

## Reentry and Reintegration Workgroup

Friday, July 24, 2020

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

### Workgroup Focus:

This workgroup will look at how we prevent individuals who are released, from returning to jail, prison and state hospitals. The 7/24 Meeting laid out key issues in the landscape, weighed actions to be considered, and sought to identify key stakeholders for the construction of a policy brief to be included in the Annual Legislative Report.

### Members:

**Mack Jenkins**, Council Member, Ret. San Diego Probation Department

**Hon. Stephen Manley**, Council Member, Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge

-Explanation that staff will participate in all workgroups.

Staff: **Stephanie Welch**, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

[Link to Reentry and Reintegration Slide Show](#)

### Meeting Minutes

- I. **1:00 PM Welcome & Introductions**  
-Review Agenda: Presentation, focus, public comment, stakeholder engagement, and developing a product
- II. **1:05 PM Clarify the primary focus of the Workgroup**  
**Stephanie Welch**, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health
  1. Overview of timeline: Stephanie Welch described the goal of having a draft by Sept workgroup that can be sent to full Council at the October meeting.
  2. Key Issues in the landscape: Presentation by Stephanie Welch, identifying overrepresentation of marginalized groups in the justice system, law enforcement role as first responders, and the high rates of SMI/SUD amongst incarcerated populations. Presentation expands the ongoing efforts of The Council
    - a. Public Health Crisis: Presentation Covid-19 spread in CDCR facilities, reduction in numbers.
    - b. Fiscal Crisis: Review of budget cuts, Medi-Cal utilization, and significant adjustments to Social Services and State Hospitals adjustments. The ongoing homelessness crisis in consideration of high releases. Recap that the CDCR budget sustains prior investment to support administrations long-term goals, eliminates Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees (ISMIP). Deferred action on Parole Outpatient Clinics (POC). Restoration of funding for Adult Reentry Grants,
    - c. Racial Justice Crisis: Unique effects of the pandemic on returning populations and

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Ralph M. Diaz**, Chair  
Secretary, California  
Department of  
Corrections and  
Rehabilitation

**Will Lightbourne**  
Director, California  
Department of Health  
Care Services

**Stephanie Clendenin**  
Director, California  
Department of State  
Hospitals

**Jessica Cruz**, MPA  
Chief Executive Officer,  
National Alliance on  
Mental Illness (NAMI)  
California

**Matthew Garcia**  
Field Training Officer,  
Sacramento  
Police Department

**Tony Hobson**, PhD  
Behavioral Health  
Director, Plumas County

**Mack Jenkins**  
Chief Probation  
Officer, Ret.  
San Diego County

**Stephen V. Manley**  
Santa Clara County  
Superior Court Judge

**Danitzia Pantoja**, PsyD  
Coordinator of  
Psychological Services,  
Antelope Valley Union  
High School District

**Tracey Whitney**  
Deputy District Attorney,  
Mental Health Liaison,  
Los Angeles County  
District Attorney



overrepresented marginalized groups in the justice system.

**III. 1:40 PM Topics for the Workgroup in 2020-Discussion:** *How do we prevent individuals who are released from returning to jail, prison, and state hospitals?*  
**Stephanie Welch**, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

1. Comments from members and stakeholders.
  - a) Mack Jenkins: Workgroup product, reentry and reintegration crisis predate Covid-19, engagement began before, the pandemic has simply created new urgency in implementation. Integration of existing research and successful implementation.
  - b) Stephen Manley: Dramatic reduction of incarcerated populations across the state, shortfalls of traditional post-release planning, pre-plea needs of justice involved populations released on zero bail and need to prevent new offenses, positive monitoring, and supervision before a conviction takes place. Overwhelming response in SCC survey citing importance of having mental health needs met.

\*Technical difficulties 1:10 minutes\*

Mack Jenkins: voiced importance of capturing public comments,

Troy Vaughn: Introduction

Discussion of how to proceed with the meeting.

