



## PROBATION DEPARTMENT



**Kalisa Rochester**  
Chief Probation Officer

### **Committee of the Local Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)**

#### **Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

July 26, 2021 at 3:00 PM

Meeting via Zoom

#### **CCP Executive Board Members or Representative Present**

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | Kalisa Rochester, Chief Probation Officer- Chair | Probation Department                       |
| 2. | Sarah Marsh, Director of Administrative Services | Probation Department                       |
| 3. | Justin Melden, Commander of Operations           | Los Banos Police Department                |
| 4. | Vincent Andrade, Public Defender                 | Public Defenders                           |
| 5. | Amanda Toste, Court Executive Officer            | Merced County Superior Court               |
| 6. | Corey Gibson, Undersheriff                       | Sheriff's Department                       |
| 7. | Yvonnia Brown, Director                          | Human Services Agency                      |
| 8. | Kimberly Lewis, District Attorney                | District Attorneys                         |
| 9. | Jeff Sabeau, Division Director                   | Behavioral Health and<br>Recovery Services |

#### **Also in attendance**

- |    |   |                      |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Chris Henn, Deputy Chief Probation Officer  | Probation Department |
| 2. | Christina Flores, Staff Services Analyst II | Probation Department |

#### **Call to Order-Kalisa Rochester**

Kalisa called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. She welcomed every one and made introductions.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from the April 21, 2021 meeting were conducted via electronic email dated August 5, 2021. Yvonnia motioned to approve the minutes and Vincent seconded the motion.

#### **Chief Rochester Updates**

- Kalisa went over all of the current data for each program. She explained some of the processes and reflections of the data being affected by COVID. She went over each program and funding requests for:
  - Leadership 4 Life
  - Probation/Parole and Community Team (PACT)
  - LifeLine Community Development Corporation
  - Day Reporting Center (DRC)
  - Incentives and Sanctions

- Phoenix Project
  - Transitional Housing
  - ACE Overcomers
  - K9 Sage
  - In-Custody Jail Re-Entry Program
  - Bail Reviews
  - Pre-Trial
  - AB 109 Assessments
  - AB 109 Home Visits and Office Visits
  - AB 109 Drug Tests and Statement of Admissions
  - AB 109 Program Referrals
  - AB 109 Post Release Community Supervision and Revocations
  - 1170(h) (5) (B) Mandatory Supervision
  - ASAM Assessments at the Jail
  - Breaking Barriers in Los Banos
- Kalisa explained about using the PSA which is an assessment tool for Bail Reviews. More individuals will be coming out on pre-trial. This is partially due to the Humphries Decision.
  - One requested increase is to contract with Symple Equazion. This would be a shorter time frame training component. They would receive ninety-six (96) hours of classroom training to receive their Food Handling Certificate and three hundred eighty-four (384) hours of on the job experience. They would receive four hundred eighty (480) total hours of paid programming through Symple Soul. The contract would be \$157,444 if this group elects to contract with Symple Equazion.
  - Sarah went over the expenditures for the last fiscal year. She went over the reductions and actual expenditures. We had a savings of \$915,000. Ninety-one percent (91%) of the allocation was expended with the balance rolling back into the trust fund.

#### Strategies for 2021-22

- Kalisa stated there are not any huge changes. We will send the Strategies out to all prior to final budget. The largest request is from the Sheriff's Office for a Deputy Sheriff position. The Sheriff's Office needs to move an officer back into their facility. The SRT team cannot afford to lose a person. We are proposing to replace that position with a Deputy Sheriff as opposed to a Corrections Deputy. Corey helped to clarify the needs for the positions. Access to programs is desperately needed. Kalisa believes that inmates need to have proper programming in order to better themselves.
- Also, in the plans is a proposal is to increase pre-trial services by adding one Deputy Probation Officer to team with the Deputy Sheriff. Housing for this new staff will need to be worked out. The goal is to have all the pre-trial services together. In full disclosure, Kalisa reported there is some funding available through the Governor's budget proposal. \$71 million is slated to be distributed among forty-eight (48) counties that were not pilot pre-trial counties. Then, an additional \$70 million to be distributed among the fifty-eight (58) counties. The \$141 million is for pre-trial services. The Judicial Branch can take five percent (5%) off the top. The

Courts can take thirty percent (30%) off the top. The assumption is that each entity will opt for the maximum allotment, therefore, not leaving an enormous amount left to run a pre-trial program. We have no idea how much money we are looking at so the end result is unclear. Either way, the Correctional Deputy will be removed from the SRT team.

