

FY 2021-22 Budget Board of Supervisor Inquiry Form

Deadline: April 30, 2021

Please email: CAO-Budget@sonoma-county.org

Board Member	
Gorin	
Rabbitt	
Coursey	X
Gore	
Hopkins	

Department: Sheriff's Office & Health Services

Date: 5/3/21

Inquiry Number: BIR-01

Request/Question:

Drug Treatment Programs: What drug treatment programs are available to inmates now? A previous program known as Starting Point was discontinued last year. Will it be reinstated now that COVID restrictions are being lifted? If not, what other drug?

Response:

The Sheriff's Office Detention Division does not currently have a substance use disorder program. Starting Point, an in-custody substance use disorder program provided through a contract with the County Department of Health Services (DHS) – Behavioral Health Division, has historically been Detention's in-custody treatment program. After years of Starting Point program staffing shortfalls, the program was discontinued when the last remaining DHS clinician promoted to another position in March 2020 and left the program. The Starting Point in-custody program was funded in large part with Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)/AB 109 funding. The DHS position was still vacant, when in June of 2020, the State forecasted a sharp decline in CCP funding for FY 21-22 and funding for the position was subsequently cut from the FY 21-22 CCP Budget resulting in DHS cutting the position. The Sheriff's Office reached out to DHS- Behavioral Health in January of 2021 to inquire about resuming the program, but due to their staffing levels and the fact that the Starting Point allocation was eliminated, they were unable to accommodate our request.

Due to necessary restrictions as a result of COVID-19, the Sheriff's Office Detention Division is currently conducting Alcoholics Anonymous via virtual meetings every other week. At this time, Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) is unable to conduct more frequent meetings. The Sheriff's Detention Programs Unit attempted virtual meetings with Narcotics Anonymous (NA), however NA has been unable to conduct virtual meetings due to low staffing and a lack of technological infrastructure. In-person meetings will resume when pandemic restrictions allow us to do so safely.

Our medical/mental health provider, CFMG/Wellpath is currently providing services to inmates with co-occurring disorders. Wellpath is conducting small group sessions and independent instruction for the inmate population.

In an effort to replace the Starting Point program, the Sheriff's Office has been researching potential replacement programs and will release an RFP in Fall 2021 to secure a new, local provider. The Sheriff's Office plans to include more clinical hours of in-custody services than DHS-Behavioral Health was able to provide in the past.

On April 1, 2020, the Sheriff's Office began a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program at the Main Adult Detention Facility. MAT is primarily used for the treatment of addiction to opioids such as heroin and prescription pain relievers that contain opiates. MAT has proved to be clinically effective and to significantly reduce the need for inpatient detoxification services for these individuals. A MAT discharge planner has been added to assist individuals secure housing, prescriptions for MAT medications, and follow-up appointments with their community health provider upon release from custody.