**IV.**

Discussion Q&A:

Troy Vaughn: Troy's input discussed planning around how to use data to better utilize programs in place. Troy gave examples of what was done with emergency gubernatorial funds to raise extra beds and deliver more to clients. Covid-19 impacts on

Eli Montgomery: Community Health Worker in Los Angeles, comments that all these things becoming focus points with Covid-19 were already in the background. Would like to focus on solutions rather than the problem, successes with coordinated services, warm-hand-offs, medical providers via workers coordinating efforts. She asked about the use of abandoned buildings in Los Angeles. Troy Vaughn responded with confirmation that many programs are in place and working regularly, the surge created by Covid-19 have overwhelmed the systems in place. Talked about Project Roomkey's work on housing and program expansion. Judge Manley: responds with recap of improved communication between entities such as courts, mental health, etc. Mack asked for elaboration of case worker roles. Eli responded with her role as a case worker and her work with people released from jail.

Daniel Silva: Spoke about his work with youths following his own reintegration, evidence-based efforts to divert from the community, juvenile halls, and prison. Created program around trauma informed healing in prison and adapted that to the outside. Fruitridge Collaborative, warm hand-offs funds through the BSCC. Employs parolees and released prisoners to try and keep youth from ending up incarcerated.

Ingrid Murillo: How do we disrupt the school to prison pipeline? How do we envision programs to assist pre-plea individuals? Why do you think people of color are overrepresented in prisons, and what can be done to rectify that?

Judge Manley: Responded by elaborating on the Office of Pre-Trial Services and its role to primarily place people in treatment programs, SCC has been bolstering these programs. Cell phone project, has increased court to person contact through the free phones, has made communication more intimate and effective, opinion that case managers should be increased. Mack Jenkins weighing in and amplifying how most of the individuals are not under any formal supervision but have the exact same needs as individuals that have been adjudicated. Workgroup addressing three different populations: pre-trial, prison parolee's/releases, and the jail population. Mental health needs will overlap in many cases, but there will be distinct differences in the implementation.

Troy Vaughn: Dispute resolution, minor infractions, community restorative programs to avoid jail time, creating trust funds with philanthropic organizations, collaborative community approach to policing.

Wayne Garcia: Amity Foundation, system was overloaded before Covid-19, release does not change old habits in the face of survival. Suggests transition plans similar to the ones done with prisoners be done at all levels of the courts, especially important when someone is remaining in the community.

Stephanie explains the BSCC 15 million of emergency funds designed to expand emergency housing for released individuals. Asks for further comments in response to Wayne, Mack agreed with his points and highlighted the need for people to be engaged in services, feels that the numbers regarding services utilization should be an important part of the product that is produced. Commonality of needs does not translate to availability, Troy suggests looking at the current programs in the community and using funds to amplify the programs that are already working, take advantage of the increased availability of virtual job training. Judge Manley suggests asking the people in the localities what they need and go from there. Mack agrees that asking the people is a critical best-practice.

David Panush: Suggests picking an area where the administration and the legislature can place a flag to have a greater impact. Explains that funds from the administration do not have a requirement of how funds are utilized, advocated asking what is being done for the most vulnerable. Explains the importance of SSI applications amongst people who are about to leave incarceration in assisting in moving them away from unsheltered homelessness. Getting federal matching to provide a month's supply of medications upon release. And finally making sure that people have a state-issued ID Cards and getting fines and fee's waived. Encourages making very specific policy recommendations.

Stephanie explains the council's project specific to housing.

Mack responding to David, Risk-Need Responsivity Model, meeting people where they are, and recognizing specific responsivity factors that vary between individuals. Weighing in on how these things are addressed, researched based approach.

Wayne Garcia: Responding with explanation of how people with SMI do not meet medical eligibility to get into a residential housing facility, and the issues with Medi-Cal and how people returning to the community cannot qualify for needed services.

Judge Manley: Discharge planning should include SSI applications, medication, ID's, housing plan that is done up-front rather than on the back end of incarceration, determination of ability to pay for fines and fees.

Monica Campos: went over a few remaining slides to help stir thought about what should efforts focus on.



Liz Vice: Policy brief should be a 4-6 page document that will outline discussions points, recommendations

Mack Jenkins and Judge Manley: both agree that a policy brief should be the product and that it should focus on several key points as opposed to a great deal of ideas.

Monica asked panelists to help identify key-stakeholders to engage with for the development of this product. Chief Jenkins suggested the Judicial Council, Judge Manley suggests looking at some of the smaller counties for creative ideas.

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