**Process and Evaluation Workgroup**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 2, 2019**

**In attendance:**

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

**Rashad Eady:** Alameda County Behavioral Health Care

**Joey Mason:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Neola Crosby:** Alameda County Probation Department

**Mark Johnson:** Alameda County Probation

**Valerie Edwards:** Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

**Charles Turner:** Workforce Development Board

Rodney gave an overview of his communication with the Sheriff’s Office since the last meeting and distributed a draft of the Sheriff’s proposed changes to their clearance policy due in part to the Workgroup’s suggestions.

**Discussion about the Sheriff’s proposed Changes:**

**Rashad:** I appreciate some of the changes, for example, people are no longer asked to list all their previous convictions.

**Neola:** I read it differently, applicants need to list everything. I recognize there are some concessions:

* The ability to, submit character references.
* Notification of the denial will be given to the applicants however, there is no time frame.
* The fact that it will be on the website provides some transparency.

**Rashad:** The issue of no time frame is still a problem.

**Valerie:** The issue around time frames is an issue. Can we recommend that the time frame is the same as for the contractors making physical improvements to the jail?

**Mark:** I Did this for Five Keys, I did not want to put my social security number and address. There is not necessarily room to list all arrests and convictions, I tried to call OPD to get my arrest record – they (The Sheriff) should provide info on how to get it. The time and expense to get the live scan can be prohibitive.

**Rodney:** In my discussion with the Sheriff’s Office they said they wanted people to list convictions because they have an “honesty test.”

**Neola:** The honesty test is checking yes.

**Joey:** I would be excluded, even though I work for Probation.

**Neola:** If you have Probation badge you are treated differently.

**Valerie:** This is set up to allow only a small number of the people to enter. We need to look at the whole picture.

The group then agreed on a list of challenges to be raised and acknowledgement of positive changes with the Sheriff in response the current draft of their clearance policy.

**Summary of things to raise:**

* No time frame, contractors are unable to perform their duties and meet contractual obligations. This issue becomes more important since the new policy has an increased number of Sheriff’s staff reviewing applications.
* People may not know all their convictions; the time to needed to get your conviction history and not knowing where to get information may be prohibitive for some.
* We would like the service providers to have parody with the labor contractors regarding the time it takes to gain clearance.
* The applicant may not know if a family member is in Santa Rita, so it would be wrong to penalize someone for failing to list this. In addition, people most likely don’t know if someone they know has come into the jail in the last 24hrs.

**Positive changes the group wants to acknowledge:**

* + The inclusion of the appeal process and the ability to have three-character references.
  + Posting the clearance policy on the Sheriff’s website.
  + The removal of having used marijuana in the past three years being a reason to deny access.
  + Not asking if you have been to Santa Rita.
  + Establishing different process for people requesting a tour, people wanting to provide services and contractors performing labor.
  + Replacing “shall” with “may” in numerous places.
  + Being less strict about listing/knowing your prior convictions.
  + Only asking if you have family or friends in Santa Rita instead of asking is you know anyone in Satna Rita.

Next attendees agreed to forward the following list of questions to the Behavioral Health Services staff form Santa Clara County (they have a program where Medi-Cal turned on for inmates leaving county custody) prior to their attendance of the November meeting:

* What actions in the development and implementation of your initiative resulted from your understanding of the local political climate?
* Was not including this initiative in your State three plan prohibitive? If so, how did you address that? Is there anything we should add to our three-year plan to assist in getting Medi-Cal tuned on when leaving custody?
* What were your biggest successes and what were your biggest challenges (i.e. HR, changing county policies etc.), how did you address them?
* How does your initiative if at all address the over criminalization of black and brown people?
* Does your initiative help you enroll more people with complex medical and social needs?  Are you attempting to increase the enrollment for this population? If so, are you sorting this data?
* What relationship do you have with the DMV and Social Security?
* How could we do something similar in Alameda County since Mental Health and Social Services are not in the same department?
* Who were allies in your County that helped you make this initiative successful?

The meeting adjourned at 11:25