

County of Kern Public Safety Realignment Act FY 2024/25 Plan

(Approved by CCP 06/12/2024)

(Approved by Kern County Board of Supervisors 06/25/2024)



Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee

William P. Dickinson, Chief Probation Officer (Chairperson)

Tara Leal, Chief Executive Officer of the Superior Court

Greg Terry, Chief-Bakersfield Police Department

Peter Kang, Public Defender

Alison Burrowes, Director-Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner

Cynthia Zimmer, District Attorney

Table of Contents

AB 109 Background	3
Existing Implementation	4
Strategic Plan for Factors Affecting Growth Funds	6
Evidence-Based Programming	8
Data Collection, Research, and Analysis	10
FY 2024/25 Plan	12
I. Probation Department	13
II. Sheriff's Office	20
III. Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services Department	27
IV. Employers' Training Resource	39
V. District Attorney's Office	41
VI. Public Defender's Office	43
VII. Street Interdiction Team	45
VIII. Community-Based Organizations Program	46
IX. Veterans Service Department	48
X. Contingency Funds	50
Allocation of Realignment Funds	51

AB 109 Background

Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109), the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011, was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on April 4, 2011. It became effective on October 1, 2011. This Act, along with numerous trailer bills, made major changes to the criminal justice system in California. With these changes has come a large shift of responsibilities passed from the State to the Counties.

Some of the most significant changes in the law that Realignment brought include the following:

- Certain felonies, often referred to as Non, Non, Nons (non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex offenses), are no longer punishable by a state prison term. Instead, these felony charges are only eligible for county jail sentences.
- Certain offenders released from State prison are no longer released on State parole but instead are released on “Post Release Community Supervision” (PRCS). These offenders are supervised by the Probation Department.
- Most offenders on State parole and all offenders on PRCS will now serve time in county jail for violations instead of State prison.
- The Court and not the State Parole Board began hearing violations of PRCS offenders. On July 1, 2013, the Court also began hearing violations of offenders on State Parole.
- The law states that counties should focus on using alternative sanctions and evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism (PC 17.5) more effectively.

AB 109 also created the Executive Committee of the previously established Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). This committee is responsible for creating and presenting a plan to the County Board of Supervisors regarding allocation of funds and implementation of policies and procedures related to Realignment. The plan is deemed accepted unless the Board of Supervisors rejects the plan with a four-fifths vote against. In such a circumstance, the plan is returned to the CCP for further consideration.

Existing Implementation

Each fiscal year since October 1, 2011, the Kern County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved the Kern County Public Safety Realignment Act Plan as recommended by the Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) as mandated by Penal Code Section 1230.1. These plans have directed funding to numerous county agencies and community organizations to account for the additional public safety burden placed on the County. The plans included a mix of intense supervision, evidence-based assessments and treatment, mental health services, substance use treatment, a day reporting center, increased jail capacity, jail incarceration alternatives, employment services, community-based organizations, District Attorney and Public Defender staff, multiagency law enforcement operations, and veteran services.

The CCP understood from the beginning that the Realignment process would evolve and change as it moved forward. The CCP acknowledged the need to be flexible in its approach to address aspects of Realignment as the practical and logistical realities presented themselves. The keys to making Realignment successful include the collection of data, communication between community partners, and a willingness to find solutions which best benefit our community.

There have been both successes and struggles since the beginning of Realignment. Challenges include the sheer number of realigned offenders that continue to be significantly higher than projected (Tables 1 and 2). These higher than anticipated numbers put a strain on all CCP partners in the form of higher supervision caseloads and increased need for a variety of community services. The limited amount of State dedicated funds for Kern County has also been a challenge. This puts Kern County at a disadvantage compared to other counties who have considerably more resources to devote to services. The CCP developed a strategic plan to address the performance elements which will impact the amount Kern receives in Growth funding (the strategic plan is discussed in greater detail below). While Kern County has taken many positive and innovative steps to address Realignment, additional steps are needed; however, limited funding may restrict implementation.

There have been many positive actions taken by the CCP in response to Realignment. All parties involved in implementation have been fully engaged and worked together to make this difficult transition as successful as possible. By incorporating AB 109 legislative intent and ideas, Kern County is currently doing the following:

- Implementing evidence-based programs that produce longer-lasting, positive results
- Utilizing Sheriff's Virtual Jail to allow and monitor conditional releases, which can save millions of dollars compared to incarceration
- Improving inter-departmental cooperation in addressing specific issues and goals to improve communication, form partnerships, and expand services
- Creating employment services and paid work experience programs
- Providing a Pre-Trial Release Program
- Reorganizing department workloads and units for maximization of efficiency related to implementation of AB 109 programs

- Operating the Day Reporting Center, which produces pivotal changes in anti-social behaviors of offenders
- Expanding in-custody educational, vocational, and evidence-based programs to provide the necessary tools to reduce recidivism
- Utilizing the community-based organizations (CBO) program, which provides a multitude of services to offenders
- Applying information gained from the criminal justice system benefit-cost analysis developed through collaboration with the national Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative
- Operating the Probation Department's Adult Programs Center, which has an emphasis on evidence-based programming focused on changing anti-social behavior
- Providing screenings and assessments while individuals are incarcerated to assist with linkage to outpatient services
- Addressing the mental health and substance use of individuals served and reduce recidivism days of hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness
- Providing intensive outpatient treatment to AB 109 individuals who do not respond to traditional outpatient treatment

The CCP is dedicated to ensuring Realignment will be as successful as possible. Reviewing and revising the plan each year, provides the impetus for a strategic continuous improvement process.

Table 1 – PRCS and Mandatory Supervision Offenders (Sentenced under 1170-h)

Time Period	PRCS Packets Received	PRCS Population* (Snapshot as of May 1,2024)	Offenders Sentenced to MS (As of May 1,2024)	MS Population* (Snapshot as of May 1,2024)
Oct 2011-May 1,2024	12,365	2,290	4,593	726

*Includes those on warrant status

Table 2 – AB 109 Population Impacts to Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)

Time Period	Parole Violators Received	Probation PRCS Violators PC 3455(A)	Probation Flash Violators PC 3454(C)	AB 109 NNN Population Received	Total AB 109 Population Impact to KCSO
Oct 2011-April 11, 2024	25,129	19,826	2,500	10,257	64,216

Strategic Plan for Factors Affecting Growth Funds

In October 2014, the CCP approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning committee to develop a strategic plan specifically to address the factors affecting AB 109 Growth funds which became performance-based beginning with the Growth funds received in the Fall of 2016. In December 2014, the CCP contracted with a consultant to assist in the development of the plan. From January to May 2015, over 250 various community, agency and offender stakeholders were engaged through personal interviews and surveys. Many of them also participated in one of three stakeholder sessions which elicited their input regarding gaps, barriers, community resources, and innovative programming for the criminal justice community of Kern County. Their input was captured into five key focus areas. From the data collected, the Ad Hoc committee developed Mission, Vision, and Values statements (listed below) which were approved at the July 15, 2015, CCP meeting. The Strategic Plan is a fluid document as the CCP proceeds with refining and further developing Strategic Plan initiatives.

The Strategic Plan was relied heavily upon when determining the focus areas for the Request for Applications (RFA) released in September 2015, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) released in June 2016, June 2018, and June 2022. The CCP will continue to utilize the Strategic Plan when determining areas of need for the adult criminal justice population.

Mission:

The Community Corrections Partnership is committed to working together in order to promote a safer community through effective strategies.

Vision:

The Community Corrections Partnership provides leadership through the partnering agencies and partnerships with the community to encourage, support, and network effectively for a safer community by doing the following:

- **Decrease criminal recidivism through data-driven decision making which addresses substance use, criminogenic factors, and mental health issues**
- **Increase offenders' successful reintegration into the community using research-based strategies and interventions**

- Encourage and support effective prevention strategies for members in the community
- Create opportunities for self-sufficiency among offenders

Values:

Community Safety: The CCP is committed to decisions which prioritize a safe and secure community, which increases the quality of life for all people in Kern County.

Accountability: The CCP holds itself and its partners to all established standards, agreements, and policies.

Fiscally Responsible: The CCP believes in being good fiscal stewards of the public funds entrusted to the Partnership.

Research Matters: The CCP recognizes the importance of outcome-driven decision making by implementing current research and evidence-based practices.

Transparency: The CCP meetings are open to the public, all reports and agendas are available for review, and public input is welcomed.

Change: The CCP acknowledges people can change when they are willing and provided the opportunity and resources to succeed.

Evidence-Based Programming

Realignment encourages counties to focus on community-based corrections programs and evidence-based practices. To this end, Kern County has focused on the use of proven assessment tools, evidence-based practices, and the addition of evidence-based programs specifically to reduce recidivism and ensure public safety.

The Kern County Probation Department and Sheriff's Office utilize the Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA). The SRNA can accurately predict the level of an offender's risk to recidivate which allows targeted supervision for those at higher risk to re-offend. These departments have also implemented the dynamic needs portion of the assessment tool, the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA is a critical aspect of Programming and Supervision plans that focus on addressing the specific criminogenic needs of the offender.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' (KernBHRS) Substance Use Disorder Division bases screening and assessment on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria that covers six dimensions including withdrawal potential, biomedical conditions, psychiatric conditions, motivation for recovery, relapse or other problem potential and recovery environment. The Stressful Life Experiences Screening (SLES) is utilized in substance use disorder treatment programs in order to gauge trauma that individuals may have experienced and to address it in a trauma-informed environment. These tools are strength-based, multidimensional assessments that address the patient's needs, barriers, liabilities, and willingness to participate in treatment. The screening tools also incorporate clients' strengths, resources, and support structure within their environment. These assessments are utilized in the creation of treatment plans in order to accurately place individuals into programming. Departments are committed to continuing to implement the use of assessments as a valuable evidence-base tool to most effectively serve the AB 109 population.

In addition to utilizing these various assessment tools, Probation Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, and KernBHRS staff have been trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI). MI is a conversational method that assists staff with developing intrinsic motivation within clients in order to change behavior. Once a Supervision, Programming, and/or Treatment plan is developed individuals are referred to various evidence-based programs.

Evidence-based programs are valuable assets due to their significant reduction of recidivism when completed with fidelity. The Probation Department's Adult Programs Center (APC) provides validated evidence-based programs to address specific criminogenic needs. APC offers Thinking for a Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) and utilizes Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) which is an evidence-based approach to case management.

The Sheriff's Office Programs Unit of the Compliance Section has partnered with the KernBHRS' Substance Use Disorder Division and Correctional Behavioral Health to provide evidence-based curriculum to individuals in custody. Inmates are offered ART, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Matrix Program, MRT, Seeking Safety, and T4C. The classes equip offenders with new ways of

thinking, substance use disorder treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and coping skills. KernBHRS also provides these programs as outpatient services after release from custody.

The Joint Evaluation Team (JET), a distinct subset of the Mobile Evaluation Team (MET), is an AB 109 co-response team uniquely qualified to assess an individual's crisis care service needs and simultaneously address public safety. JET incorporates a co-response model and is comprised of a staff member from KernBHRS and an officer from the Kern County Sheriff's Office. JET responds to crisis situations and visits a prioritized list of AB 109 individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorder issues. This collaborative approach places a law enforcement officer and member of KernBHRS in the same vehicle for the first time in Kern County, increasing the level of collaborative crisis care services. This collaboration leads to better service for individuals in crisis and heightened public safety.

A key component to the success of evidence-based programming is attributed to the collaboration between CCP agencies. The Probation Department shares data such as SRNA scores with the Sheriff's Office which is used as an added element for release and programming decisions. There is also a high level of inter-departmental cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and KernBHRS.

Many evidence-based programs offered to clients are facilitated by CCP agencies. These collaborative efforts foster greater communication and helps contribute to the success of programs. The increased use of evidence-based tools and inter-departmental cooperation is a positive by-product of Realignment.

Data Collection, Research, and Analysis

The passage of AB 109 compelled department heads to review the amount of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration that currently existed between county agencies. As a result, the department heads sought to gain an understanding of what impact AB 109 would have on individual departments and the county. Each department has assigned key knowledgeable staff to formulate innovative ideas and solutions, to make well informed data-driven decisions on a timely basis, and to produce results in accordance with these observations.

In October 2011, the Kern County Probation Department created the Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) unit to assist Probation and the CCP with data collection and reporting. In fulfillment of these goals, the RAD unit provides the following services:

- Collection and reporting of quarterly dashboard reports, Carry Forward Requests, Growth Funds, and Contingencies to the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and the Board of Supervisors on AB 109 activity in the community
- Incorporate evidence and research into program development and policymaking
- The submission of annual data reports to the Chief Probation Officers Association of California (CPOC), which report on data elements pertaining to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), Mandatory Supervision, felony probation and youth offenders
- Maintaining and processing financial reimbursement information, attending monthly meetings, and conducting annual trainings for the Street Interdiction Team (SIT)
- Prepares, conducts, and administers the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the Request for Application (RFA) competitive grant processes for AB 109 funds, which are distributed through the Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Program
- Conducts program evaluations, such as the DRC evaluation
- Manages large inter-departmental projects, such as the Kern Targeted Outcomes Project

The Sheriff's Office is also committed to data collection, research, and data analysis. The Sheriff's Office has partnered with California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) to examine the effects of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. In 2013, the Department received grant funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the RSAT program, an expansion of the Matrix Program. The RSAT program focuses on intensive, outpatient, substance use treatment which requires extensive data collection. Through the RSAT program, the Sheriff's Office provides two Office Service Assistants to collect and monitor data elements such as drug tests, class participation, ONA scores, recidivism, and others.

Additionally, the Department staffs two Sheriff Program Technicians (SPT) to collect and monitor data. One SPT is designated to evidence-based programming and works closely with Sheriff Deputies in the Programs Unit to monitor out-of-custody case management, recidivism, and other factors. The second SPT is dedicated to the CBO Program and receives daily census data from CBOs. They also track financial information, enrollment and waitlists, and successful completions or failures.

In FY 2024/25, KernBHRS transitioned to a new electronic health record (EHR) system. The transition period required the department to utilize alternative methods to capture program data, while work continued on new reporting structures.

Since the implementation of AB 109, the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, and KernBHRS have continued to participate in data sharing to effectively serve the population. The three departments collaborate and pool data to report CBO information (such as financial information, number of participants, services received, etc.) to the CCP, Board of Supervisors, and state agencies on an as-needed basis.

