

# Meeting of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and its Executive Committee (CCPEC)

## MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2015  
10 am-12 noon  
San Francisco Civic Center Courthouse  
400 McAllister Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Members Present:** Chief Adult Probation Officer Karen Fletcher (Chair), Tara Anderson for District Attorney George Gascón, Steve Good, Paul Henderson for Mayor Ed Lee, Robert Moser for Chief Greg Suhr, Craig Murdock for Public Health Director Barbara Garcia, Ali Riker for Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, Simin Shamji for Public Defender Jeff Adachi, and Beverly Upton

**Members Absent:** Greg Asay and Noelle Simmons

**1. Call to Order and Introductions.**

Chief Fletcher called the meeting to order at 10:04am. She introduced herself and asked other members to introduce themselves as well.

**2. Public Comment on Any Item Listed Below as for “Discussion Only.”**

Chief Fletcher asked for public comment and there was none.

**3. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2015 (discussion and possible action).**

After members reviewed the minutes, Craig Murdock moved they be accepted. Motion was seconded by Simin Shamji. There was not public comment and the motion passed.

**4. Staff Report (discussion only).**

Karen Shain reported to the members that the Reentry Division of Adult Probation has been involved in the Racial and Ethnic Disparities discussion through the Reentry Council which stems from the report by the Burns Institute. She also reported that the Reentry Division continues to work on the RFP related to the Risk-Needs-Responsivity study.

**5. Evaluation of COMPAS—Jim Austin, JFA Associates (JFA).**

Leah Rothstein introduced Jim Austin who presented on the COMPAS validation study. Jim Austin reported that his organization, JFA Associates, has been working on the COMPAS validation study. This report compared San Francisco, the state of California, and the national data of adult corrections. He stated that, as of 2013, San Francisco's rate per 100,000 adults was significantly lower than California's and the national rate and that risk assessment has been a major component which has made San Francisco a national leader.

Dr. Austin explained that key concepts in Risk Assessment are reliability and validity. A validation study examines the link between risk and actual outcomes. A client's risk level is linked to a client's needs and interventions. A risk instrument is only one component of a behavioral study. Other

factors include societal and environmental factors, static and dynamic factors, personal attributes, development and historical factors, contextual factors, relationships and interactions.

San Francisco Adult Probation uses a Comprehensive Assessment System (COMPAS). Regardless of the instrument used, departments will get the same results of risk no matter if the tool is lengthy or short. Strong predictors of recidivism are used in both systems. JFA used a cohort of 1,708 people placed on probation between 2011 and 2013 who had a COMPAS assessment completed. San Francisco based arrest data was collected both prior and after probation placement.

JFA determined that probationers had some difficulties and challenges answering and understanding some of the questions. Interview subjects had limited education levels, which may have limited the utility of the instrument. The COMPAS validation study determined 51 percent of respondents were re-arrested. The majority of re-arrests occurred during the first 4 months and leveled off between months 5 and 12. Most individuals who are not re-arrested in the first twelve months have a relatively small risk of re-arrest.

The study determined that Adult Probation's COMPAS instrument is producing valid assessments of risk. The most predictive factors tend to be items that measure prior criminal record that is typically found in other risk assessment systems. There are also a number of scales and items that measure a probationer's "needs" but are not strongly associated with risk. Dr. Austin suggested that it would be advisable to establish a process where an abbreviated COMPAS risk instrument is first applied to identify low risk probationers. Probationers who are not low-risk would then be assessed using the full COMPAS instrument.

Steve Good asked if there were more recent studies to compare risk since JFA used studies which were extremely old. Ali Riker asked if the sub-scales were static which Jim Austin responded "yes." Frank Williams asked if the assessment should be used upon release from custody or supervision. Jim Austin commented that in other jurisdictions risk is adjusted over time based on the probationer's progress, conduct, and compliance. Risk can be adjusted both up and down based on progress of the probationer overtime. Chief Fletcher commented that probationers are re-assessed at points throughout their supervision for early termination. Jim Austin stated SFAPD's COMPAS instrument is valid but suggested Adult Probation refrain from using risk instruments after the initial assessment, and instead evaluate a probationer's conduct.

