Plumas County Proposition 47 Grant Project: Cohort 2 Two-Year Preliminary Evaluation Report

PLUMAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
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Executive Summary

The Plumas County District Attorney’s Office Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP) serves as the public agency implementing the Plumas County Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Project. The purpose of this endeavor is to continue the Plumas County Prop 47 Cohort 1 Project, which includes a Pretrial Release Program, a Pretrial Diversion Program, and ASP Housing Program that provides housing options for offenders transitioning from incarceration. This project incorporates the principals of restorative justice, trauma-informed care, and recidivism reduction, while providing early identification and engagement through intensive wraparound case management related to community-based supportive services. Delivered through an array of individual and group options, project components include mental health and therapy services, alcohol and drug treatment, emergency and transitional housing, and life-skills education and support. Collaborative partners and community stakeholders collectively engage in this model, which encourages strategic system changes to reduce recidivism and improve the lives of transitioning offenders, their families and community. This evaluation report specifically documents the progress toward achieving the goals and objectives of the Plumas County Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Project.

Though separate from Cohort 2, it is imperative to report – with a heavy heart – a significant and ongoing external factor that will have direct and long-term impact to the Plumas County Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Project – the Dixie Fire. Started on July 14th, 2021, the Dixie Wildland Fire has consumed more than 540,000 acres of land in Plumas, Butte, Lassen, and Tehama counties, with only 31% containment at the time of this report. The Dixie Fire is the largest single wildland fire in California’s history – with over 840 square miles burned. The Plumas County towns of Rich Bar, Belden, Indian Falls, Greenville, Canyon Dam, and other frontier communities have been devastated by the Dixie Fire. 75% of the homes, business, and other infrastructure in Greenville alone have been completely destroyed; the entire town of Canyon Dam is gone due to the Dixie Fire.

Through mandatory evacuations, the Dixie Fire has displaced approximately 28,000 residents from their homes, businesses, and communities throughout the region, including over 300 living
in temporary shelters. As of the date of this report, the fire has destroyed over 1,100 structures, including 584 single residences, and 118 commercial properties. With great fortune, the fire has only cause three injuries and zero fatalities. The Governor of California has declared a state of emergency for Plumas, Butte, and Lassen Counties, and the Dixie Fire is Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) approved due to the significant threat to life and widespread destruction of property.

While the Dixie Fire does not influence the data contained within this report, it is critical to understand the Dixie Fire will have a significant and long-lasting impact to Plumas County, the criminal justice system, and the Plumas County Prop 47 Project.

**Project Purpose**

The Plumas County Proposition 47 Project is designed to address three major goals within its work plan:

- To sustain the Plumas County Pretrial Diversion Program, with an objective to increase the capacity of the Alternative Sentencing Program and offer early diversion services that meet current gaps in the local criminal justice system
- To continue identification and engagement of program participants in early services of pretrial diversion and ASP Housing Programs, with an objective to continue a system change in positive outcomes for program participants
- To improve participant outcomes, reduce recidivism, and increase jail bed space in Plumas County, with an overall objective of improving the local criminal justice system

The program model to achieve these goals and objectives includes a six-step process that addresses successful completion for offenders through the following activities: outreach and assessment; pretrial diversion; intensive case management; civil/legal services; access to emergency/transitional and permanent housing assistance; and higher education, life skills and workforce development. Each of these activities addresses local gaps in a rural criminal justice model, while adhering to the guiding principles envisioned by the Proposition 47 Executive Committee. This program model is built on a foundation developed approximately seven years
ago, through a BSCC Justice Assistance Grant to implement Plumas Project HOPE (Helping Offenders Pursue Excellence). This evidence-based model (Swift and Certain Action) engages criminal justice and community-based partners to improve supervision strategies that reduce recidivism, increase partnerships, improve long-term data collection, and increase positive outcomes of offenders, their families, and communities.

The Plumas County Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Project is currently working as intended; cementing a higher-quality criminal justice model in the community, with greater positive outcomes than originally envisioned.

**Project/Goal Accomplishments**

One of the primary objectives of the project is to increase the capacity of the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office Alternative Sentencing Program, with a goal to ultimately create additional opportunities for early diversion services for offenders. This project enables Plumas County criminal justice stakeholders to realize this goal. Over the last four years, ASP has increased operational capacity to create a tangible system of change within the criminal justice system. In fact, the community response to this project has grown much wider than originally envisioned. Newly developed partnerships, representing both government and not-for-profit organizations, have created additional services to support the Plumas County Proposition 47 Project. Individual and group activities include parenting and co-parenting classes and grief recovery counseling sessions. These activities have resulted in increased benefits to program participants, their families, and the community.

The implementation of the ASP Housing Program has been successful in offering transitioning offenders’ access to stable housing. Program participants may utilize housing for emergency and transitional placements, while continuing with intensive case management and treatment services. Assistance with landlord engagement and securing permanent housing, based on case plan timelines, is also a program component. All program participants are assisted in securing access to important documents including birth certificates and social security cards; navigating social service programs to secure qualified benefits; securing state identification cards and/or
drivers licenses; and assistance with Section 8 and other subsidized and permanent housing options. Local Alliance for Workforce Development partners assist with resume development, job searches, and job placement for program participants. Program staff also provide client transportation services to address and access offender needs. For many transitioning offenders, this project has allowed them to achieve greater levels of sobriety and overall life stabilization.

These achievements were developed, in part, from a needs-based methodology to offender diversion, with an eye on reducing recidivism. Understanding that each individual participant has unique needs, increasing the availability of intensive and effective services marks a significant change in addressing overall crime and recidivism. Further, criminal justice system maturity – stakeholders working and providing services in concert – has led to a highly effective “warm hand-off” model between service providers. Once isolated and disparate, criminal justice service providers now work within an effective framework, significantly reducing duplicative or inefficient services, while filling identified service gaps and increasing program participant access to centralized services. This model leads individual successes for many who have historically been unable to break long-held patterns of crime and addiction.

