

Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

2:00pm-4:00pm

One South Van Ness

San Francisco, CA 94102

Members in Attendance: Chief Wendy Still (chair), Matt Gonzales (alternate for Public Defender Jeff Adachi), Steve Good, Joshua Lachs (alternate for Deborah Alvarez-Rodriguez), Diana Oliva Aroche (alternate for ?), Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, Craig Murdock (alternate for ?), Karen Roye, Deputy Chief David Shinn (alternate for Chief Greg Suhr), James Whelley (alternate for ?), Sharon Woo (alternate for District Attorney George Gascón, arrived after Agenda 3).

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

Chief Wendy Still called the meeting to order at 2:14. She welcomed members and the public to the meeting. Those present introduced themselves.

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

Chief Still asked for public comment on any of the Agenda items listed for Discussion only. There was none.

3. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2012 and Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2012 (discussion & possible action).

Chief Still asked members to review the meeting minutes, then offer a motion. Diana Oliva Aroche moved to adopt the minutes of January 26; Deputy Chief Shinn seconded. The motion carried. Karen Roye moved to adopt the minutes of June 1; Craig Murdock seconded. The motion carried.

4. Progress Report on Implementation of Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act of 2009 (SB678) (discussion only).

Chief Still explained that Senate Bill 678, sponsored by Senator Mark Leno in 2009, created the Community Corrections Performance Incentive Act, charging probation departments with implementing evidence based practices in order to reduce probation revocations to state prison. The legislature incentivized these practices by awarding funding to counties successful in reducing their probation revocations. This initiative, Chief Still explained, was a predecessor to Realignment. The San Francisco Adult Probation Department (SFAPD) has achieved a 70% reduction in state prison revocations over the last three years and has been awarded \$2.187 million in grant funding from the state. One hundred per cent of funding was dedicated to services for clients. Chief Still thanked 5 Keys Charter School and the Sheriff's Department for

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helping to establish the Learning Center at SFAPD and for contributing to its tremendous success.

In addition to reducing revocations to state prison, Chief Still explained that the overall probation population has dropped as a result of changes being made through all of the criminal justice and law enforcement agencies. Chief Still expressed appreciation for the District Attorney's Office for the implementation of the neighborhood courts program to keep more individuals out of the criminal courts and the criminal justice system as a whole. Chief Still pointed out that this success does not mean that San Francisco is turning a blind eye to crime. Rather, SFAPD is providing enhanced supervision and services to target high risk populations, and law enforcement partners are implementing community policing and smart on crime policies to effect change.

Karen Roye said that the work that has been done through the Community Corrections Partnership and SFAPD is phenomenal. She said that she is proud of this work and thinks it demonstrates the importance of holistic services provision. Chief Still said that the collaborative spirit and integrity of San Francisco has made all this possible.

5. Progress Report on 12 months of Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB109) (discussion only).

Chief Still then called members' attention to the Public Safety Realignment report. She thanked Lani Kent and Heather McDonald from the City Services Auditor at the Controller's Office for their contributions to the report. She also thanked Leah Rothstein and Jessica Flintoft from SFAPD for their contributions. Chief Still then walked the members and audience through the Realignment report, providing background on Assembly Bill 109, the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011. Chief Still remarked that the original funding formula for realignment rewarded counties that relied heavily on state prison. Through her advocacy, the formula was changed to incentivize the behavior that the state wanted to see: utilizing alternatives to incarceration and local solutions instead of state prison. Chief Still said that San Francisco Superior Court judges are handing down split sentences at twice the rate of other counties, which demonstrates their recognition of the need for services, supervision, and community support.

Chief Still then asked Sheriff Mirkarimi to discuss the impact of Realignment on the county jail system. He said that San Francisco is distinct among county Sheriffs in tackling recidivism and management of this new population. Sheriff Mirkarimi said that he recently expanded the eligibility criteria for individuals exiting county jail to community programs because he was concerned about low engagement and about individuals who leave county jail with no supervision "tail." He also expressed concerns about the prevalence of mental health issues among the county jail inmate population.

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Chief Still noted that in July 2013 the Superior Court will hear parole violations instead of the Board of Parole Hearings. Proposition 36 (2012) will also impact San Francisco, as probation departments will likely supervise those who are going to be released following resentencing under the Three Strikes Law. Chief Still anticipates that four years from now, counties will have full responsibility for all individuals being released from state prison.