## **6. Implementation of Proposition 47:**

### **A. Hilary Blout, Californians for Safety and Justice:**

Hilary Blout, Californians for Safety and Justice, updated the CCP on the progress her organization has made during the first year since the implementation of Prop 47. During the first year of Prop. 47 their work has been focused on educating Californians on Prop 47. During their initial campaign they trained numerous individuals and community-based organizations throughout the state to ensure community members were well informed about Prop 47. Additionally, they launched a website—[www.myprop47.org](http://www.myprop47.org)—which is a clearinghouse of information and contains forms for each county in California.

Ms. Blount explained that individuals who have convictions in multiple counties are required to complete a Prop 47 form for each jurisdiction where a conviction occurred. She said the goal of the website was to streamline the information on filing petitions. Challenges occur due to the different stipulations to filing petitions as each county has its own requirements and restrictions.

Californians for Safety and Justice also launched an advertisement campaign to educate the public. They are now measuring the cost/benefit of their advertisement campaign. They have used billboards, radio, and other means of advertising to advance their cause. Their organizing work over the past 12 months has focused on locating expungement/reduction clinics, and the one million Californians who will benefit from Prop 47. They realized that the urban areas such as San Francisco have numerous clinics but rural areas are still challenged. Currently they are working to increase the number of clinics and capacity to serve individuals. Another barrier to getting an individual's record changed is the cost associated to getting a comprehensive RAP sheet. The Department of Justice has been able to provide some waivers in which individuals are able to get a free RAP sheet. She also stated that an old conviction which may have occurred in a different geographic area of California inhibits an individual from utilizing Prop. 47 due to travel costs and time.

She said that, at the expungement/reduction clinics, individuals who are not Prop 47 eligible will be provided the tools necessary to remedy any marks on their record. There are additional challenges which stem from the three year time limit to expunge/reduce old cases via Prop 47. The reason the deadline was implemented was to ensure the state would not be burdened fiscally. Although there is a deadline, it might be possible to get it extended. Approximately 130,000 petitions have been filed statewide.

Californians for Safety and Justice has trained 50 organizations around the state on Prop 47, gave them all the materials they need to help individuals, and equipped CBOs to connect with community members. They also connect individuals with pro bono lawyers and clinics to help them with the legal work.

Hilary said that approximately 4,000 Californians have been resentenced from prison, 10,000 from jails, and \$73 million will not be spent in the prion budget due to prop 47. The initial state savings projections were set at approximately \$100 million. By mid-2016, the savings will be available for distribution. 65% of the funds will be used for mental health and recidivism reduction programs. Californians for Safety and Justice is advocating that the funding formula be made available before mid-2016.

For the future, Californians for Safety and Justice is focused on targeted outreach and hopes to educate the public and remove any negativity associated with it. The outreach will come from community-based organizations. Additionally, Californians for Safety and Justice is hosting larger public education events to broaden their efforts to mobilize individuals who will benefit from Prop. 47. The events will include other wrap around services. They hope to include a pro bono network of attorneys.

## **B. Report from Mayor's Interns from the Bayview: Crime Reduction and Community Relations Strategies**

Paul Henderson introduced Cheryl Davis and Alexis Hubbard from Mo'Magic, which is focused on the results of Prop. 47, and the efforts to educate the community. Over the summer there were seven cohorts of students who focused on local criminal justice issues ranging from the Fair Chance Ordinance to Prop 47. The Community Safety Internship 2015, in response to President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper", is made up of young people experiencing persistent and disproportionate contact with violence. It is public-private collaboration between SFPD, The San Francisco Police Commission, Hope SF, the Mayor's Office and Mo' Magic.

Through their Prop. 47, educational social media campaign, the students were able to reach over 1000 people in the Bay Area. Furthermore, they created buttons, stickers, and wrist bands for Prop. 47 awareness. A video was created and was shared on the National Night Out, and through social media.

The group recommends the video educational piece be used at neighborhood forums to raise awareness of Prop. 47.

7. **Roundtable Updates on the Implementation of Public Safety Realignment (AB109) and other comments, questions, and requests for future agenda items (discussion only).**

Chief Fletcher asked CCP members for updates, comments, or questions. There were none so Chief Fletcher moved to Item 8.

8. **Public comment on any item listed above, as well as items not listed on the Agenda.**

Chief Fletcher asked for public comment on any item listed above, or on any other topic not listed on the agenda. There was no public comment so Chief Fletcher moved to Item 9.

9. **Adjournment.**

Chief Fletcher thanked the members of the Community Corrections Partnership and the public for their participation in today's meeting. Paul Henderson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Beverly Upton seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.