Community Corrections Partnership

**Programs and Services Workgroup**

**When**: January 24, 2019 from 10am – 12pm

**Where**: 1111 Jackson Street, 2nd Floor, Rooms 226-228, Oakland

**Present**:

Neola Crosby (Facilitator)

Amanda Berger

Brandon Young

Charles Eddy

Darryl Stewart

David Cowan

Dieudonne Brou

Donald Frazier

Eliza Patten

Greg McLean

Lisa Abernathy

Heather Bean

Jon Fajardo

Kelly Glossup

Maurice Lee

Myesha Walker

Natalie Tercero

Natasha Middleton

Nathalie Dierkx

Nathan Hobbs

Rashad Eady

Rodney Brooks

Shahidah Lacy

Shane Rogge

Sophia Lai

Stacey Guillory

Tim Smith

Undrae Brooks

LaLisha Norton (Recorder)

**Meeting Minutes**

Neola Crosby began the meeting with introductions. The minutes from October 25, 2018 were approved as written.

**DEPARTMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Per Neola, Alameda County Board of Supervisors adopted the Adult Re-entry Strategic Plan in 2014, and the County is in the process of updating this Plan. It is comprised of four primary goals:

1. Recidivism Reduction
2. Providing High Quality, comprehensive, Wrap-Around Services
3. Developing a network of well-coordinated systems of services
4. Accountability, Transparency, Fiscal and Performance Outcomes

You can find additional information regarding the Alameda County Adult Re-Entry Strategic Plan at: (<http://www.acgov.org/probation/documents/ReEntryStrategicPlan-BoardApproved3-11-14.pdf>)

Completing the departmental assessment will allow the Probation Department to include your responses at its upcoming Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), Adult Re-Entry Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 1/30/19 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Livermore Public Library Civic Center. The CCP has oversite of the strategic plan and your input would be greatly appreciated. Your responses to the departmental assessment are vital for helping to determine the landscape in Alameda County regarding our ability to support the population in terms of MOU’s, data sharing agreements, etc.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**David Cowan, Executive Director, BONAFIDE**

BONAFIDE is a community of formerly incarcerated individuals, their families, and others who have been affected by incarceration. They provide emotional and psychological support, in addition to helping individuals prepare for parole. One of the things that they have found to be critical for the success of individuals post- incarceration is assistance on the first day of release. Bonafide has found that many of the little details are commonly overlooked. They meet the released individual at the prison gate, providing then with a cell phone and a backpack full of supplies. They also provide clothes and transportation. Bonafide provides additional post-release assistance with their clients such as helping to orient them with the use of public transportation, opening bank accounts, and filing taxes. They also provide relationship support, especially as it pertains to re-unification after experiencing traumas associated with incarceration. There are about 250 individuals participating in this program (formerly incarcerated and supporters/allies.)

Amanda Berger asked David to expound upon how his organization becomes aware of a prisoner’s release and the needs they may have. David explained that they have a space inside of San Quentin called the *Coalition of Justice*. There is a re-entry leader inside that calls David for regular check-ins and provide updates. David also sends paperwork (via volunteers and mail) that consist of various forms, such as the “pre-parole form,” which allows inmates to think about the services and support they will need post-release to have a successful re-entry, and a questionnaire form which allows David to better assess their needs and prepare for their release.

**Amanda Berger, Insight Garden Program**

The Insight Garden Program offers a 48-week, eco-literacy/inter-gardening curriculum program. They meet with their clients once per week, for two hours, over the course of an entire year. Insight started in San Quentin on the H-Unit and, in 2014 through the CDCR Innovation Grant program, they expanded and are now in nine facilities throughout California, including two health facilities and two women’s facilities. In 2011, Replanting Justice partnered with Insight to hire individuals that matriculated through Insight’s program to work in their Community Gardening Bio-Diverse Nursery on the outside. Replanting Justice visits about once per month and has subsequently hired about 30 individuals post-release. In terms of insights Re-entry bridging work, they are focusing on three places:

1. San Quentin, H-unit
2. Folsom’s Women’s Facility
3. Avenal State Prison, Yard D

They have found that the inmates in Avenal are extremely isolated and are very desperate to receive information around resources and support. They believe that this gap in services and support also contributes to recidivism rates. Insight also uses a transition form to track post release data. Amanda pointed out some of the highlights from a focus group that was conducted with the men on H-Unit (refer to: Re-Entry Bridging Memo Alameda County). She stated that the CDCR counselors are completely overloaded and that the need for smaller caseloads and the ability to work more personally with people is huge! Some of the other concerns that were raised by the focus group included:

* The possibility of having a skype system in all the prisons that would connect parole agents prior to release with participants in their program and other programs so that the relationship building would begin prior to the inmates’ release;
* Job training that matches the market economy;
* Better coordination between volunteer programs and the prison system as it pertains to information and access of resources and support around re-entry needs;
* The ability of inmates to transfer their parole or probation to different counties based on opportunities that are available for them to receive greater services and support (this is more of a legislative initiative);
* More pre-release programs that adequately prepare men and women to deal with post-release realities;
* More formerly incarcerated individuals that have lived experience should have access to all the prisons in the programs (current ongoing dialogue with CDCR);
* Bring PACT meetings inside the prison;
* Funding for innovative pre-release and reentry programs; and
* More focus on the needs of the men on the H-Unit in San Quentin.