An additional goal and significant accomplishment include a major decrease in the use of jail bed space in Plumas County. Reduction of jail bed usage was created through the Pretrial Release program. The Prop 47 Pretrial Release Program is an early intervention pretrial release initiative that provides a framework which guides offender release and detention recommendations to the criminal justice system in Plumas County, with an overall effect of reducing offender time in jail and lowering recidivism rates. Prior to the implementation of the Pretrial Release Program, average jail bed usage per day was 52. While additional influences, like the recent Humphrey’s Legislation and the slowing of criminal activity due to covid-19, the Plumas County Jail has witnessed a steady reduction in overall jail bed use following the implementation of the Prop 47 Pretrial Release program. Staff estimate a total jail bed usage reduction of 5,686 in Cohort 1. This figure equates to a savings of approximately $648,204 over the last three years (using state average jail bed cost of $114 per day). Cohort 2 data was not available at the time of this report; however, staff indicate similar jail bed use reduction rates for the current reporting period.
One of the primary objectives of the Prop 47 Project is to increase capacity of the Plumas County District Attorney’s Alternative Sentencing Program, with a goal to ultimately create additional opportunities for early diversion services to offenders. Prior to the Prop 47 Program, pretrial release services consisted of a scale-down version of today’s program. As able, ASP staff would evaluate offenders for potential participation in the pretrial release program. Participation largely depended on the type of crime committed and criminal history. Services provided to offenders participating were limited. A Day Reporting Center (now closed), provided irregular access to mental health and drug/alcohol abuse counseling, and some housing options composed the bulk of the program. However, Prop 47 funding has enabled Plumas County criminal justice stakeholders to realize the goal of larger, more robust pretrial and diversion programs. Over the last three years, the ASP has increased operational capacity to create a tangible system of change within the criminal justice system.

Prop 47 goals and objectives have been achieved through the delivery of needs-based services to program participants.

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Factors that Impeded Project Progress

The Plumas County Proposition 47 Project encountered several challenges from project inception in Cohort 1, some of which were eliminated in Cohort 2. For context, the following information is being included. As with any new program, initial plans do not always find complete and immediate success. This proved evident with the project’s original goal of providing diversion and pretrial release offenders flexible “programs of choice.” The thought process was that offenders would reasonably choose programs and services that would allow them the opportunity to correct poor behaviors and/or habits and focus on self-improvement. However, Prop 47 staff realized this approach was not as effective as intended. To address this issue, staff quickly adjusted the model to include a highly structured framework for offenders to follow. While participants now have some level of choice – primarily as it relates to optional services – migrating towards a structured and graduated model has proved much more effective in participants successfully navigating diversion and pretrial programs.

Another significant challenge identified in Cohort 1, which remains in Cohort 2, relates to staff and administrative functions within the program. As a small, resource-limited community, some delays and barriers were incurred due to limited staff availability. Often, a single individual possesses the skills, training, and platform to deliver an array of program services as intended. Unfortunately, some project components suffered at times due to staff unavailability – one individual on maternity leave highlights an example of this issue. Further, the increased demand for program participation has created a delay in the delivery of some services. This issue primarily relates to intensive case management and counseling services. The unanticipated high-volume of participants has placed a strain on these program functions. However, like any mature system, partnering organizations filled these gaps, as able, and limited overall impact to project participants.

Additional staff barriers included the hiring of qualified staff in a timely manner. This issue caused residual effects related to some programs, most notably regarding comprehensive data collection, documentation, and analysis.
In Cohort 1, Prop 47 staff struggled to effectively manage the significant inflow of data for analysis. However, in Cohort 2, access to BSCC’s new central data repository system has proven invaluable. Data is now collected, reported, and retained in an effective and transparent method.

An additional challenge relates to long-term treatment and stabilization of Prop 47 participants. Specifically, the Plumas Proposition 47 Project model allows for offender participation for up to one-year. An additional built-in component includes an aftercare option of three months for transitioning offenders completing their program. In the lessons learned view of this model, it has become apparent to Prop 47 Team members that the 15-month participation period for some offenders is insufficient time for treatment and stabilization. Partners continue to assess how to address this issue – additional funding and personnel are likely, to address longer-term needs.

Lastly, a lack of affordable housing in Plumas County creates challenges for participants to obtain and maintain stable housing, particularly upon graduation from the Prop 47 Project. This paradigm will continue to prove challenging into the foreseeable future – particularly in the wake of the Dixie Fire – unless significant positive economic changes impact the region.

Covid-19

Like most organizations across California and the world, the covid-19 pandemic caused (and continues to produce) significant disruptions to the Prop 47 Project in Plumas County. Naturally, the safety precautions associated to covid-19 created several logistical hurdles in providing services safely. Limited access to personal protective equipment, social distancing guidelines, lockdowns of government offices, stakeholder entities, and the public throughout Plumas County all directly impact delivery of services.

To address these challenges, Prop 47 staff implemented new procedures which include the use of telephone, Zoom (video conferencing) and Doxy.me (tele-medicine) meetings and counseling sessions. Transitional housing participants were provided laptops for virtual group/individual meetings. Further, staff created plans for program participation if an individual did not reside in a transitional housing location or did not have access to internet.
The primary lesson learned from covid-19 is that program stakeholders need to improve planning efforts to address and be prepared for non-standard operating environments. Whether a pandemic like covid-19, wildfire or earthquake, staff need to ensure policy, procedures, and operational activities are mobile, redundant, and most importantly, flexible.

Data Collection

Data collection proved challenging in various way for all Prop 47 stakeholders in Cohort 1. The most significant challenges stemmed from the ability to capture and document the array of daily services provided by each of the primary stakeholder as well other outside entities that support the Prop 47 Project on an ad hoc basis. Essentially, lack of available manpower reduced the program’s ability to effectively collect detailed data of each program participant. Lack of personnel and/or trained staff to manage, coordinate, and document all the activities of each participant – at various times through the Prop 47 program – resulted in a limited dataset.

Several lessons have been learned regarding data collection, and several important changes were implemented in Cohort 2. Most notably, access to BSCC’s new central data repository system has proven invaluable. Data is now collected, reported, and retained in an effective and transparent method.

Project Background

The Plumas County Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Project encompasses three primary goals, that, collectively, synchronize efforts to address reduced recidivism, while fostering increased collaboration among countywide partners, ultimately improving the outcomes of participating individuals.

Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program

Designed and managed by the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office Alternative Sentencing Program, the Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program is intended for participants who were
unsuccessful in the Deferred Entry of Judgement Program (PC1000), Prop 36, or other diversion programs. The program is specifically focused on outcomes which are geared towards learning to live without alcohol and/or drugs, and for participants to address all related problems associated with alcohol/drug use, criminal behavior, and damage to family relationships and the community.

The Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program assists participants in addressing a variety of treatment, housing, workforce, and legal needs as individually identified for each participant. Services are provided through collaborating agencies, including, the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office – Alternative Sentencing Program, and Re-Think Industries, whose staff members participate in weekly multidisciplinary team meetings to review case plans and address intensive case management services for each program participant. This team engages participants in regular treatment team meetings to adjust program schedules and check-in on client progress. Case plans and services may be increased, and sanctions levied when the program participant requires such an adjustment.

Entry into the Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program requires participants to sign a Release of Information allowing the sharing of information between all parties including the Plumas County Superior Court, Plumas County District Attorney, Attorney of Record, Alternative Sentencing Program, Rethink Industries and any other program or agency identified as needing a referral and having a need to share information.

Program eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis with an emphasis on addiction-driven crimes. Legal criteria for entry into the Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program is approved by the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office. Prosecutors examine the offender’s criminal history and the incident offense report and may solicit additional information as needed from local law enforcement agencies and community supervision officers regarding the offender’s proclivity toward criminal/drug related activity, such as violent offenses and prior offenses. Legal criteria further include:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must reside in Plumas County
• Should not have holds or warrants from other jurisdictions or have other pending cases, although these offenders may be considered for placement in the program on a case-by-case basis

• Must be physically and mentally capable of participating in the program and meeting its requirements. This requirement will not preclude participation by most dually diagnosed offenders, rather, those conditions will be accommodated if the participant can participate in program requirements, and

• Been arrested and/or convicted of the following:
  o “Diversion” and PC1210 failures (e.g., deferred entry of judgment failures): allowable
  o Arrested for violations of Health and Safety (H & S) Code §11350, §11364, §11365, §11377 or §11550
  o Arrested for violations of §647(f) of the Penal Code (PC)
  o Arrested for violations of theft-related offenses as follows:
    ▪ § 484/666 PC, provided that the priors are misdemeanors and do not exceed two prior offenses
    ▪ Other drug-related theft/fraud cases, including but not limited to violation of PC §496, §470 or §484, where the criminal history is insignificant and/or non-violent
  o Qualified for a court-ordered diversion program under Penal Code §1000 but failed to comply, will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the approval of the sentencing judge

• Violent offenders. Violent offenders are defined as individuals who are (1) charged with or convicted of an offense during the course of which the person carried, possessed, or used a firearm or another dangerous weapon, there occurred the use of force against the person of another, or there occurred the death of, or serious bodily injury to, any person, without regard to whether any of the circumstances described above is an element of the offense or conduct of which or for which the person is charged or convicted; and/or (2) has one or more prior
convictions of a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm. In addition, offenders committing sexually based offenses, whether overtly violent or not will not be considered for entry

- Offenders with a prior history of stalking or violation of a protective order charge, although exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis
- Offenders with a significant history of drug dealing, as determined by prosecutors
- Offenders whose offenses involved the possession of large amounts of drugs that appear to have been possessed with the intent to deliver
- Offenders with a history of committing multiple burglaries of a habitation offenses which potentially could have led to the harm of residents
- Offenders who are considered to have poor potential to complete the program due to contributing factors that make them a high risk to re-offend or relapse, such as proximity to ongoing criminal behavior by family members, or suspected drug trafficking.

Program exclusions include:

- Crimes of violence
- Sales and manufacturing, especially in the area of a school
- Sex offenses

A critical component of the Plumas County Proposition 47 Project is drug testing. Drug tests are frequent, random, and follow a legal chain of custody. The Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program Team uses urine analysis tests to measure a participant’s progress in the program and hold that person accountable to the requirements of the program. The team utilizes the most current and accurate drug testing methods possible, given budget constraints.

Random drug testing may occur at any time members of the team determine appropriate. It may also be initiated by law enforcement any time there is contact. Positive test results: if a participant admits that the urine will be positive for drugs or alcohol, a confirmation test is not necessary. However, if the participant denies using drugs or alcohol and the test results are
positive, a treatment team meeting will be convened with the participant to discuss the use, modifications to treatment, and case plans and/or sanctions may be imposed. Modifications to the participants’ case plan and possible sanctions may also be recommended for positive tests, diluted samples, tampered samples and being absent from required random tests.

The Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program is broken into three phases, which take approximately 6 to 9 months to successfully complete, depending on the participants’ progress and engagement. Upon completion, the Prop 47 Diversion Program participants are eligible to graduate and may have their case dismissed and probation terminated.

**Prop 47 Diversion Program Phase 1 (30 Day Duration):**

1. **Group Counseling.** Group counseling activities are facilitated by Rethink Industries substance abuse counselors or a licensed therapist utilizing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). DBT is a cognitive behavioral treatment that emphasizes individual psychotherapy, and group skills training classes help people learn and use new skills and strategies to develop a life that they experience as worth living. DBT skills include skills for mindfulness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness.

   **Group Counseling Sessions:** 1.5 hours per session, 1 session per week until completion.

2. **Individual Counseling.** Individual counseling sessions are facilitated by a licensed therapist or Registered Intern and focus on the client’s underlying and contributing psychodynamic and psychosocial factors.

   **Individual Therapy or Counseling:** 50 minutes per session, a minimum of 3 sessions in Phase 1 of the program.

3. **Case Management.** Case Management sessions are conducted by the Community Care Case Manager and focus on the participant’s life management skills assessment and case management plan which include educational, vocational, housing, and other factors related to long-term success. Case management sessions will assist in completing required activities indicated in the case management plan including learning about available ancillary support services that may be utilized after completing the Prop 47 Pretrial Diversion Program.
Case Management Sessions: One hour per session, on a weekly basis throughout the program.

4. Treatment Team/Multidisciplinary Team Meeting. Meetings held between days 30-45 to create comprehensive case plan and engage the participant in next phase of the program.

5. Optional Services. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - Opioid addicted participants. Monthly appointment with medical doctor supervising MAT program and taking medication at the prescribed dose and frequency. MAT, including opioid treatment programs (OTPs), combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders.

