

Trinity County Community Corrections Partnership

August 23, 2012 Minutes

1:30pm

Trinity County Probation Department
333 Tom Bell Rd
Weaverville, CA 96093

Call to order: 1:35pm

In attendance: Terry Lee, Linda Wright, Judy Pflueger, Mike Harper, Alsah Bundi, Jim Underwood, Liz Johnson, Hal Ridlehuber

Introduction

- Meeting will review data for the first 9 months after realignment
- Review of minutes from January 23, 2012 – approved.

Budget

- \$90,000-100,000 to reallocate for this year
- Review of allocations of last year; no new plan needed for BOS for allocations for this year
- \$144,000 received for this year; \$90,000-100,000 left for this year
- Jail wants two Correctional Officer positions

Review of Data/Jail Population

- PRCS cases: CDCR projected 9 cases to Trinity, we actually received 19
 - About 6 cases could potentially get off of supervision by the end of the year
- Low amount of Flash Incarcerations, these cases are not taking up much jail space
- 1170(h) cases: Projected 9 cases sentenced, 13 actually sentenced; this means that 1170(h) cases would take up 10.1 beds/day. With EM we have reduced that number to 5.2 beds/day, about 50%
- Under AB109 credits have been increased to 50% credit so we should've seen a net gain in beds but this didn't happen – Why?
 - There has been a change in Pre-Trial time for a case to settle out. This could be one reason why we have not seen a net gain in beds. The majority of pre-trial defendants in jail are serious offenders, so releasing them, even on supervision, is not a favorable option
 - Has there been an increase in crime? Could be related to overcrowding
- Probation caseload has increased about 4%, showing there are more cases that the DA prefers to be supervised.
- EM has been successful for post-sentence cases – there have been no reoffending while on EM
- Of the jail population 67.9% are Pre-Trial defendants and almost all are felony cases
 - 1368 cases were not included in this count as they are not being housed at the jail

- 1170(h) cases are not being sentenced to serve split sentences often, even though there is that option; only 3 out of 13 cases have been split sentences. Judges in the state are not using split sentences as much as they could, but the numbers are slowly starting to rise. Split sentences may help to reduce the jail population once they are used more by judges as a sentencing option.
- Discussion on how certain cases may have no consequences for offenders. Example: defendant sentenced to 3 yrs as 1170(h) case, but because he is disabled the jail released him on EM for 3 yrs.
- AB109 does not seem to be causing the jail overpopulation; we should've seen an increase in bed space with increase of credits. This could mean overcrowding is more directly related to the amount of pre-trial cases in jail.
- Focus should be on Pre-Trial services to reduce jail population
 - Public defender contract may help to move cases along to decrease pre-trial population
 - An increase in CHP presence doesn't seem to be affecting pre-trial population as most of their cases are misdemeanors
 - Ken Langston is looking into a pre-trial program in use in Santa Cruz to screen cases to help determine if they can be put on monitoring; could use implementation money to go look at the pre-trial program
- Buying beds from other county jails may be an option but need to be convinced that AB109 is causing overcrowding; open to other ways to determine average length in jail other than based on our stats
- PRCS Cases on Warrant
 - Though stats show highest warrant amount in the north state, Trinity has had 0 bench warrants as a result of failing to report right after release. Right now there is only one case with a warrant, so we are still low on bench warrant numbers

Update from Departments

- Money allocated to HRN for housing element is working fine; HRN is working with a serious offender
- Money allocated to DA for revocations is not sufficient
- BHS—assessments are not taking much money; they've done about 7-8 assessments and 4-5 are receiving services; low number receiving services because they are not qualifying due to being sober for a long period of time because of being in prison.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) Information by BHS

- Program is short-term (6 months) and has a 12 Step base process; it is a therapy-treatment combo with strict structure
- Shown to reduce recidivism; gives skills to return to moral reconnection, good moral reasoning. It treats the core problem, allowing them to acknowledge the problem and access services
- Goal for BHS is to train all staff in MRT
- Training can be held locally if 10 people participate (\$600 each/\$6,000 for 10 people); implementation money could help pay for the training

- Could help with increasing the amount of split sentences because of success rate
- Linda motions for the training for MRT, Mike seconds

Day Reporting

- No money for this yet, very expensive

Authority Issues over Custody Type

- Probation has no authority to supervise those put on EM only as an alternative to being incarcerated under 1170(h).
- Sheriff has authority to decide custody of those on EM because of disabilities; difference of opinions between DA's offices and Sheriff's Departments across the state to decide if 1170(h) cases can be released on EM

Clarification on Assessment Tools

- Using risk assessment program prior to sentencing so the judge can take the risk factors into consideration. Assessments can sometimes be questionable but the tool is proven to be successful and reliable
- A risk assessment is a useful tool but should not be the only factor

Close at 3:18pm