The Probation Department has participated in the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) pilot project by contributing to the state-wide research project to track and assess the reorganization of California's incarceration systems through data sharing.

In FY 2024/25, data collection, research, and reporting remain significant as decision making will be based upon data extracted and reported, correlations between variables, and statistical analysis. Plans include further development of data tracker definitions and working within the development of the new system(s) to expand and/or improve the capacity for data collection, measurement, and evaluation training. Additionally, direct collaboration with other counties will be implemented, when possible, to facilitate networking opportunities and the development of new ideas to best serve AB 109 clients. The new CBO contract period will continue to provide services through calendar years 2024 and 2025. An annual report template was added in the new contracts to include consistent data elements such as demographics, drug screening, length of stay, program completion, supervision status, employment, programs and services.

County staff remain active on the State level to ensure Kern County is receiving all crucial and available resources, access to accurate and useful information, and is recognized as an important and significant member of the Central Valley community. Each year, information will be provided to the CCP and the Board of Supervisors that provides a comprehensive assessment of all AB 109 implementation and Realignment activities.

FY 2024/25 Plan

Every year the CCP is tasked with developing a new plan which will address the pressing issues of Realignment in Kern County. The guiding principles remain public safety, reducing recidivism, and data-driven decision making. Each individual agency's specific plans are explained in the following pages.

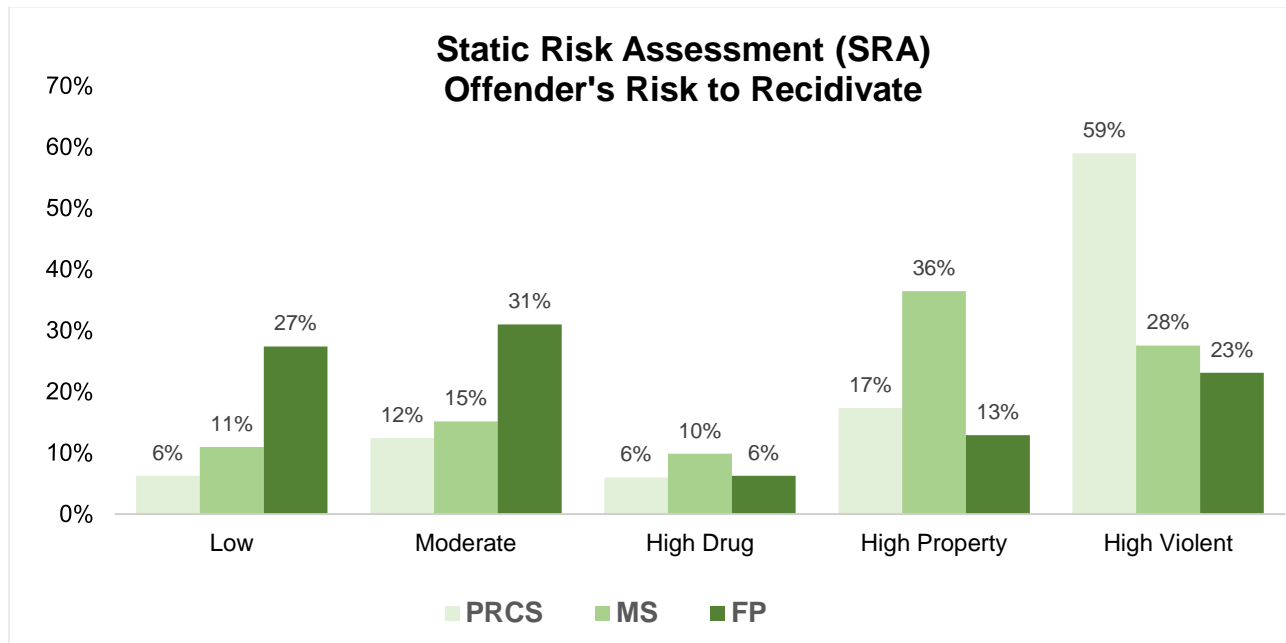
Probation Department

AB 109 redefined the California criminal justice system resulting in significant changes to the Adult Divisions of the Probation Department. Since the inception of Realignment, approximately 3,000 additional felony offenders are now under the supervision of the Probation Department. However, there are much more significant changes beyond the sheer numbers. Real philosophical and pragmatic transformations have permeated the way Probation does business. Evidence-based practices and data collection are the cornerstones of our recidivism reducing strategy. Breaking the cycle of re-offending is essential to ensuring long-term safety in our County. The Probation Department is on the cutting edge in this arena using such tools as evidence-based assessments, individualized case plans, response matrix, and criminogenic needs targeted programming. The benefits of reducing recidivism are evidenced by the reduction in victimizations and significant systematic cost savings. A detailed explanation of Probation's plan follows below.

Evidence-Based Assessment Tool

The foundation of the Department's movement toward evidence-based practices is a proven assessment tool. The Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA) can predict with significant accuracy the level of an offender's risk to recidivate. This allows targeted supervision for those at higher risk to re-offend, thereby utilizing the Department's resources to greater capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness. Every offender under supervision is assessed with an SRA (Static Risk Assessment). This provides needed direction with caseload processing and prioritization. This tool also reveals the fundamental differences between the different supervision statuses (see Chart 1).

Chart 1



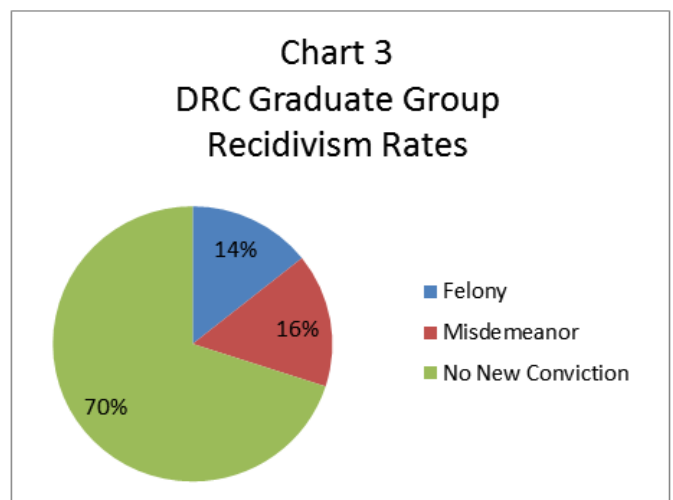
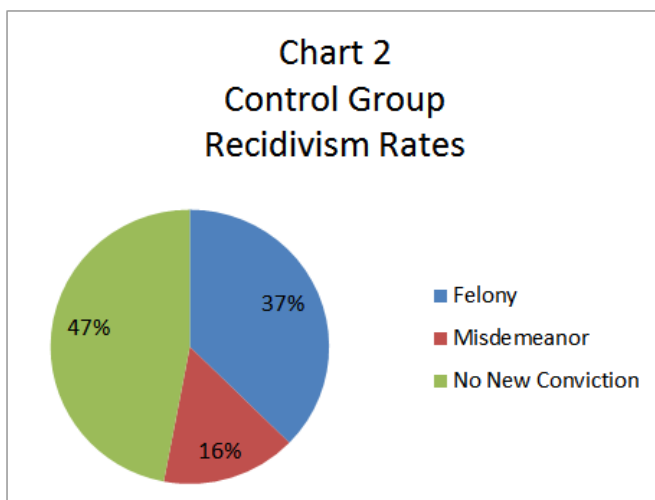
Based on this information, the realigned offenders (i.e., Post Release Community Supervision and Mandatory Supervision) are at a higher risk to reoffend than traditional felony probationers in higher risk levels such as High Drug, High Property, and High Violence levels.

The Probation Department shares SRA scores with the Sheriff's Office. This information is used as another element in decision making for releases and programming. The increased use of evidence-based tools and inter-department cooperation is a positive by-product of Realignment. The Probation Department is committed to cooperating with all of our criminal justice system partners. We all benefit when we share information and business tools.

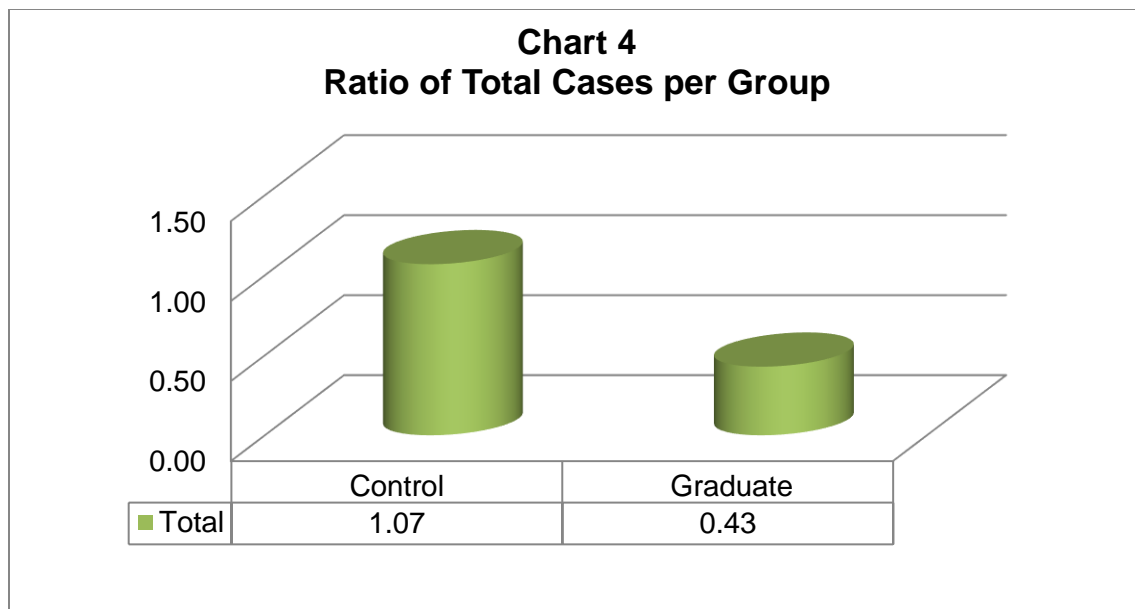
In addition to the SRA, the Department has implemented widespread use of the dynamic needs portion of the assessment tool, the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA is a critical part of Probation's supervision plan post incarceration. The ONA identifies the offender's criminogenic needs and helps develop an individual case plan to address those needs. The Probation Department utilizes a holistic supervision paradigm. Holding offenders accountable is a priority; however, we must also attempt to place them in the best situation to succeed. This can be accomplished by matching their needs to the appropriate services. The Department is committed to conducting ONAs on all offenders on high-risk caseloads.

Day Reporting Center

One of the Probation Department's most innovative programs resulting from Realignment is the Day Reporting Center (DRC). The DRC has a capacity to serve 100 high risk offenders at a time. A previous internal study of the effectiveness of the DRC showed the positive impact the program has on participants by significantly reducing recidivism. Graduates recidivated only 30% of the time compared to the control group at 53%; felony recidivism was 14% compared to 37% (see Charts 2 and 3).



The impact was even more pronounced when the actual number of criminal cases was examined. The control group produced a ratio of 1.07 criminal cases to offender while the graduates only produced .43 cases to 1 offender (see Chart 4, top of page 15). The full study can be located at <http://www.kernprobation.com/ab109ccp-realignment/plans-and-reports/>.



In addition to our internal study, there are national studies which reflect the positive benefits of day reporting centers.

The DRC is contracted with GEO Reentry, a company that operates similar reporting centers throughout the nation. GEO Reentry has a long history of successfully reducing recidivism with their programs. They use the same assessment tool as the Probation Department, formalize specific case plans to address criminogenic needs, and provide a wide variety of evidence-based programs (EBP's) and other services onsite. Criminogenic needs related to employment, education, aggression, anti-social behavior, and substance use can all be addressed in one location. Key components of the DRC include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, job readiness, substance use testing, daily reporting, sanctions, rewards, and supervision in conjunction with GEO Reentry and the assigned Deputy Probation Officers (DPO). The DRC can change the lives of offenders and break the cycle of criminal behavior, which is crucial to decreasing recidivism, reducing crime, ensuring public safety, and limiting societal and monetary costs. The Probation Department has witnessed the incredible and positive transformation of DRC graduates and believes this program is key to reducing recidivism and complying with the AB 109 legislative intent.

Adult Programs Center

The Adult Programs Center (APC) is a program within the Adult Programs and Supports Unit of the AB 109 Services Division which focuses on delivering evidence-based programs (EBP) to adult offenders on Felony Probation, Mandatory Supervision, and Post Release Community Supervision. APC is unique in that the program is mostly delivered by non-sworn Probation Program Specialists. These Specialists are provided extensive training in numerous EBP modalities to address the specific criminogenic needs of the offender, such as employment, education, aggression, anti-social peers, anti-social behavior, and substance use. Currently, APC delivers the following EBP modalities: Thinking for a Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Substance Abuse (CBI-SUA) and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). The modalities involve both group and individual counseling sessions and have demonstrated to reduce recidivism through empirical evidence.

The program consists of four phases and can be completed between 9-14 months. The first phase focuses on individual EPICS sessions which focus on goals, identify roadblocks and making a plan to remove those roadblocks. The second, third and fourth phases focuses on the completing three EPB modalities including the above classes of T4C, ART, MRT and/or CBI-SUA.

The program provides day and evening classes to best accommodate participants' schedules providing flexibility to enhance their likelihood of completion.

After completion on the four phases, participants are placed in aftercare. During aftercare, participants continue to meet with Specialists who assist participants in job searches, finding resources, and building life skills. All participants that complete the program are eligible to participate in an annual graduation ceremony held on their behalf to celebrate their achievements with family and loved ones.

Dedicated onsite Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) provide daily truancy and retention interventions for the APC. Should an offender not attend the program for an unexcused reason, the officers attempt to locate and return the participant to the program. This is essential to improving performance outcomes as participants stay in the program longer and are more likely to complete the program due to increased supervision and swift accountability. For those that choose non-compliance, their behavior is addressed in a timely and immediate manner. The onsite DPOs are also trained in the EBPs used at APC and can reinforce what is being delivered by the specialists. Additionally, the onsite DPOs assist with any behavioral problems and participant conflicts, thus providing the specialists and participants with added security and convenient access to an officer.

The APC is constantly adjusting and evolving to meet the needs of the offender and the community. As a result, the APC continues to make changes within the program as it grows and is focused on increasing the delivery of services through the following components: job development, education coordination, trauma-informed care, and substance use treatment with drug/alcohol testing.

