

Merced County
Public Safety Realignment
&
Post Release Community Supervision

2019/20

STRATEGIES – YEAR 9

Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership

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I. Update on AB109 Programs and Activities

The Trident Center: The Center occupies employees of the Sheriff's Office (SO), Human Services Agency (HSA), Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), and Probation. Through evidence-based practices, the multi-disciplinary effort employs a three-pronged approach: public safety; reduced recidivism through rehabilitation; and alternatives to incarceration. Client services include the following, on-sight or through referrals:

- Dynamic Risk & Need Assessments
- Release from Custody Assessments
- Flash Incarceration for Violating Program Rules and Court Orders
- Alternative Sanctions through GPS Monitoring
- Community Supervision
- Warrant Apprehension
- Drug Testing
- Alcohol and Other Drug Counseling (BHRS)
- Leadership for Life
- Child Support Collection Efforts (Department of Child Support Services)
- Literacy Referrals (Library – held at the County Library)
- Educational Assessments (Merced County Office of Education)
- Employment Testing (Workforce Investment Agency)
- Behavioral Health Client Services (BHRS)
- PACT Re-entry Meeting Representation (HSA, MH, Probation, DCSS, WIA)

Leadership for Life: "L4L" was developed by The Merced County Human Services Agency and is facilitated by employees of the Probation Department. Facilitators provide an array of one-stop-shop services: life skills; cognitive therapy; education and career assessments; referrals to homeless assistance; Section 8 housing assistance; general relief / food stamps; parenting skills; and assistance with obtaining driving licenses. During this past year a full time Consumer Assistance Worker was added to the Probation Staff to coordinate and implement this program.

Day Reporting Centers (Cities of Merced & Los Banos): Geo Reentry Services continues to serve clients with intensive rehabilitative treatment, educational services, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Identified in the 2016/2017 plan, enhancements were made to the Day Reporting Centers and Jail Re-Entry Program to include a transitional counselor to assist clients as they return to the community from custody setting. During July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, Los Banos had a total of 66 enrolled clients and Merced had reported 264 clients enrolled in the Day Reporting Centers.

Behavioral Health Court: The specialty Court commenced in April 2012. The Probation Department's behavioral health caseload currently has 30 clients with mental health diagnoses. The Court is staffed by the Superior Court, including the Bench, Probation,

Behavioral Health, District Attorney, and Public Defender employees. A total of 69 clients were served this past fiscal year and a total of 7 graduated from the program.

Residential Treatment: Contract with Community Social Model Advocates (CSMA) for long-term, residential treatment for male and female clients with acute drug and alcohol diagnoses. The contract reserves 4,000 bed-days / year for adult clients. Changes in law this past year will allow medi-cal funding to pay for many of our clients stay at CSMA programs. With that change, the budget will be reduced. We will still need some funding in cases where medi-cal does not apply.

In Custody Risk and Need Assessments: The Static Risk Offender Needs Guide (STRONG) was fully implemented in FY 12/13. Probation officers conduct the assessment on all incoming clients. A probation officer is assigned to the jail facilities to conduct a portion of the assessments, which enables probation officers to assign clients to services that fit their individual needs and to the most-appropriate levels of supervision.

Flash Incarceration & Alternative Sanctions: PRCS and Mandatory Supervision Clients in violation of conditions of supervision continue to be subject to up to 10 days in custody as an alternative to long-term sentences when violations are less-serious. In addition to flash incarceration, officers are utilizing options such as GPS monitoring and community service when violations are less-serious in nature. Earlier this year a Sanction and Incentive Matrix was added for Deputy Probation Officers to gauge appropriate sanctions and incentives for individuals under our supervision. The overall goal of the Response Matrix is to enhance community safety and promote behavior change by swiftly responding to non-compliance and creating opportunities to promote client success.

Jail Re-Entry Program: The program, which is facilitated by Geo Reentry, commenced in July 2014. It provides a wide-array of rehabilitative, cognitive, and educational services not unlike those provided in the community Day Reporting Centers. The program has already demonstrated success toward reducing expensive jail bed-days and supporting clients in transitioning from jail to community services. The program has seen additional services added over the past couple of years including a transitional counselor to provide better assistance to individuals as they leave the custody setting. Fiscal Year 2018/2019, we served a total of 205 clients in the Jail Re-Entry program.

