“Promoting Public safety, reducing crime and motivating behavioral change”

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP
2014 ANNUAL PLAN

Community Corrections Partnership
Executive Board
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Introduction

On October 1, 2011, California Public Safety Realignment law Assembly Bill (AB) 109 went into effect. AB 109, legislation has reassigned three groups of offenders previously handled through the State Prison and Parole System to California counties. The first group includes convicted offenders receiving sentences for new non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offender (N3) crimes that are served locally (one year or more). Offenders in this category do not have prior violent or serious convictions. The second group involves post-release offenders (up to three years) coming under Probation Department supervision for (N3) crimes released from State Prison. Offenders in this category may have had prior convictions for violent or serious crimes. The third group includes State parole violators who are revoked to custody. With the exception of offenders sentenced to life with parole, this group is being revoked to local County Jail instead of State Prison. Also, it will eventually transfer responsibility for adjudicating parole violation from the Board of Prison Hearings to local Superior Courts.

On May 8, 2012, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors accepted the 2011-2012 Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Plan with a 5-0 vote. On May 30, 2013, the Partnership approved the amended 2013-2014 CCP Plan with the State’s allocation of $3,712,166. These funds cover all aspects of the adult population shifts which include, the transfer of low-level offender population, the county’s new supervision responsibilities for state prison inmates released to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), and sanctions for those revoked on PRCS. In addition, roughly $62,124 was made available to the District Attorney and Public Defender’s offices for costs associated with revocation hearings.

On June 5, 2014, the FY 2014-2015 budget was approved by the CCP for the total amount of $2,489,073, to remain status quo with the current services and staffing levels. The Realignment Allocation Committee (RAC) is awaiting approvals by the California Department of Finance (DOF) to finalize the allocations to counties. Once DOF announces the actual allocated amount, County departments will have the opportunity to submit augmentation to services or programs.

In summary, the CCP has been committed to implementing Public Safety Realignment as effectively and cost efficiently as possible. This updated plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 represents the third plan submitted since Realignment commenced, and is intended to serve as an update to the programs, efforts, and data associated with Realignment.

The following is a recap of this year’s accomplishments; with an increasing offender population, the Probation Department has been actively supervising offenders to ensure the compliance of Mandatory Supervision (MS), PRCS and formal probation cases. The Sheriff’s Office Pretrial Services Division, continues providing verified community ties and static information to the Superior Court to determine a defendant’s eligibility to be released from jail on his or her own recognizance. In addition, the Sheriff’s Office supervises the Community Work Service program which is utilized for community improvement and restoration projects. During this time, San Diego State University has completed a study on the Imperial County Probation Department’s Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Program which was deemed effective in reducing recidivism. Also, the CCP approved the training of 10 coaches for Integrated
Behavioral Interventions Strategies (IBIS) which is an evidence based approach to motivational interviewing and supervision.

In February 2014, the GEO Group began operating and offering rehabilitation services at the Day Reporting Center (DRC). The Department of Behavioral Health continues to provide substance abuse counseling, SMART Recovery and residential treatment at the McAllister home. Both the District Attorney and Public Defender’s Offices have adequately managed the increase of work load as a result of the impacts from Realignment. The District Attorney’s Office Victim Witness program continues in the advocating for victims and victim rights, crisis intervention and making every effort to make the victim whole.

**Realignment in Imperial County**

**Imperial County Probation Department**

Since Realignment, the Imperial County Probation Department has handled 307 Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS) and 51 Mandatory Supervision (MS) offenders. Currently, there are 107 active PRCS and 15 active MS offenders being supervised by the department.

Formal probation case loads have also increased significantly as indicated in the graph below. In June 2011, there were 1,682 formal probation offenders and as of June 2014, the number has increased to 2,511. Over 900 are considered moderate to high risk and require higher levels of supervision. Officers apart of the Adult Supervision Unit have between 40-180 offenders on a caseload, and keep record of all information that pertains to the offender and their case(s). This unit is staffed with a small number of armed officers who provide direct offender supervision in the community including: search and seizure orders, warrant and compliance checks (sweeps), and regular offender contact.

