

Contra Costa County Reentry Strategic Plan: In Brief

The Reentry Strategic Plan requires a holistic, systemic and inclusive approach that incorporates government and community stakeholders to ensure reintegration in the community and reduce recidivism. Reentry services include a continuum that begins when the individual enters the criminal justice system and ends with successful reintegration in the community.

Five Stages of the Reentry Process

Arrest and Adjudication stage includes opportunities for pre-trial reform, diversion programs and other alternatives to incarceration

Incarceration in county jail or state prison facilities that includes effective rehabilitation, education and vocational programs

Pre-release education and vocational programs coupled with development of an individualized release plan that connects individuals with housing, income supports, and other services as needed

Release/Reentry period where the individual is accessing employment, housing, health and other services in the community that lead to stability

Reintegration within the community and ongoing pursuit of a path towards a healthy and productive life

Goals of the County's Reentry Strategic Plan

The plan emphasizes the importance of adopting evidence-based approaches and practices to reduce recidivism, including:

- Using validated risk assessment tools to target supervision and pre-trial incarceration to high to moderate risk probationers
- Targeting geographic areas with highest concentration of reentering individuals
- Incorporating cognitive behavioral treatment into program models. For example, the Probation Department has introduced "Thinking for A Change" groups for the AB 109 population
- Implementing case management and needs assessments that allows for appropriate delivery of drug treatment, job training and placement, educational services, and family reunification and support
- Providing for independent evaluations of the County's reentry programs to determine effectiveness

In general, the best way to reduce recidivism is by focusing resources on individuals that are most likely to reoffend.

As identified above, an important part of successful reentry and reintegration following incarceration is pre-trial diversion and alternatives to incarceration where appropriate to maintain stability and employment, robust education and

vocational programs available while incarcerated, pre-release planning, and integration of needed services upon release. Specific recommendations from the Reentry Strategic Plan that have been prioritized by the Community Corrections Partnership include:

- ⇒ Pre-trial bail reform
- ⇒ Inside/Out case management that includes development of a comprehensive pre-release plan
- ⇒ Mental health and substance abuse treatment services
- ⇒ Integrated employment and training services, including transitional employment and subsidized employment opportunities
- ⇒ Transitional and subsidized housing
- ⇒ Reentry Resource “First-stop” Centers located in communities most affected that includes co-located services and additional referrals
- ⇒ Eligibility screening and application for income supports pre-release and enrollment upon release in SSI, CalWORKS, General Assistance, MediCAL, and CalFRESH
- ⇒ Family reunification services, including group and individual counseling
- ⇒ Mentoring and community engagement

Community Corrections Partnership

The passage of AB 109 transformed the Reentry Task Force defined in the Strategic Plan into the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), which is chaired by the Chief Probation Officer and includes an Executive Committee of voting members and a Community Advisory Board (CAB). The Executive Committee consists of Chief Probation Officer Philip Kader, Court Executive Officer Kiri Torre, Behavioral Health Division Director Cynthia Belon, Public Defender Robin Lipetzky, Sheriff-Coroner David Livingston, Richmond Police Chief Chris Magnus and District Attorney Mark A. Peterson. These reentry stakeholder agencies and the organizations and additional county agencies represented on the Community Advisory Board (CAB) are working together to recommend and implement coordinated, effective reentry services and approaches. CAB is comprised of community members with expertise in workforce development, physical and behavioral health, addiction, family reunification, and includes several formerly incarcerated individuals.

The CCP is currently engaged in developing an implementation plan for the FY 2012-13 Public Safety Realignment fund allocation of \$19.2 million.