Supervision

As a result of Realignment, the Probation Department's supervision responsibilities now include PRCS offenders, Mandatory Supervision offenders, and an increased number of felony probationers. Regardless of the supervision status, certain supervision principles are universal. This includes manageable caseload sizes with the goal of continuing to improve the officer to offender ratio. Smaller ratios provide officers with more time to dedicate to each interaction, which enhances the effectiveness of evidence-based practices.

A Response Matrix, including redirection, additional terms and conditions, treatment, electronic monitoring, flash incarcerations, the DRC and APC, community-based organizations, and formal violations resulting in custody time, is being used to address violation behaviors. A response commensurate with the nature of the violation, the number of prior violations and the offender's risk level will be imposed. Responses will be swift, certain, specifics and graduated. As part of the Response Matrix, appropriate incentives will also be utilized to facilitate and reinforce the positive behaviors of offenders. These responses follow the philosophy of accountability and opportunity to help ensure the

goal of reducing recidivism among this population. Research shows that the incentive to sanction ratio should be 4:1 to be effective. The Response Matrix was designed to be clear and easy to follow which fosters consistency in officers' responses to offender behaviors. DPOs also utilize Motivational Interviewing, a technique which has been shown to develop an offender's intrinsic motivation to initiate a change in their own behavior.

Investigations

Investigations staff have responded to the need for additional assessments, increased court reports and other needed services. These staff help ensure the Court continues to receive pre-sentence investigation reports in a timely manner and that current courtroom coverage can be maintained. They also create an SRA for every Felony Probation and Mandatory Supervision offender who is sentenced locally. Investigations staff play an integral part in the criminal justice system. Several AB 109 positions have been added to these units to help compensate for the increased work as a result of Realignment.

Pre-Trial

On March 25, 2021, the Supreme Court of California authored an opinion affirming the First Appellate District decision, *In re HUMPHREY*. At issue was the setting of bail and the defendant's ability to pay that bail. The Supreme Court of California held true that bail must be set in an amount that is affordable to a defendant. A Court must make a finding the defendant has the ability to pay bail but willfully refuses in order for a detention to be based solely on monetary bail conditions. Absent that finding, the Court must find the defendant to be a danger to the community, a danger to a specific victim, or is not likely to make future court hearings to continue any pre-trial detention. Additionally, if the Court makes a clear and convincing finding as to one of those considerations, the Court must still consider less restrictive options to detention.

To comply with this decision, the Probation Department created two Pre-trial Units to assist the Court in making informed decisions regarding pre-trial defendants and to provide monitoring services for those defendants released from custody. The assessment unit gathers and submits a summation of the defendant's criminal history at the time of arraignment. The monitoring unit provides monitoring services based on the level of monitoring designated by the Court and defendants are contacted monthly, bi-weekly or weekly via phone and/or home calls. Additionally, GPS monitoring is available on select defendants.

Research, Analysis, and Data Unit

The Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) Unit is responsible for data collection, state and local reporting, and program evaluations. The unit has also been involved in several large projects, including the Kern Targeted Outcomes Project (formerly the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative), the data collection effort lead by the Public Policy Institute of California, and several Request for Proposals/Applications. Within the RAD Unit, two Supervising Departmental Analysts, four Departmental Analysts, two Administrative Coordinators, and an Office Services Specialist are in part funded with Realignment dollars. The Probation Department understands the importance of, and has committed to, research and data.

Information Technology

AB 109 has created numerous IT challenges for the Probation Department. The Department is the hub of Realignment data collection for the CCP and the County. Integration of information, data reports and complex recidivism formulas are all necessary and important components of the overall success of Realignment. Furthermore, the changes in the law have created the need for additional reports and case management system (CMS) capacities. There has also been an increased request for information from State agencies and organizations for numerous studies. The Probation Department must maintain a sufficient level of IT services to meet these challenges.

Support Staff

Four Office Service Technicians (OST's), one Office Service Specialist (OSS), and one Senior Office Service Specialist (SOSS) are specifically assigned to the Adult Probation Services and AB 109 Services Divisions. These positions are needed to support the increased work associated with reception areas, reports, filing, and miscellaneous paperwork. Additionally, ten Probation Technicians assigned to Adult Probation Services, AB 109 Services, and Adult Court Services Divisions assist DPOs directly with their case management and pre-trial related duties. Support staff play a vital role in the Department's success in meeting mission critical goals and in the implementation of programs.

Collaboratives

The Probation Department has maintained and grown numerous collaboratives since the beginning of Realignment. It is clear that to accomplish the Department's goals of public safety and reducing recidivism, a county-wide team approach is needed. Some of these collaboratives include ETR, KernBHRS, CBOs, and other law enforcement agencies. ETR receives referrals from DPOs for AB 109 employment and work experience programs. These programs offer offenders a way to improve their job skills and readiness for employment. Officers work closely with both mental health professionals and substance use specialists from KernBHRS. Certain offenders must have their behavioral health and substance use issues addressed before they can move forward with their overall rehabilitation. The Probation Department directly refers offenders into a number of community-based organizations which address many different issues, including transitional housing. These additional services increase the likelihood of successful completion from supervision and are a welcome and needed resource for officers. Probation works closely with other law enforcement agencies on a regular basis and is an integral member of the Street Interdiction Team (SIT), a collaborative operation throughout the County.

Operating Costs

To achieve the stated goals and objectives as listed in this section, there are numerous associated operating costs. These costs include office and field equipment, licensing rights, vehicle maintenance and fuel, training, overtime, and more.

Probation Department's FY 2024/25 AB 109 Base Allocation

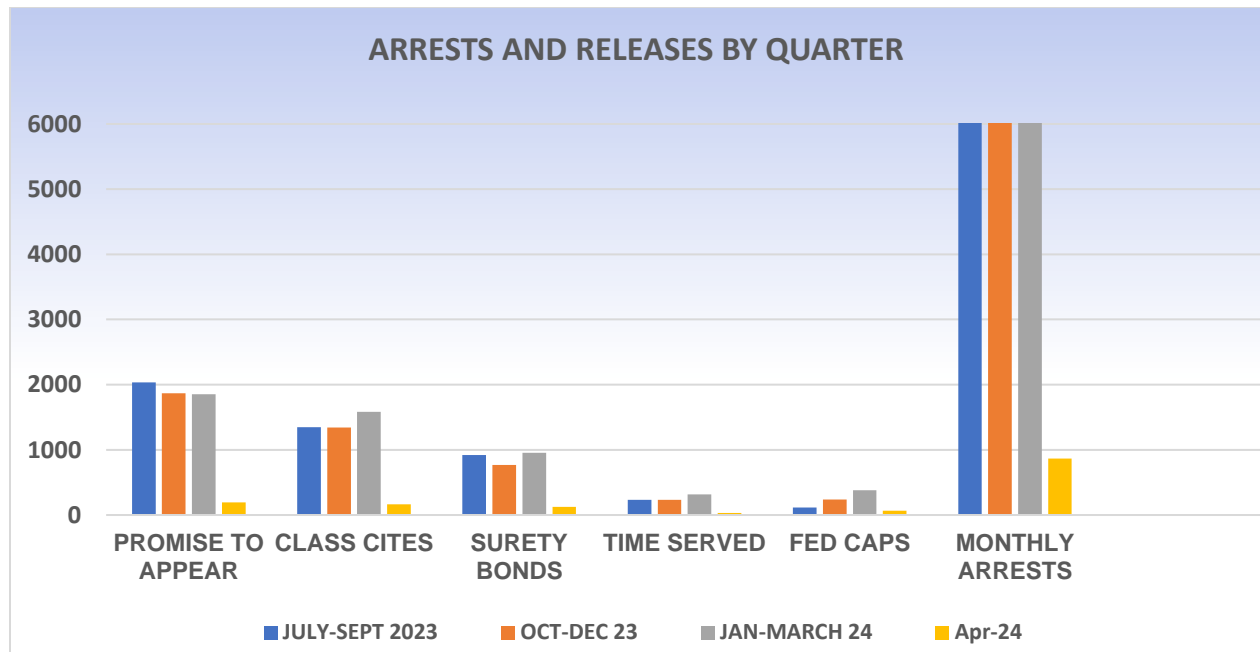
<u>Position/Item</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Cost per Unit</u>	<u>Cost for 1 Year</u>
Probation Division Director	2	\$292,621	\$585,242
Probation Supervisor	5	\$217,616	\$1,088,080
Deputy Probation Officer III	15	\$200,343	\$3,005,145
Deputy Probation Officer	62	\$172,064	\$10,667,968
Probation Program Specialist	10	\$115,803	\$1,158,030
Probation Technician	10	\$102,720	\$1,027,200
Sr. Office Services Specialist	1	\$114,486	\$114,486
Office Services Specialist	2	\$100,772	\$201,544
Office Services Technician	4	\$92,018	\$368,072
Departmental Analyst	2	\$122,087	\$244,174
Administrative Coordinator	1	\$127,872	\$127,872
Database Analyst	1	\$154,169	\$154,169
Programmer	1	\$179,063	\$179,063
Technical Support Specialist	1	\$121,468	\$121,468
Total Salaries & Benefits			\$19,042,513
Day Reporting Center (DRC)			\$1,164,996
Operating Expenses			\$2,567,835
Total Services & Supplies			\$3,732,831
Total	117		\$22,775,344

Sheriff's Office

Since its implementation in 2011, AB 109 has redirected numerous offenders, who would have previously been sentenced to state prison, to county jails for their sentences. This shift increased the jail population during the first three years of Realignment, forcing the Sheriff's Office to release as many as 9,500 inmates early per year to keep the population under federally stipulated limits. In the wake of Proposition 47, which took effect in 2014 and converted many felony crimes into misdemeanors, the number of arrests and the need for early releases declined significantly. Despite continuing challenges, the Sheriff's Office continues its AB 109 related efforts to reduce recidivism.

Early releases have again increased in recent years as portions of the Sheriff's Office jail capacity remain unoccupied due to staffing challenges. As of April 12, 2024, there were 4,413 early releases (generally called "Fed Caps" and "Class Cites") in FY 2023/24. Fed cap's and non-violent unsentenced felonies were cited to prevent incarcerated persons population levels from exceeding the limitations imposed by the Anderson v. Kern court order.

The chart below illustrates the number of arrests made each quarter of FY 2023/24, along with the types of releases during the same time periods. The types of arrest and releases were consistent throughout each quarter. Please note, the fourth quarter data for each category, represented by the gold bars, indicate lower numbers because data for May and June of 2024 was not available at the time of this report.



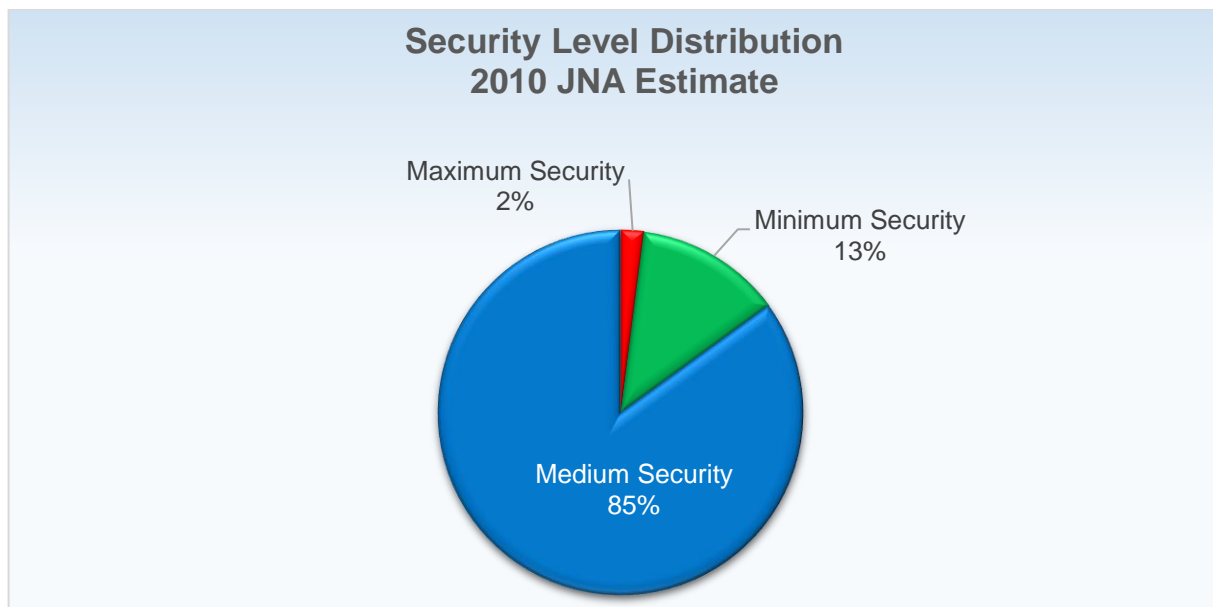
Realignment also sentenced individuals to county jail for terms similar in length to what they would have served in state prison. Whereas the maximum pre-realignment jail sentence was generally one-year, post-Realignment inmates are often sentenced to two years or longer. The longest sentence currently being served in the Sheriff's jail is three years.

The Challenges of the Post-AB 109 Incarcerated Population

Apart from the number of inmates and length of their sentences, the current incarcerated population is qualitatively different than that of the pre-realignment era. The more challenging nature of the post-Realignment jail population can be illustrated by comparing a snapshot of the current jail population with statistics presented in the *2011 Jail Needs Assessment*. Of the 1,703 individuals in custody on April 12, 2024:

- 2% were classified as high-risk/staff assaultive, as opposed to 0.5% in 2010;
- Approximately 15% were in custody for murder or attempted murder;
- .5% were administratively separated (housed by themselves), as compared to approximately 3% to 5% of inmates in 2010. In FY 2023/24 significant efforts were made to minimize administrative separation housing, aiming to provide incarcerated individuals with more out of cell time.
- 55% were gang affiliated, as opposed to 33% in 2010; Of the gang-affiliated inmates currently in custody, 40% were charged with violent crimes;
- 88% were felons, compared to 84% in 2010;
- Approximately 58% were receiving mental health services, as compared to the 2010 estimate of 15%.

The chart below illustrates the inmate security levels in 2010. In FY 2023/24, the maximum-security inmates comprise approximately 28% of the current jail population, as opposed to only 2% in 2010.



