LAKE COUNTY REALIGNMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The parole/prison realignment (AB109 and AB117) mandates significant changes with respect to how adult offenders are handled by various criminal justice agencies. The Lake County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and its executive committee view these mandates as both a challenge and an opportunity. Impacts to the courts, probation, jail facilities, district attorney, public defender and community-based organizations seem obvious at first glance. However, further analysis reveals that the specific impact on each entity is, to a great extent, unknown.

The Community Corrections Partnership, and specifically, the executive committee, have acknowledged Lake County’s inability to provide a comprehensive continuum of services that has a foundation of evidence-based practices. Budget limitations and staffing issues have made this a difficult, if not impossible task for many years. Funding provided to Lake County by realignment legislation has given us the opportunity to make significant strides in correcting this deficiency.

It is the intent of the executive committee and the entire Community Corrections Partnership to take the necessary steps to implement programs, policies and procedures and training that will reduce recidivism. Implementing evidence-based practices was unanimously determined to be the best first step for Lake County. Every member of the CCP supported the executive committee’s plan to contract with BI Incorporated for a Jail Education and Employment Program (JEEP) and a comprehensive Day Reporting Center (DRC). The JEEP will start the process of modifying behavior and developing valuable employment skills. JEEP will be invaluable in transitioning offenders to community-based programs and supervision. The full DRC will include the most complete continuum of services available to offenders at this time (state wide). It will include the following:

- Assessments
- Behavior change plans
- Individual cognitive behavior therapy
- Group cognitive behavior therapy
- Referrals to local community services
- Discharge planning and aftercare
. Computer-based cognitive behavioral therapy
. Employment and education services
. Substance abuse treatment
. Alcohol and drug testing
. In person daily reporting
. Electronic monitoring
. Anger management
. Life skills training
. Family and parenting skills
. Community connections

Although the executive committee and all participants of the CCP feel the above services are a necessary first step in reducing our recidivism rates, we acknowledge that modifications to the program will likely become necessary. For example, expanding one or more of the above components, or reducing one or more of the components may be appropriate, once the needs of our offender population are more clearly defined. Additionally, public or private entities may be able to provide services covered by one or more of the components, allowing the contractor to devote more resources to remaining services. We will modify the JEEP and/or DRC programs, as needed.

All participants in the CCP acknowledge that realignment will result in significant impacts on our jail, probation, the courts, the district attorney and many other agencies. Funding to mitigate specific impacts on these agencies has been deliberately excluded from our initial plan. It is the intent of the executive committee and the entire CCP to closely monitor and analyze the JEEP and DRC programs from the very beginning, as well as any impacts on affected agencies. We expect to recommend funding, perhaps in the near future, to address needs as they develop. This may include additional programming, adding jail beds and/or staff for those agencies impacted by realignment.

Our plan is to locate the DRC in the AWP (Adult Work Program) building near the county jail. By providing county-owned space, the cost of the contract will be reduced by $8,000 per month. No member of the CCP was aware of any other county-owned space that would meet the needs of the DRC. However, all participants acknowledge the issues related to offenders residing in the south county area and we will closely monitor the impact of the Lakeport location on program outcomes. It may become necessary to fund a check-in center in the Clearlake area,
as part of the BI contract. The probation adult caseload reveals that fifty-seven per cent of our offenders reside between Clearlake, Clearlake Oaks and Middletown, while the remaining forty-three per cent live throughout the rest of the county. Again, in developing our plan, it was clearly understood that the location of the DRC may impact outcomes for some clients. This issue will, therefore, be closely monitored throughout the implementation process, and beyond.

Attached is a more complete description of the evidence-based programming to be provided by BI Incorporated.