Prop 47 Diversion Program Phase 2 (5 Month Duration):

1. Group Counseling. Group counseling activities are facilitated by Rethink Industries substance abuse counselors or a licensed therapist utilizing Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). DBT is a cognitive behavioral treatment that emphasizes individual psychotherapy, and group skills training classes help people learn and use new skills and strategies to develop a life that they experience as worth living. DBT skills include skills for mindfulness, emotion regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness.

Group Counseling Sessions: 1.5 hours per session, 1 session per week until completion.

OR

2. Individual Therapy or Counseling. Participants engage in 50 minutes of counseling per session, minimum of once per month maximum of one session per week. The frequency of these meetings may be increased or decreased at any time based on an individual participant’s conduct. Individual counseling sessions are facilitated by a licensed therapist or registered intern and focus on the client’s underlying and contributing psychodynamic and psychosocial factors.

3. Case Management Sessions: One hour per session, on a weekly basis throughout the program. Case Management sessions are conducted by the Community Care Case Manager and focus on the participant’s life management skills assessment and case management plan which include educational, vocational, housing, and other factors related to long-term success. Case management sessions will assist in completing required activities indicated in
the case management plan including learning about available ancillary support services that may be utilized after completing the Plumas County District Attorneys Prop 47 Diversion Program. The frequency of these meetings may be increased or decreased at any time based on an individual participant’s conduct.

4. Treatment Team/Multidisciplinary Team Meeting. Meetings held during month 5 to review and modify case plan and create a transition plan for the participant to graduate and/or continue with 3 months of aftercare and services if the participant chooses to engage.

5. Skills Group. Participants engage in a one-hour group skills counseling session, facilitated by a team member weekly. Skills groups work with participants through interactive journaling on practical life skills that assist in making healthy choices. Through guided, self-reflective journaling and facilitated discussions, participants develop a personalized tool kit for positive living.

6. Community Prosocial Activity. Participation in at least one community prosocial activity per week is required during this phase of the program. The frequency of these meetings may be increased or decreased at any time based on an individual participant’s conduct. Prosocial activities help develop personal support systems within the community and will also support recovery following graduation.

7. Optional Services.
   - Family, couples or children therapy or counseling. Family counseling sessions are facilitated by a licensed therapist and focus on the family units underlying and contributing psychodynamic and psychosocial factors. 50 minutes per session.
   - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) - Opioid addicted participants. Monthly appointment with medical doctor supervising MAT program and taking medication at the prescribed dose and frequency. MAT, including opioid treatment programs (OTPs), combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders.

Prop 47 Diversion Program Phase 3 (3 Month Duration):

Phase 3 of the Prop 47 Diversion Program is an optional component to the overall program. Services in Phase 3 encompass all previously identified services from Phase 1 and 2; however,
they are made available to participants on an as-and-when needed basis. Phase 3 is designed to provide a continuum of care for participants, in the specific programs that best fit their individual needs. This option has proven valuable in supporting participants and serves as a mechanism to ensure future individual support, and alternatives to potential recidivism.

Anytime a participant wishes to be absent from an appointment or appearance that is a part of his/her Prop 47 Diversion Program, permission must be gained from the appropriate authority. A call to that person must be made with at least 24 hours’ notice to secure permission to be absent. Such permission will be granted only in the case of verified emergency, and she/he will be required to make up the missed session or drug testing. The professional receiving this call and granting permission to be absent is expected to log this interaction in case future verification is needed later.

Participants are required to submit to drug/alcohol testing at the time of the request and upon their return. Without that test, permission to travel will not be granted. If the test is positive, no permission to be absent will be granted. Participants are encouraged to make necessary arrangements to secure the required drug test prior to travel by availing themselves of times when they are in the presence of those in a position to do the testing. Leaving a voicemail message for the team member does not satisfy the requirement of obtaining the team member’s approval of an absence.

All participants are required to disclose to their health care providers their status as a chemically dependent person pursuing recovery. Prior to being prescribed any controlled substance, all participants are required to explore with their physician the availability of a non-narcotic and non-controlled alternative to address their medical needs.

Unfortunately, not all participants succeed in the Prop 47 Diversion Program. Primary reasons for terminating program participation are as follows:

- Failing to attend counseling or group sessions
- Providing positive drug tests
- Failing to provide urine sample for drug tests
• Tampering with or attempting to tamper with any required drug test

Individuals who successfully complete Prop 47 Program Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities are eligible to graduate and may have their case dismissed and probation terminated.

**Prop 47 Pretrial Release Program**

The Prop 47 Pretrial Release Program is an early intervention pretrial release initiative that provides a framework which guides offender release and detention recommendations to the criminal justice system in Plumas County. Capitalizing on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) model – a known best practice program – the Pretrial Release Program effectively manages overall risk, based on a series of inputs and the seriousness of the criminal charge against an offender. The Pretrial Release Program framework further outlines the consistent application of release conditions, while minimizing dual-system entry errors, resulting in an improved criminal justice system and safer community. The Prop 47 Pretrial Release Program was designed and developed by several community partners, including, the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office, and the Plumas County Sheriff, to name a few.

The Prop 47 Pretrial Release Program was developed to meet several objectives. Specifically, the Pretrial Release Program aims to:

- Ensure community safety
- Ensure released defendants appear for scheduled court dates
- Provide a guideline for consistent decision-making in cases involving similarly situated defendants
- Avoid jail crowding
- Provide an effective risk assessment tool to identify defendants who appear to be at a greater risk of misconduct upon release and create a supervision plan that minimizes misconduct
- Implementation of a simple supervision regimen, with achievable conditions, accurate information, and vigilant monitoring by program staff
• Provide a rapid follow-up plan on instances of non-compliance, including use of a range of different types of consequences
• Assist defendants released prior to trial in securing employment and in obtaining any necessary medical services, drug or mental health treatment, or other social services that would increase the chances of successful compliance with conditions of pretrial release
• Improve initial and continuing recommendations and information to the court
• Improve defendant recidivism data collection

As part of the Pretrial Release process, program staff submit recommendations for release or detention, prior to the offenders first court appearance. For those who qualify, based on an interview with the offender and other factors, release generally takes place within 24 hours of booking. Program staff will contact any alleged victim (notably in domestic violence incidents) to discover any concerns about future contact with the defendant. Information derived from alleged victim interviews are then utilized to validate risk assessment and help verify information provided at time of booking. The program works to utilize the least restrictive and reasonable conditions necessary to ensure the defendant’s appearance in court, without jeopardizing public safety.

