

**Imperial County
Community Corrections Partnership
Executive Board Meeting**

Imperial County Probation Department Conference Room
324 Applestill Road
El Centro, CA 92243

Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2020
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership Executive Board met in the Imperial County Probation Department Conference Room on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. This meeting was also available through the Zoom telecommunication service.

Members Present: Dan Prince, Brian Johnson, Ray Loera, Ben Salorio, Veronica Rodriguez

Members Absent: Gilbert G. Otero, Maria Rhinehart

Guest(s): Sgt. Aaron Arreola, Cpl. Joshua Soucier, Chief Thomas Garcia, Carlos Contreras, Victoria Mansfield, Cesar Fernandez, Debbie Angulo, Don Gorham, Kevin Arellano, Elizabeth Sais, Adrianna Ramirez, Gabriela Jimenez, Maria Ruiz, Leticia Plancarte, Carlos Lopez Jose Luis Ramirez

Call to Order:

Chief Probation Officer Dan Prince welcomed the attending committee members and guests. Chief Prince called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and Mr. Jose Luis Ramirez conducted roll call. A quorum was present at the meeting; five of the seven Executive Committee members were in attendance.

Approval of CCP Meeting Minutes:

After review of the February 27, 2020 minutes, Chief Brian Johnson moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Ben Salorio seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

Chief Prince noted the passing of former Probation Division Manager Iran Martinez. He noted the tremendous work Mr. Martinez performed at the Department and thanked him for his years of service. In addition, Chief Prince announced the retirement of Ms. Andrea Kuhlen from Behavioral Health Services and noted her contributions to the CCP Executive Committee and thanked her for her contributions to the committee. Chief Prince also welcomed Veronica Rodriguez as the newest member of the CCP to take the seat of Ms. Kuhlen.

Member Reports:

a. Imperial County Behavioral Health Services – Ms. Andrea Kuhlen

Chief Prince noted the retirement of Ms. Kuhlen from Behavioral Health Services and from the CCP Executive Committee.

b. El Centro Police Department – Chief Brian Johnson

Chief Brian Johnson thanked Ms. Kuhlen for her leadership and support for the law enforcement community and announced the rolling out of programs and best practices in handling of mental health crises in the field that were . Chief Johnson announced that the El Centro Police Department will be re-activating their community relations unit that deals with quality of life issues and homelessness within the community, which was temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. The Chief stated that his department looks forward to working with ICSO and ICBHS to combat some of these issues.

c. District Attorney – Mr. Gilbert Otero

There were no updates provided by the District Attorney’s Office during this meeting.

d. Public Defender – Ben Salorio

Mr. Salorio stated that he did not have any major updates to provide at this time, but wanted to announce that one of his deputies started the first jury trial during the Covid-19 era. The trial employs social distancing and mask usage to ensure health and safety protocols are met, and that if any wished to view the trial, it would be available through Zoom.

e. Imperial County Sheriff’s Office – Sheriff Raymond Loera

Sheriff Raymond Loera confirmed that ICSO is working with the El Centro Police Department to lead the redeployment of the community relations unit and is looking forward to doing some positive work with ICBHS. Sheriff Loera also announced that Chief Garcia is now in charge of the Corrections Division within ICSO.

f. Imperial County Superior Court – Ms. Maria Rhinehart

There were no updates provided by the Superior Court during this meeting.

g. Department of Social Services – Ms. Veronica Rodriguez

Ms. Rodriguez thanked Chief Prince for the introduction into the Community Corrections Partnership. Ms. Rodriguez informed the committee that the Department is the administrative entity for the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council that continues to work closely with the El Centro Police Department to provide services throughout the community. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the department is still operating the Homeless Hotline and the other departments can refer members of the community to this line if they ever need aid or services. The department is also beginning to transition from flyers to business cards with service information that will be easier to hand out in the field. Ms. Rodriguez noted that the department is also still providing homeless housing for members of the community during Covid-19.

Subcommittee Updates:

a. Budget and Fiscal

Debbie Angulo deferred the Budget and Fiscal Subcommittee update to the action/discussion item regarding the CCP fiscal year budget. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on October 8, 2020 in the Probation Department conference room and will provide a telecommunication line through Zoom.

b. Program and Development

Kevin Arellano announced that the Probation Department will begin programming classes at the Day Reporting Center in the first week of October. The Department is currently focused on court ordered programs, and will be resuming the Certified Anger Management class on October 6th, and will be resuming the Sex Offender Counseling on October 9th. Mr. Arellano stated that the DRC continues to operate through the pandemic and programs will continue to restart classes as time goes on. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on October 7th at 3:00 PM in the Probation Conference Room and will be available through Zoom.

c. Training Subcommittee

Elizabeth Sais stated if members of the CCP identify any upcoming training related to AB109 or realignment to let her know and provide information so that it can be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on October 8th, but Ms. Sais stated that this meeting will be trailed to November 5th instead to discuss any training opportunities that may arise.