AB 109 also created a core of inmates serving longer sentences in the jails. Long-term inmates tend to present more challenging inmate management issues, as they often require more services, including medical and mental health care. Additionally, they tend to become familiar and comfortable in their surroundings, learning to manipulate procedures and circumvent security. As they become more skilled, they influence shorter term inmates to act in a similar fashion.

The above-mentioned increase in gang activity among inmates poses considerable security challenges. Serious gang rivalries and gang-politics are key drivers of violence among inmates, which has increased markedly in the wake of Realignment. Coordinated criminal gang activities, such as the smuggling of narcotics, cell phones, and other contraband have also increased.

The increase in inmates needing special housing has also taken its toll on jail operations. Inmates who require special housing create a significant draw on jail resources in terms of available beds, the capacity of holding cells, and the staff time needed to manage and supervise these inmates.

These changes in the inmate population have posed significant security and operational challenges in the Sheriff's jails. AB 109 funding continues to play an important role in helping the Sheriff's Office meet these challenges.

Meeting the Challenge

The Kern Justice Facility has helped to mitigate some of the above-mentioned issues by providing more flexible housing better suited to the post-realignment jail population. That said, the Sheriff's Office has continued to improve safety and security in other areas. AB 109 funding has supported these efforts, funding improvements such as purchasing enclosures to expand program offerings at the Pre-trial facility, as well as accommodating the relocation of the Inmate Reception Center (IRC) along with associated improvements. AB 109 also funds Bakersfield Adult School (BAS) to provide educational and vocational services for the incarcerated population.

While these improvements can have a positive impact on the safety and security of the jail system, there is no substitute for dedicated and well-trained staff. Staffing continues to be a struggle for the Sheriff's Office. While academies and other hiring efforts work to mitigate this issue, keeping up with the rate of attrition continues to be a priority. AB 109 funding continues to play an important role in staffing the jails and operating various programs related to Realignment.

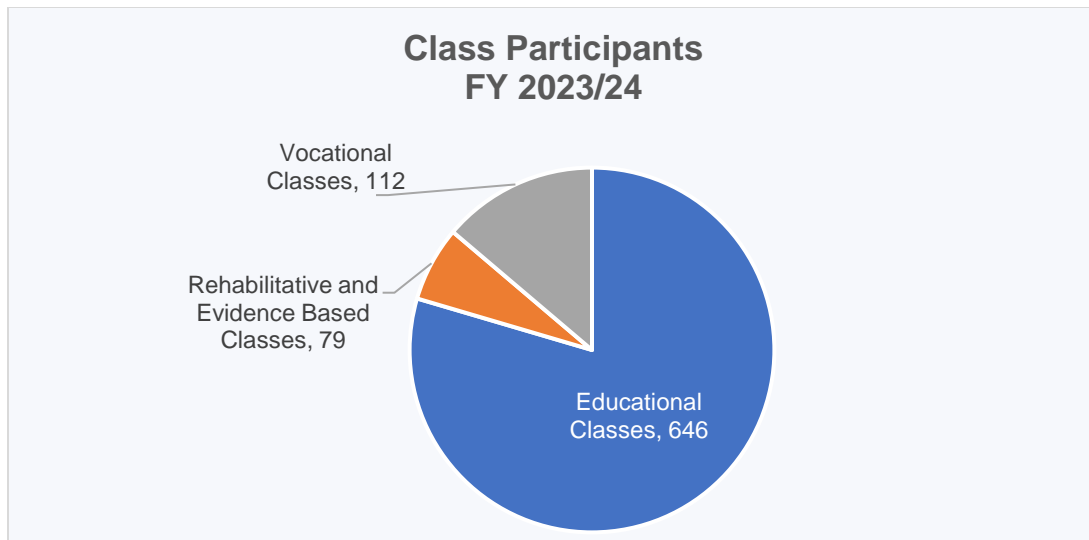
Programs and Services

The Sheriff's Office continues to provide quality inmate programs grounded in evidence-based practices. Program staff facilitate empirically proven curriculum to incarcerated individuals that focuses on cognitive behavioral therapy. Evidence-based practices strive to meet the specific needs of incarcerated persons by integrating clinical expertise, external scientific evidence, and client perspectives. The reduction of recidivism remains the core mission of program delivery.

Proper assessment is the key to ensuring incarcerated persons are provided the treatment, services, and a level of supervision appropriate to their needs and risk of recidivating. Sheriff's program staff is trained in evidence-based assessment techniques that improve the selection of programs and services specific to an individual participant's criminogenic needs. These techniques also help to create a re-entry case plan and link participants to available resources upon release.

In FY 2023/24, 79 individuals attended evidence-based and rehabilitative classes while in custody. Some of the evidence-based classes being offered within the jail facilities include the following:

- The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program is a program in which participants are housed, to the degree feasible, separately from the general population. The treatment program includes a 100 day in-custody component followed by a four-to six-month-long aftercare (out-of-custody) component. RSAT includes several evidence-based curricula including the following, some of which are also provided outside of the RSAT program:
- The Matrix Model is an intensive drug treatment program that teaches inmates about their addictions and helps them identify and examine ways to cope with high-risk situations that lead to relapse.
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) utilizes multi-component, cognitive-behavioral treatment to promote pro-social behavior by addressing factors that contribute to aggression.
- Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral treatment strategy designed specifically for offender populations. The purpose of MRT is to instill and develop higher levels of moral reasoning in inmates, which leads to moral thinking and behavior. It also helps inmates acknowledge how their behaviors affect others and helps them learn to change their behaviors to more positive social behaviors and beliefs.
- Educational and Vocational Services: The Bakersfield Adult School (BAS), a part of the Kern High School District, has worked in partnership with the Kern County Sheriff's Office for over three decades. BAS is one of the largest partner agencies currently working with the Sheriff's Office. Approximately 758 inmates attended education based and vocational courses during their incarceration in FY 2023/24. There continues to be strong relationship between educational programs and the reduction of recidivism.



Moving forward, RSAT has successfully completed three cohorts and is in the process of an additional cohort for FY 2023/24. Additionally, RSAT has continued its modified curriculum to accommodate Spanish speakers and has increased the minimum class size to eighteen enrolled participants per cohort, with a target of twenty. Furthermore, the Kern County Sheriff's Office applied for the RSAT grant this fiscal year and has been awarded the grant for an additional three years.

RSAT has successfully completed 3 cohorts during FY 2023/24. With the assistance of our specialized programs deputy, we continue to accommodate Spanish speaking only individuals to reach more incarcerated persons and reduce barriers.

Bakersfield Adult School offers several courses such as Substance Abuse Prevention, Anger Management, Parenting, GED Preparation/Testing as needed, and Batterer Intervention. Many of the classes offered are approved by the courts, as well as the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, Probation, and State Parole.

The Lerdo staff dining facility is operated by in-custody program participants who are taught basic food service skills and industry standard equipment training. As of April 12th, 2024, we have awarded 73 cafeteria certificates in partnership with the Bakersfield Adult School Program. Participants of this program can also earn a ServSafe certificate, which improves their employment marketability when applying for jobs after release. During FY 2023/24, 19 students obtained ServSafe certificates. The number of class participants in FY 2023/24 doubled in comparison to the previous fiscal year.

Partner Services

The Sheriff's Office collaborates with numerous governmental agencies and community-based organizations to improve the provision of services that help remove barriers to successful community re-entry for the inmate population. For example, the Sheriff's Office continues its established partnership with the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to assist inmates in resolving child support issues. In FY 2023/24, 120 inmates utilized this service as of April 12, 2024.

The Sheriff's Office also maintains a strong working relationship with America's Job Center (AJC). AJC staff located at the Lerdo Facilities provides employment services to in-custody participants with additional referrals to AJC services after release. AJC continues to work with the Sheriff's Office to develop a "small bites" curriculum model to better serve participants with short jail stays, who can find it difficult to complete longer classes before their time in custody is over. The "small bites" model will allow for flexible participation in one or more short-term classes as an alternative to committing to a longer program.

Sheriff's Virtual Jail

The Virtual Jail program allows the Sheriff's Office to maintain varying degrees of oversight and compliance monitoring for released participants. Many Virtual Jail inmates participate in mental health services and substance use treatment programs. Some continue to attend educational or vocational programs. There are three Virtual Jail programs: Sheriff's Parole (SP), the Work Release Program, and the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP). The overall goal of the Virtual Jail is to reduce recidivism and to help participants reconnect with their families and become gainfully employed, law-abiding citizens.

In FY 2023/24, as of April 22, 2024, EMP and Sheriff's Parole combined had a total of 449 participants. For the fiscal year so far, 252 participants had successfully completed the EMP and Sheriff's Parole program. However, 67 participants violated the terms of the program and were subsequently returned to custody.

The Virtual Jail staff has continued its emphasis on drug testing to ensure compliance among program participants. EMP staff conducted 87 drug tests with a 67% negative test rate. Responses to participants who tested positive included admonishment, discipline, arrest for violation of their terms of supervision, or a referral to the Probation Department's Day Reporting Center (DRC), the BHRS Gateway Team, or NA/AA meetings to help in rehabilitation.

More than 137 remote alcohol detection devices have been deployed among released inmates who had convictions for driving under the influence through April 22, 2024. The remote alcohol detection devices require participants to test randomly at least five times per day and use facial recognition software to confirm the identity of the users. In FY 2023/24, these devices conducted a total of 52,362 breath tests on participants with the following results: 46,434 passed tests, 71 failed tests, and 5,784 missed or incomplete tests. This amounts to an overall compliance rate of 89 percent. Participants who missed a scheduled test were contacted and required to test immediately. Those who tested positive were admonished, disciplined, and/or arrested for a violation of their terms of supervision.

Moving Forward

Proposed AB 109 Base Allocation Funding for FY 2024/25

The Sheriff's Office proposes allocation of its FY 2024/25 base funding in the amount of \$25,151,512 in accordance with the established 39.27% of the overall base allocation. The funding will be allocated to fund the following:

- Purchase of body worn cameras and docking stations for detentions staff

- Intercoms in jail cells
- Upgrade Pre-Trial Facility recreation yard enclosures
- Cameras for our transportation buses
- Increased Salary and Benefits Costs - To cover increased personnel costs. These costs include recent salary increases, and escalating benefits costs (e.g., health care, retirement)

The chart below shows the recommended Sheriff's Office AB 109 Budget for FY 2024/25 including updated staffing costs.

Sheriff's Office Proposed FY 2024/25 AB 109 Allocation

POSITION / ITEM	QTY	COST PER UNIT	ANNUAL COST
Detentions Deputy	42	\$190,965	\$8,020,530
Deputy Sheriff II CA	19	\$212,625	\$4,039,875
Program Specialist	8	\$115,451	\$923,608
Deputy Sheriff II C	5	\$199,794	\$998,970
Sheriff's Support Technician	7	\$90,015	\$630,105
Senior Deputy Sheriff	2	\$242,232	\$484,464
Sheriff's Aide	4	\$107,885	\$431,540
Detentions Senior Deputy	2	\$212,429	\$424,858
Sheriff's Lieutenant	1	\$334,590	\$334,590
Program Technician	3	\$96,739	\$290,217
Detentions Lieutenant	1	\$284,166	\$284,166
Sheriff Sergeant	1	\$272,674	\$272,674
Admin Coordinator	2	\$121,686	\$243,372
Detentions Sergeant	1	\$234,463	\$234,463
Light Vehicle Driver	2	\$90,015	\$180,030
Programmer II/Systems Analyst II	1	\$172,614	\$172,614
Info Syst/Technical Support Specialist III	1	\$128,338	\$128,338
Senior Maintenance Worker	1	\$104,950	\$104,950
Sheriff's Support Specialist	1	\$97,111	\$97,111
Total Salaries & Benefits	104		\$18,296,475
Uniform allowance for LE/Detentions/Sheriffs Aides	78		\$98,000
Overtime			\$342,425
Total Services and Supplies			\$6,414,612
Total Proposed FY 2023/24 AB 109 Allocation			\$25,151,512

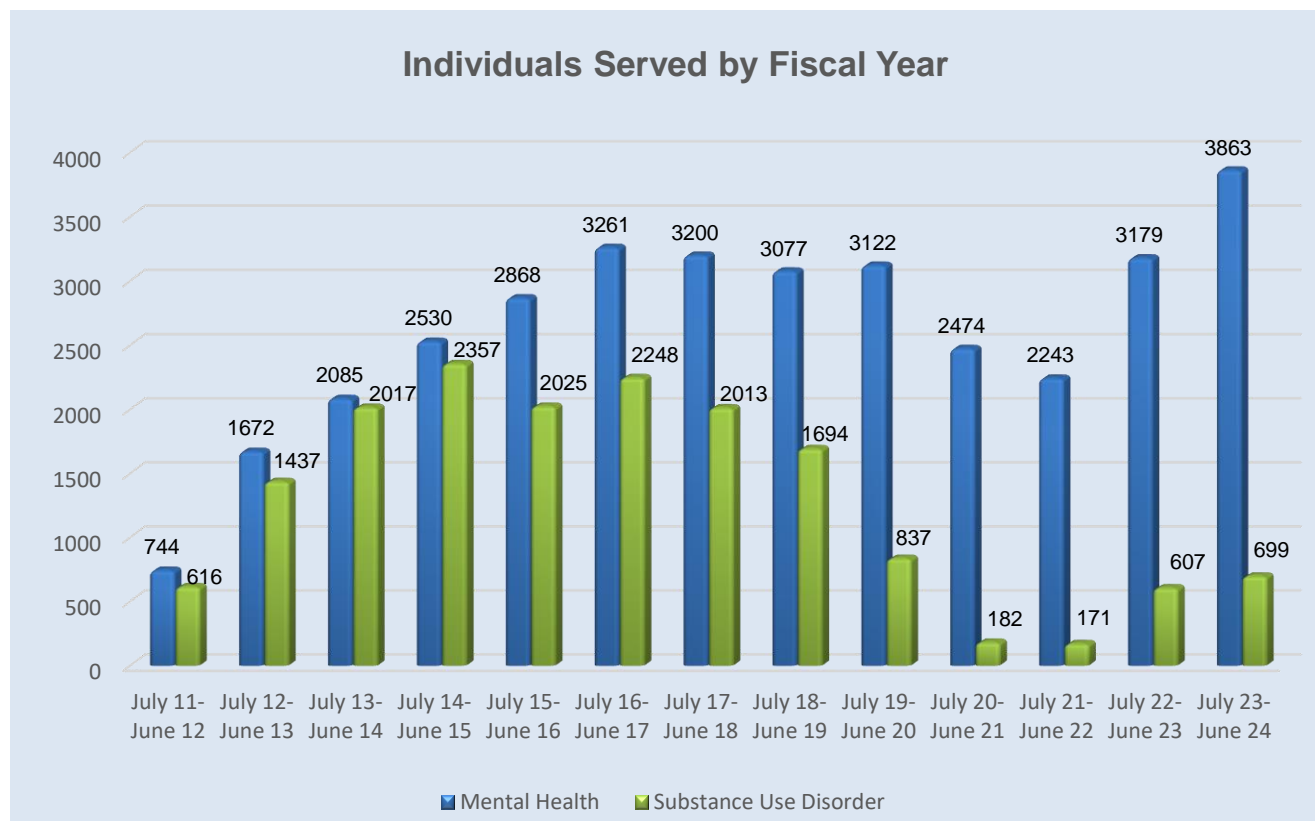
The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department

Since the implementation of AB 109 in October 2011, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) has expanded its treatment programs and significantly increased services to meet the needs of criminal justice involved individuals. Through AB 109 Public Safety Realignment Funding, the goal of KernBHRS is to address mental health and substance use disorders of AB 109 designated individuals. Prioritizing treatment in these areas aids in reducing recidivism in hospitalization, incarceration, and days of homelessness for the population served. The department's treatment strategies target life skills development, anger management, psychological trauma, and errors in reasoning or criminal thinking. Services utilize evidence-based and/or best practice strategies focusing on mental illness and substance use.

