



## Sonoma AB 109 Reentry Assessment: Steering Committee Meeting Notes

### Date and Time

October 14, 2020, 10:30am – 11:30am

### Attendees

**Resource Development Associates (RDA)** – Alison Hamburg, Nicole Liner-Jigamian  
**Probation** – Rob Halverson, Arin Travis, Samantha Feld, Alison Lobb  
**Sheriff's Office** – Liz Parra  
**Santa Rosa Police** – Chief Navarro  
**Court** – Susannah Mosblech  
**County Administrator's Office** – Nik Klein  
**Human Services** – Sarah Lewis-Crow

### Meeting Notes

- RDA provided an overview of the four components of the Year 4 (fiscal year 2020-2021) AB 109 evaluation
  - Probation supervision process evaluation
  - Reentry assessment
  - Racial/ethnic disparities assessment
  - Research and planning to address program barriers
- RDA provided an overview of the AB 109 reentry assessment
  - The evaluation will cover four domains, as recommended by the Reentry Best Practices Brief
    - System coordination
    - Staff skills and training
    - Evidence-based decision-making
    - Treatment and supportive services
  - The evaluation will include AB 109 clients, including the Mandatory Supervision, 1170(h) jail only, and PRCS populations
  - For this assessment, the reentry period is considered the time from entry into custody until three months after release
- Steering committee members responded to **discussion question #1: Based on your experience, does this definition of reentry (e.g., from the time an individual enters custody to three months after release) include the relevant time period?**





- Steering committee members asked how the three-month post-release period was chosen
  - RDA explained that the reentry assessment focuses on the immediate transition from custody to community supervision, when clients are particularly vulnerable and readjusting to their communities. The Probation Process Evaluation focuses on a longer time period to assess how individuals are supported throughout their time on community supervision
  - Steering committee members agreed that, for the most part, three months after release is an acceptable time period for this assessment
- Steering committee members raised the following population-specific considerations:
  - PRCS
    - The reentry period for this group may need to be defined differently, as they can be in prison for a long time and Sonoma County Probation may only learn about an individual a couple of months before their release
    - One recommendation was that for this group, the reentry time period could begin when the individual is transferred to the county to be supervised
  - 1170(h) supervision only
    - This group spends time in custody before being sentenced; if sentenced to Probation only, individuals receive credit for time served and are released. The in-custody time period would likely not apply to the individual as they are unsentenced while in custody, and Probation is not involved in their cases
- Steering committee members noted that some individuals will reenter custody multiple times within three months of release, but that this is a smaller proportion of the overall AB 109 population
  - RDA determined that for the individuals this applies to, every reentry event during the evaluation time frame (calendar years 2018-20) will be included in the assessment
- RDA provided an overview of the evaluation questions and areas of inquiry, which are aligned under the four evaluation domains
  - RDA noted that the goal of the reentry assessment is to provide information that can guide decisions about what is needed in each agency's reentry system. To that end, for each domain, attendees responded to **discussion question #2: Will the areas of inquiry help inform decision-making about the reentry system? Are there any additional areas to explore that could make this assessment more informative?**
    - Areas of inquiry to explore domain #1, system coordination, include:
      - Partnerships between Probation, the Sheriff's Office, CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Behavioral Health Services, Health Services, and CBOs for in-custody and reentry supports



- Extent of smooth and immediate transitions for clients in accordance with promising/evidence-based practices
- Capacity for data collection and management
- Areas of inquiry to explore domain #2, staff skills and training, include:
  - Training topics and goals
    - Steering committee members suggested reviewing training strategies and how trainings are integrated into the departments and performance reviews
      - RDA noted that this is beyond the scope of the Reentry Assessment
  - Skill utilization
- Areas of inquiry to explore domain #3, evidence-based decision-making, include:
  - Use of Risk-Needs-Responsivity model
  - Case plan development in alignment with case management policy
    - Steering committee members suggested reviewing the alignment of the case management policy with promising and evidence-based practices
  - Areas of reentry decision-making that are guided by promising/evidence-based practices
  - Fairness and transparency of reentry processes and interventions
- Areas of inquiry to explore domain #4, treatment and supportive services, include:
  - Availability of and engagement in treatment and supportive services that target client criminogenic and stabilization needs both in custody and after reentry
    - Steering committee members asked if RDA will assess alignment between client needs and case plans
      - RDA noted they will measure this
  - Availability of services that target client skill development both in custody and after reentry
  - Quality of in-custody and reentry treatment, supportive services, and skill development services
    - Steering committee members asked how quality would be assessed
      - RDA noted that information on treatment and service quality will be assessed through interviews and focus groups with leadership, staff, and clients
  - Incorporation of promising/evidence-based practices in treatment and services (e.g., accessibility, cognitive-behavioral and social learning approaches, culturally responsive, trauma-informed, use of peers)
- RDA provided an overview of the data sources that will be used in the evaluation



- Quantitative data will be collected from the following departments:
  - Probation
  - Sheriff's Office
  - Behavioral Health
- Qualitative data in the form of interviews and focus groups will come from the following sources:
  - Probation (staff and clients)
  - Sheriff's Office
  - Behavioral Health
  - Community-Based Organizations
  - Court
  - District Attorney's Office
  - Public Defender's Office
- Steering committee members responded to **discussion question #3: Are there additional data sources that could help inform this evaluation?**
  - Steering committee members recommended including human services in the assessment
    - RDA noted that they will collect administrative data on benefits applications and will conduct an interview with a Human Services staff member
- RDA noted that the next steps of the evaluation are as follows:
  - Data Collection: October 2020 – December 2020
  - Analysis & Reporting: January 2021 – March 2021