Chief Still then asked for Sharon Woo to discuss the impact of Realignment on the District Attorney's Office. Sharon said that AB 109 has forced the DA's office to identify new metrics for success. Traditionally District Attorneys haven't considered what happened upon release from state prison; the old metric for success was how long someone could be incapacitated in state prison. Under the new model, the DA's Alternative Sentence Planner makes a collaborative effort with Assistant District Attorneys to determine what the best outcome would be in a given case. The DA has also launched a Sentencing Commission to examine sentencing practices and trends in San Francisco, which is the first of its kind in California.

Chief Still asked Matt Gonzalez from the Public Defender's Office to describe Realignment's impact. Matt said that his office is very pleased with the changing attitudes in San Francisco. He reflected that, when he first started as a public defender in 1991, it was quite common to represent clients facing state prison sentences. Realignment and culture change have altered that norm. He noted that San Francisco is the only county that has due process rights in place for Post-Release Community Supervision clients facing a flash incarceration and that very few clients have asked for attorney presence during these proceedings. He finds that this is a good sign, as it indicates that individuals are taking responsibility for their actions. The upcoming challenge Matt anticipates will be representing clients in parole violations.

Sheriff Mirkarimi reiterated his commitment to offering services to clients who are not supervised by SFAPD. He indicated the desire to work more collaboratively to provide care for these individuals as they pass from one county agency to another. He said that the Reentry Pod will allow Sheriff's Department staff to work closely with SFAPD on intensive programming and case management.

Chief Still added that she appreciates the partnership with the San Francisco Police Department, because the police are the entry point to the criminal justice system and SFPD's commitment to community policing has been significant. She then asked for an update from the Human Services Agency about the impact of Realignment.

Jim Whelley said that HSA is pleased to work with SFAPD on rental subsidies for employed or job-ready individuals. Jim explained that the purpose of the subsidy is to help bridge the gap for individuals who are not yet able to afford to pay rent because they are starting in a new job or

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looking for a job. There is a great need for these services for individuals who have been disconnected from the community as a result of incarceration.

Chief Still then asked for an update from the Department of Public Health. Craig Murdock said that Housing and Urban Health, a division of DPH, has partnered with SFAPD to roll out stabilization housing for individuals who need housing stability in order to access treatment and other services in the community. Additionally, DPH interfaces with AB109 clients through team-based case management provided at the Behavioral Health Access Center at 1380 Howard with the goal of transitioning clients into community based care. There have been 209 admissions into these services since the inception of the funding and partnership, which is well over the funded level. Craig explained that DPH also operates Transitions Clinic, a primary care venue for individuals exiting incarceration. Twenty two clients have been referred to that clinic for primary care issues. DPH case managers have also enrolled a number of clients into Healthy SF and SF Path, San Francisco's health plans. Craig said that overall Realignment has led to fruitful partnerships.

Chief Still noted that AB 109 does not mandate data collection and reporting, unlike SB 678. San Francisco has been proactive by collecting and analyzing data since October 1, 2011. Chief Still said that parole violators have a huge impact on the county jail system and anticipated better results upon the transfer of hearings from Board of Parole hearings to SF Superior Court. Chief Still anticipated that San Francisco agencies will be better able to influence outcomes for these individuals because they will be represented by the Public Defender and recommendations will be made for their treatment in the community and alternatives to incarceration. Chief Still noted that 60% of the PRCS population is in compliance. This same population was failing at a 78% rate on parole supervision.

6. Members' comments, questions, and requests for future agenda items (discussion only).

Chief Still thanked everyone for their attendance and attention. She asked for comments from members. Members had no additional comments.

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

Rod Kearney from Fresh Start House expressed concerns about the disproportionate number of African Americans in the San Francisco criminal justice system and asked what attention is being paid to that population.

Chief Still said that SFAPD has opened an office in the Bayview district to bring services closer to its client population. She also explained that all contractors of SFAPD must demonstrate cultural competency per the request for proposals to which they responded. She also explained

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that the Justice Reinvestment Initiative is addressing this issue, and funding will be associated with phase two of that project so that strategies can be developed to address disproportionality.

Karen Roye said that the Department of Child Support Services recognizes that parents coming through child support also often are involved in the criminal justice system. Child Support staff conduct outreach in the county jails and modify payments and debt to address the needs of these mostly low income parents.

Julie Setele asked whether client success rates can be broken down by race. Chief Still said that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Terry Anders commented on the Reentry Pod and asked when this will be opening. He said that jobs will be critical to this population. Terry expressed an interest in being at the table to discuss services for this population.

8. Adjournment.

Chief Still asked for a motion to adjourn. Craig Murdock moved to adjourn, Matt Gonzalez seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:09pm.