In FY 2023/24, KernBHRS transitioned to a new electronic health record (EHR) system. The transition period required the department to utilize alternative methods to capture program data, while work continued on new reporting structures. Between July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are prorated), KernBHRS provided a total of 4,562 services to individuals assigned to AB 109. Of those, 312 individuals were treated in both Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) service systems. The graph (Table 1) below reflects the number of AB 109 assigned individuals who were provided mental health and/or substance use disorder services by the department since 2011.

Table 1



*FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated) - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

Programs and Services

Behavioral Health In-Custody Services

Within the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Detention Facilities (CRF, Justice, and Pre-Trial), the KernBHRS Correctional Behavioral Health Team (CBH) operates entirely onsite to adequately provide behavioral health and SUD services to the incarcerated population. Within the System of Care, CBH is an access point, a treatment team, and an adjunct team that facilitates linkage to community teams and resources for individuals awaiting release.

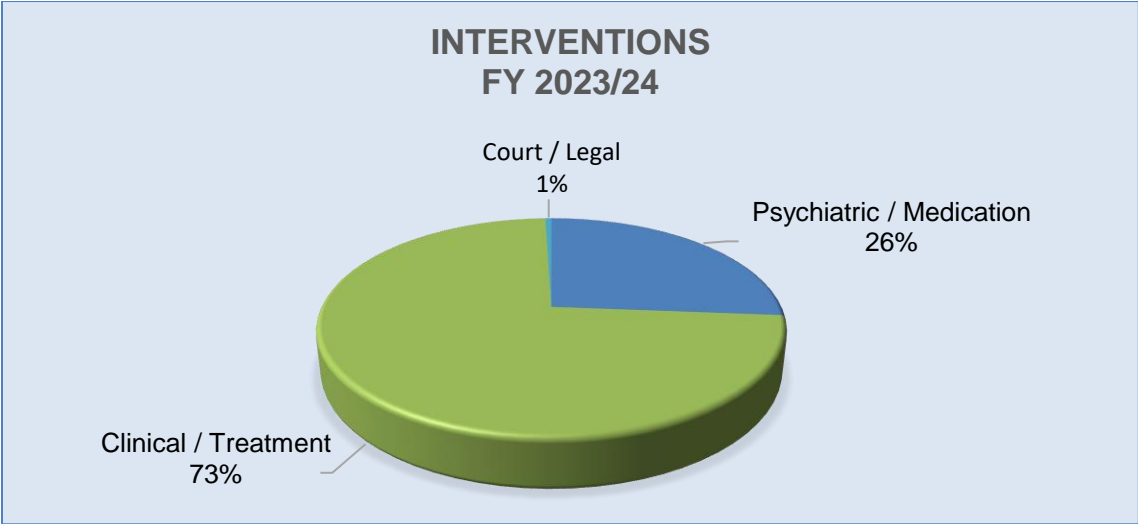
CBH encourages the in-custody population to participate in both individual and group services to improve life and coping skills for individuals with behavioral health and substance use disorders. During the last year, CBH has increased group services, offering several evidence-based interventions and developing an in-house curriculum that is tailored to the needs of the incarcerated population. Groups include Creating Calm for Women/Men, Seeking Safety, Power Hour, and Expressive Art Program. CBH has a strong collaborative relationship with Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and the Kern Hospital Authority, Kern Medical. This facilitates access to holistic treatment for the incarcerated population by addressing mental health, substance use and physical care needs while incarcerated and continuing upon release while individuals reintegrate into the community. CBH also provides after hours services for support to KCSO for consultation, discharge planning, and/or reporting out to the facilities for 5150 evaluations if needed. Additionally, the Inmate Stabilization and Assessment Team (ISAT) works collaboratively with CBH in-custody and Kern Medical to ensure medication compliance, cleanliness of cells, manage the Direct Observation Unit, manage suicide watch and bed space, and conduct daily welfare checks for all Administrative Segregated incarcerated persons. The ISAT Sergeant and CBH Supervisor meet weekly to discuss cases and develop plans of care and treatment. This collaboration has ensured CBH has a specific point of contact to coordinate access to care, improve follow-through, increase medication compliance, consistency, and standardize referrals.

During this past year, KCSO closed CRF which redirected all bookings and releases to Lerdo Justice Facility. CBH has worked diligently to increase engagement with outpatient teams during this transition by developing protocols to ensure a streamlined process for visits as well as pickups when releases occur. The team links released individuals to KernBHRS outpatient teams within the System of Care including: Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services, contract providers, outside agencies (Probation and Parole), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and Kern Linkage Division Teams such as: Adult Transition Team (ATT), Forensic Services Team, Supportive Pathways Opportunities (SPO) to provide continuity of care upon release to the community. This collaboration and linkage to specialty mental health and substance use treatment helps address severe and persistent mental illness and focuses on the reduction and elimination of re-entry into the jail/prison system. Prior to individuals' release from custody, CBH staff also work collaboratively to facilitate discharge planning for continued treatment, such as immediate service appointments and bridge medications set up for post release.

Over the past fiscal year, CBH has facilitated bridge medications for individuals discharging from all facilities (CRF, Justice, Pre-Trial), when transitioning to out of custody resources including the Access and Assessment Team, Co-Response Team, KernBHRS outpatient teams, contract providers and/or a support person. Discharges to the Psychiatric Evaluation Center (PEC) and or the Crisis Walk-In Clinic

(CWIC) are provided for individuals who have been ordered released from custody but are not yet stable and require additional support upon their release. CBH can complete 5150 evaluations in-house to eliminate unnecessary transports to crisis services, preventing an increased use of inpatient bed space. If a transport is necessary to either PEC or CWIC, CBH works with those teams and KCSO for the coordination of this linkage. The goal is to provide continuity of care and a “warm” handoff to easily access behavioral health services without a lapse between release and outpatient services.

Table 2



*FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated)

CBH provided a total of 29,313 services to incarcerated individuals during FY2023-24 (Table 2) inclusive of treatment services that were court ordered or related to other legal activities, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, other psychiatric/medication related services, clinical group and/or individual treatment services.

Substance Use Disorder In-Custody Services

The KernBHRS in-custody substance use program is supported by KCSO in collaboration with CBH to increase and obtain consistent engagement from participants in treatment. The program increases in-custody services and out-of-custody linkage to treatment for all individuals within the jail system to decrease recidivism. Staff providing substance use disorder services are certified drug and alcohol counselors, Substance Use Disorder Specialists (SUDS) and Recovery Specialists (RS). During the FY 2023/24, four Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) cohorts completed 209 groups with 52 participants and 49 graduating from the program.

Gateway has also been fully integrated into in-custody services to ensure rapport building, linkage, and continuity of care for RSAT clients; successfully linking 52 of the participants with screenings and scheduled appointments. The program utilizes evidenced-based treatment modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Aggression Replacement Therapy, The Matrix Model, Seeking Safety, and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). By participating in these groups, individuals learn pro-social skills and resources to better equip themselves for real life situations they will encounter upon release. Individuals practice skills and evaluate their effectiveness towards achieving their goals in preparation for

challenges they may face during reintegration into society and gain skills needed to successfully achieve their goals.

Adult Transition Team

The Adult Transition Team (ATT) serves individuals with serious and persistent mental health conditions who have a lengthy legal history often with multiple incarcerations and those returning from State Hospitals who have received competency restoration services. ATT works closely with the Kern BHRS CBH team, and the primary point of entry is facilitated by an ATT liaison stationed within the Sheriff's Detention Facilities. This staff conducts screenings and assessments while individuals are incarcerated to assist with linkage to outpatient services. Individuals who meet the criteria for services with ATT are linked with a Recovery Specialist to establish rapport and assist the individual in their transition from jail to the community prior to release. Referral sources include self-referrals, detention staff, family members, CBH, family advocates, probation and parole officers, the Public Defender, and District Attorney's Office.

ATT's goal is to address the mental health and substance use of individuals served and reduce recidivism days of hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness. Throughout the last fiscal year, ATT has continued to increase the number of daily services available for clients. ATT offers two groups daily and focuses on community group outings which assist individuals with full re-integration into the community. The weekly offered groups include Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Socialization Skills, Coping through Creativity, Relapse Prevention, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Life Skills, and Anxiety and Stress. Spanish-speaking groups are in development as well for clients whose primary language is Spanish. This year, ATT continued to work collaboratively with housing providers, families, Conservators Office, Probation, Parole, and other agencies to enhance support for individuals trying to meet their basic needs after release from custody.

When treating individuals, ATT utilizes the following evidence-based programs and modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Solution Focused Therapy (SFT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT). Staff have also been trained in New Direction curriculum that utilizes CBT interventions to target criminal thinking and antisocial behaviors. ATT staff engage individuals by providing case management and skill-building interventions in the field to improve critical thinking, endorse recovery and stability, foster relationships, and encourage continued treatment. The team has expanded the use of this curriculum in Spanish and is working to develop Spanish speaking groups. Recovery Specialists assist individuals in accessing community resources, financial benefits, and low-income housing, depending on the individual's need. After-hour services are supported by on-call staff to ensure individuals' needs are met beyond regular office hours, including in-person services on weekends or holidays, to ensure adequate care is provided.

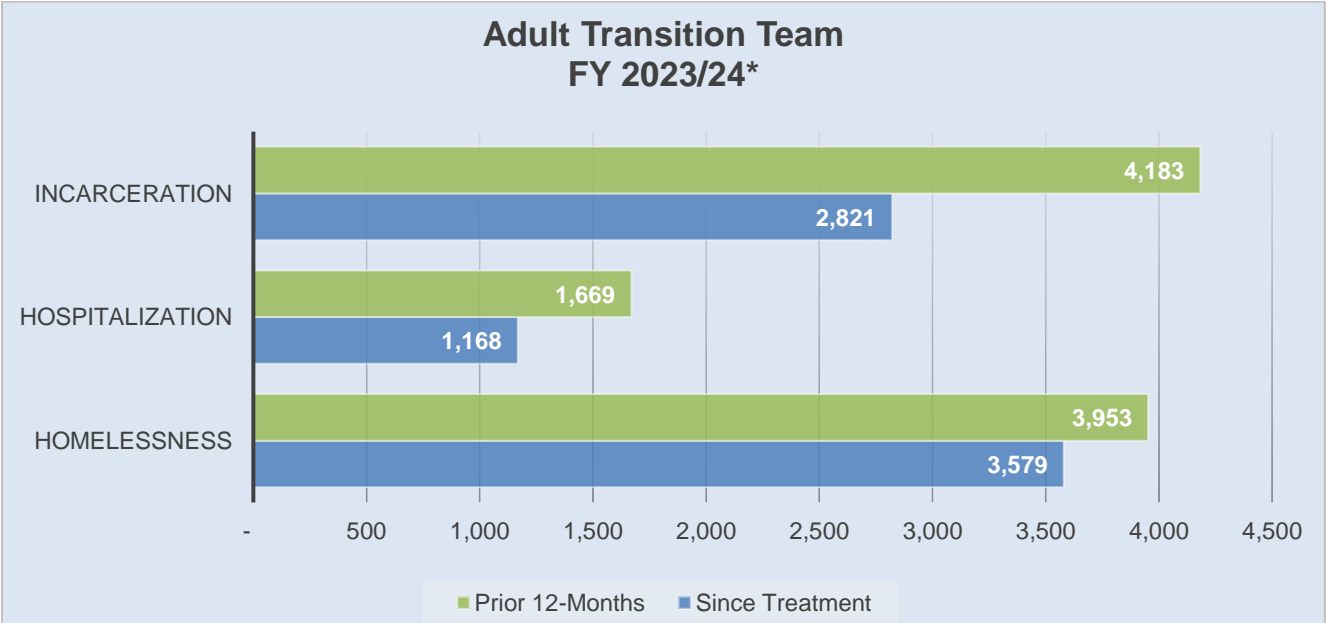
This year, the need for diversion services has continued to grow, increasing ATT's diversion program caseload. The ATT diversion program serves individuals with severe mental health conditions who are referred by the Court after the commission of one or multiple serious crimes. This one to two-year program is designed to reduce recidivism of individuals who suffer from serious mental health conditions and/or substance use who are also involved in the criminal justice system, reduce incarceration due to program failures, and enhance public safety by providing necessary mental health care. The ATT

diversion program ensures linkage to appropriate resources including housing, transportation, and benefits. Treatment is closely monitored by Recovery Specialists and Therapists and includes several services per week to improve coping strategies, manage mental health, and maintain sobriety. Through collaboration with CBH, ATT staff facilitates linkage to community providers for individuals who need diversion services but do not require the intensity of ATT services.

