

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chief Probation Officer Fernando Giraldo called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

A quorum was established, with 7 of 7 Executive Committee Members present [Giraldo, Biggam, Calvo, Hart, Honda, Hall, and Rosell].

MEMBERS PRESENT:

*Fernando Giraldo; *Larry Biggam; * Alex Calvo (on behalf of Superior Court); *Jim Hart; *Mimi Hall; *Chief David Honda; *Jeff Rosell; Ryan Coonerty; Jeanette Valencia; Andrew Stone; Faris Sabbah

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Randy Morris; Karen Delaney

* Notes Executive Committee Member

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chief Giraldo provided an overview of the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Hart made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 22, 2020. The motion was seconded by Jeff Rosell. There was no discussion.

MOTION: (M) Hart (S) Rosell All in favor Motion carried unanimously (Biggam no response)

IV. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Sheriff Hart reported that as of Monday, March 15th fifty Santa Cruz County inmates were vaccinated with the COVID vaccine and plan on one hundred more by the end of the week. They are adding educational materials to better inform inmates about the vaccine and increase compliance percentages. Chief Giraldo added that the Juvenile Hall plans on providing educational session and vaccines for the youth as well.

V. REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Report on CAFES (Proposition 47) Program

Yolanda James-Sevilla, Assistant Division Director, provided a brief update on the Proposition 47, Coordinated Access for Empowering Services (CAFES) Program. Approximately 180 people have been screened and served by the program to date and those that didn't meet the criteria were referred to other eligible funding streams. Of those screened, 97 received discharge planner services and 78 were served by Peer Navigators for mentorship and assistance accessing birth certificates, drivers license, and cell phones. CAFES provides critical support to the Collaborative Courts: from October through December 2020, Parole Reentry Court had 15 participants with 5 graduates; and Veteran's Court had 42 participants with 7 graduates. CAFES funding also supports a wide-reaching training program, including a recent training on Community Resiliency with 12 attending, and a training on Crisis and De-escalation with 62 attendants. Tara George, Chief Deputy District Attorney, reported on the neighborhood court program's progress. The District Attorney's Office with the Conflict Resolution

Center successfully trained 24 volunteers; held 11 conferences with community members and offenders; held individual meetings with 1 on 1 with participants, offenders, and officers involved; and offenders have created videos to warn others of the perils of crimes committed. She also mentioned that they are still recruiting for bilingual volunteers.

B. Probation Service Center Update

Deutron Kebebew, Founder and Executive Director of MENtors, discussed how the Probation Service Center (PSC) provides services and support to clients, and the facility's current level of openness. In this last year, the PSC had to quickly adapt and pivot to address the needs of the clients while meeting the changing requirements of public health orders. The PSC has provided blended services via Zoom and tech trainings to assist clients in moving forward during these difficult times. Currently, PSC with LCA, the employment provider, just launched "Project Employment". Services are provided in multiple modalities, including socially distanced face-to-face and small classes (6 people maximum), as well as extensive use of phone and web-based distance service delivery. Prior to COVID closures, the highest monthly volume of clients attending was 362: since re-opening for modified services last June the center has averaged 109 clients per month.

C. In-Custody Programming Update

Kristie Clemens, Inmate Programs Manager, gave a brief overview of the status of in-custody programming. Due to COVID, core curriculum was converted into weekly independent study packets and limited tele-class delivery. This has allowed for an increase in enrollment of about 50%. For this FY, five inmates have attained their high school diploma, with more graduations tomorrow Wednesday, March 17th. Competitive BSCC funding continues to support the RSAT at Blaine Street Women's Facility, and the Sheriff's Office has applied for continuation funding, and should hear back by June.

D. AB109 Funding Projections for FY 2021-22

The Governor's proposed budget for FY 21-22 includes an increase in AB109 funding from current fiscal year. Given the considerable variability of this funding during the past year and a half, the Probation Department recommend that the Community Corrections Partnership maintain all AB109 treatment and intervention service agreements at the current level, utilizing carryover funding if needed and contingent on funding levels in the May Revised State Budget, expand existing services agreements and/or develop new competitive processes to provide additional services in the priority areas of south county services coordination, transitional housing, employment readiness, racial equity, and cross-system data integration.

Chief Honda made the motion to accept the Probation Department's recommendations.

MOTION: (M) Honda (S) Calvo All in favor Motion carried unanimously

E. Santa Cruz County Data Dashboard Presentation

Sven Stafford, CAO Principal Administrative Analyst, gave a presentation on equity vs. equality and how the County plans to embed equity measures in its new two-year Operational Plan. He provided a timeline that the departments will follow in developing their plans to be included in the County plan that will be adopted by the Board in September.

F. Probation Racial Equity Initiative

Chief Giraldo introduced the Probation Department's plan to embed equity into its Operational Plan objectives. This includes a four-phase plan to identify and address disparities in probation outcomes. Strategies to address racial disparities will include the development of South County Service Hub to replicate the one-stop service mode of the Probation Service Center; expanding the availability of reentry and services available for monolingual Spanish speakers; and implementation of a Probation Racial Equity Initiative in partnership with the Haywood Burns Institute for all-staff engagement and policy development.

G. Community Education and Engagement Work Group Report

Sarah Emmert, United Way Director of Community Impact, and Jeanette Valencia, District Attorney's Office Victim Advocate, reported back on the February 3rd Shared Safety Community Forum: Working Together to Build Safety for all. The forum featured sixteen guest speakers who showcased efforts to promote shared safety at the national, state, and local level. Out of the 101 attendees, 87% strongly agree to agree that they see a connection between problems that affect the community, and the role shared safety can play. Upcoming events include a youth-focused Shared Safety Community Dialog on April 12 and an adult-focused Shared Safety Community Dialog on April 14, both co-sponsored by United 4 Youth, COPA, and the City of Watsonville.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next CCP Meeting: TBD, location TBD