There are many participants whose minor violations are better and more cost effectively met with responses that are both proportional to the seriousness of the violation and address the situations that may have led to the behavior. The Adult Supervision Unit has established guidelines that set out clear penalties that include low intensity interventions such as additional frequency of reporting for minor violations and more restrictive options such as very short jail stays for serious infractions. As an
alternative to revocations or violations, Probation Officers are using flash incarceration (up to ten consecutive days), CBT and/or BI referrals, community service, increase in drug testing, GPS monitoring, restrictive curfew and increased supervision frequency as sanctions for offenders.

Senate Bill 678, a related precursor to AB 109, called for the local implementation of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) to reduce the number of probation failures resulting in prison commitments. EBP refers to approaches and interventions that have been scientifically tested in controlled studies and proven effective. EBP implies that there is a definable outcome(s); it is measurable, and defined according to practical realities (recidivism, victim satisfaction, etc.).

To date, SB 678 funds have been used to purchase the STRONG assessment (an evidence-based actuarial risk and needs assessment), train staff to implement the assessment, provide for a modest amount of intensive supervision, and build capacity within probation to implement “Thinking for a Change,” a cognitive behavioral training for probationers. These programs incorporate evidence-based principles, including the use of validated assessments and matching services to risk levels. They also provide foundational data-driven systemic interventions that safely reduce jail reliance and assist with the successful transition of authority for non-serious prisoners to the county.

**Community Supervision and Program Interventions:** Depending on the STRONG assessment risk and needs tool, the probationer will be assessed utilizing a case plan addressing their top three criminogenic needs. Utilizing Motivational Interviewing (MI) skills, Probation Officers will gather as much information necessary to make proper referrals. Services offered include, cognitive-behavioral treatment classes, drug testing, referrals to community-based organizations, access to job training and placement service provider, GED preparation and testing, workshops and participation in work crews, Behavioral Health referrals and GEO/DRC programming.

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<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>PRCS</th>
<th>Mandatory Supervision</th>
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<td>Westmorland</td>
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**Active Population by City**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>City</th>
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**PRCS Intensive Supervision Units:** If AB 109 offenders do not meet the criteria for the Day Reporting Center, they will be assigned to the high-risk AB109 intensive supervision Unit. The PRCS unit is staffed with armed officers who maintain a caseload of approximately 30 - 50 offenders. Officers provide direct contact by frequenting an offender’s home, work, and community throughout all phases of the program to ensure they are enrolled in treatment and are in compliance of established conditions. The officers track an individual’s progress during the program, along with conducting searches, administering drug tests, and working with offenders to change criminal behavior and choices in an effort to reduce recidivism. Many of the violations which occur among the PRCS offender group are being handled and offenders held accountable in the community without compromising public safety.
High/Moderate-risk offenders who present a threat are returned to jail when they commit a serious violation or new crime.

With the inception of Realignment, an Administrative Analyst was added to the CCP and assigned to the DRC to assist the collaborative agencies. The Administrative Analyst is responsible for capturing, reporting, and maintaining data for all participating agencies with the goal of highlighting useful information, suggesting recommendations, and supporting statistical decision making. This information is submitted to reporting and state agencies and is used for grant purposes, state reporting, and internal use.

**Use of Incentives/Rewards and Progressive Sanctions:** Research indicates that positive reinforcement, incentives and rewards are powerful tools in the supervision process. By employing them for progress, along with sanctions for violations, PRCS Officers can enhance offender motivation, support positive behavior change, and reduce recidivism. Examples of incentives and rewards staff are using include awarding certificates of achievement, reducing reporting requirements, removing conditions (such as home detention or curfew), or asking the offender to be a “mentor” to others. If an offender demonstrates successful behavior for six months (no new arrests, violations, revocations, noncompliance, or sanctions), he/she may be terminated or discharged. If any AB 109 offender completes the necessary programs or treatment and/or is demonstrating progress during supervision, the case can be evaluated for a lower level of supervision.

**Flash Incarceration:** Pursuant to Penal Code Section 3450 a PRCS offender who is violating the supervision conditions or treatment plan can be placed in County Jail for a maximum of ten days. During the fiscal year, 39 PRCS offenders were sanctioned with a Flash Incarceration.

![Flash Incarcerations Fiscal Year 2013-2014](image)

**GPS Tracking.** Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking has been used to track the precise location of an offender and sets boundaries of confinement to assure that the offender is complying with conditions of supervision. The use of GPS is also a method of graduated sanctions in lieu of incarceration.