Discussion / Action Item(s):

a. Discussion / Approval for Community Corrections Partnership Budget for Calendar Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Debbie Angulo presented this item on behalf of the CCP Fiscal Subcommittee. Ms. Angulo stated that this budget had been discussed and approved at the previous Budget and Fiscal Subcommittee meeting which took place on September 10th. Ms. Angulo noted that that once approved by the CCP Executive Committee, the budget would then be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Ms. Angulo stated that the estimated allocation for fiscal year 2020/2021 would be \$5,063,212 with a backfill of \$750,152 and the CCP would be requesting a budgetary transfer from the CCP fund balance of \$297,887 due to additional expenses in August 2021. This would total an available amount of \$6,111,251 for 2020/2021 fiscal year.

Mr. Salorio asked if the allocation for this year was reduced due to Covid-19 or if there was a chance that the CCP would receive less funds in the next year due to the pandemic. Ms. Angulo responded that the allocation this year was lowered because the base allocation was not fulfilled due to growth dollars for Vehicle License Fees and sales tax, but the state has been providing Covid relief funds for the backfill amount. Ms. Angulo noted that the CCP is waiting for auditors to distribute the backfill amount.

Chief Prince stated that the two main revenue sources for AB109 come from vehicle license fees and sales tax, and the collection of both have been impacted by Covid-19.

Sheriff Loera motioned to approve this item; Chief Johnson seconded the motion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Agency Updates, Informational Item(s), and Announcements:

Public Health – Ms. Adrianna Ramirez thanked the CCP for inviting Public Health to this meeting and noted that she was attending on behalf of Ms. Janette Angulo since Ms. Ramirez has been working closely with the Probation Department. Chief Prince welcomed Ms. Ramirez to the meeting and stated that the relationship between the CCP and the Public Health Department is important due to the strong nexus between public health, homelessness, and crime within the community.

SMART Recovery – Mr. Don Gorham thanked Ms. Kuhlen for her services to the CCP and noted her help with setting up the Sober Living Homes and Detox Center. Mr. Gorham stated that SMART has been using Zoom for the past 4 months to provide services, and will be starting in person group session again on October 7 in Brawley and October 8th in El Centro. Mr. Gorham noted that the groups will be small to maintain the health and safety of those in attendance, but will slowly expand as time and safety allows. The Spanish group will continue to be held through Zoom. Mr. Gorham stated that he hopes to have the SMART Groups start up again in Salton City as there are not many services available to those living in that area of the community

ICSO – Chief Garcia stated that ICSO finalized a new contract with the City of El Centro for an inmate work crew that would provide services to the community, but the services have currently been put on hold due to Covid-19. Sgt. Arreola noted that Covid-19 has impacted the work crews, but ICSO is working to get them available as soon as possible.

ICBHS – Gabriela Jimenez introduced Ms. Leticia Plancarte-Garcia as the Assistant Director of ICBHS, who would be taking on Ms. Kuhlen's position in the interim. Ms. Plancarte thanked the CCP for the support given to Ms. Kuhlen and stated that she looks forward to continuing to provide support to the CCP. Ms. Plancarte noted that the collaboration between ICBHS, ICSO, and the ECPD will be very important in the future.

Ms. Jimenez provided a report for the ICBHS Substance Use Disorder Programs. Ms. Jimenez stated that the department stopped face to face services for the time being due to health and safety concerns for non-high risk clients, but still provided services through telehealth. Ms. Jimenez noted that the ICBHS contract with the McCallister institute ended, and ICBHS has established a new contract with Volunteers of America for 5 beds. The department is also working to establish a new residential contract with Clare-Matrix which is located in Los Angeles.

Ms. Victoria Mansfield reported that ICBHS received six (6) admissions from the Probation Department and one (1) from the AB109 unit. In addition, the department received 8 court ordered admission. Ms. Mansfield reported that there are currently five (5) out of the six beds being filled at Foundations in Recovery.

Ms. Maria Ruiz provided a report for the services provided to the AB109 unit by ICBHS. Ms. Ruiz noted that Christopher Reece who replaced Mr. Carlos Gonzalez. Ms. Ruiz stated that Mr. Reece currently has a caseload of 40 individuals that he is providing services to and is also connecting individuals referred to him to additional services provided by ICBHS. Ms. Ruiz stated that the

Rehabilitation Technician located at the jail has started provided services again since last month and the department is expecting to start receiving referrals from the jail again soon.

GEO Re-Entry Services - Carlos Contreras thanked the CCP for working with GEO during this pandemic, as they have had to make many adjustments to participants of the program. Mr. Contreras stated that they hope to start providing larger in person services as soon as possible.

Work Force Development – Mr. Carlos Lopez stated that the centers are beginning to start in person services again, and are currently providing services through Zoom.

Adjournment:

Chief Dan Prince adjourned the meeting 10:20 a.m. The next Community Corrections Partnership and Executive Board meeting will be held on October 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. in the Probation Department Conference Room and will be available through the telecommunication service Zoom.