Furthermore, ATT has strengthened collaboration with community substance use treatment facilities to assist clients with comorbid diagnoses that require more intensive substance use treatment than the team can provide. In these cases, ATT’s substance use counselor refers clients to residential facilities to complete up to 90-day intensive programs that focus on skills to help individuals maintain sobriety. ATT’s work with these treatment facilities ensures individuals receive intensive services to target both mental health symptoms and substance use triggers to increase the likelihood of long-term sobriety and success. This year, ATT’s increased collaboration efforts allowed several Diversion Court individuals, who may have been otherwise unsuccessful in managing their addiction, to successfully maintain sobriety and stability. These individuals have gone on to graduate from the program and have since had their charges dismissed.

ATT measures AB 109 recidivism outcomes by comparing the number of days individuals spend in-custody, in inpatient psychiatric settings, or homeless during the 12 months prior to service initiation to the number of days in these categories while in treatment following release. The target goal is to reduce the number of days in these categories by 30%. From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 are pro-rated), ATT served 95 unduplicated individuals with severe mental illness, many of whom had a secondary diagnosis of a substance use disorder and were homeless. In aggregate, the number of days incarcerated decreased by 33%, psychiatric inpatient setting reduced by 30%, and homeless days decreased by 9% (Table 3). KernBHRS staff continues to work together with the Homeless Collaborative and partner agencies to coordinate efforts and action plans to address housing needs.

Table 3



*FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated)

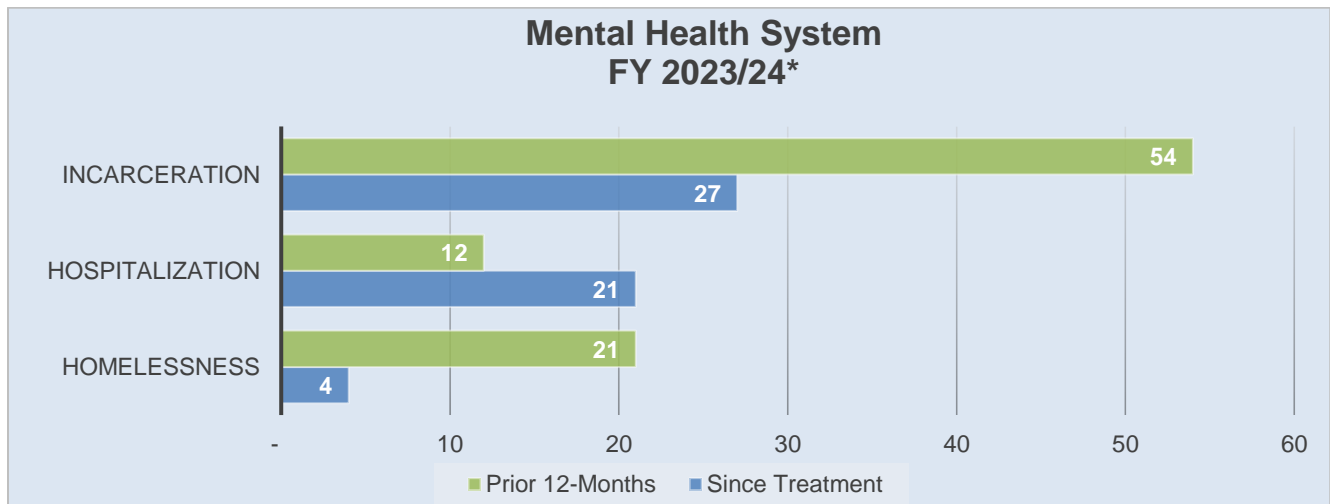
Mental Health Systems

The Mental Health Systems, Kern ACTion is contracted with KernBHRS to provide intensive outpatient treatment to AB 109 individuals who do not respond to traditional outpatient treatment. The service delivery model known as Assertive Community Treatment model assists these AB 109 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness which contribute to severe functional impairment in several life areas, and who have a history of criminal justice system involvement. The goal is to reduce frequent psychiatric hospitalizations, homelessness, reoccurring incarceration, and assist individuals in developing meaningful activities in the community and to improve their lives through mental health recovery services.

Individuals work collaboratively with Mental Health Systems Kern ACTion staff to develop personal goals. Treatment consists of self-empowerment, skills building, staff role modeling, and side by side support to name a few interventions developed collaboratively. Services are provided in locations that meet the needs of the individual served in addition to services at the Kern ACTion office. The outpatient team works closely to combine their knowledge and skills to provide the individual with the services they need for as long as they need them, 24 hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week including after hours on call availability.

From July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated), AB 109 individuals received 1,087 individual therapy and rehabilitation services and 369 med management visits, and 401 targeted case management services. There were 21 hospitalizations and 27 incarcerations for these individuals. There was a total of 53 crisis services which included MET/PEC/CWiC contact. Additionally, there were 4 homeless individuals. Table 4 notes an increase in hospitalizations since treatment. Case reviews indicate this can be attributed to a small number of clients with several re-admissions. Specifically, six clients were readmitted two or more times during this period. In addition, the high level of acuity and issues surrounding medication adherence are factors in increased hospitalization rates. Mental Health Systems Kern ACTion will continue to collaborate with Correctional Behavioral Health in assessment and engaging individuals still incarcerated and in following individuals upon release from custody.

Table 4



*FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated)

Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services

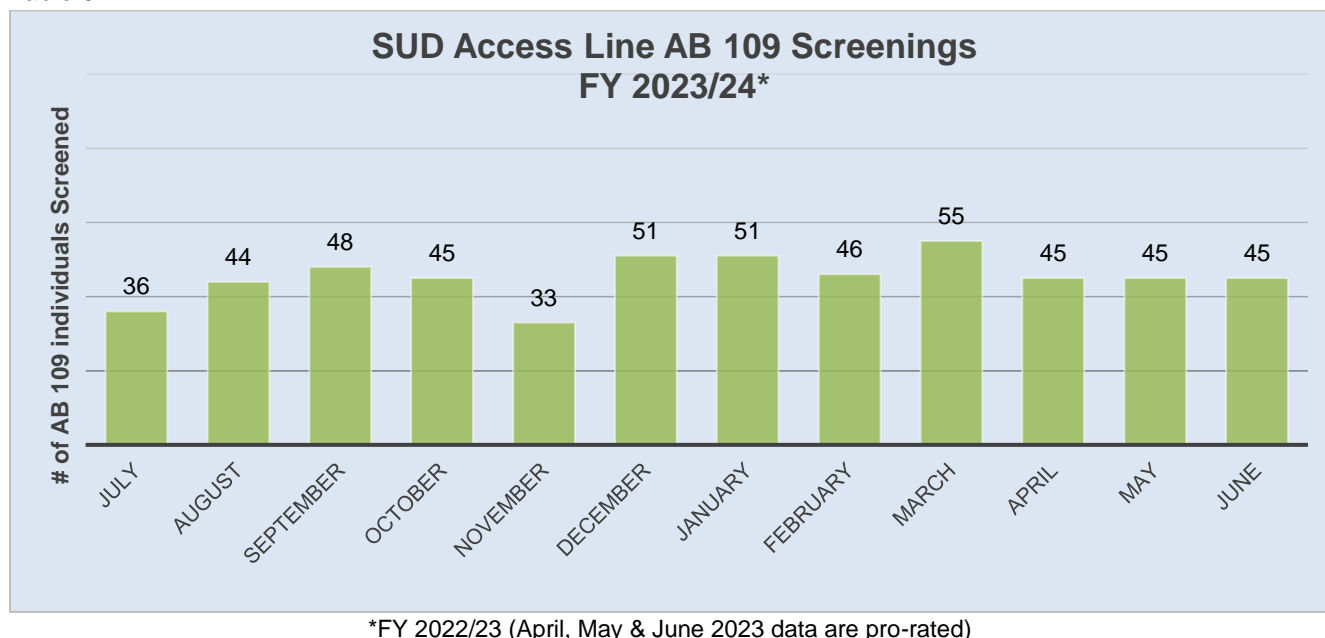
SUD Access Line

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) outpatient services are primarily provided for AB 109 assigned individuals through KernBHRS contracted service providers. Individuals are linked to service providers through the SUD Access Line. The SUD Access Line serves as the central screening and referral service for SUD treatment throughout Kern County, encompassing both metropolitan Bakersfield and outlying areas. It operates 24/7, offering clients the convenience of phone screenings and referrals for treatment. In addition to the call center, the SUD Access Line maintains several physical locations within the community where clients can walk in for in person screenings and referrals. In our effort to reduce barriers to accessing services, clients can also visit any treatment locations directly, where providers conduct assessments and admissions based on availability.

The SUD Access Line completes screenings and referrals for individuals who are in-custody, in psychiatric inpatient settings and through direct referrals from individuals admitted to a community emergency room due to substance use. In FY 2023/24, the SUD Access Line partnered with the California Department of Corrections (CDCR) to target criminal justice involved individuals via a direct referral path for individuals discharging back into the community with active medications to manage their substance use disorder.

In addition to providing screenings and referrals to services, the SUD Access Line provides case management to inmates participating in the in-custody treatment programs. SUD staff provide community re-entry kits and assist with linkage to additional community service and resources. Upon discharge, individuals are also evaluated by SUD staff to determine their appropriateness for direct residential placement or placement within a sober living home to assist with successful completion of outpatient services.

Table 5



As shown in Table 5 above, there were a total of 544 unduplicated AB 109 individuals screened for substance use disorder treatment services through the SUD Access Line between July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated).

Despite seeing a slow return in SUD treatment enrollments to pre-COVID levels, the average number of individuals in SUD treatment continues to increase. In the previous fiscal year (2022/23), there were 3,069 individuals in SUD treatment. In FY 2023/24, there are 3,335 individuals enrolled in SUD treatment (April, May & June 2024 pro-rated).

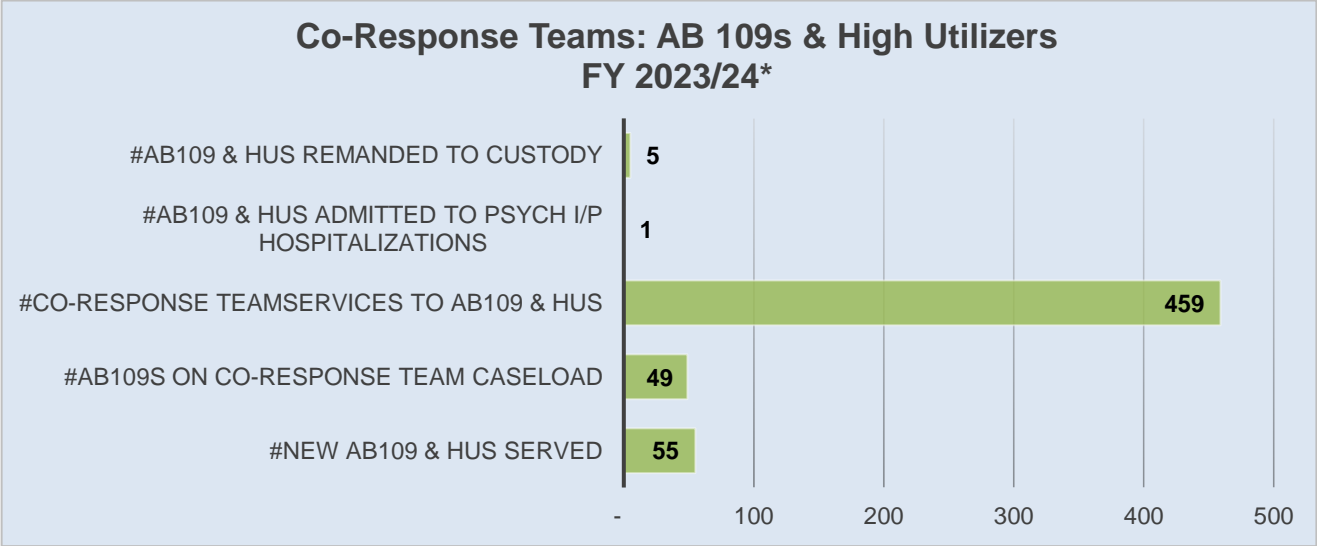
Crisis Intervention Services

Mobile Evaluation Services

The KernBHRS Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) has historically acted as an adjunct to law enforcement with community response, and it has been standard for MET to be dispatched through law enforcement. Since the launch of the AB 109 Co-Response Team in June 2015, MET, in conjunction with KCSO and the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD), has taken on a more proactive role in reducing crises and recidivism. Historically there has been two Co-Response Teams in place: one for KCSO and one for BPD. Since April 2022 there is only one Co-Response Team for KCSO, consisting of a law enforcement officer and a senior-level MET staff member. Individuals served are High Utilizers of law enforcement 911 services who, without early intervention, may become hospitalized or incarcerated. This joint response approach places the law enforcement officer and MET staff in the same vehicle, increasing the level of collaborative crisis care services.

Between July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 are pro-rated), the Co-Response Team provided initial contact to 55 new AB 109 and High Utilizers individuals. The caseload of the Co-Response Teams included 49 AB 109 and High Utilizers individuals. Overall, the Co-Response Teams provided 459 services to AB 109 and High Utilizers. One EMP individual was admitted to inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations and 5 AB 109 EMP individuals were remanded to custody during this period.

Table 6



*FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated)

In addition to Co-Response Team services, traditional MET services were continuously provided throughout Kern County. At the request of law enforcement, MET provides community-based crisis intervention services including evaluation and transportation for involuntary psychiatric care. Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated), MET and/or Virtual MET responded to 4,652 adults with local law enforcement and 47 Virtual MET Responses to Adults (Table 7).

The Crisis Intervention Team

The Crisis Intervention Teams' (CIT) goals are to improve officer and individual safety when the scene is a mental health crisis and redirect individuals with mental illness from the Judicial System to the Behavioral Health System. Additionally, Co-Response team aims to prevent and reduce recidivism for AB 109 individuals who have substance use and behavioral health disorders from recidivism to incarceration.

The CIT Electronic Monitoring Program Subcommittee is a collaboration between KCSO, BPD and KernBHRS to assist Co-Response Teams find solutions for participants who have behavioral health issues during their participation in the EMP program. The Co-Response team's goal is to prevent the AB 109 participants who have substance use and behavioral health disorders from recidivism to incarceration. The CIT 40-hour class, CIT Advance Officer 8-hour class, CIT Steering Committee, CIT Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) Subcommittee, and CIT High Utilizer Subcommittee specifically focus on closing the gaps between law enforcement and behavioral health agencies who often encounter the same individuals in the community that need behavioral health services. Through the collaboration of the CITs' work, services are enhanced for the AB 109 population.

