

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP**  
**PROGRAMS AND SERVICES WORKGROUP MEETING MINUTES**

**WHEN:** SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 FROM 10:00AM – 12:03PM

**WHERE:** MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING

**PRESENT:**

Abernathy, Lisa (Chair)	Davis, Michael	Kelley, Shanice	Rowland, Shawn
Anderson, Deborah	Eady, Rashad	Lim, Diane	Santos, Jacee
Baker, Karen	Eddy, Charlie	Malone, Martin	Siddiq, Sadaf
Bituin, Maria Eleonor	Fernando, Leon	Mason, Joey	Smith, Tim
Brame, Abayomi	Frazier, Donald	McGrath, Kathryn	Temporal, Gina
Brewster, Jamie	Grigsby, Janene	McLean, Gregory	Tolbert, Margaret
Brooks, Rodney	Guillory, Stacey	Mitchell, Kelly	Winter, Kelly
Cheng, Mike	Hobbs, Nathan	O'Neill, Gavin	Wu, Irene
Connor, Shauna	Ibalio, Fidencio	Oddie, Sarah	Additional Guests: 4
Cowan, David	Jones, Horacio	Reed, Angela	

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES** – Meeting minutes from August 27, 2020 were reviewed and approved as written

**III. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. BONAFIDE** – David Cowan, Founding Director

1. Bonafide is a reentry community, comprised of formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, that support individuals being released from prison by providing transportation and other services to those transitioning back into the community; Bonafide also offers technology support (cell phone and computer classes) and relationship workshops
2. As a contracted provider for Alameda County, Bonafide primarily works with clients to provide a ride home:
  - a. Pick up from every prison, except Pelican Bay
  - b. They have drivers who live around the state – drivers go to the closest prison to pick up clients and bring them back to Alameda County
3. Bonafide has completed 74 rides since April, 41 in July alone
4. Bonafide is able to pay drivers, which has been very helpful since many have lost jobs due to COVID
5. Discussion:
  - a. Bonafide started mostly with parolees because of their size and lack of resources to follow people and deal with emergencies; connecting with Alameda County Probation has allowed services to expand
  - b. Contact Information: <https://bonafidelife.org/>
  - c. Bonafide started almost nine years ago and was 100% volunteer based until January 2020
  - d. Many congratulated and thanked David for Bonafide's meaningful and impactful work

## **B. FAMILY REUNIFICATION – Deborah Anderson and Family Reunification Service Providers**

1. The Family Reunification (FR) presentation began with a high-level overview of the services including a definition of Family: Biological and non-biological connections, friends, church members and other pro-social associates and support networks
2. The goal of the FR program is to aid clients in assimilating back into their families and the community, and to reduce recidivism
3. The three FR service providers – CenterForce, Tri-Cities and Chinese for Affirmative Action/Asian Prisoner Support Committee (CAA/APSC) are contracted to serve 320 clients per year
4. The FR Service Delivery Model includes individual program needs assessment; case planning; permanency planning; pre- and post-release services and support; transitional/reentry services and support; and a housing stipend (When enrolled clients live with their family, their family may receive \$800/month for 6-months)
5. **Chinese for Affirmative Action/Asian Prisoner Support Committee – Mike Cheng, Reentry Manager**
  - a. CAA/APSC utilizes trained, formerly incarcerated staff to provide peer support, concrete services, housing stipends for host families and barrier removal/social services
  - b. Clients meet twice a month informally and once formally about their permanency plan
6. **CenterForce – Abayomi Brame, Fatherhood Coordinator; Mike Davis, Lead Parenting Coach; and Charlie, a client**
  - a. Contact: Abayomi Brame, [abrame@centerforce1.org](mailto:abrame@centerforce1.org), (510) 410-3366
  - b. P.A.L.S. (Parenting and Learning for Success) Program Goal: To assimilate clients back into their families and the community as well as establish permanency through parenting classes
  - c. Program Eligibility: (1) Reside in Alameda County, (2) 18 years old or older, (3) parent or primary caregiver of children aged 25 and younger, and (4) supervised by Probation
  - d. Services include family reunification (pre/post services), parenting classes, concrete services, individual case management/peer mentorship, relationship counseling, activities with the children and housing assistance
  - e. Charlie, a client with CenterForce, shared his enjoyment and appreciation of the classes and how they have helped his relationship with his daughter's mother; he also expressed appreciation for the help with groceries for his daughter during COVID and furniture to make his home comfortable for his daughter
  - f. Mike Davis, case manager and lead parenting coach with lived history, shared how crucial it is for clients to have mentorship and guidance from someone with lived experience
7. **Tri-Cities Community Development Agency – Pastor Jones**
  - a. Tri-Cities Family Reunification program is called the Coming Home Project, their motto is "From Bars to Bonding"
  - b. Tri-Cities has a team of case managers, peer specialists and a family therapist to work with parents who have been released from custody (all case managers and peer specialists have lived experience)
  - c. Tri-Cities develops a Personal Empowerment Plan for clients which offers concrete services (housing stipend, transportation vouchers, family outings, school supplies, free food & clothing, gift cards, direct aid, Christmas gifts, etc.) and supportive services (streamlined barrier removal – I.D., DL & SS – and supervised visitation)
8. Referrals: Deputy Probation Officers can refer clients to the FR program via Tyler Supervision

9. FR service providers can conduct outreach and identify potential program participants; and make a request for a referral on behalf of the client

10. Performance Measures

- a. FR providers utilize Results Based Accountability: How much was done? How well was it done? Are participants better off? FR providers submit monthly reports regarding the client and the family: type of concrete services provided, types of barriers removed, date family case plan completed, etc.