**Sex Offender Polygraphing,** pursuant to Penal Code Section 209.023, all registered sex offenders on formal probation are required to undergo polygraph examinations for purposes of supervision. During the month of August 2014, polygraph examinations were conducted by JC Flentz Investigations LLC,
which is a California certified examiner. Sex Offenders also go through the STATIC 99R, which is a risk assessment tool for sexual offenders that fall within the classification of 290 PC. This tool scores the offender as to their risk to re-offend (low, moderate, or high). Based on their score, the level of supervision during the term of probation will be determined.

SDSU Research, In September, 2014, Dr. Michael J. Sabath, Associate Dean at San Diego State University completed a study on the Imperial County Probation Department’s Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Program. The CBT Crossroads program was implemented in January, 2012, which seeks to help probationers develop and improve life skills needed for successful probation completion and reintegration into society. The principle objective of the evaluation was to investigate whether or not CBT programming had a positive effect on the recidivism of probationers supervised by the department. Recidivism was measured primarily by subsequent arrest and time-to-subsequent arrest. The study is based on a stratified random sample of 147 probationers who were not assigned to CBT. Data for the study samples were used to compare recidivism rates for the three groups; probationers who successfully completed CBT, probationers who did not successfully complete CBT, and probationers who were not placed in CBT.

Several findings resulted from the study including:

- Successful completion of the CBT Crossroads program reduced the rate of recidivism for probationers. Probationers who successfully completed CBT had a lower rate of recidivism (37.0%) that did probationers who did not complete CBT (70.2%) or who were never placed in CBT (56%).
- Of the CBT participants who did recidivate, the time-to-subsequent-arrest was longer for those who completed the CBT program (median = 5.0 months) than it was for those who did not complete the program (median = 1.6 months).
- A subsequent proportion of probationers assigned to CBT did not complete the program components to which they were assigned (32%). This especially true for probationers assigned to the Drug and Alcohol component (50%), the most frequently used component of CBT.
- Gang affiliated probationers were much less likely to complete CBT programming (48.1%) that were non-gang affiliated probationers (76.7%).
• Gang affiliation and being unemployed were also found to influence recidivism. Gang affiliated CBT probationers were twice as likely to be rearrested as were non-gang affiliated CBT probationers. Unemployed CBT probationers were more likely to be rearrested (57%) than were those who were employed (39.1).

Training

Integrated Behavioral Interventions Strategies (IBIS)

On January 30, 2014, the CCP approved the contract with Dr. Christopher Lowenkamp for the training of 10 coaches (train the trainer) from their respected departments. The training provides mentoring to each participant in their own setting, while interacting with their own clients (defendants, probationers, offenders, inmates). The individual coaching sessions consist of a pre-observation discussion to uncover and resolve concerns about the skills, answer questions from the training and adapt any material to fit individual staff member’s needs. The coaching session ends with a post-observation debrief and feedback component. This process helps solidify the officer's understanding of the skill and gives them the opportunity to try the skill out (a factor identified as critical in the adoption of new innovations).

IBIS is a set of behavioral interventions aimed at producing change in offenders. The program consists of three main components: motivational interviewing, EPICS-II, and incentives and sanctions. While each individual component is heavily based on the research IBIS represents a novel approach by integrating all three into a comprehensive set of practices. The training is designed to train all correctional staff, from investigation to supervision, juvenile to adult, institution to community, as one large group creating a consistent approach in interacting with offenders, while at the same time appreciating the unique nature of each individual officer’s role.

In addition to the in-office skill coaching, the training participants have the opportunity to audio or video record interactions with offenders and submit recordings for review. Trainers listen to tapes and provide feedback via email or phone to each participant individually. The individual feedback affords another opportunity for staff to receive specific and concrete details about what they are doing well and how they might improve the application of various skills. Research has indicated that such techniques increase the acquisition and proficiency of skills.