At the time of booking, the Plumas County Correctional Facility notifies the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office - Alternative Sentencing Program staff that a new offender has been received at the Plumas County Correctional facility. Within twenty-four hours, a member of the ASP staff will report to the Correctional Facility to interview the offender and begin the pretrial release evaluation. Both correctional and ASP staff ensure completion of the Pretrial Referral and Eligibility Tracking form to warrant appropriate program documentation. The pretrial release evaluation consists of the following:

• Review of the Pretrial Release Program and stipulation with offender to receive permission or denial to continue the interview
• Conduct pretrial interview and complete the Plumas County Pretrial services interview form (if necessary, complete DUI or Domestic Violence Addendum as well as the Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI))
• Conduct evidence-based pretrial risk assessment interview
• Complete screening for substance abuse and mental health screening tool utilizing evidence based and validated tools
• Verify the criminal history, interview information
• Contact alleged victim(s) to learn of any concerns about future contact with the defendant
• Score assessments and interview tools to create a report for the first court appearance

Upon completion of the evaluations, interview, and data collection, ASP staff create a report outlining the findings and recommendations for release or detention. The report also identifies Pretrial Release program suitability (e.g., Drug Court, Community treatment Court, social service needs etc.). The report is provided to the District Attorney’s Office, which is then filed with the Court, and includes any new charges and attorney of record (if assigned) prior to the first court appearance.

Based on the score of the assessment and interview, the recommendation may be to release prior to appearing for arraignment. In these situations, ASP staff send a pretrial services report to the assigned Judge, requesting permission to release and give a citation to appear in court at a later date. The Judge determines whether the release and recommendations are accepted – with or without modifications – or the release is denied. This response also informs the Plumas County Correctional Staff giving them the authority to release or hold the individual in question. The ASP provides the following resources to offenders released through the Pretrial Release Program, based on their needs:

• Referrals and monitoring of drug and alcohol testing and treatment
• Referrals and monitoring of mental health treatment
• Employment training services
• Notification of upcoming court dates, and when necessary, assistance in attending court

Prop 47 Housing Program

The third component of the Prop 47 initiative is the Prop 47 Housing Program. Pretrial Diversion and Pretrial Release Program participants who are homeless or unstably housed may be offered housing services to support successful program outcomes. The Housing Program is led by Rethink Industries.

The Proposition 47 Housing Program includes support specific to high-risk, high-need transitioning offenders. The Housing Program offers housing and intensive case management services for participants aged 18 and older. Case management services encompass whole-person care and provides 24/7 supervision. Participants receive life skills training, assistance accessing higher education and workforce development opportunities, access to solving and addressing health, mental health, and prepare for transition to independent living. All residents receive support in landlord engagement, housing search, and financial assistance in securing permanent housing upon successful exit from the program.

Evaluation Methods and Design

Process Evaluation

The process evaluation includes a continuous improvement model to program implementation by addressing fidelity to the program plan and monitoring specific program goals (e.g., participant enrollment, recidivism rates, mental health services, substance abuse treatments, housing, legal services, food insecurity, etc.). Process data includes various service utilization records including case management records, case logs, assessments, treatment/care plans, services, referrals, and exit forms. Data is pulled through coordinated efforts from multiple sources, including Caseload Pro (Plumas County Criminal Justice Data System), mental health / substance abuse services and
treatment information, legal, housing, and other service data. Additionally, to monitor fidelity to the program model, the evaluator conducts periodic check-ins and interviews with program leadership and partners (ASP and Rethink) to discuss program developments. Topics of discussion included successes/challenges, client progress, service gaps, evidence-based best practices utilized, and lessons learned from the collaboration between agencies.

To appropriately evaluate the process, implementation, and operations of Cohort 2, the evaluator assesses the following efforts:

- **Interaction among Cohort 2 stakeholders (ASP and Rethink)**
  - Does the process proceed smoothly, or are communications and relations difficult and strained?
  - Do participants work together to identify a range of potential strategies?
  - Does the status and hierarchy of involved personnel interfere with communications?

- **Extent of participation (stakeholders accomplishing tasks)**

- **Interaction among participants and others in the community who were not involved in planning and implementing the strategy (not-for-profits entities, volunteers, new programs, etc.)**

- **What problems were encountered in implementing objectives? How were they resolved?**

- **Have all planned activities been implemented? If not, what remained to be done? Were they accomplished on schedule?**

- **If objectives, plans, or timetables were revised, why was this necessary?**

- **What new objectives were added and why?**

- **What changes occurred in leadership or personnel? What effect did these changes have?**

- **What costs were incurred? Did they exceed initial projections?**

- **What was the level of resident support in targeted neighborhoods? How did this affect the overall enforcement effort?**

- **What lessons have been learned that might be useful to other jurisdictions?**
The Cohort 2 evaluator works with project stakeholders to collect and consolidate project information each in regular intervals. Specifically, the evaluator collects process measurement information through interviews with program stakeholders. Interview questions align directly with questions identified above. Information routinely quantifies each partnering entity’s performance throughout the cohort. Collected information also provides project management and stakeholders improved transparency and fidelity of project impact, data collection gaps and/or redundancy, and areas for improvement. Further, this process helps to safeguard appropriate data collection efforts were being regularly accomplished – as identified as a challenge area.

