

Community Corrections Partnership



Plan Update

Strategies for FY 2023-2024

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Executive Summary

This document presents the Butte County Community Corrections Partnership's (CCP) AB 109 Public Safety Realignment Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Under the direction of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), Butte County Public Safety Agencies including Probation, the Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney, and Public Defenders, together with the Butte County Superior Court and other key partners, including the Department of Employment and Social Services and Butte County Behavioral Health developed a plan focused on maintaining the highest level of public safety and ultimately, striving to reduce recidivism.

The CCP's recommended Public Safety Realignment Plan for FY 2023-2024 augments its prior plan, achieves state objectives, and represents a balanced approach to addressing the challenges of realignment. The CCP recognizes that this plan will continue to evolve and be refined in future fiscal years to meet new challenges.

Realignment Background

In an effort to address overcrowding in California's prisons and assist in alleviating the State's financial crisis, the Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109) was signed into law on April 4, 2011. Enactment of AB109 resulted in fundamental changes to California's correctional system. AB109 transferred responsibility for supervising specified inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to counties. On June 30, 2011, Governor Brown signed a series of legislative bills as part of the State budget that provided funding and made necessary technical changes to implement the Public Safety Realignment Act, which went into effect on October 1, 2011.

Realignment transferred responsibility for supervising non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offender individuals upon release from State Prison to County Probation in lieu of being supervised by State Parole. Further, any non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offender individuals sentenced after October 1, 2011, are no longer eligible to serve their prison sentence in State Prison and instead must serve it at the County Jail.

Key components of public safety realignment included the following:

- Revised the definition of felony which allows non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenders to serve their sentences in local county jails instead of state prisons.
- Transferred responsibility to counties for post release supervision of lower-level offenders with the creation of Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) offender category.
- Established that PRCS-eligible offenders released from state prison on or after October 1, 2011, after serving a state prison term for a felony, shall, upon release from state prison and for a period not exceeding three years immediately following release, be subject to community supervision provided by county probation.
- Authorized counties to use a wide range of community-based options for enhanced local custody and supervision provided by local public safety entities directly or through public or private correctional service providers.
- Required the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) to recommend a plan to the county Board of Supervisors for implementation of 2011 Public Safety Realignment, which must be voted on by an Executive Committee of each county's CCP.

Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)

Chief Probation Officer, Chair

Melissa Romero

Sheriff

Kory Honea

Chief of Police, Chico

Billy Aldridge

District Attorney

Mike Ramsey

Public Defender

Nicole Diamond

Presiding Judge

Kimberly Merrifield

Director, Behavioral Health

Scott Kennelly

Chief Administrative Officer

Andy Pickett

Director, Employment and Social Services

Shelby Boston

Butte County Office of Education

Mary von Rotz Sakuma

Butte County CCP FY 2022-2023

Probation Department

Supervision Strategies

The Probation Department is dedicated to providing the highest level of community supervision in order to reduce recidivism and ensure community safety. The Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) and Mandatory Supervision (MS) units were created to allow for smaller caseload ratios to ensure frequent interaction either in the office or out in the community.

The PRCS/MS unit provides supervision, intervention, and case management consistent with evidence-based practices. A cornerstone of all these practices is a validated risk and need assessment tool. At the onset of supervision, officers will utilize the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA) tool to determine criminogenic needs. The ONA is the driver for targeted case plans that include services and interventions based on the offender's individualized needs.

Probation utilizes the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) for enhanced supervision. The global positioning system (GPS) is used to closely monitor high risk offenders transitioning out of state prison or county jail, and those with victim sensitive cases. Officers can easily access information such as caseload, risk level, device battery level, and whether or not the offender is out of their allowed zone.

Additionally, the PRCS/MS unit engages multiple partners and community agencies in a collaborative effort to provide individualized support and structure for post release offenders as they transition back into the community.

Programs

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Courage to Change:

The Probation Department continues to utilize the Change Companies Interactive Journaling program. The Interactive Journaling approach offers a change-focused, participant-driven resource for effectively guiding targeted populations through the process of life change. This innovative approach is an evidence based practice.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT):

The Probation Department facilitates MRT groups. MRT is a systematic, cognitive-behavioral, step by step, treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning. Over 120 outcome studies show that MRT significantly increased moral reasoning levels, enhances life purpose, facilitates increased social support, and gives participants more perceived control over their lives. MRT is widely recognized as an evidence based practice by numerous official governmental agencies and treatment authorities.

Family Engagement

Strengthening Families:

The Probation Department facilitates the Strengthening Families Program. Strengthening Families is a nationally and internationally recognized parent and family strengthening program for high-risk families and regular families. The program is an evidence based family skills training program and has been found to significantly reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and alcohol and drug use in children. It also improves social competencies and school performance. The program is designed to decrease maltreatment of children as parents strengthen the bond with their children and learn effective parenting skills. It was originally developed for substance abusing parents.