The CIT 40-hour class and CIT Advance Officer 8-hour class provide training to law enforcement on how to identify behavioral health behaviors to assist officers in linking individuals to behavioral health and substance use disorder services. The class provides resources that may reduce recidivism by offering referrals to address their behavioral health needs. Between the period of July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, two CIT 40-hour classes for the Kern County Sheriff's Office were completed (October 2023 and March 2024), and three CIT 40-hour class for the Bakersfield Police Department (September 2023, November 2023 and March 2024).

Access and Assessment Center

The Access and Assessment Center continues to serve as the centralized access point for adults entering mental health treatment outside of the criminal justice setting. The Center completes screenings on a walk-in basis for individuals seeking mental health services. Following initial screening, individuals are scheduled for an appointment with a therapist to continue assessment for specialty mental health services criteria. Individuals who meet specialty services criteria are linked to an appropriate outpatient team, while those who do not meet criteria are assisted with linkage to a community provider. In addition to offering support for those seeking mental health services for themselves, Access and Assessment Center also provides community resources for walk-ins who are seeking mental health services for a family member.

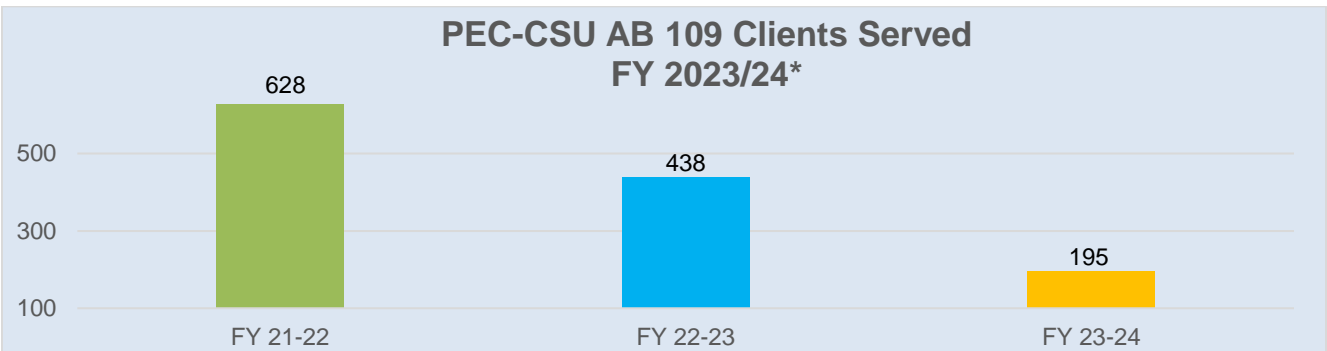
Access and Assessment Center also receives referrals from the Probation Department, Child Protective Services, and Public Health. The Center provides routine and urgent mental health assessments, linkage to outpatient teams, linkage to medication management services (in crisis situations), requests second bridge medication for eligible individuals, links individuals to crisis services, provides psychoeducation to individuals/families, educates individuals on how to navigate the system of care, and collaborates with other teams within the system of care for quality/continuity of care. Individuals who present with substance use challenges are directly linked to Gateway services within the Substance Use Division.

During the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated), the Center served 161 AB 109 assigned individuals, all of which were screened. Out of 161 screened individuals, 153 were scheduled with assessments while the other 8 declined services entirely. The 153 scheduled assessments yielded the following results: 60 no shows, 23 did not meet specialty criteria for mental health service (12 of which were linked to community providers), and 70 who met criteria for specialty mental health services. All 70 AB 109 assigned individuals who met criteria were linked to services within the KernBHRS System of Care, including contracted rural providers. However, 8 of the 70 individuals did not show up to their follow up appointments following linkage. Therefore, there were 62 successful linkages in FY 2023/24 through Access and Assessment Center.

Psychiatric Evaluation Center and Crisis Stabilization Unit

The Bakersfield Psychiatric Evaluation Center – Crisis Stabilization Unit (PEC-CSU) and the Ridgecrest CSU (Ridgecrest Mental Health Urgent Care Center) are the designated facilities to receive involuntary psychiatric holds from law enforcement and KernBHRS designated staff. The Ridgecrest CSU serves the communities of East Kern. Individuals may be voluntarily admitted to the Bakersfield PEC-CSU or the Ridgecrest CSU during a crisis. The PEC-CSUs determine if there is a need for hospitalization or if the individual can be treated and released back to the community. Discharge from the CSUs is coordinated with the individual’s current service provider for the community release, or a notification is provided that the individual was admitted to a psychiatric inpatient facility. During the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated), the Ridgecrest CSU provided services to 9 AB 109 identified individuals. Between July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated), the Bakersfield PEC-CSU provided services to 77 AB 109 identified individuals in crisis (Table 8). Many of these individuals had more than a single crisis encounter during the fiscal year. These services contribute to the impact of this 24-hour facility.

Table 7



*FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 data are pro-rated)

Housing Support Services

Housing is often a significant barrier for individuals re-entering the community after incarceration. A welcoming, recovery-oriented home environment is important for successful reintegration back into the community. Within the Kern BHRS Adult System of Care, the Housing Services team provides housing subsidy assistance services and makes recommendations to teams by identifying emergency and temporary shelter placements. This assistance allows individuals to focus on participating in outpatient treatment to include the goal of planning for permanent housing. FY 2023/24 (April, May & June 2024 are pro-rated), Kern BHRS secured a total of \$210,000 for short-term and emergency housing targeting AB 109 individuals released from jail and/or hospitalization who are at risk of homelessness upon release from custody.

Table 8

Specialty Transitional Housing	AB 109 Totals		Housing Services Team: Short Term Funding	AB 109 Totals	
FY 2023/24	FY 2022/23	FY 2023/24	FY 2023/24	FY 2022-23	FY 2023/24
Client Vouchers Processed	45	21	Claims Processed	3	11
Unique Client Count	16	7	Unique Client Count	2	11
Amount Spent	\$30,480	\$13,963	Amount Spent	\$2,485	\$7,665

KernBHRS, along with partner agencies, meet with the AB 109 housing providers monthly to discuss issues, concerns, and success stories. As part of these meetings, regular presentations are provided to educate providers about community programs that can be beneficial for their residents. As part of the Quality Standards Program, Housing Providers who receive individual referrals from KernBHRS Housing Services are required to participate in regular site visit monitoring to support residents and providers while addressing areas of concern. These site visits have proven to reduce the number of complaints and foster positive relationships with housing providers.

Moving Forward

KernBHRS continues to promote a high standard of care and expand and shape services for AB 109 assigned individuals with a focus on the recommendations outlined in the CCP Strategic Plan, the Kern County Stepping Up Initiative, and with consideration for capacity and service needs identified by the Department. Correctional Behavioral Health and the System of Care are working closely with Kern County Probation, Managed Care Providers, and Kern County Sheriff's Office for the upcoming implementation of the CalAIM initiative for justice-involved individuals to assist with community re-entry following release from incarceration. This initiative will promote post-release outpatient and community linkage to ensure individuals' physical, behavioral, and substance recovery needs are met upon release. Through this initiative, KernBHRS will continue its efforts to address the specific needs of the justice-involved population to improve health outcomes, advance health equity, and improve public health and safety. Through these efforts, the department strives to help decrease rates of recidivism in

hospitalization, incarceration, and days of homelessness for the population served, while promoting independence and whole-person care to address previously untreated physical and mental health diagnoses and/or substance use disorders.

FY 2024/25 Spending Plan

In FY 2024/25, KernBHRS has been designated to receive \$8,684,862.00 in Public Safety Realignment funding to support mental health and substance use disorder programming and administration. Over the past year, the department has experienced changes in personnel and contracts, making it necessary for funding shifts to support costs associated with in-custody mental health and crisis services. For the next year, KernBHRS proposes to allocate costs as outlined in the chart below. KernBHRS will continue to identify ways to improve upon the programs established for the AB 109 population. Additionally, KernBHRS will continue to develop, implement, and monitor data collection methodologies to maximize resources and funding available.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services AB 109 Budget Justifications / Spending Plan FY 2024/25

Salaries and Benefits			
Service	Position	FTE	Annual Cost
Correctional Behavioral Health-Jail Personnel	BH Recovery Specialist	13	\$1,443,012.16
	BH Therapist	9	\$1,249,785.74
	BH Health Unit Supervisor	1	\$205,209.88
	Office Services Technician	3	\$263,738.66
	Licensed Vocational Nurse	11	\$1,447,656.84
	Physicians		\$600,000.00
Contracted Services			
Adult SOC Contractors			\$678,108.00
KLD SOC Contracts			\$2,000,000.00
Pharmacy Contractors			\$220,527.00
System of Care Oversight			\$640,922.68
Total Projected Expenditures for FY 2024/25			\$8,748,960.96
CCP Base Allocations to KernBHRS for FY 2024/25			\$8,684,862.00
Total Projected Expenditures Exceeding Allocation for FY 2024/25 (*KernBHRS to absorb this projected expenditure cost)			(64,098.96)

Employers' Training Resource

Employers' Training Resource (ETR) has seen a tremendous increase in both referrals and enrollments through the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. Year over year, referrals through 3rd Quarter jumped from 485 to 611 and are on track to exceed last year's total referrals (696) through the end of June. Enrollments through the 3rd Quarter (105) have already outpaced the total number of enrollments through all four quarters of last year (93) and we still have a quarter to go. The increased referrals are a direct result of increased collaboration between ETR and Probation's AB 109 division. We've also utilized AB 109 funding to expand job development and training activities so that our enrollees have places to "land". This includes Paid Work Experience (PWEX) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) in addition to traditional training opportunities.

Although six of our Transitional Jobs programs (paid work-based learning) ended in September and were not refunded due to pressure on the multiple funding streams that supported them, we continue to send participants to Recycling Lives and the Multi-Craft Apprenticeship with the local trade unions.

For FY 2024/25, we plan to continue to focus on what has been demonstrated to work, however we will be shortening the length of PWEX from 16 weeks to 12 weeks maximum. This will help stretch limited funding and create more urgency for work sites to move successful clients into permanent positions or higher-level OJTs.

Most of the proposed Base Fund budget is allocated to staff costs, with a relatively small amount earmarked for training, PWEX, OJTs and Supportive Services. The primary source of funding for PWEX, OJTs, Training, and Supportive Services will be the remainder of our Growth Funds, additional Growth Funds that become available, and any available Base Carry-Forward. After actual allocations are known, we may request supplemental funding from the Contingency Fund to support additional subsidized employment/training or offset cuts to the estimated funding from the State. It should be noted that in addition to increased staff costs across every County department, the cost of subsidized employment has increased due to increases to California's Minimum Wage.

Proposed Budget for Employers' Training Resource **FY 2024/25 AB 109 Plan**

Program Staff

POSITION	NUMBER	FTE	YEARLY COST
County Administrative Office Manager	1	.01	\$2,992
Workforce Development Program Manager	2	.06	\$9,894
Program Support Supervisor	2	.61	\$69,616
Program Specialist	5	2.32	\$268,712
Job Developer	3	2.01	\$226,579
Systems Analyst	1	.01	\$1,979
Office Services Specialist	1	.02	\$2,373
Office Services Technician	3	.13	\$9,642
Total Program FTEs		5.17	\$591,787

Administrative Staff

POSITION	NUMBER	FTE	YEARLY COST
Chief Workforce Development Officer	1	.01	\$4,000
Asst. Workforce Development Officer	1	.01	\$3,099
Sr. Workforce Development Analyst	3	.05	\$8,224
Supervising Departmental Analyst	1	.90	\$127,614
Senior Accountant	5	.17	\$25,956
Administrative Coordinator	1	.01	\$1,575
Contract Administrator	2	.05	\$6,486
Fiscal Support Specialist	4	.05	\$5,271
Fiscal Support Technician	1	.01	\$1,148
Office Services Technician	2	.02	\$2,186
Marketing & Promotions Coordinator	1	.05	\$6,439
Marketing & Promotions Associate	1	.01	\$1,420
Total Administrative FTEs		1.34	\$193,418
Total FTEs		6.51	\$785,205

Program Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$591,787
Administrative Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$193,418
Overhead incl AB 109 room	\$34,014
Participant Training/OJTs/Transitional Jobs/PWEX	\$58,139
Supportive Services	\$5,000
Supplies	\$1,000
Travel	\$500
TOTAL	\$883,858

District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office has seen increased workload responsibilities that have added to the workload increases attributed to AB 109 and Proposition 47. The increased responsibilities have been the result of advances made in the investigative process, new legislation that reopens cases for further litigation, and changes to parole and custody credit calculations that have resulted in more prison inmates being released and subsequently reoffending.

The advent and increasingly widespread use of police body-camera units has resulted in a large amount of evidence on even the simplest criminal offense that must be downloaded, reviewed, and transcribed in order to effectively analyze cases and prepare for trial. While such evidence is a welcome boost to transparency and public safety, it places additional workloads on attorneys on both sides of the criminal justice system. The increased workload required to prosecute cases applies not only to the most serious crimes, but also crimes that have been converted to local custody qualifying sentences or reduced to misdemeanors pursuant to realignment.

The proliferation of police body-camera evidence has resulted in a drastic increase in the creation, storage, editing, discovery and retention of digital evidence on all trial types, including the varied crimes impacted by realignment. The District Attorney has utilized CCP funds to cover not only staffing needs to address the increased workload associated with the advent of digital evidence, but also to help obtain and maintain the equipment required to store, manage, and deliver large quantities of digital files across all case types.

State legislation continues to impact District Attorney's Office, which, in combination with increased caseloads attributed to realignment, has resulted in additional need for qualified attorneys and staff to effectively represent the public safety interest involved in ensuring that validly obtained convictions are not dismissed or vacated without opposition when the facts warrant it.

The District Attorney has made adjustments to counterbalance increased workloads, including the introduction of diversionary opportunities for many first-time low level misdemeanor offenses, and worked in partnership with the Public Defender, the Superior Court, and Behavioral Health to open an avenue of mental health diversion and diversion opportunities for incompetent defendants or in circumstances where treatable mental health factors played a substantial role in criminality in appropriate cases. Additionally, the District Attorney continues to refine efforts to provide avenues for diversion for misdemeanor cases involving minimal charges against less-criminally justice involved defendants.