As a testimonial, ICSO Correctional Officer, Maribel Almodovar submitted an audio recording to the members of the Lowenkamp team for review. While conducting the interview of inmate SOBERANES, who is known to be conservative and quiet, he opened up during the interview and stated that the correctional officers assigned to the Sheriff’s Community Services unit have been supportive and that not all correctional officers have an idea to the programming opportunities that the Sheriff’s office is offering. He said, “It would be a shame to lose this opportunity”, making references to the programming that is currently being offered.
Imperial County Day Reporting Center

On May 29, 2014, the Adult Day Reporting Center (DRC) located next to the Probation Department, celebrated its Grand Opening after awarding GEO Reentry Services Corporation the contract to operate the day to day operations of the DRC. The DRC is administered by the Probation Department and can service up to 50 participants aiming to affect positive change by modeling pro-social attitudes, providing a structured environment by partnering clients with the resources and services they need to be successful.

The DRC assists the Probation Department and Sheriff’s Office in managing the population they serve by promoting behavioral change, increasing linkages to addiction treatment, promoting participation in education and employment programs, and holding probationers accountable.

The BI / GEO Group Reentry Services currently provide the following services to participants at the DRC program, Cognitive and Behavioral Change through Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT), Behavioral and criminogenic Assessments, Behavioral Change Plan, Weekly Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (ICBT), Case Management, Outpatient Substance Abuse Education (OSAE), Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment (OSAT), Anger Management, Parenting, Employment Readiness and Job Search, Life Skills and Cognitive restructuring Lab, Random Urine Analysis Testing, Daily Alcohol Breathalyzer Test, Community Services, Community Connection, and Daily Check-Ins.

The services are provided through a four level reporting and supervision program at the DRC. Each participant will start at the most intensive level and progressively move through the program to the less intensive levels. It is important to understand that each participant’s required level of supervision depends upon the actual behavioral change that has taken place for each individual participant. The following list indicates how progress through the Day Reporting Center Program is done.

**Progress from Phase 1 to Phase 2**

- Consistent Reporting (90% minimum)
- Assessments completed
- Behavioral Change Plan completed
- Progress in Programming:
  - Completion of: Orientation, Community Connections, and Employment Readiness
  - Completion of MRT group through Step 3
  - Group Attendance (90% minimum)
  - Group Participation (8 or higher on a scale of 1-10)

Progress or completion in group (8 or higher on a scale of 1-10)
Progress from Phase 2 to Phase 3

- Consistent Reporting (90% minimum)
- Clean Breathalyzer (no less than 60 days)
- Clean Urine Analysis (no less than 60 days)
- Progress in Programming:
  - Group Attendance (90% minimum)
  - Completion of MRT group through Step 8
  - Group Attendance (90% minimum)
  - Group Participation (8 or higher on a scale of 1-10)

Progress or completion in group (8 or higher on a scale of 1-10)

Progress from Phase 3 to Aftercare

- Consistent Reporting (90% minimum)
- Clean Breathalyzer (no less than 90 days)
- Clean Urine Analysis (no less than 90 days)
- Progress in Programming:
  - Attendance (90% minimum)
  - Completion of MRT group through Step 12
  - Completion of Groups not included in Aftercare

Group Participation (8 or higher on a scale of 1-10)

On March 17, 2014 the DRC began to process the first referrals into the program. From March 17th to September 12, 2014 the DRC has processed a total of 109 referrals from high and moderate risk probationers under PRCS and MS. The preliminary outcomes from the first six months of the DRC services are as followed:

The inmates at the Herbert Hughes Correctional Center have had multiple interactions at the DRC. First and foremost, it serves as a classroom for some of the inmates. Currently, there are 6 in custody inmates attending Behavioral Intervention classes 4 days a week and conduct monthly vocational training to the Sheriff Community Services work crew. The DRC also serves as a work site for female offenders that conduct general office cleaning, and has hosted a “Literacy Read-In” for ten (10) inmates and their children.