Neola indicated that Probation has already started skyping into CDCR. They have gone into 19 prisons thus far and the effort continues to expand. There are currently two dedicated staff members working on this endeavor. Prior to the skyping efforts, there was about a 60% show rate for individuals leaving State prison and reporting to their Probation Officer in Alameda County. The show rate has now improved to about 89% after the introduction of the skyping and various relationship building efforts.

Neola noted that this Workgroup recommended funding for transportation over a year ago and as a result, a Transportation RFP is being released to support the needs of the formerly incarcerated being released from local and state prisons within a 150-mile radius. Neola also mentioned that an RFI was released from CDCR soliciting organizations that could provide transitional programs. The deadline to respond to the RFI is in February. It was requested that Neola re-send the details.

**Undrae Brooks, West Oakland Job Resource Center (WOJRC)**

WOJRC is located at 1801 West Adeline at the Oakland Public Library. Their primary focus is to provide support and assistance to individuals going through apprenticeship programs. WOJRC helps to eliminate barriers that might prevent individuals from participating in apprenticeship programs, such as: fees/expenses, lack of a social security card or driver’s license, etc. They also provide comprehensive training. Orientations are held every Tuesday at 9:30 AM on the second floor of the public library. WOJRC has wonderful connections with great vendors but they do not have the clients to fill all the openings available. Once clients receive an assessment, WOJRC will work with them to meet whatever requirements they have for a specific trade/program.

Questions and Responses

* What are the requirements to participate? ***Response***: We don’t have any requirements.
* What about a high school diploma or GED? ***Response***: That may be needed for specific apprentice programs, but it is not required by us. Once someone becomes a client, we will conduct an one-on-one assessment to determine their needs and work with them to get through those barriers.
* Do you have any data that speaks to placement rates? ***Response***: I don’t have that information with me now, but you can follow up with me after the meeting or contact our organization directly.
* Is this area specific (i.e. Oakland only) or can anyone participate? ***Response***: The program is open to all Alameda County residents and is not restricted or specific to probation/parole candidates only.
* Does WOJRC provide training or is it referred? ***Response***: Some components are referred however, we do provide an in-house math tutoring program. In addition, we host a program dedicated to fathers; we help with transitional employment and other resources.
* Is the training specific to licensure or accreditation to the programs provided by WOJRC or is it referred out to other programs/agencies? ***Response***: WOJRC refers these specialized training components out to other organizations.
* Are you connected with CEO? Does CEO refer folks to you? ***Response:*** Yes

**Natasha Middleton – 2019 Legislation**

The 2019-2020 legislative platform and policy priorities were put forward during one of the weekly Personnel Administration Legislation meeting sessions, chaired by Supervisor Chan and Supervisor Carson. This proposed legislation will be on the Board’s agenda for Tuesday, January 29th. Normally, this platform would be developed annually, but will instead be for two years. All the agencies worked collaboratively to present a unified platform to the Governor’s office. One of the highlights of the platform includes:

* Community based support for reentry – this covers support, rehabilitation and programs providing options for incarcerated and/or returning residents to make safer, healthier, and crime free choices. The County also supports a continued focus on robust, pre-trial services to further improve outcomes and enhance the safety of our communities.

The full final draft on the agenda will be available online, once it gets posted.

At the state level, one of the highlights is the SB10 (Pretrial Services/Bail Reform.) This bill authorizes a change to California’s pretrial release system from a money-based system to risk-based release detention system. This bill was initially supposed to begin in October 2019 but there has been a referendum to repeal SB10, which was primarily backed by the bail industry. A referendum requires that 350,000 signatures be collected; they collected over 400,000 which was certified by the Secretary of State and now that referendum will be on the 2020 ballot. As a result, SB10 is on hold until that election, but in the meantime, the County is still planning to implement pretrial services. On December 13th, Chief Still, the District Attorney, the Public Defender’s Office and the Court made a presentation to the Public Protection Committee on what the plan looks like for pretrial services. This presentation can be found on the BOS website.

On January 10th Governor Newsome released his 2019-20 budget, and in this budget, $75 million has been allocated for pretrial service programs for 8-10 jurisdictions for pilot programs. Alameda County is currently doing the legwork on a pretrial services programs and is currently reviewing funding to determine the amount needed to support this program. One of the major bills that was passed and signed by Governor Brown was the SB840 budget which covered public safety, health and human services, and housing. Millions of dollars were assigned for public safety - $50 million went to community-based reentry and housing support for formerly incarcerated individuals; $250 million in fee revenue from SB2 was earmarked for housing funding; $360 million was allocated for health and human services to increase CalWORKs program recipients and there was also a $200 million one-time fund to hold harmless for those impacted by supplemental security income (SSI) or state supplemented payment (SSP) recipients who will be eligible to receive Cal Fresh benefits. There were also millions of dollars in dedicated funding for BSEC for local corrections planning grants (allocated as follows):