Employment and Education

Job Readiness Workshops:

The Butte County Probation Department hosts bi-monthly Job Readiness Workshops at the Chico Probation Office. This 5 session workshop is taught by Alliance for Work Force Development (AWFD). These workshops prepare participants to acquire and maintain

employment. Participants will learn basic employability skills such as communication, problem solving, resumé building, and strategies for successful interviews.

Education:

The Probation Department works closely with the Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) and Oroville Adult School to assist offenders with obtaining their high school diploma or GED.

Community Resources

Behavioral Health:

The Probation Department provides office space for Behavioral Health counselors to meet with individuals once they are released on PRCS/MS. This arrangement allows for improved communication and enhances offenders' access to needed services.

Sober Living Environments:

A large majority of individuals released on PRCS/MS present with substance use diagnoses. A need was identified for supportive housing that offers services and structure. Sober Living Environments often provide a safe and supportive interim housing option for offenders during their transition back into the community. SLE's have house rules, random drug testing, and mandatory curfews.

Sheriff's Office

Supervision Strategies

The Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) program is focused on providing intensive supervision, case management and rehabilitative services as an alternative to incarceration for offenders serving either county prison or county jail sentences. While on the ACS program, offenders engage in evidence-based rehabilitative programming, employment readiness training, gain and/or maintain employment, and facilitate a successful transition back into the community. Additionally, the Alternative Custody Supervision program supervises pretrial inmates who have been court ordered to be subject to monitoring via an Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) while on release.

A Static Risk Assessment (SRA) is utilized to determine ACS program eligibility. This validated assessment weighs numerous factors including history of compliance to conditions of prior community release, severity of current/previous convictions, and community stability factors. Additionally, offenders must meet the following requirements:

- Sentenced to complete a term in county jail or county prison.
- No documented in-custody disciplinary incidents.
- No outstanding extraditable warrants, wants or detainers.
- Meet all criteria for participation per Penal Code 1170.06.

Offenders participating in ACS programming are subject to 24 / 7 oversight by a team of up to nine fulltime ACS Deputies. Each offender is assigned to an ACS Deputy, who ensures compliance with program guidelines, state, and federal laws. ACS utilizes an EMP provided by an outside contractor, Sentinel Offender Services, to aid in this endeavor. The global positioning system (GPS) allows ACS Deputies to access information such as demographics, risk level, device battery level, and current/historic location data. ACS offenders are limited to the geographic restrictions of their approved residence, workplace, and the Butte County Sheriff's Office Day Reporting Center (DRC) unless otherwise permitted by Alternative Custody Supervision personnel.

ACS offenders are required to reside in approved residences within the County of Butte. These residences include privately owned/leased homes, apartments, trailers, county funded sober living environments, and residential treatment facilities. Approval of a residence is at the discretion of Alternative Custody Supervision personnel and may include the following factors:

- Health and safety factors as related to the structure of the house, apartment, trailer, or facility.

- Criminal history of any co-residents or history of criminal activity at the residence or facility.
- Functionality of GPS monitoring equipment in relation to geographical location of residence or facility.
- Legal standing of occupancy as related to ownership or lease of property.

ACS offenders receive rehabilitative programming and counseling from case managers provided by Sentinel Offender Services. Upon transfer to ACS, offenders are assessed utilizing the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA), a validated assessment tool used to determine the criminogenic factors unique to the offender. From this assessment, individualized case plans are developed to include services and interventions based on the offender's needs.

Programs

The following rehabilitative classes are provided by case managers to offenders based upon the determination of the offender's ONA:

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT):

MRT is a systematic, cognitive-behavioral treatment strategy designed to enhance self-image, promote growth of a positive productive identity, and facilitate the development of higher stages of moral reasoning.

Coping with Anger:

Addresses thought patterns, irrational beliefs, and inappropriate behaviors that manifest in response to feelings of anger. The course focuses on redirecting an offender's focus from feelings of anger to rational thinking and behavior as related to the individual's response to negative stimuli.

Staying Quit (Relapse Prevention):

Provides evidence-based strategies that assist offenders in avoiding relapse by identifying triggers, developing coping mechanisms, interacting with peers, and creating an action plan.

Parenting and Family Values:

Provides cognitive behavioral strategies to aid offenders in raising healthy children.

Something for Nothing (Theft Awareness):

Targets shoplifters and those with theft-related offenses.

Taking the High Road (Drug Education):

Provides information regarding the most commonly abused substances and presents an opportunity for offenders to draw connections between substance abuse and their personal/familial relationships.