Imperial County Behavioral Health Services

The Imperial County Behavioral Health Services provides Drug & Alcohol services at the DRC to enhance recovery and reduce recidivism by providing services to the population that is low and medium risk offenders. Program consists of providing counseling sessions individually and in groups holding probationers accountable of their progress assisted by Probation Officers enforcing sobriety and compliance. Defendants are given an opportunity to regain a place in society by staying clean and sober assisted by Behavioral Health
Services which provides the following evidence-based programs to defendants over a period from three to six months and providing aftercare after sobriety is achieved. The modalities are: 1) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 2) Motivational Interviewing and 3) Smart Recovery. Starting with *Cognitive Behavioral Therapy* we cover the following topics: Orienting the client to Brief Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Goal Setting, Agenda setting, identifying maladaptive thoughts and beliefs, challenging maladaptive thoughts and beliefs, Behavioral Activation, Problem Solving, Relaxation and Ending Treatment and Maintaining Changes. *Motivational Interviewing* includes Understanding the key principles & techniques of Motivational Interviewing, Increase client motivation while minimizing resistance, View change & Recovery as a “process”, educate clients about the stages of change, use stages of change model to match session content to client readiness, Utilize assessment feedback as a Motivational catalyst for change, Help clients claim their personal strength and responsibility for change, Assist clients in choosing their “best-fit” from an array of treatment options and modalities, Help clients commit to a change plan and change personal “schemas”. Motivational Interviewing outcomes find:

- Decrease consumption of alcohol and other drugs
- Increase in Abstinence rates
- Increase in social adjustment
- Increase in successful referrals to treatment
- Positive attitudes toward change & recovery
- Commitment to change
- Engages and retains clients
- Improves Treatment Outcomes

*Smart Recovery modalities*: An introduction to Rational Emotive Behavior Therapy, The Main Irrational Beliefs, Techniques for change, ABC’s, Change in Behaviors, Matching the Appropriate Tools with the Stages of Change, Urge coping, Emotional Upsets, Cost/Benefit Analysis, DISARM technique, Developing a Positive healthy Lifestyle, Motivation Enhancement, Coping with urges and Trigger situations, Developing new ways to cope with problems, Developing a healthy positive lifestyle.

Behavioral Health Services utilizes the Offender Assessment using the Risk-Need-Responsivity Model by defining the following: a) How likely a person is to engage in criminal behaviors, what areas in a person’s life should be targeted for intervention in order to decrease future criminal behavior. What personal strengths factor might influence the effectiveness of treatment services. Need principle is assessed to address criminogenic needs and target those needs with treatment and interventions.

**McAlister Institute:**

McAlister Institute program provides a comprehensive range of substance abuse treatment and recovery services including individual and group counseling, individualized treatment planning, educational workshops, recovery topic-centered groups, job skills, parenting and recovery. Site is located in Lemon Grove California and includes a residential Detoxification five to ten day program which provides drug & alcohol education and an introduction to twelve step recovery in a safe, supportive environment. Referrals to longer term treatment and sober living environments are provided. Treatment modality is “social model” as residents are responsible for cleanliness of facility and for meal preparation, personal and house laundry.
Visits are held on Sundays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Facility is non-medical and are not “lock down”. Institute has two male facilities and one female facility.

Behavioral Health linked to Probation by AB 109 program provides referrals to Institute based on bed availability. Probation Department may transfer client to Behavioral Health, then clients are transported to facility on a BH van that will ensure client gets to facility without any difficulty.

Imperial County Sheriff’s Office

The Imperial County Sheriff’s Office currently operates two jails: the Regional Adult Detention Facility (RADF) and the Herbert Hughes Correctional Center (HHCC). The RADF was opened in 1979 and the HHCC in 1965. The RADF has a bed capacity of 288 and the HHCC has a bed capacity of 314. The overall jail population varies from day to day and spikes on weekends/holidays. ICSO jails, on average are at 92 percent capacity. The current average daily population is 569. There are currently 106 males and 22 females sentenced under AB 109.

Statistics from July 1st - September 22, 2014
- Referrals to date: 122
- In Counseling: 33
- Referred Out: 27
- Incarcerated: 19
- Excused: 7
- Rehabilitation: 15
- Warrants: 21
- Awaiting services: 14

Creation of Pre-Trial Services Unit, In February of 2014 Imperial County Sheriff’s Office began Pre-Trial Services (PTS). PTS is using a validated assessment tool to screen arrestees on their risk for PTS release. All interview information is provided to the courts, District Attorney’s office and the Public Defender’s office. The PTS Unit continues to work closely with the courts to implement felony own
recognizance releases from the jail. This year, the PTS team has attended various trainings funded by AB109; Motivational Interviewing, California Association of Pre-Trial Services Annual Conference and job shadowing with San Bernardino’s PTS Unit. To date, six (6) Sheriff Staff members have tested for the National Association of Pre-Trial Services Certification testing. These individuals are the first PTS members in the State of California to receive certification.