Project data is regularly collected and maintained by the Alternative Sentencing Program office and Rethink Industries. At a minimum, data collection includes:

- Number of project participants assessed/enrolled
- Participant:
  - Demographics
  - Criminal Data / Prior convictions
  - Education level and goals
  - Employment status and goals
  - Housing status and goals
- Number of mental health assessments
  - Number of participants enrolled in mental health programs
    - Types of mental health services received
    - Number of treatments
- Number of project participants who receive substance abuse assessments
  - Number of substance abuse services/treatments received
- Number of project participants who enroll in diversion programs
  - Number of diversion services/treatments received
- Number of participants who receive:
  - Food assistance
  - Basic necessity assistance
  - Case Management
  - Legal services
  - Education services
Employment services
- Housing support
- Social services
- Transportation services

Outcome Evaluation

The evaluator utilizes a utilization-focused approach, coalescing program data, interviews, and surveys to address the impact of Prop 47 grant funding. A utilization-based evaluation is an approach that leverages evaluation activities from start to finish, and measures impact to intended users (project participants). Additionally, the process evaluation aims to provide regular, continuous, information to update and improve the project – as applicable – over time. The outcome evaluation focuses on describing the program’s aggregate outcomes over the performance period. Prop 47 management and stakeholders defined the method by which the impact on the measured outcomes is determined. Specifically, the outcomes identified below are to serve as the mechanism for how impact will be measured.

The specific questions to evaluate the effectiveness (outcomes) of the project include the following:

1) To what extent does the Pretrial Diversion, Pretrial Release, and the Housing program reduce recidivism?
   - Levels of recidivism effectiveness based on percentage of participant inclusion per program.
2) Did the Project succeed in implementing collaborative strategies to effectively employ early identification, targeting of services, appropriate supervision, and positive treatment of offenders in the community?
   - Increased collaboration between stakeholders – pretrial, law enforcement, mental health, housing, and other not-for-profit services focused on recidivism.
3) How effective was the project in realizing the combine goal to improve the local justice system and increase positive outcomes for offenders?
o Criminal justice system change – tangible increase in positive outcomes for project participants.

o Stable and effective supervision, access to services, and accountability

o Increase in jail bed availability

The outcome evaluation goal is to identify the extent to which the project had an impact on participants’ recidivism. Additionally, the evaluation goal is to also assess the impact of project services from other contributing factors, such as participants’ success in reducing or abstaining from alcohol and drug use and improvements. Further, identifying the impact to recidivism rates when project participants attain (as applicable) stable housing, regular employment, and access to training and education programs/classes. A comprehensive data collection methodology aids in analyzing specific impact points, associated services (interventions) and their individual effect on participant outcomes.

Outcome measurements include:¹²

- Recidivism rate (tracked and measured by project management staff)
- Mental health issues associated to substance/alcohol abuse addressed and removed (depression, anxiety, aggressive/agitated behavior, cognitive issues, and other psychiatric issues)
- Client outcomes of mental health services received (improved mental health – reduced depression, anxiety; crisis avoidance; reduced mental health impact on family, friends, finances, and the community)
- Employment attainment rates (increase in stable employment)
- Stable housing attainment rates (increase in stable housing)
- Outcomes of legal services provided (improved legal status; improved criminal records; improved knowledge/understanding of legal system)

¹ Definition of “stable” - permanent; not changing or fluctuating.
² Definition of “improved” - to enhance in value or quality; make better
Leveraging project data, the evaluator compares recidivism rates, and other project outcome information, with criminal offenders not enrolled in the Prop 47 Project. Historically, not all prospective Prop 47 participants meet eligibility requirements and/or choose not to participate.

Project data is regularly collected and maintained by the Alternative Sentencing Program office, and Rethink Industries. At a minimum, data collection includes:

- Number of project participants assessed/enrolled
- Participant:
  - Demographics
  - Criminal Data / Prior convictions
  - Education level and goals
  - Employment status and goals
  - Housing status and goals
- Number of mental health assessments
  - (Definition: Complete mental health assessment within 30 days of referral from ASP. Evaluation and report to ASP within 72 hours of evaluating. Individualized ongoing mental health treatment based on criteria and need for mental health. Will meet a minimum of 3 individualized treatment goals prior to completion when applicable.)
  - Number of participants enrolled in mental health programs
    - Types of mental health services received
    - Number of treatments
- Number of project participants who receive substance abuse assessments
  - (Definition: Complete ASI-lite assessment within 30 days of referral from ASP. Evaluation and report to ASP within 72 hours of evaluating. Individualized ongoing substance abuse treatment based on criteria and need for recovery. Will meet a minimum of 3 individualized treatment goals prior to completion when applicable and will prove through negative testing for a minimum of 90 days.)
  - Number of substance abuse services/treatments received
• Number of project participants who enroll in diversion programs
  o (Definition: Participants will attend process groups 1-3x weekly for the duration of their program. Participants will attend 3 12-week skills groups throughout the entirety of the program. All groups with address mental health, substance abuse, trauma, life skills, and other such relatable topics. Participants will attend individual, couple, family sessions as needed and indicated per initial assessment and evaluation. They must attend their therapy sessions as directed by the clinician and be looking for employment or have employment, have a transition plan in place for long term permanent housing (can be completed during aftercare) or be in long term permanent housing. The participant will also have made all court appearances and successfully have had their case dismissed or adjudicated. Participant will have completed plan for 3 months of aftercare and continued arrangement for on-going mental health and substance abuse prevention and recovery plan.

  o Number of diversion services/treatments received

• Number of participants who receive:
  o Food assistance
  o Basic necessity assistance
  o Case Management
  o Legal services
  o Education services
  o Employment services
  o Housing support
  o Social services
  o Transportation services

Outcome Comparison Group

Two unique datasets were identified to compare Plumas County Prop 47 program participant data. First, a sampling (24 records) of data was provided by the Plumas County Probation Department. Data included demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.) as well as same or similar criminal charges as Prop 47 participants. Second, Prop 47 program participant data was compared with crime statistic published by the State of California. Prop 47 management specifically looked at comparisons of these two datasets as it related to recidivism rates. Results are outlined in the Data Collection – Results section of this report.
Data Collection

Project data is regularly collected by the Alternative Sentencing Program office and Rethink Industries. Quarterly data reports are provided to BSCC. Caseload Pro is the primary tool used by Pretrial Release staff, as well as manual use of Microsoft Excel. Partnering agency, Rethink Industries leveraged mental health industry client management software as well as Excel for manual reporting purposes.

