

Process and Evaluation Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

September 2, 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

Neola Crosby: Alameda County Probation Department

Shawn Rowland: Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency

Charlie Eddy: Urban Strategies Council

Joey Mason: Alameda County Probation Department

Darryl Stewart: Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley's Office

Myrna Schwartz: Interfaith Coalition for Justice in our Jails (ICJJ)

Sarah Oddie: Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan's Office

Shanice Smith: ROOTS Community Clinic

The meeting started with Shanice Smith giving an overview of the services provided at the Safe Landing trailer outside of Santa Rita Jail, a summary of what she said is listed below:

- The trailer was created to address the issue of people getting released from Santa Rita Jail at odd hours.
- The contract for providing transportation for people released from Santa Rita late in the evening/early morning is on hold.
- Clients who have been released can be connected to CALWORKS and Medi-Cal when they come to the trailer.
- Food is provided in the trailer.

- Referrals can be made to other services provided by ROOTS and other organizations in the community. Clients who are connected to services funded by ROOTS in the community can connect with peer navigators.
- The hours of operation are 2 PM – 10 PM 7 days a week.

After Shanice's opening, attendees engaged in a discussion including some direct questions and answers. A summary of what was discussed is below.

- **Question:** Since the transportation contract is not in place, do you offer clipper cards etc.?
- **Answer:** We offer clipper cards we also have Lyft codes which ROOTS pays for.
- **Question:** How many people do you see?
- **Answer:** Not sure, about 15 -20 people a day.
- **Question:** Are people in the Sheriff's Department letting people know about the trailer?
- **Answer:** Not sure, we are hearing people say, they heard about us.
- We do a monthly report with the number and the services people have requested.
- Connections work best if they happen right away, if we need to follow up often people get lost.
- **Question:** Do you know, the number of people who are released vs. who comes to the trailer?
- **Answer:** We are talking with county staff about who should do the counting, it is unclear if the Sheriff can give us that number.
- **Question:** Does the contract give you a target number of how many people the county wants you to see?
- **Answer:** I do not know.
- The time frame needs to go beyond 10 PM, for people who get released late in the evening.
- **Question:** What about phone charging? Can you give people phones and pay the phone bills?
- **Answer:** We can charge phones but cannot give them away.
- **Question:** Do you have clothes to give away?
- **Answer:** We are working on getting them, it is important now that winter is coming.
- **Question:** When I worked at Santa Rita, we had a taxi program sending people home with needs. I think it is in the budget somewhere. Can we hand out taxi vouchers?

- **Answer:** I will look into it.
- Another problem is recently released inmates run into Dublin Police, who end up bringing them back to jail.
- I will take your questions back to the ROOTS staff and provide the numbers you asked for.
- We need to ask Lucia to send someone from the Sheriff's staff to our next meeting.
- I am concerned about the connection to the services.

This was the final meeting where Neola Crosby would serve as the Probation Department's representative. People summarized/thanked Neola for her support of the workgroup as a way to communicate what they would like to see from Ms. Abernathy moving forward. A summary of what was said is listed below.

- Appreciation of access to the Chief Probation Officer and guidance on how to work with Probation staff.
- Providing support to the Community Advisory Board (CAB.)
- Addressing the issue of allowing people with past convictions to work inside Santa Rita Jail.
- Many in the group opposed Probation staff serving as the County Re-Entry Coordinator, despite that Neola has been great.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06