**Pretrial Services** is designed to assist custody staff and Courts with the identification, investigation, and early release of misdemeanor detainees who may qualify for an “own recognizant” (OR) jail release. The Program utilizes an EBP approach with the COMPAS pretrial risk assessment tool and motivational interviewing to gather all pertinent information to make an appropriate recommendation. One of the goals for the Sheriff’s Office is to include felony arrest pretrial investigations. This past year, there have been a couple of instances where the Superior Court has granted OR releases on felony cases.

**Pretrial Operations:** The Program is staffed by Sheriff’s Department’s personnel who are stationed at the DRC. Staff conduct screenings to jail pretrial detainees 10 hours a day, seven-days-a-week. The Pretrial officers use objective criteria (point scale system) and conduct interviews with freshly arrested misdemeanors to make recommendations to assigned judicial officers for the inmate’s early release from custody. One of the primary duties is to verify the information gathered during the OR interview process. Much of the information is verified through references supplied by the defendant; however, information concerning criminal arrest history is verified through the use of automated criminal justice information networks. Defendants released through the program are required to sign an Agreement for Release on Own Recognizance document which states the date, time, and Court department the defendants are to appear in. The Jail Release interviewers are also responsible for assigning the Court dates. Jail Release interviewers provide Superior Court Judges with the background information enabling them to determine the practicality of OR releases. The Program has also developed and implemented a “Call in” system which officers located at the DRC receive calls and/or “Walk ins” by the defendants which is designed to help ensure defendants released on OR make their scheduled Court appearances.

**Pretrial Release Screening Criteria:** Offenders must be in the custody of the Sheriff’s Office for a felony or misdemeanor offense to be considered for Pretrial Release. Detainees with no bail holds or immigration hold warrants (federal, ICE, Border Patrol, and State Parole etc.) are not eligible. Defendants arrested for violent or serious felony crimes, as determined by the Superior Court Bail Schedule, do not qualify for OR releases and are not interviewed.

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<th>Pretrial Services Program Savings</th>
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<td><strong>Since induction (February 10, 2014)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Pretrial Releases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily cost to house inmate</td>
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<td>Avg. days in jail before court date</td>
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<td><strong>Total Savings</strong></td>
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Since the induction of Pretrial Services in February 2014, the program has saved county taxpayers over $66,000.
Risk Assessment and Screening Tool: The Program uses Northpointe COMPAS, a 4th Generation Risk and Needs Assessment to meet the challenge of providing appropriate level of service, effective Evidence Based interventions, and public accountability in the management of the community supervision population in Imperial County. This research-based tool identifies a pretrial detainee’s level of potential risk of failure-to-appear (FTA) in Court or to reoffend while on pretrial OR release status. The factors considered in the instrument include charge type, pending offenses, criminal history, failure to appear history, employment status/history, and history of drug abuse.

The Sheriff’s Community Services Program (SCSP) is designed for nonviolent offenders who have been ordered by the court to be detained in the county jail. As an incentive, inmates who participate in the Sheriff’s Community Service Program will be awarded good time to be applied to his or her sentence. The Sheriff’s Community Service Program is specifically designed to grant those who have shown responsibility, maturity, and stability, the privilege of working in the community. These participants are supervised by Imperial County Sheriff’s personnel to perform labor intensive community service projects. All Community Service participants are carefully selected, medically screened, and interviewed for consideration into the program. Participants are expected to obey all rules and regulations set forth by the Sheriff’s Department. The work crew has become popular amongst county offices and non-profit organizations conducting clean-up work; Parks & Recreation, Fire Department, Cal-Trans, and the airport. The crew has been requested multiple times throughout the year, most recently for the Niland and Bombay Beach efforts.

Educational/Vocational and Evidence Based Programming, The Sheriff, Probation, and Imperial Valley College have recently partnered to provide Inside/Out college classes for fifteen (15) inmates and fifteen (15) college students. This is a pilot program and if successful is the first in California. ICSO and Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program (IVROP) were just granted $423,000.00 for a one (1) year grant to provide vocational training. Plans are currently underway for curriculum, classroom location, and selecting inmates to attend.