Collected data includes:

- Number of project participants assessed/enrolled
- Participant:
  - Demographics
  - Criminal Data / Prior convictions
  - Education level and goals
  - Employment status and goals
  - Housing status and goals
- Number of mental health assessments
  - Number of participants enrolled in mental health programs
    - Types of mental health services received
    - Number of treatments
- Number of project participants who receive substance abuse assessments
  - Number of substance abuse services/treatments received
- Number of project participants who enroll in diversion programs
  - Number of diversion services/treatments received
- Number of participants who receive:
  - Food assistance
  - Basic necessity assistance
  - Case Management
  - Legal services
  - Education services
  - Employment services
  - Housing support
  - Social services
Transportation services

Data Collection & Analysis Challenges

As indicated previously in this report, as well as in Cohort 1, data collection has proven challenging for all Prop 47 stakeholders. The most significant challenges stem from the array of services provided by each of the primary stakeholder (Alternative Sentencing and Rethink Industries) as well other outside entities that support the Prop 47 Program on an ad-hoc basis. Essentially, lack of available manpower reduced the program’s ability to effectively collect detailed data of each program participant. Lack of personnel and/or trained staff to manage, coordinate, and document all the activities of each participant – at various times through the Prop 47 program – results in a limited dataset. However, the data that was collected does support identifying program impact as outlined in the outcome evaluation sections of this document. Complex and detailed analysis of program impact will not be possible. This paradigm is particularly unfortunate from an outcome analysis perspective, as it proves difficult to account for detailed aspects of services provided, as well as outside influences.

Specific areas where data was not effectively collected or analyzed, include:

- Participant-specific mental health issues and barriers – While a broad understanding of mental health issues and barriers has been established, documenting each issue by program participant has not yet been accomplished
- Participant-specific mental health client outcomes – Mental health treatment is provided to each participant; however, tracking of broad individual outcomes and barrier-specific outcomes has not yet been accomplished
- External ad hoc support – specifically, parenting, and co-parenting classes and grief recovery counseling sessions. While the number of classes and unduplicated participation is tracked and accounted for, the ability to analyze the overall impact of these classes to reducing recidivism rates is limited.
Evaluation Results and Discussion

Outcome Measure
Leveraging project data, the evaluator compared recidivism rates, and other project outcome information, with criminal offenders not enrolled in the Prop 47 Project. Historically, not all prospective Prop 47 participants meet eligibility requirements and/or choose not to participate. Specific measures include:

1. Recidivism rate (tracked and measured by project management staff)
2. Mental health barriers associated to substance/alcohol abuse addressed and removed (depression, anxiety, aggressive/agitated behavior, cognitive issues, and other psychiatric issues)
3. Mental health services received (types of mental health services provided to diversion participants)
4. Employment attainment rates (increase in stable employment)
5. Stable housing attainment rates (increase in stable housing)
6. Outcomes of legal services provided (improved legal status; improved criminal records; improved knowledge/understanding of legal system)
Results

As of March 31st, 2021, Plumas County Proposition 47 Cohort 2 Project has served 109 unduplicated participants. An unduplicated participant is defined as each participant counting only once, even if they drop out and return at a later date.

Unduplicated program participants fall under the demographic criteria outlined below. This information is current through March 21, 2021.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Goal (1)</strong></th>
<th>Develop the Plumas County Pretrial Diversion Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>To increase the capacity of the Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP) to offer early diversion services that meet current gaps in the local criminal justice system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal (2)</strong></td>
<td>Identify and engage program participants in early services of Pretrial Diversion Program (PDP) and the Alternative Sentencing (ASP) Housing Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objectives:</strong></td>
<td>Create a system change in positive outcomes for program participants.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To meet Goal 1 and 2, and the associated objectives, the Prop 47 staff created the Pretrial Diversion Program. Staff identified relevant diversion services that assisted participants in addressing a variety of treatment, housing, workforce, and legal needs as individually identified for each participant. Services are provided through collaborating agencies, including, the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office – Alternative Sentencing Program and Rethink Industries, whose staff members participate in weekly multidisciplinary team meetings to review case plans and address intensive case management services for each program participant.

Over the course of Cohort 2, 95 individuals were referred to the Pretrial Diversion Program. Of that number, 56 unduplicated individuals enrolled in the diversion program. Additional information is provided on the BCSS website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pretrial Diversion Statistics</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Individuals that Received a Recidivism Assessment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of New Enrollments (Unduplicated)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Individuals that Complete the Diversion Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Individuals that did not Complete the Diversion Program</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Primary diversion services consisted of mental health therapy and skills development. In Cohort 2, Rethink Industries provided the following mental health services:

- **Psychotherapy**: In-home, telehealth, and in-office individual, couple, and family counseling
- **Substance Use Counseling**: In-home, telehealth, and in-office substance abuse, dependency interventions, and counseling to help the participant and their loved ones through the process of recovery
- **Trauma and Grief Counseling**: Focuses on helping people cope with the physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and cognitive responses to loss
- **Dialectical Behavior Therapy**: A type of therapy which helps identify and change negative thinking patterns while pushing for positive behavioral changes
- **Gottman Therapy**: Couple’s modality of counseling that begins with an assessment process, then transitions into therapeutic framework and intervention. The three areas of focus are friendship, conflict management, and creation of shared meaning
- **Skill Groups**: Evidence-based practicum to introduce and improve life skills; addresses maladaptive thought processes and behaviors
- **Processing Groups**: Uses group discussion and support to address life struggles and concerns; the process allows participants to share their unique perspectives while receiving positive feedback from group members

Throughout the mental health assessment and counseling services process, the following mental health issues were identified by Rethink’s clinicians in Prop 47 participants:

- Anxiety Disorders
- Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Impulse Control/Addiction Disorder
- Mood Disorder
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Personality Disorder
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Psychotic Disorder
- Substance Use Disorder

The statistics outlined below represent a snapshot of the mental health and substance abuse services provided in Cohort 2:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prop 47 - Mental Health Services Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received Mental Health Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prop 47 - Substance Abuse Services Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received Substance Abuse Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional services provided under the Prop 47 umbrella includes the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program, which specifically support opioid addicted participants. MAT is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. Medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient’s needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prop 47 - Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Individuals that Received MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Unduplicated Individuals that Received MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Individuals that Completed their MAT Requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further, legal services with provided to Prop 47 participants. Legal support services are provided by Legal Services of Northern California with respect to any housing/landlord issues. Plumas County Family Court Services aids with child custody and family separation/divorce issues. Plumas Rural Services supports restraining orders in cases with respect to domestic violence issues. And finally, Plumas County Victim Witness provides support to access the Victim Compensation Fund as needed. Legal services statistics for Cohort 2 are highlighted in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prop 47 - Legal Services Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Individuals who Received Legal Service Assistance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to mental health therapy services, Pretrial Diversion and Pretrial Release Program participants who are homeless or unstably housed are provided housing services to support successful program outcomes. The Housing Program is led by Rethink Industries.