The total request from the Community Corrections Partnership for FY 2024/25 is \$2,741,240.00. The District Attorney's proposal is to receive the same percentage of funding that was received in previous years. As staffing and costs have gone up faster than the available appropriations, the District Attorney's Office does request that when/if additional funds become available, they are considered for additional funding. This request represents the minimum amount necessary to maintain the existing level of service within the District Attorney's Office and the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory in order to ensure the public safety needs of the citizens of Kern County are met.

Position/Item	#	Salary	Benefits	Total
Deputy District Attorney V	8	\$185,897.38	\$120,329.68	\$2,449,816.48
Criminalist III	1	\$119,259.59	\$82,432.77	\$201,692.36
Total Personnel	9			\$2,651,508.84
Recurring costs, phones, computers, licensing, Internet access, cell phones, vehicles, office furniture, training, Bar dues, MCLE, office supplies, etc.				\$89,731.17
Total				\$2,741,240

Public Defender's Office

Realignment has Profoundly Impacted Public Defender Workload

The overwhelming majority of criminal defendants are indigent, and the Public Defender represents a significant portion of these persons. Our mandate is Constitutional and statutory. Under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, persons accused of committing crimes, who cannot afford to hire private counsel, are entitled to appointed counsel. Pursuant to California Government Code § 27706, the Public Defender is charged with representation of persons qualifying for appointed counsel.

The Public Defender's approved FY 2024/25 allocation equals \$1,370,620.00 or 50% of the amount appropriated to the prosecution. The amount is intended to help our department keep comparative pace with the tenacious, aggressive, determined and professional efforts of our counterparts in the criminal justice system, the District Attorney.

Guiding Principles of Fairness Support the Department's Allocation

Fairness and a "balanced allocation of resources" within the criminal justice system are recognized and operate as the controlling moral imperatives. Kern County Strategic Plan (2008), Section I, p. 5, Keeping Our Communities Safe; ABA Ten Principles of a Defense Delivery System (2002), p.3: "There should be parity of workload, salaries, and other resources (such as benefits, technology, facilities, legal research, support staff, paralegals, investigators, and access to forensic services and experts) between prosecution and public defense."

The Public Defender and the defense roles are reactive. Consequently, the impact of Realignment on the department reflects and is directly traceable to the District Attorney's work. Specifically, with the exception of dependency, mental health and conservatorship work, the Public Defender's workload is a function of law enforcement activity in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting suspected offenders. As noted, while the Public Defender does not defend all cases the District Attorney prosecutes,¹ the Public Defender represents the significant majority of alleged offenders.

Moreover, while the District Attorney's office performs certain functions with no analog to the defense (e.g., review and filing of complaints), so too the Public Defender performs work not visited on our prosecutorial counterparts. For example, lawyers with the Public Defender's office must investigate their own cases, while law enforcement often provides a completed investigation for the prosecutor. Separately, deputy public defenders are expected to and spend substantial time and energy interviewing and advising every client, including those housed at pretrial and correctional holding facilities.

Implementation Plan

It is not possible to precisely align or attribute a particular defendant or crime to Realignment. Consequently, the department utilizes the AB 109 allocation to meet – as effectively as we can – the department's significant Realignment driven caseload. Graphical depiction of the approximate/equivalent funding capacity provided by the department's allocation is as follows:

Position Title	Number	Salary	Benefits	Total
Deputy Public Defender IV – Step 3	2	\$317,324	\$186,444	\$503,768
Deputy Public Defender IV – Step 2	1.5	\$233,327	\$137,778	\$371,105
Deputy Public Defender III – Step 1	1	\$109,727	\$69,356	\$179,083
Sr. Investigator – Step 5	1.2	\$106,194	\$70,424	\$176,618
Legal Secretary – Step 5	1	\$47,441	\$38,056	\$85,497
Office expenses, licensing, computers, vehicles, phones, copiers, paper, etc.				\$54,549
Total				\$1,370,620

Material Disclosures - Consistent with Prior Years

- 1) Use of Funds: Pen. Code §1230(b)(3) provides in relevant part that AB 109 funds shall be used to provide supervision and rehabilitative services for adult felony offenders. As in prior years, the department's intended use of the funds relies on the understanding that legal advocacy and representation of indigent individuals in criminal proceedings may be appropriately characterized as involving rehabilitative efforts and services.
- 2) Supplemental versus Supplanting: Pen. Code §1233.7 provides that AB 109 monies shall be used to supplement, not supplant, any other state or county appropriation. The department is informed and believes the CAO's recommended Net General Fund Contributions are calculated without regard to whether or not departments receive an AB 109 allocation. Consequently, the department's allocation request reflects supplemental rather than supplanting funding. (Compare to a situation where the recommended contribution was reduced dollar-for-dollar based on any subsequently obtained allocation).
- 3) Accounting of Funds: If approved, the department intends to again apply the AB 109 funds on a pro-rata (i.e., quarterly) basis. As noted, while the department recognizes a significant caseload is attributable to Realignment, it is impossible to identify all cases or alleged crimes caused by Realignment.

Street Interdiction Team

The Street Interdiction Team (SIT) is a multi-departmental law enforcement task force consisting of numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the County of Kern. SIT periodically plans and operates enforcement teams in different regional areas to address specific community needs. Through increased funding of AB 109, SIT narrowed its focus to help combat street-level crime. Financial funds were made available on behalf of the CCP and have greatly influenced the process of current and future SIT operations.

SIT operates in Kern County cities such as Arvin, Bakersfield, Bear Valley Springs, California City, Delano, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco. In order to affectively address street-level crime, SIT proceeds with the following:

- Focuses on improving collaborations with law enforcement agencies throughout Kern County
- Establishes front-line operations in cities and towns throughout Kern County
- Meets on a monthly basis to discuss current AB 109 activities and impacts

In FY 2023/24, SIT completed a total of six (7) operations with a timespan total of 20 days and 204 hours in Kern County as of April 28, 2024. The participating agencies consisted of Arvin Police Department, Bakersfield Police Department, California City Police Department, Delano Police Department, Kern County Sheriff's Office, Kern County Probation Department, McFarland Police Department, Ridgecrest Police Department, Shafter Police Department, Taft Police Department, Tehachapi Police Department, and Wasco Police Department. All agencies worked with the Kern County Probation Department as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the County and were reimbursed for overtime in relation to AB 109 SIT operations.

Depending on the criminal activity and need, SIT teams have conducted multiple operations in a specific area over a short period of time. This has demonstrated a successful showing of force and cooperation throughout Kern County. SIT operations draw an assembly of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that provide a multitude of experience, information, and resources to ensure the most effective regional policing strategies are put into practice. SIT offers regional law enforcement agencies some relief in addressing AB 109 impacts by pooling resources for intelligence gathering, leveraging resources, and providing agency collaboration and cooperation in tracking offenders as they move throughout Kern County and the State. As a result, the decline of criminal activity has been noticeable following the application of these operations. Data below resulted from SIT operations as of April 28, 2024:

- Planned targets: 282
- Total arrests: 68
- Seized handguns/shotguns/rifles: 12
- Currency: \$73,954
- Confiscated items: stolen vehicle, ammunition, a magazine, and a syringe
- Seized drugs: methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and cannabis

The total request for FY 2024/25 is \$435,524

Community-Based Organizations Program

The CCP Public Safety Realignment Act Plan includes funds for organizations to provide services to AB 109 individuals, with the goals of decreasing recidivism, enabling persons to reconnect with their family members, and contribute to their communities. Recidivism, in this context, is defined as the tendency to relapse into a previous negative condition or mode of behavior resulting in conviction of a new criminal offense.

The Community-Based Organizations Program (CBO) provides flexibility to support the needs of the community and respond under the direction of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). The CBOs have assisted the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, and KernBHRS in creating and improving a continuum of care, allowing offenders to receive necessary services. Since the implementation of the CBO program in FY 2012/13, the CCP has allocated \$26,474,499 to CBOs through Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Applications (RFA), and Personal/ Professional Services Agreements (PPSA).

The CCP allocated a total of \$7,993,642 through a competitive RFP process, issued in June 2022 for Calendar Years 2023 through 2025, to assist in the overall success of Realignment in Kern County. This process focused on reentry services such as residential/transitional housing, employment and educational programs, case management services and other evidence-based programs, proven practices, and/or best practices aimed at reducing recidivism. Residential/transitional housing programs create a structured living environment for individuals reentering the community. Employment and educational programs provide individuals with valuable tools to succeed in the workplace. Case management services develop and maintain case plans for individuals.

With the CCP's recommendation, the County awarded contracts to the following organizations to provide community-based services for AB 109 male and female offenders reentering the community for a three year period, January 1,2023 to December 31,2025:

- 1) Bakersfield Recovery Services
- 2) Cottage of Hope and Gratitude
- 3) Freedom House Transitional Housing
- 4) Garden Pathways
- 5) Minnie Marvels Sober Living for Women and Children
- 6) New Life Recovery and Training Center
- 7) One Door
- 8) Third Tradition
- 9) STEPs
- 10) WestCare

Realignment has brought new challenges impacting services. In 2023, a lengthy waitlist began to form for residential/transitional housing program placements. This was an unintended result of the residential/transitional housing program contracts including a new increased housing stay from 120 days to 180 days for offenders housed through the programs. As such, Personal/Professional Service Agreements (PPSA) were entered into with the existing CBOs to accommodate additional bed capacity

and alleviate the waitlist. In addition, the loss of a CBO owner in Spring 2024 required the CCP to terminate that CBO contract and enter into additional PPSAs with other CBOs to secure the lost bed capacity and continuity in services. Despite these challenges, the CCP and our community partners remain committed to providing quality housing and services to AB 109 offenders.

To ensure the CBO's success in providing streamlined services, the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and KernBHRS continue collaborating by doing the following:

- Monthly collaborative meetings
- Bi-Annual individual CBO meetings
- Annual individual CBO meetings
- Monitoring data tracker elements and quarterly reporting
- CBO provider trainings
- Exchange of key information for improved offender services
- Tracking drug testing
- Encouraging CBO representatives to interview potential candidates at the Lerdo Detention Facility
- Fostering an open line of communication and addressing provider's questions, concerns, and requests as they arise
- Monthly and/or quarterly monitoring site visits to CBOs in order

The CCP continues to focus on utilizing CBOs to help offenders gain access to the services and tools they need to become productive individuals of the community. The CCP is committed to the partnership with the CBOs and the collaborative work that makes Kern County a safer place to live. The request for FY 2024/25 is \$1,748,501.

Veterans Service Department

Veterans Justice Outreach

The Kern County Veterans Service Department (KCVSD) has historically had a dedicated Veterans Service Representative (VSR) designated to provide benefit advocacy and case management to veterans (and their families) at any stage in the criminal justice system. The initiative provides access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, California Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, as well as referrals to other service providers in an effort to eliminate barriers to successful reintegration into the community and reduce the recidivism rate of veteran offenders. Since this employee was hired, she has learned to navigate and successfully negotiate any challenge(s) that have arisen while assisting this veteran population and is now responsible for departmental training of all new and current employees. In an effort to further reduce barriers to benefits, the department has implemented CCP specific training as part of its onboard training for all new employees.

Having VSR's trained and experienced specifically in this area of advocacy has not only allowed for a smooth transition to benefits for the veteran once released from custody, but also increased accessibility to benefits for their dependents while the veteran is incarcerated. Moreover, having multiple points of contact for justice-involved veterans has allowed for a more robust relationship between our VSR's and the other service providers in the veteran community.

The VSR's work with VA medical staff to enroll veterans in VA healthcare and arranges transportation to the VA domiciliary on the VA Medical Center's West Los Angeles campus, as well as connect veterans with the Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Justice Program operated out of the VA Bakersfield Outpatient Clinic in collaboration with the public defender's office. Our VSR's work closely with California Veterans Assistance Foundation to secure housing for those veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, our VSR works with spouses of veterans to request apportionments of the veteran's monthly benefits to ensure those funds are distributed to the veteran's family while the veteran is incarcerated.

Since the implementation of the program, we have assisted 345 local veterans and family members with 157 veterans assisted in FY 2023/24. Our SVSR assisted 30 veterans via virtual conferences while assisting with their VA compensation or pension benefits. Furthermore, our SVSR has received numerous correspondence and has replied with valuable information for veterans regarding potential benefits as they prepare for release.

The KCVSD is excited by our continued success and looks forward to continuing to assist veterans and their families as they navigate the criminal justice system and move forward on life's journey. Based on our continued success and increased advocacy in the form of additional trained CCP staff, the total request from the Community Corrections Partnership for FY 2024/25 is \$172,929, which will be used to provide funding for the multiple CCP qualified VSR's, 1 Supervising Veterans Service representative, 2 tablets and updated mobile data devices, as well as video-conferencing licensing to work with justice-involved veterans and their families.

Veterans Service FY 2024/25 AB 109 Base Allocation

Position/Item	Total
Supervising Veterans Service Representative (FTE: 1.0)	\$112,599
County Veterans Services Officer (FTE: 0.25)	\$37,336
Business Manager (FTE 0.1)	\$15,201
Equipment & Supplies	\$7,793
Total	\$172,929

Contingency Funds

The plan calls for the unallocated money, in the amount of \$83,259 to be placed in the contingency fund for unexpected expenses and/or additional items the CCP chooses to fund.

Allocation of Realignment Funds

The CCP has spent numerous hours developing a plan that addresses the pressing issues of Realignment in Kern County. In order to achieve the goals, the allocation of AB 109 funds is based on the CCP's plan as described herein utilizing the FY 2024/25 allocation from the State of California.

The base allocation amounts for FY 2024/25 totals \$64,047,649.

<u>Department/Entity</u>	<u>Base Allocation%</u>	<u>FY 2024/25 Base Allocation</u>
Sheriff's Office	39.27%	\$ 25,151,512
Probation Department	35.56%	\$ 22,775,344
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services	13.56%	\$ 8,684,862
District Attorney's Office	4.28%	\$ 2,741,240
CBO Program	2.73%	\$ 1,748,501
Public Defender's Office	2.14%	\$ 1,370,620
Employers' Training Resource	1.38%	\$ 883,858
Street Interdiction Team	0.68%	\$ 435,524
Veterans Service	0.27%	\$ 172,929
Contingency	0.13%	\$ 83,259
Total Base Allocation	100%	\$ 64,047,649