Jail Pre-Trial Supervision Program: The Probation and Sheriff's Departments continue to collaborate on a program intended to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals pending adjudication. Probation staff utilizes a nationally-recognized assessment tool to determine which individuals are at a lower risk to re-offend or fail to appear in Court. Individuals released on the program are supervised by the Sheriff's Department and are open to services offered within the Trident and Day Reporting Centers.

Two years ago, it was agreed upon to provide additional Mental Health Services to the pre-trial supervision population. This population was identified as needing additional services in

order to aid in their success when they are released from custody pending the criminal court process. No funding was approved by the CCP for the two positions agreed upon for Behavioral Health. The program is funded by the Mental Health Services Act, and although it has taken two years to get off the ground, it is anticipated for service to be provided to our clients by September.

Pre-Trial Services

The Probation Department and Sheriff's Office have provided pre-trial services to our community for the past several years. With Bail reform a strong topic in California, it is believed we can do more to better our pre-trial system in Merced County. Last year, two probation assistant positions were added in order to provide more timely assessments to the court and to provide a level of "monitoring" to individuals released on their own recognizance (O.R.).

Unfortunately, these positions have not been filled as the probation department does not have office space to house. A 2018-19 modification to the CCP plan allocated funding to remodel an old courtroom which will allow space for these positions to work. It is anticipated this project will be completed by October of this year.

Adult Services Committee of the CCP

Formerly known as the Re-Entry Sub-Group of the CCP, the Adult Services Committee (ASC) meets quarterly and welcomes all members of the CCP, concerned citizens, County service providers, and community-based organizations. Serving as official CCP meetings, the ASC complies with Brown Act requirements, including public posting in County Administration locations and on the Probation Department's website. The meetings serve several functions, not limited to the following: report back on program outcomes and progress by probation personnel; opportunity for program facilitators to provide updates; information on related community activities; notices concerning program transition celebrations; consultation from County service providers; and the opportunity for citizens to receive information and provide feedback concerning Merced County CCP programs.

Educational and Vocational Services

This past year, the Probation Department entered into contract with the Merced County Office of Education to provide educational and career assessments. This program began in March of this year and is servicing clients in Merced and Los Banos. After the initial assessment, MCOE is making referrals to the appropriate service providers for education and/or vocational training. So far, the success has been greater than anticipated, with several of our clients being placed in jobs after completing training.

Transitional Housing

During 2016-17 it was determined after meeting with the Adult Services Committee of the CCP that transitional housing was an unmet need for our clients as they transition from custody to the community. The CCP approved adding a transitional housing component. From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, 38 clients were placed in transitional housing for a total

of 2,646 days. There were 42 referrals, 10 completed the program and those 10 also found housing after completion.

Probation K-9

This past year, the Probation Department added a K-9 officer assigned to the trident center to assist Probation and Sheriff Office with searches for drugs and weapons. After a training period, the assigned deputy probation officer and k-9 have been successful in detecting contraband in the field and in correctional facilities.

BHRS Services in Merced County Jail

Currently, the Sheriff's Office has a contract with CFMG to provide medical/mental health services in the County Jail. Those services are provided to inmates in custody. Due to the increase in cases requiring mental health services, BHRS will provide a clinician to the Merced County Jail to:

1. Assist individuals with their reintegration into the community by coordinating services and/or treatment with BHRS services in the community.
2. Provided targeted case management services for incarcerated individuals to assist in their reintegration to community.
3. Provide substance abuse assessments to the court, upon request for individuals being considered for residential treatment.

BHRS has recently hired a clinician for this position after a lengthy recruitment. It is anticipated this program will be up an running by October.

II. 2019 / 2020 Program Enhancements

Sheriff's Office Sergeant

From the onset of AB109, the Trident center has operated as a joint venture between Probation and the Sheriff's Office. Both agencies have had a supervisor assigned to the location. The Sheriff's office has placed a sergeant at the location, but has only received funding for a Deputy Sheriff. The difference between the two positions is \$9,465.