11. Discussion:

- a. Do any of the providers work with young people who are leaving the system and need assistance either finding family or healing toxic family relationships?
  - i. FR providers conduct family finding in terms of reunifying clients with their kids — the stipend is part of the healing process and allows individuals to contribute to family
  - ii. Also, an important piece of FR program is to recognize non-biological family connections as well. Pre-pandemic there was a lot of social events (barbeques, hikes, bike rides, etc.) and social service activities; now those activities have been moved to virtual platform, which has changed the dynamics
  - iii. Having clients be able to understand their part in the strained relationship and be able to apologize and show how moving forward they will not repeat that behavior has been very helpful
- b. Can the housing program be extended after six months? No, the housing assistance component cannot be extended. The FR provider works with the client in developing a transition/permanency plan
- c. The FR program has buy-in from Alameda County Housing Authority, Berkeley Housing Authority and Oakland Housing Authority; local authorities are guided by the Federal Government who advised that the \$800/month stipend must be counted towards the family's income
- d. Tri-Cities program is County wide – Counseling is often provided in the home (pre-COVID) and although Tri-Cities primarily serves South and East County, they provide services all throughout the County

**IV. SERVICE GAPS, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES**

A. A recap of program and services gap assessment from August meeting was conducted - the following gaps were discussed:

- 1. Training in client engagement, including specialized training in engaging challenging clients
- 2. COVID-19 specific resources: need for isolation, PPE, food security, etc.
- 3. Real time advise and timing added to the client service portal, Tyler Supervision
- 4. Contract unit to help with follow-up/workload

B. Discussion

1. Diversion

- a. Is diversion in the purview of this workgroup? This workgroup identifies services and gaps and incubates ideas to fill those gaps for the AB 109 population – clients in diversion programs can benefit from AB 109 funded programs
- b. AB 109 funds only go to individuals under Supervision – this is a County decision, not defined by the AB 109 legislation; this workgroup may not be the place to have this discussion, however, AB 109 funds could be used for the entire reentry population if the County decided

- to broaden the scope
- c. Comprehensive gang prevention, which encompasses diversion by prevention and intervention; there is not one in place for the reentry population and there has never been one for the adult population – this program will help redirect violence in Alameda County (Service Gap)
- 2. Current housing contract capacities need to be increased to get staff to address mental health and substance use challenges, and to expand housing opportunities for 290 registrants (Service Gap)
- 3. Warm and friendly gate transport from Santa Rita Jail with supplies to help welcome people home and to orient them
  - a. Currently have approximately 1 inmate released per day; therefore, gap is really for clients released directly from court or bailed
  - b. Created a pilot process with Sherriff's office; Sherriff will notify Probation of these clients and then Probation can arrange transportation
- 4. Bay Area Legal Aid has had an ongoing issue with clients being released from Santa Rita who do not have Medi-Cal; it would be nice for clients to be able to sign-up for Medi-Cal pre-release
  - a. Clients in Santa Rita Jail have access to tablets and can submit a request to start the process pre-release – a multi-disciplined team (Sherriff's office, Behavioral Health and Probation) coordinate with our County partners and CBO's to set up barrier removals for concrete services, housing and link to medical services
  - b. Roots Mobile Trailer allows clients to get connected to services much quicker
    - i. Mobile unit hours and transportation to and from the jail are still gaps being worked on – anyone who is interested in this discussion should attend the next Process and Evaluation meeting
    - ii. A contract is being processed to expand the Mobile Unit's hours and/or add additional transportation
  - c. Tablets are accessible for all at Santa Rita jail who are not a danger to themselves or others (clinical determination)
- 5. Ombudsperson update
  - a. A classification is currently being created for an Ombudsperson who would report directly to the Chief, but whose responsibility would be to the client and their families
  - b. It was suggested that the Ombudsperson have lived experience and the position be autonomous of Probation
  - c. The Probation Department is open to more input regarding the Ombudsman position

## **V. NEXT MEETING**

- A. Thursday, October 22, 2020, 10 AM - 12PM

## **VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Lisa Abernathy is off to a good start; this was a really productive meeting with a lot of great information – Lisa thanked all the providers and clients that shared during the call
- B. **CURRENT CAB VACANCIES** – District 1: (2), District 2: (0), District 3: (2), District 4: (1) and District 5: (0)
- C. **OTHER**
- D. **ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION** – If you have items you would like to submit for distribution, please refer to the [Communication Protocol](#) document for details and email [reentryinfo@acgov.org](mailto:reentryinfo@acgov.org)