Breaking the Chains of Trauma:

Provides an in-depth examination of past traumatic experiences and the role these experiences play in shaping an offender's behaviors.

Thinking for Good:

Seeks to gain recognition of maladaptive thought processes and their influence on the rehabilitative process.

Craving Identification Management:

Allows offenders to assess their relapse risks and develop individual response plans.

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office collaborates with multiple community partners in an effort to enrich the offenders' rehabilitative experiences and establish familiarity with providers as offenders' transition back into the community.

Butte College:

Provides college-level certificate courses taught on-site on a variety of subjects. Current and previous coursework includes:

- Career and Life Planning (CLP)
- Basic Wildland Firefighting
- Irrigation Systems Design
- Surveying

Catalyst Domestic Violence Services:

Provides domestic violence awareness and prevention classes on-site.

Butte County Office of Education:

Guides offenders through the process of obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent.

University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Provides on-site courses to improve healthy eating habits and related meal preparation.

Butte County Public Health:

Provides on-site sexual health instruction and testing.

Alliance for Work Force Development:

Provides on-site job readiness workshops and employment placement counseling.

Probation and Community (PAC) Meetings:

Provides offenders access to local agencies and community-based organizations in a one-stop format.

Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services:

Provides on-site access to public aid enrollment and employment services.

Butte County Library:

Provides on-site literacy services and tutoring.

Butte Community Based Coalition:

Provides on-site vocational training through their Restoration Cycles program.

In-Custody Programs

The Sheriff's Office provides in-custody programming to individuals incarcerated in the Butte County Jail. Classes/services are facilitated by Sentinel Offender Services and community partner personnel, and are offered at various times based upon need, personnel availability, and inmate classification.

Community Service Programs

The Sheriff's Office provides offenders the opportunity to gain practical life skills, vocational training, and establish a personal investment in the community.

Butte County Sheriff's Office Parks Crew:

Under the supervision of a BCSO Deputy, offenders work in various parks throughout the county completing infrastructure maintenance and environmental improvement projects.

Butte County Sheriff's Office Road Crew:

Under the supervision of a BCSO Deputy, offenders work throughout the county completing road and vegetation maintenance projects.

Butte County Sheriff's Office Fire Safe Crew:

In partnership with the local Fire Safe Council and under the supervision of a BCSO Deputy, offenders work in remote areas of the county on fuel abatement projects.

Internships

The Sheriff's Office offers the following internships at the ACS Day Reporting Center:

California State University, Chico Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice:

Hosts up to five criminal justice undergraduate students per semester. Students observe programming, collect/analyze data, and research community resources.

California State University, Chico School of Social Work:

Hosts one social work graduate student per year. Student is exposed to micro, mezzo, and macro levels of social work. Student provides direct counseling services to offenders, develops programs, researches grants, and evaluates program policy.

Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS)

DESS receives CCP funding for an Employment Case Manager as well as an Employment and Eligibility Specialist. The Employment Case Manager works with and provides support to the offender population with the goal of employment. Supportive Services are available to assist with employment and/or training opportunities. Case Management is also provided along with referrals to community partners and resources. The Employment and Eligibility Specialist works to link the offender population to services and supports including eligibility and enrollment for critical benefits. These benefits include initial and continuing eligibility of applicants for social service programs including General Assistance, SSI, Medi-Cal, and nutritional support through Cal Fresh. In addition, CCP funds a .5FTE Housing Navigator. This Housing Navigator works in the field targeting homeless justice involved individuals to secure housing and supports.

Behavioral Health (BCDBH)

Through its CCP allocation, Butte County Department of Behavioral Health provides mental health assessments and treatment to individuals who are referred from probation. At the initial appointments, level of care needs are determined, and clinically appropriate mental health services are provided by BCDBH clinicians/counselors, SUD specialists and medical staff to include a nurse and psychiatrist. Referrals may also be made to local community providers when deemed clinically appropriate.

Behavioral Health has developed a continuum of treatment services comprised of assessment, individual therapy, rehabilitation services, SUD treatment, group treatment, and medication services. These services are available to referred individuals who have mental health and SUD related impairments in their functioning that interfere with their ability to perform required tasks in multiple areas of their life. These services are provided directly by BCDBH staff as well as by community-based providers to include local clean and sober living facilities, inpatient drug and alcohol treatment, Alliance for Workforce Development, Department of Rehabilitation, BCDBH Outpatient Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Strengthening Families and local community support groups, among others. The services provided by BCDBH staff are meant to assist individuals in successful re-entry into the community with the goal of self-sufficiency, reintegration into family, employment, civic participation, community, and a reduction of recidivism. There are resources to provide clients with basic needs provisions such as food, clothing, and household items on a limited basis to assist in recovery and or job-related activities

