



Research and Planning to Address Program Barriers



**CCP Presentation
January 31, 2022**



SECTION ONE

Background



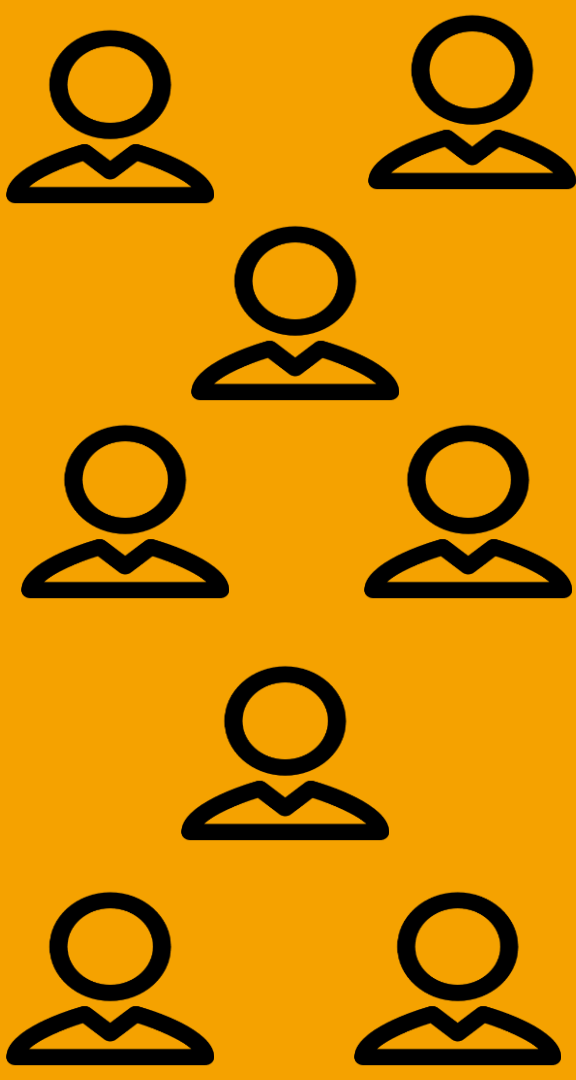


Objective

- Four years of process and outcome evaluations have led to the identification of common barriers to client success
- With the help of an Advisory Committee, present possible solutions to overcome these common barriers

Common Barriers:

- **High no show rate for services**
- **Limited transportation**
- **Housing instability**