Ace Overcomers

Ace overcomers previously was funding as a modification to the 2018-19 strategies to provide recidivism reduction classes to our adult clients. Those services proved to be successful and it is requested that additional funding be provided to this organization to increase capacity and to assist with their infrastructure in order to provide additional services to Probation clients in the future.

Lifeline Community Development

Lifeline Community Development is a community-based organization that provides services to underserved communities, targeting at risk youth/adults and the re-entry population. They also plan and organize the Probation and Community Team (PACT) meetings monthly

to showcase community resources for clients returning to the community. The request is small from this organization (\$4,500) but will assist in providing services in several locations throughout the County.

Los Banos Modular Building

A modular building, situated next to the Los Banos complex which houses Probation, Sheriff, District Attorney and Public Defender has been vacated. This building was used to house the various justice agencies during the remodel of the justice complex. There is a need to expand services to adult clients in the Los Banos area. Currently, there is a lack of services in the area. With the addition of services, locating space is also a difficult and, at times, prohibited due to price. The modular building, with necessary repairs, will serve as a base for the probation department to provide services (and space) in order to increase the possibility of success for our clients. Through a different funding source, Probation will be adding two positions that will operate in this office space.

The repairs for this building have been estimated to be \$120,000.

III. Realignment Data & Outcomes to Date

Caseload Impact	9/30/2011	6/30/2019
Total Merced Co. Adult Population	3507	3,446 (-0.017%)

AB109 Cases (Thru 6/30/2019)	Estimated	Actual
PRCS	480*	454
1170	(No Count)	139

**Does not account for subsequent early releases from CDCR to meet prison reduction threshold.*

Local 1170 Sentence Data	Merced Co.	Statewide
Jail Only (No Sup or Re-entry)*	10	59,896
Split (Jail Followed by Services)	116 (81%)	24,223(34%)

**Rate of "jail only" sentences (no supervision & no services) is lower than State-wide averages.*

PRCS Recidivism (Felony Conviction during Period of Supervision)	
Total Closures	189
Total Felony Convictions	23
Outcome	12%

**1% reduction from 2017/18*

IV. Est. AB109 Allocation for 2019/20

- Community Corrections Sub-account: It is estimated that \$1.3b will be allocated to counties during 19/20 an increase from \$2m from 18/19.
- Community Corrections "Growth" Account: It is estimated that Merced County will receive \$324,326 for 18/19. The state allocation for growth has decreased approximately \$3.4m from 17/18 totals.

V. County In-Kind Expenses 2019/2020

• Deputy Probation Officer (Mental Health Dept):	\$149,517
• District Attorney & Public Defender (Mental Health Dept):	\$61,989
• Dual Diagnosis Specialist & Clinician (Mental Health Dept):	\$257,367
• Personnel & Equipment (Human Services Agency):	\$58,922
• Add one (1) Office Assistant I/II:	\$67,458
• Add one (1) Probation Program Specialist:	\$118,860
• Add Services & Supplies:	\$43,620
Total:	\$757, 733

VI. Recommended 2019/20 Strategies

1. Maintain Existing Programs	
2. Delete one (1) Deputy Sheriff/Coroner I/II and Add (1) one Sheriff Sergeant:	\$9,465
3. Contract with Ace Overcomers for recidivism reduction program:	\$57,000
4. Contract with Lifeline Community Development:	\$4,500
5. Los Banos Modular Building Repair:	\$125,000
Total:	\$195,965

Local Community Corrections Partnership

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Gary Brizzee, Chief, Los Banos Police Department

Scott Pettygrove, Director, Human Services Agency

Kimberly Lewis, Merced County District Attorney

James Brown, County Executive Officer

Lloyd Pareira, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Yvonnia Brown, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

David Mirrione, Director, Workforce Investment Agency

Steve Tietjen, Superintendent, Merced County Office of Education

Sharon Wardale-Trejo, Director, Child Support Services

Lisa DeSantis, Victim / Witness Assistance Program of Merced County

Lamar Henderson, Community Based Programs Representative