The Proposition 47 Housing Program includes support specific to high-risk, high-need transitioning offenders. The Housing Program offers housing and intensive case management services for participants aged 18 and older. Case management services encompass whole-person care and provides 24/7 supervision. Participants receive life skills training, assistance accessing higher education and workforce development opportunities, access to solving and addressing health, mental health, and prepare for transition to independent living. All residents receive support in landlord engagement, housing search, and financial assistance in securing permanent housing upon successful exit from the program.

Each of these programs provided the flexibility to meet the housing needs of program participants that offer the best avenue for success. Housing statistics for Cohort 1 are highlighted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prop 47 – Housing Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Individuals who Received Housing Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Goal (3) | Improve Participant Outcomes/Reduce Recidivism/Increase Jail Beds in Plumas County
---|---
Objectives: | Reduce recidivism
 | Increase jail beds (i.e. connect offenders with services, when they qualify, and transition them out of custody to allow a “free bed”)
 | Improve criminal justice system (i.e. create seamless transitions from custody, pretrial release, and community supervision without a gap in supervision, services and accountability)

The purpose of this endeavor is to expand the Plumas County Pretrial Release Program, to create a Pretrial Diversion Program, and expand the ASP Housing Program to provide housing options for offenders transitioning from incarceration. This project incorporated the principals of restorative justice, trauma-informed care, and recidivism reduction, while providing early identification and engagement through intensive wraparound case management, related to community-based supportive services. Project components included mental health and therapy services, alcohol and drug treatment, emergency and transitional housing, and life skills education and support through an array of individual and group options.

“Recidivism” is defined as conviction of a new felony or misdemeanor committed within three years of release from custody or committed within three years of placement on supervision for previous criminal conviction. “Committed” refers to the date of the offense, not the date of conviction.

Of the 97 unduplicated Prop 47 program participants, less than 1% recidivated as of the date of this report. As intended, the reduction of Prop 47 participants recidivating is significantly lower than similar non-Prop 47 offenders and the statewide California recidivism rate, as highlighted in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recidivism Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prop 47 Diversion/Pretrial Release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - Source: CA State Auditor, January 2019
An additional goal and significant accomplishment include a major decrease in the use of jail bed space in Plumas County. Reduction of jail bed usage was created through the Pretrial Release program. The Prop 47 Pretrial Release Program is an early intervention pretrial release initiative that provided a framework which guides offender release and detention recommendations to the criminal justice system in Plumas County, with an overall effect of reducing offender time in jail and lowering recidivism rates. Prior to the implementation of the Pretrial Release Program, average jail bed usage per day was 52. While additional influences, like the recent Humphrey’s Legislation and the slowing of criminal activity due to covid-19, the Plumas County Jail has witnessed a steady reduction in overall jail bed use following the implementation of the Prop 47 Pretrial Release program. In Prop 47 Cohort 1, staff estimated a total jail bed usage reduction of 5,686 over the three-year program. This figure equates to a savings of approximately $648,204 (using state average jail bed cost of $114 per day). Cohort 2 jail bed usage statistics were not available at the time of this report but will be included in the Cohort 2 final evaluation report.

To date, use of the Pretrial Release program has paid dividends from a recidivism perspective in Plumas County. Denial of freedom pending trial is often considered harsh and oppressive, increases defendant’s economic and psychological hardship, interferes with their ability to defend themselves, and, often, denies their families from support. Fortunately, in the case of Prop 47 participants, these concepts are not lost. Offenders generally understand the unique opportunity provided to them through the Pretrial Release program and have taken advantage. As indicated in the previous table, recidivism rates for Pretrial Release participants are considerably lower than non-participants and the State of California average.

Conclusion

As the lead agency for the Prop 47 Project, the Plumas County District Attorney’s Office Alternative Sentencing Program strives to continue to achieve a reduction in recidivism rates in the Plumas County criminal justice system, while improving the lives of offenders transitioning from incarceration and increasing the safety of the community. Incorporating the principals of restorative justice, trauma-informed care, and recidivism reduction, ASP successfully provides early identification and engagement, through community-based supportive services for the
delivery of intensive wraparound case management to program participants. Project components include mental health and therapy services, alcohol and drug treatment, emergency and transitional housing, and life skills education and supports through an array of individual and group options. These services continue to expand as service gaps are addressed and new component options become available. Program participants enjoy the variety of individual and group options as they forged a new path to recovery. Collaborative partners and community stakeholders collectively engage in this model, which encourages strategic system changes to reduce recidivism and improve the lives of transitioning offenders, their families and community.

Advancing the criminal justice system requires a holistic approach; key partnerships within the community, as well as with state and federal partners is critical to success. Further, increased investments in agile and resilient programming are paramount to the sustainment of current programs and building of future efforts to combat recidivism. In Plumas County, stakeholders, law enforcement, and government officials remain committed to a mature and forward-leaning criminal justice system that reduces recidivism and improves the lives of those living in the community.
Logic Model

Inputs
- Prop 47 Funding
- Advisory Committee
- Partners
  - Local
  - Regional
  - State
- Evidence-Based Program Model
- Best Practices

Outputs
- Pretrial Diversion Program
- Pretrial Release Program
- Rapid Housing Program
- Improved Outreach, Identification, and Assessment of Offenders
- Individual Case Management and Wraparound Services
- Warm Handoffs Between Support Agencies for Direct Services
- Improved Offender Tracking and Metrics
- Shared Reporting and Evaluation

Outcomes
- Increased Program Capacity to More Effectively Manage Diversion Services at Scale; Address Gaps; Improved Local Criminal Justice System
- Early Identification and Engagement With Program Participants; Actively Addressing Complex Participant Issues, Mitigating Further Criminal Risk
- Improved Participant Outcomes; Reduced Recidivism; Increased Jail Bed Space, Cost Savings

Activities:
Client-Focused Treatment | Intensive Case Management | Housing | Job Training | Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services | Parenting and Financial Training