

Public Comment from Concerned Citizen regarding 22nd Annual Legislative Report:

There are some very poignant findings included in the Appendices, but it is difficult if not impossible, to see how that information translates into the final recommendations. The report and annual activities appear to be siloed by supporting a narrative that promotes interventions offered by the medical model, rather than looking at the issues from a collaborative approach that utilizes the diverse perspectives included in the composition of Councilmember appointments. The Council includes a unique make-up of state department leaders and politically appointed representatives who are intended to be subject matter experts designated to convene and share opinions on pertinent policy topics to make annual recommendation related to cost-effective measures. The Council has statutory obligations to submit an annual report no later than December 31 that addresses cost effective measures. This report satisfies neither of these obligations.

I recommend the Council review the activities and report format of the [Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code \(ca.gov\)](#)¹ as an example of how efforts could become compliant with statute. Their latest annual report includes recommendations that are clear, concise, timely, supported by research and adequately allow the reader to connect findings to their correlating recommendations.

Additionally, I recommend the Council ask the Executive Officer why there is not a single reference to any of the programs, grants, oversight efforts, and annual reports administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections. A review of these efforts will reveal evidence based, community defined, and innovative programming, many of which are funded to provide case management by justice involved peers. CCJBH efforts should be holistic in nature and include all stakeholder efforts, not merely focused on the medical model that Department of Health Care Services promotes.

Corrections Planning and Grant Programs (CPGP)

The CPGP Division administers a diverse range of state and federal grant programs to community-based organizations, state and local governments, and tribes. As of 2024, CPGP administers approximately \$400 million annually to more than 700 individual grant recipients through 25 different grant programs. These grants fund programs that address public health and safety needs, including but not limited to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, diversion from the formal justice system, rental assistance and reentry services for people coming out of prison, and community-based violence reduction efforts.

- [Corrections Planning and Grant Programs – BSCC \(ca.gov\)](#)²
- [Annual Reports to the Legislature – BSCC \(ca.gov\)](#)³
- [Realignment – BSCC \(ca.gov\)](#)⁴
- [Community Corrections Partnership Plans – BSCC \(ca.gov\)](#)⁵

Below are just two examples from the Community Correction Partnership (CCP) survey plan draft for Los Angeles County.

Partners for Justice⁶

Client advocates embedded in Public Defender offices provide holistic resources referrals for essential needs, including housing, employment, mental health treatment, family reunification, and more. Beginning in August 2021, this pilot program is designed to break cycles of incarceration and promote community stability by addressing the underlying issues that frequently lead to involvement in the criminal legal system. Working in teams of three, 18 client advocates are currently embedded in six courthouses. Locations include Pasadena, East Los Angeles, Compton, San Fernando, Van Nuys, and Downey. AB 109 funding has produced significant successes that have supported a successful request for federal funding through a JAG grant which will bring continuity and further expansion through 2025.

Psychiatric Social Worker (PSW) Program⁷

The PSW Program began with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) funding three Psychiatric Social Workers (PSWs) who are employed by the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office and Alternate Public Defender's Office. The PSWs work on cases in which female defendants face sentences to state prison. By developing social histories on the clients and program placement proposals that can be considered during the adjudication process, the PSWs support a holistic defense approach. While final dispositions in cases remain subject to the court adjudication process, that holistic defense approach can provide significant support for alternatives to custody/diversion outcomes.

In the CDCR-funded program's first three years, 199 women were successfully diverted away from state prison, resulting in a combined reduction of over 2,433 years of incarceration and a state prison cost savings of over \$193 million. Due to the success of the CDCR-funded PSW program, four PSW positions were funded for the Public Defender's Office and two PSW positions were funded for the Alternate Public Defender's Office in October 2021 to complete comprehensive assessments that address multiple grants of supervision. In the program's first fourteen (14) months, among clients represented by the Public Defender's Office, 55 individuals were successfully diverted away from state prison, resulting in a reduction of over 578 years of incarceration and a state prison cost avoidance of over \$46.5 million.

¹ Available at <http://clrc.ca.gov/CRPC.html>

² Available at https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_correctionsplanningandprograms/

³ Available at https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_legreports-2/

⁴ Available at https://www.bscc.ca.gov/m_realignment/

⁵ Available at https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_communitycorrectionpartnershipplans/

⁶ Available at <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/FY23-24CCPSurveyResponsetoBSCC-LosAngelesCounty.pdf>

⁷ Available at <https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/FY23-24CCPSurveyResponsetoBSCC-LosAngelesCounty.pdf>