Advisory Committee Members

Beth Henigan, InterFaith Shelter Network

Brandon Bannister, Sonoma County Probation Department

Brian Gallaway, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

Dana Alvarez, California Human Development

Emory Christian, Five Keys

George Garcia, Sonoma County Job Link

Heather Mendoza, Sonoma County Probation Department

James Alexander, Sonoma County Department of Health Services

Jasmine Palmer, Santa Rosa Community Health

Jeff Mitchell, Sonoma County Public Defender's Office

Kristy Silva, Sonoma County Probation Department

Lisa Rogers, Sonoma County Probation Department

Melissa Parmenter, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

Mireya Chavez, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office

Rhonda Findling, Santa Rosa Junior College

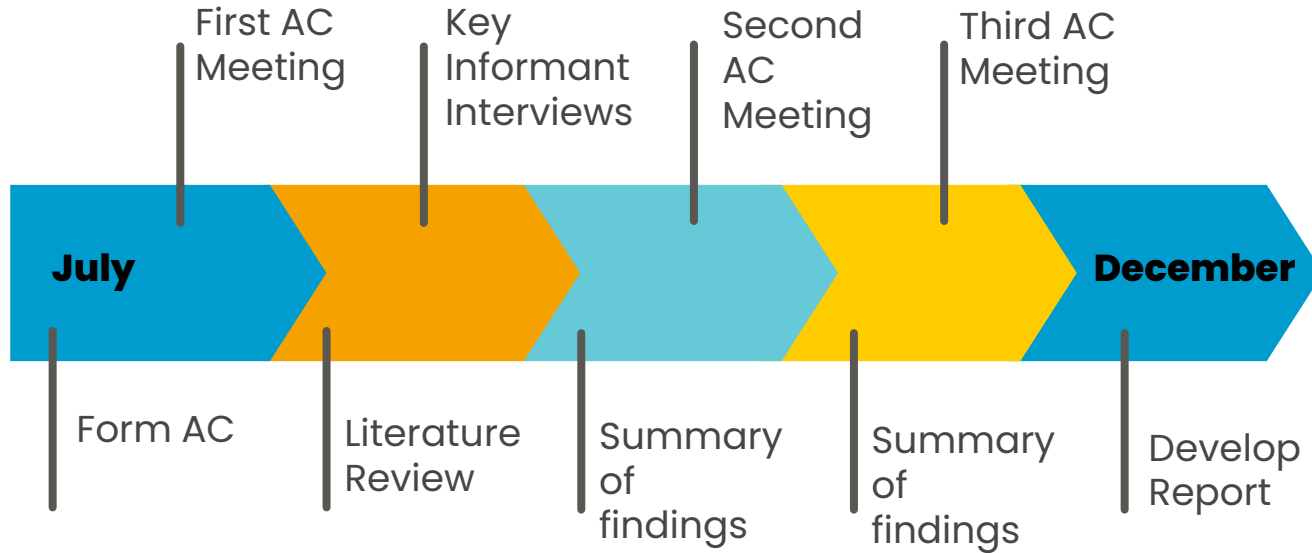
Ron Guptill, Sonoma County Probation Department

Sid McColley, Sonoma County Department of Health Services

Susan Hertel, Center Point Drug Abuse Alternatives Center



Timeline





SECTION TWO

First Advisory Committee Meeting





First AC Meeting

Brainstorm

- What prevents individuals under supervision from succeeding in services/on probation?

Discuss

- 59 responses
- 14 unique barriers
 - **Basic needs** not being met
 - Client **trauma**
 - Institutional **racism**
 - **Job** availability
 - Lack of **culturally relevant services**
 - Lack of client **life skills**
 - Lack of **motivation**/denial of need to change
 - Need for stable **housing**
 - Lack of **transportation**
 - **Mental health** impairment
 - Overwhelming **system requirements**
 - **Service coordination** issues
 - **Substance use** disorders
 - Unstable **living environment/lack of support**

Vote

- Considering this discussion, what would you rank as the top five barriers that this committee should address?



Top Voted Barriers

**Substance Abuse
Disorders**

**Basic Needs Not Being
Met**

**Unstable Living
Environments/Lack Of
Support**

Stable Housing

**Service Coordination
Issues**



Three Step Process

Literature Review

- Researched innovative solutions/best practices
- Significant overlap in literature on barriers
 - Integrative care often prioritized
 - Peer support a common element

Key Informant Interviews

- Contacted experts from innovations found in literature review & within Sonoma County
- Discussed implementation, sustainability, and replicability of interventions

Conversations with Probation

- Kept open dialogue with probation about literature and interviews
- Tried to eliminate strategies already widely available in the community
- Flagged interventions that were in the works/limited capacity



Example: Strategies for Stable Housing

Table 5. Potential Strategies to Address Need for Stable Housing

Name of Strategy	Brief Description
Homecoming Project*	"The Homecoming Project provides subsidies to homeowners in exchange for renting a room at an affordable rate (\$705 a month paid for by the program) to someone returning home from prison. The project provides a strong screening and matching process and offers ongoing support services including communications, problem solving, decision-making, collaboration skills, and coaching to both returnees and hosts. It sets clear rules and expectations for all, which supports successful re-entry and inspiring relationships with positive outcomes."
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)^	"Supportive housing offers affordability and a stable living environment while helping tenants access services and amenities that promote self-sufficiency and enhance their quality of life. Depending upon the tenancy, supportive services programs in housing provide and/or maintain linkages to individual and family counseling, HIV services, mental health services, alcohol and substance use services, crisis intervention, childcare, medical care, vocational counseling, and job placement, among others. Supportive housing projects also work to foster community-building efforts among tenants and are often engaged with the surrounding neighborhood as well."
Tiny Homes as PSH^	Tiny homes can be a solution to permanently housing more individuals within the larger community close to services and amenities.
Collaborative Housing Initiatives*^	Some communities (at both the state and county level) are creating collaboratives that involve public housing authorities, department of corrections, probation departments, and community-based organizations to provide safe and affordable housing for those in need.
Safe Outdoor Spaces*^	City/County sanctioned camp sites that are monitored with 24/7 security, meals, bathroom facilities, and staff to assist with housing navigation, employment, medical, and mental health services.