Research shows a high percentage of offenders released from custody have co-occurring substance use disorders (SUD) and/or mental health disorders and many of them commit crimes related to their disorders. Outpatient Substance Use Treatment is provided by a BCDBH counselor through the use of individual or group therapy services. The BCDBH AB 109 program has a certified substance abuse counselor who provides an assessment of substance use needs, in addition to mental health assessment. Individuals in the program may also be referred to an outpatient SUD program which is a separate SUD unit from AB109. This program provides intensive SUD treatment and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) if needed. BCDBH works collaboratively with probation officers to report on client adherence to their terms and conditions related to their mental health and/or SUD treatment and can provide progress reports verbally or in writing to either support or hold accountable, individuals enrolled in BCDBH treatment.

To increase access to care, BCDBH has been provided office space at the Probation Department to meet with clients for the initial intake assessments and to determine eligibility and willingness to participate in MH treatment. When an individual is identified as high risk/ high needs and does not come in for an assessment voluntarily, outreach services can be provided in the field to work at increasing engagement with BCDBH Services.

District Attorney

The District Attorney's allocation of CCP funds supports a Victim Witness Advocate, who works diligently to assist victims of crime. The mission of the District Attorney's Office Victim Assistance Bureau is to reduce the trauma that victims may experience and to improve the criminal justice system's understanding of the needs of victims. The Victim Assistance Bureau offers support and information about victims' rights by providing services such as case status updates, victim impact statement assistance, information regarding restitution, jail and prison release information, court and parole hearing escorts, referral to community services, and application preparation to California Victim Compensation Board.

Public Defender

The Public Defender Consortium established a Butte County Public Defender Post Release Office to assist offenders realigned through AB109. This office represents all offenders subject to a petition for revocation of PRCS under Penal Code section 3451. Additionally, this office provides an innovative blend of legal, social, and practical support to ensure appropriate outcomes for persons on PRCS.

CCP Approved AB 109 Budget *

(Adopted by Butte County Board of Supervisors on June 27, 2023)

Probation Department		FY 23-24
<p><i>Probation utilizes CCP funds to provide comprehensive case management and supervision services to PRCS and MS populations.</i></p> <p><i>Budget includes staffing, equipment, ongoing supervision costs, housing, and treatment programs</i></p> <p><i>(Budget adjusted \$45,000, vehicle not received)</i></p>		
	Total	\$4,281,200

Sheriff's Office		FY 23-24
<p><i>The Sheriff's Office allocation funds the Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) program and Day Reporting Center (DRC).</i></p> <p><i>Budget includes staffing, programming contracts, housing, and equipment</i></p>		
	Total	\$5,907,644

Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS)		FY 23-24
<p><i>DESS receives CCP funding for an eligibility specialist who works at the DRC. DESS also provides a case manager and Housing Navigator for the PRCS and MS populations</i></p> <p><i>Budget includes a part-time employment and eligibility specialist, a Housing Navigator, and an employment case manager</i></p>	Total	\$205,561

Behavioral Health Department		FY 22-23
<p><i>Behavioral Health’s allocation funds mental health assessments to individuals referred to Probation. Programs and services are provided by Behavioral Health</i></p> <p><i>Budget includes staffing, equipment, contracted services, housing, and client support</i></p>	Total	\$1,420,452

District Attorney Office		FY 22-23
<p><i>The District Attorney’s allocation funds a Victim Advocate who works diligently with local partners and supports victims throughout the criminal justice process.</i></p> <p><i>Budget includes a victim witness advocate position</i></p>	Total	\$86,683

* A mid-year budget adjustment may be necessary and will be brought before the CCP for approval.

Objectives

Butte County Public Safety Realignment Plan Objectives:

- Reduce recidivism among offenders to enhance public safety.
- Provide programming for offenders both in custody, as well as out of custody, and continue to use validated risk assessments to inform programming decisions.
- Provide effective supervision and programming to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) offenders that ensure public safety and use evidence-based practices in reducing recidivism.
- Provide effective supervision and programming to Mandatory Supervision (MS) offenders that ensures public safety and uses evidence-based practices in reducing recidivism.
- Provide effective supervision and programming to Alternative Custody Supervision (ACS) offenders that ensures public safety and uses evidence-based practices in reducing recidivism.

Conclusion

The Butte County Community Corrections Partnership Plan is intended to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing public safety by maximizing strategies to effectively address recidivism. Elements of the plan manage offenders returning to Butte County from state prison and those who are committed to serve their sentences locally instead of state prison.

The CCP Executive Committee thanks the numerous county, city, and community partners for their commitment in the development of the plan. Their continued support and collaboration will be required to ensure the safety of our community and a successful plan outcome.