* $50 million for competitive grants for community-based organizations to support offenders formerly incarcerated a in state prison;
* $25 million for rental assistance;
* $15 million for rehabilitation of property or buildings that house offenders released from prison;
* $9.35 million to support the warm hand-off and reentry of offenders transitioning from prisons to communities; and
* $150,000 allocated to the Berkeley Underground Scholars program at UC Berkeley

At the federal level, the First Step Act was signed in December of 2018. This bill provides evidence-based programming to reduce recidivism. It also reduces certain federal mandatory sentences and pre-authorizes several grant programs to approve reentry services. Locally the County has a Second Chance Act grant that the that is allocated for evaluation services and implementation of outcomes.

Also, the government shutdown is really impacting a lot of social services, creating a hardship not only for federal workers, but also folks that are receiving services under federal grants.

Natasha noted that she would provide the hyperlinks for the information referenced in her presentation.

**SERVICE GAPS, CHALLENGES, AND SUCCESSES**

During the latter part of last year, a brainstorming session was conducted regarding service gaps; six recommendations were manifested. One of the recommendations was services for women. The recommendation has been sent to and approved by the Fiscal and Procurement Workgroup, the Community Advisory Board, and is now on the agenda for the Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee. This recommendation is to allocate $1 million for women’s services. There is a follow-up to the recommendation regarding services provided for the TAY population. Maurice Lee was very helpful in providing some clarity around the gaps in services, especially for youth that need substance abuse disorder treatment and at the current moment those youth are receiving treatment with older adults.

Another recommendation was regarding treatment programs that allow fathers to continue having contact with their children. This is currently available for mothers, but not fathers.

The third recommendation focused on including family members of individuals that have been impacted by the criminal justice system as a part of workforce opportunity. Charlie Eddie provided an update regarding this item. He disseminated working drafts of two documents: 1) the Alameda County Reentry Kinship Workforce Project Concept Paper, and; 2) the supporting research paper. The purpose of the Kinship Reentry Workforce Proposal is to create a system of engagement of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated friend/kin network in every sphere of the reentry system of care. There are five main objectives in the proposal:

1. Empower reentry kinship supporters as paraprofessionals in the reentry workforce
2. Honor the lived experience of those impacted and/or affected by the incarceration of loved ones
3. Engage the passion of those supporting successful reentry of loved ones and community members
4. Utilize the gifts, expertise, and skills of loved ones in shaping reentry policy and providing direct services
5. Recognize friends/kin potential value to the reentry workforce

There is a two-year time frame (in various intervals) during which certain activities are to occur within the plan. There were three outcomes listed and a general overview of the funding request. Charlie stated that this proposal as it is evolving is to bring kinship members intentionally into the reentry workforce, to show some respect and appreciation for them, and to provide training so that they will have the credentials and be recognized as paraprofessionals.

* Eliza Patten, Co-Founder, East Bay Family Defenders. They are a new legal defense organization started in September, serving Alameda County parents who are involved with the child welfare system and have an open case in dependency court. They replaced a private panel of attorneys that did the work previously, and they are quite different from their predecessors. Their model is comprised of three core pillars:

1. In an institutional provider: Try to raise the collective voice of parents in the system that’s affecting them.
2. They are interdisciplinary and have a received a small amount of pilot funding to support bringing social workers and parent advocates that are going through the criminal justice and/or child welfare system into the process. These parents are specifically people who have had lived experience, who had their children in foster care and successfully reunified and are able to support and encourage others.
3. Dedicated to developing very strong community partnerships and being connected to the various service providers and community groups that also work with, support, and lift-up the families that are impacted by the child welfare system.

* Family First Prevention Service Act **–** will allow payment for training kinship to support those that are on the path of Reentry/Reunification.

Neola noted that the next step is to conduct a focus group with probation clients to obtain feedback regarding how the type of support they received, if any, from family. Once that is completed, the recommendation should be moved forward to the Fiscal and Procurement Workgroup. Neola thanked Charlie and Valerie Edwards for working on this recommendation.

**Announcements/Events**:

* Local 12 is looking for workers; Oakland residents will receive preference.
* The CCPEC meeting was moved from January 28th to February 4th
* The CCP meeting will occur on January 30th at the Livermore Library.
* A focus group being conducted with PRCS clients to solicit their feedback will occur on January 29th from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at the Transition Day Reporting Center, 400 Broadway, 2nd Floor. If you have any clients that would like to participate, encourage them to attend.
* FATHERHOOD SUMMIT 2019, Saturday March 16 at Merritt College 8AM – 5PM (free admission). Please visit [www.fatherhoodsummit2019.eventbrite.com](http://www.fatherhoodsummit2019.eventbrite.com) to register as an attendee or to volunteer. Probation clients will receive a stipend for volunteering. A free shuttle will run all day from Fruitvale Bart to Merritt College and food will be provided for attendees/volunteers.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on February 28, 2018 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, 1111 Jackson Street, 2nd Floor, Rooms 226-228, Oakland, CA