, what time are they released and how many get connected to services.
- Extending the hours for transportation.
- The RFP for Transportation.
- Update on the dashboard.
- Any more info on the gift cards.
- The list of services provided.