SECTION THREE

Second Advisory Committee Meeting





Second AC Meeting

Review Results

- Strategies not in wide use in the County

Discuss/Brainstorm

- Ensure understanding of each strategy
- Brainstorm strategies to add

Vote

- Ease of implementation (1 - 3 scale)
- Potential impact (1-3 scale)



28 strategies presented



12 strategies brainstormed



40 total strategies for voting



Highest Strategies Ranking by Barrier

Substance Use

1. Alternative sanctions
2. Dedicated staff for screening at jail
3. Jail-based treatment planning
4. Dedicated probation staff to screen & match clients to treatment

Unstable Living Environment & Lack Of Support

1. Fortune Society
2. High wage job path creation
3. Forensic peer specialists

Housing

1. Safe outdoor spaces
2. Collaborative housing initiatives



Highest Strategies Ranking by Barrier

Service Coordination

1. Comprehensive services resource guide
2. Community corrections centers & one stops
3. Partnerships between court, probation, PD, and behavioral health (beyond FACT/IMDT)

Basic Needs

1. Free monthly bus pass for probation clients
2. Probation welcome kits
3. Free transportation for low-income households
4. Free bike program



Top 5 Ranked Strategies by Composite Score

1. **Basic Needs:** Free monthly bus pass for probation clients
2. **Substance Use:** Alternative sanctions (additional probation sanctions that keep gains but address relapse)
3. **Substance Use:** Dedicated staff for screening at jail (for eligibility/treatment planning)
4. **Service Coordination:** Comprehensive services resource guide
5. **Service Coordination:** Community corrections centers & one stops



SECTION FOUR

Third Advisory Committee Meeting





Third AC Meeting

Review Results

- Ease of implementation
- Impact
- Composite score
- By barrier and across barriers

Discuss/Brainstorm

- Discuss results
- Brainstorm strategies to add

Vote/Brainstorm

- Vote for the top 3 strategies
- For the top 3 strategies, brainstorm considerations for implementation (e.g., lead agency, stakeholders)

Probation officers start working with clients immediately, ensuring timely and appropriate treatment referrals with clear expectations, frontloading of services, assigning each client a social worker to assist with benefits, removing common barriers to success (e.g., bus passes, phones), reductions in the level of supervision based on progress, and early termination of probation once all goals are met.



Top Three Strategies

1. Structured probation with treatment referrals, goals, and dates

2. Additional residential treatment that is evidence-based

3. Dedicated Staff Member for Screening at the Jail (for eligibility/treatment planning)



Structured Probation Processes

- **Barrier Addressed:** Service Coordination Issues
- **Lead Agency:** The Probation Department
- **Other Agencies:** Sonoma County's Behavioral Health Division, the court and judges, unions, community-based organizations and agencies receiving referrals from probation, the District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices, and the Sheriff's Office
- **Considerations:** (1) technology resources; (2) enhancements to the officer of the day schedule at the court; (3) need for a dedicated probation field team; (4) providing clients access to free Wi-Fi; and (5) a budget for social workers



Evidence-Based Residential Treatment

- **Barrier Addressed:** Substance Use Disorders
- **Lead Agency:** Sonoma County's Behavioral Health Division
- **Other Agencies:** The Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office
- **Considerations:** (1) use current residential treatment options or new providers; (2) need to survey current providers to gauge interest; (3) staff turnover; (4) need for additional beds for male clients; (5) how to fund the initiative; and (6) what clients should do with their children while in treatment.



Dedicated Staff Member for Screening at the Jail for Eligibility/Treatment Planning

- **Barrier Addressed:** Substance Use Disorders
- **Lead Agency:** Sonoma County Sheriff's Office
- **Other Agencies:** Sonoma County's Behavioral Health Division and Wellpath
- **Considerations:** (1) whether Wellpath or Sonoma County Behavioral Health staff best equipped to staff the initiative; (2) staff turnover concerns that would limit consistency in implementation; and (3) the necessity of screening availability every day as new individuals are processed daily



SECTION FIVE

Next Steps



Implementation Discussion





Thank you!



Contact Information



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