- We are looking to add a contract for services through Symple Equazion.
- PACT is trying to increase services to the West Side.
- Phoenix Program is looking for an increase back to original amount.
- Sarah reported the total proposed budget allocated was \$9.79 million. This is a \$40 thousand increase from last year. The request for an additional \$561,619 for a final budget of final budget of \$10.35 million. The State allocation is more than our actual ask for the allocation. This year we will actually get some growth funding which increases allocations to \$11.5 million. The difference will go into the trust fund account. Kalisa explained the growth increase was for overall performance. She gave examples of the things the State looks at to allocate the growth allotment.
- There was a question and answer opportunity. Yvonnia had a question regarding the Phoenix Project increase. There was a round table discussion. Success rate verses increased budget was discussed. They have not used all of their allocated funding. The thought was to not grant the additional allocation at this time. Perhaps it can be revisited at midyear budget.
- Kalisa explained some options that will enhance the pre-trial population. We would like to provide the Court with additional options for the clients. Additional funds may be requested for this at a later date. COVID is still a real problem. People coming out of prison need immediate services.
- Vince likes expanding the choices clients have to develop job skills. Kalisa explained how we are having conversations to make this happen. We are working with WorkNet and Restore Merced to provide stipends for this program. This committee may need to vote on funding for this program at a later date. We also need to consider Reentry Court. There was a round table discussion.
- Conversations are taking place with Restore Merced, Foster Farms, Save Mart and Tesla. These companies have agreed to hire our probation clients with WorkNet providing the stipends. This is really great news. Tesla shuttles staff as far as Modesto. Transportation to Modesto will need to be worked out as well.
- Kimberly asked if conversations with Merced College are taking place. Perhaps they have programs for these types of clients. Kalisa explained we have Merced College coming into the Facility to provide higher education. Kim explained that when working on a grant proposal a year and a half ago, Merced College was contacted. It might be productive to reach out to them again to see if they have any trying programs available through them. It might be possible for Merced College to coordinate the training with the higher education component. They might still have a construction program available. There was a roundtable discussion. Kalisa will reach out to her connection at the Merced College to see what they can offer.
- Breaking Barriers is working on similar challenges.
- Kalisa reminded the team that the Strategies can always be amended.

- Symple Equazion will accommodate two (2) cohorts of six (6) people, for a total of twelve (12) people. This will provide the four hundred eighty (480) total hours of educational and vocational training. There was a round table discussion. Kelly is flexible and can adjust as needed if someone drops from the program. The stipend will be paid through this program.
- Vincent asked if vaccinations were required for this program. Kalisa is not sure and will have to look into the situation. Once the vaccination has moved on from experimental to the approved stage, it may make a difference. As the working quarters are so close, this could be a real concern. The decision may be up to Public Health and food truck requirements. There was a roundtable discussion. Sarah said we have specific language in the contract that addresses COVID requirements. There was a roundtable discussion.
- Kalisa recapped the increase requests prior to voting.
- The following members placed the votes:
  - Amanda for the Courts
  - Kimberly for the District Attorneys
  - Corey for the Sheriff's Office
  - Yvonnia for HSA
  - Justin for the Police Department
  - Vincent for the Public Defenders
  - Jeff for BHRS
- Voting Item #1...Proposed increase for the Sheriff's Office for one additional Deputy Sheriff for the SRT program. The vote was a unanimous yes.
- Voting Item #2...Proposed increase for the Probation Department for one additional Deputy Probation Officer for Pre-trial Services. The vote was a unanimous yes.
- Voting Item #3...Accept the contract with Symple Equazion and the costs allocated for the program. The vote was a unanimous yes.
- Voting Item #4...Postpone the increase requested at this time for the Phoenix Project. The contract will be brought back mid-year (December) for review and to determine if there is still a need for the increase. The vote was a unanimous yes.
- Voting Item #5...Increase the Life Line allocation by \$5,300 to provide services on the Westside. The vote was a unanimous yes.

### **Adjournment**

- This presentation will be sent to the group.
- Kalisa will have the amended Strategies sent out once Sarah makes the corrections voted on today.
- Kalisa reminded the team that additional conversations may be needed regarding BHRS and pretrial. BHRS has grant funding which provides a Mental Health Clinician and a Mental Health Worker for pretrial. At this time, they are not asking for any funding. This may change down the road depending on grant funding availability.
- Meeting invitation will go out for September, December, March and June.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.