**Process and Evaluation Workgroup**

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 10, 2019**

**In attendance:**

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

**Charlie Eddy:** Urban Strategies Council

**Deep Kaur**: BayLegal

**Richard Speiglman:** Faith in Action

**Sophia Lai:** Alameda CountyBehavioral Health

**Bob Britton:** Faith in Action

**Tonia Wells:** Adult Program Unit, CDCR

**Tiffany Winchell:** Bay Area Legal Aid

**Tiffany Huyenh-Cho:** Bay Area Legal Aid

**Njeri McGee-Tyner:** Alameda Health Consortium

**Danny Thongsy:** Justice Reinvestment Coalition

The meeting opened with introductions.

The group decided to take the agenda out of order and started by discussing the status of their suggested changes to the Sheriff’s clearance polity regrading people with prior convictions. A summary of the conversation is listed below:

**Bob:** It seems like the unions would be willing to allow employees to go into the jail since they would get paid more to do the work.

**Rodney:** Chris Miley (Supervisor Valle’s staff) called me to discuss what he was hearing about the Committee’s activities; he thought the issue of Medi-Cal being turned on had been solved. I said no, it’s an ongoing discussion and our Workgroup had met with Social Services; I then described the MCIP program in the Sheriff Office. Chris went on to say that he is setting up a meeting with the Undersheriff and will put the clearance issue on the State of the Jails Public Protection Committee meeting agenda. He also asked if we would want to present at that meeting.

I will be talking to Rich Lucia about this later today and ask for a status update on our request.

When talking to Lucia, what should I (we) say if the Sheriff decides not to change anything?

**Neola:** we should show them the contractual language that the Board signed off on – that should be a starting point.

**Sophia:** Do you know if the Board of Supervisors saw the (Probation) contract language in advance?

**Neola:** I am not sure.

**Rodney:** Can you get the contract language?

**Neola:** Yes

**Rodney:** Was there any discussion with County Counsel about the contract language?

**Neola:** It didn’t seem to be an issue at all.

**Charlie:** We should have the providers explain their vetting process for hiring staff for these programs. We could also have staff who can speak and who’ve been in the community for years and can’t gain access to the jails.

**Neola:** I think it is also important to bring in people who have been able to get in and are successful in working because of their lived experience.

**Richard:** It would be nice to know which contractors’ staff have not been able to gain access to Santa Rita.

**Rodney:** We did survey some contractors.

**Deep:** We did have this come up once for Bay Area Legal Aid – their ability to do their job was not compromised in our case. The issue is the process is so ambiguous currently that we don’t know how to follow up.

**Rodney:** We asked them for more transparency.

**Bob:** They don’t keep statistics, so we don’t know how many were denied, is that right?

**Rodney:** We have asked them if they keep information about who has denied.

**Richard:** So, we can maybe ask for these numbers before the Public Protection Committee?

**Neola:** This issue has delayed the ability for different organizations to fulfill their contractual obligations.

**Charlie:** Sophia, does this issue come up with ACBH?

**Sophia:** Yes, but these contracts are not explicitly AB 109, although they may be partially AB 109 funded:

* BACS FREE transitional case management – has decided to send in clinicians instead of re-entry peer specialists
* Bay Area Legal Aid and Homeless Action Center contracts are not tied to AB 109 funding

**Neola:** We should tie this into the broader strategic plan. We should also point out how organizations have had to change their program model to conform to this issue.

**Sophia:** We should be mindful of current practices now that are helpful and whether publicizing this will result in more scrutiny and stricter policies.

**Neola:** We’ve heard that CDCR has a more open policy to allow people with prior convictions into their facilities.

**Tonia:** For CDCR – you also must submit an application in advance. It’s easy for ex-offenders while they’re on parole to go back in. Parole agents write a letter requesting clearance and that goes to the Warden. It must be sent 30 days in advance. Often parolees will go in and speak about what they are doing in the community.

**Rodney:** What research is done in addition to the letter?

**Tonia:** They do a complete background check – looking for warrants, incidents, etc. The Warden reviews the application and the clearance letter. Often these guys work at Community Housing Partnership (CHP) in San Francisco, so they’re telling people about the housing and jobs opportunities because they’re the best. San Francisco allows parolees to enter their facility if CDCR sends the letter of clearance to them.

SF has a very easy procedure – they call and verify information. Most of these people are working for agencies, 90% of the time, they get their clearance.

**Neola:** We should present this as well that we’re not in step with CDCR and SF Jail. We should show research about the effectiveness of re-entry peers connecting people to services.

**Tonia:** I can connect you to someone at Solano State Prison.

The group then turned to the issue of having Medi-Cal turned on when people leave Santa Rita.

**Rodney:** I am trying to see if we can get the folks from Santa Clara County will do a video chat at the August meeting.

**Njeri:** Alameda Health Consortium represents Federally Qualified Health Centers in Alameda County. We have ~140,000 Medi-Cal patients in our clinics. Sometimes we see people who had Medi-Cal turned off. We have a direct connection with Social Services through their on-site eligibility program, so they can turn that back on. It sounds like Social Services could help – but going to SRJ may be different. Social Services does have outreach staff who are assigned to our clinics. We also have 150 enrollment staff that enroll people.

**Neola:** Are you a non-profit?

**Njeri:** Yes.

**Tonia:** 211 will also sign up people for Probation. They go to their PAC meeting.

**Neola:** I didn’t know that they sign people up.

**Tonia:** CDCR is trying to connect parolees to drug-Medi-Cal beds, so we use 211 to sign up people. They were going to send people once a month.

**Sophia:** That’s Alameda County Behavioral Health.

**Tonia:** Yes, they’re the ones that go.

**Richard:** If someone without Medi-Cal shows up at your services, what happens?

**Tonia:** We have a MOU with Social Services that provides staff to work on this.

**Tonia:** We see people regardless of Medi-Cal, so we don’t turn people away.

**Neola:** Would you be willing to go into Santa Rita Jail?

**Tonia:** I can look at this as an opportunity?

**Tonia:** The Health Care Services Agency Health Care Insurance Technicians (HIT) has called us about this problem and getting our perspective.

**Sophia:** Colleen mentioned this as an opportunity.

**Rodney:** I can follow up with Colleen.

**Sophia:** I am not sure why HIT hasn’t been used before.

**Neola:** It may be better to have a CBO, especially one with a relationship with SSA.

**Rodney:** The issues seems clear – we need an organization to work with SSA, and we need the Sheriff to approve of them.

**Neola:** Are these folks (HIT) previously incarcerated?

**Tonia:** The Technicians must pass background checks. I can follow up with Ralph Silber, supervisor, but I’ll be the contact.

The meeting adjourned at 12:13.