Jail Expansion, As part of its effort to mitigate the impact of the Realignment inmate population increase on California counties, the State, by way of AB 900, created a competitive grant source for expansion and /or construction of new jail facilities. The Imperial County Sheriff’s Office entered into the grant application process, and on May 10, 2012 the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) recommended that Imperial County receive a conditional grant award of $33 million for construction of the Oren R. Fox Medium Security Detention Facility. CSA required the county to provide a 5 percent match. ICSO is currently in the design phase of a 270 bed facility, which will be constructed on the same compound where the existing jails are today. With an increase of long term inmates which will impact the average daily population, the new facility will provide additional medical space, programming space, mental health treatment space, and recreational space. When in operation, ICSO plans to adopt an evidenced based approach that will focus on education and training to offer the best employment opportunities and help reduce recidivism.
Financial Resources, ICSO has dedicated significant portions of its resources to maintain public safety. Medical services, education and treatment programs, pose-custody programs and alternative to custody programs are still evolving and will take several years to take hold. Additionally, the construction of the new facility has not yet broken ground and it is anticipated that the earliest inmates will be able to occupy the facility by approximately December 2016. The Imperial County Board of Supervisors has approved a new staffing plan for the new facility and that funding has been secured.

Alternatives to Incarceration – Sheriff’s Parole, ICSO staff members are working with County Counsel and Probation to get Sheriff’s Parole operational and a feasible alternative to incarceration. Under Sheriff’s Parole, inmates can apply to Home Detention, Work Furlough or Education Furlough. Ms. Gaylla Finnell has officially been appointed as the Community Member to serve on this panel. Sheriff and Probation personnel are yet to be determined.

Imperial County Sheriff’s Office, Probation, and IVROP will be working together on a plan to start inmate case management and discharge planning. We are hopeful to have an effective system in place by January 2015.

Imperial County Public Defender

Realignment has brought unique opportunities and challenges to the work of the Imperial County Public Defender. Since realignment, the Public Defender has become responsible for representing those individuals charged with violations of PRCS and MS. On July 1, 2013, the Public Defender began representing persons facing revocations of parole, while continuing to represent persons on supervision through PRCS and MS. This has led to a significant increase in the workload for the Public Defender. During the past fiscal year, the Public Defender represented over 150 persons charged with violations of these offenses

The Public Defender and justice partners have developed a coordinated and collaborative working relationship. The opening of the Day Reporting Center (DRC) marks a critical milestone in the Realignment process in Imperial County. The Public Defender hopes to build on these accomplishments by playing a larger role in pretrial services and also implementing a “clean slate” and reentry program. The Public Defender will continue to work with our Realignment partners to improve and better the lives of our clients and at the same time enhancing public safety.

Imperial County District Attorney

The Imperial County District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Program seeks to make the criminal justice system more understandable, accessible and responsive to the concerns of crime victims and witnesses. Victim advocates are available to ensure that crime victims and their family members are kept informed and supported throughout the criminal justice process. Orientation to the criminal justice system is just one of the services offered. In addition, victim advocates can provide crisis intervention, emergency assistance, resource and referral counseling to agencies within the community and court accompaniment. Another service available to victims of crime is the preparation, verification, and
presentation of their claims to the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for reimbursement.

The Victim Witness Assistance Program’s first year under the direction of the Imperial County District Attorney’s Office was deemed successful. Advocates are now reviewing all cases that are submitted to the District Attorney’s Office daily and immediately reaching out to victims and witnesses of crime prior to the case being reviewed for prosecution. Having the program located within the District Attorney’s office also affords the opportunity for advocates to work directly with the prosecuting attorneys. During the 2013 - 2014 fiscal year the program was able to provide assistance to over 650 victims. The most prevalent crime types were assault and domestic violence.

Most recently, the Program Director and the Investigative Assistant have started to develop a program to collect restitution from inmates serving prison sentences in county jail. Since realignment began in 2011, over $350,000 in restitution has been ordered to AB109 inmates alone. The goal is to develop a program to facilitate restitution collection pursuant to California Penal Code 2085.5(d) which states, the agency designated by the board of supervisors in the county where the prisoner is incarcerated is authorized to deduct a minimum of 20 percent or the balance owing on the order amount, whichever is less, up to a maximum of 50 percent from the county jail equivalent of wages and trust account deposits of a prisoner. In addition, the Investigative Assistant is working with the Probation Department and Sheriff’s Office to assist in locating victims that have relocated in an effort to pay unclaimed restitution that is owed to the victims.