



AGENDA

IMPERIAL COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP (CCP)

Program and Development Subcommittee

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

324 Applestill Road, El Centro CA 92243

DRC Irene Rios Training Room

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the office of the Imperial County Probation Department located at 324 Applestill Road, El Centro, CA 92243 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact or call (442) 265-2402.

1. Call to Order

- a. Roll Call
- b. Approval of CCP Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2025

2. Discussion / Approval

- a. District Attorney's Office – CCP funding request for one (1) Victim Advocate Specialist II position.

3. Agency Updates

- a. Probation Department
 - i. Pretrial Services Update
 - ii. PRCS Update
- b. Imperial County Sheriff's Office
- c. Geo Group
- d. SMART Recovery
- e. ICOE Charter School
- f. New Creations
- g. Child Support Services
- h. Workforce Development
- i. Behavioral Health Services
- j. DRC Library Services

4. Informational Item(s) & Announcements

5. **Public Comment** – Limited to items that are not on the agenda. This is an opportunity for Members of the public to speak on any issues within the jurisdiction of the CCP Program & Development Subcommittee. *Public comments may also be submitted in writing and directed to joseramirez@co.imperial.ca.us to be read during this period.*

6. Adjournment / Next Meeting

**Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership
Program & Development Subcommittee**

Probation Department Conference Room

The Imperial County CCP Program & Development Subcommittee met at the Probation Department Conference Room on
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jose Garcia, Juan Chavarin, Carlos Contreras, James Vooris, Jennifer Gomez, Monica Reyes, Maurillo Villegas, Everardo Rodriguez, Antonio Garcia

Guest(s): Jose Luis Ramirez

Call to Order:

Mr. Everardo Rodriguez welcomed attending members and guests, and called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

a. Roll Call

Mr. Jose Ramirez conducted roll.

c. Approval of CCP Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2024

After review of the November 13, 2024, minutes, Cpt. Chavarin motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Carlos Contreras seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items

There were no discussion or action items for this meeting.

Agency Updates:

a. Probation Department

Mr. Rodriguez provided stats on the Pretrial Unit and stated that there are currently 375 clients being actively monitored under the Pretrial Unit with 9 cases pending. Mr. Rodriguez added that in the previous month, the unit completed 173 Pretrial Assessments, submitted 21 Humphrey Assessments, and completed 12 Bail Reviews.

Ms. Jennifer Gomez reported on the AB109 unit and noted that there are currently 192 AB109 clients and in the previous month they sized 12.3 grams of methamphetamines and provided transportation assistance to AB109 individuals so they could attend court dates and other important appointments.

b. Imperial County Sheriff's Office

Cpt. Chavarin stated that next month the Sheriff's Office will be undergoing their annual inspection. In addition, Cpt. Chavarin noted that the American Jail Association training event will be occurring later in the year and will be submitting the item to the CCP Training subcommittee soon.

Lt. Vooris thanked the ICSO staff that worked on their Christmas parade float which was themed after the Grinch.

Cpl. Garcia stated that the Sheriff's Office will be opening a coffee shop in the front lobby where they will provide training to the inmates that qualify for their barista training program.

c. GEO Group

Mr. Contreras stated GEO currently have 66 students enrolled into the program and noted that for the previous year there was a 72% positive/neutral exit rate, which would include all individuals that completed the program or transferred out, and a 28% negative exit rate, which would include individuals that absconded or were sent back to jail. Mr. Contreras noted that for individuals sent back to jail they have been working with the Sheriff's Office to get them back into the program and continue the work while in custody.

d. Charter School

Mr. Jose Garcia stated that they currently have 23 enrolled into the program and have 6-7 pending enrollment.

e. New Creations

Mr. Rodriguez reported on behalf of New Creations and stated that the organization has both classes filled at the DRC and are providing fee waivers to the indigent population.

f. Behavioral Health Services

Ms. Diana Aguirre provided stats for Behavioral Health and stated the agency received 13 referrals from Probation resulting in 12 admissions and 1 screen outs. Ms. Aguirre added that they received 16 court ordered assessments and completed 13 with 2 pending and 1 with no show status. Ms. Aguirre noted that there are currently 13 clients in a residential treatment program with 6 out of 6 of the Foundations in Recovery beds currently occupied. Ms. Aguirre also stated that they recently submitted an application for a grant that would be used to open a clinic in the City of Brawly which would be a whole campus that would provide SUD and MH services.

g. DRC Library Services

Mr. Maurillo Villegas stated that they recently purchased a license for a program that will be used for their illiteracy program.

Informational Item(s), and Announcements:

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Probation Office would be closed this upcoming Thursday in honor of President Jimmy Carter's passing.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

Adjournment:

Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. The next CCP Program and Development Subcommittee meeting would be scheduled for February 5, 2025

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**
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January 10, 2025

Community Corrections Partnership
County of Imperial
324 Applestill Road
El Centro, CA 92243

Subject: Request for a Victim Advocate Specialist II funded by Community Corrections Partnership

Introduction:

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) is a requirement of California's Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109), passed in 2011. The goal of AB 109 is to reduce the burden on state prisons by shifting responsibility for certain non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual offenders to local jurisdictions. While AB 109 focuses on offenders convicted of non-violent crimes, victims of these crimes still face emotional, financial, and psychological challenges that must be addressed. To meet the needs of these victims, it is proposed that the CCP fund a Victim Advocate to provide critical support and ensure victims' rights are upheld during the criminal justice process.

Proposal Summary:

The proposal requests the implementation of a Victim Advocate position within CCP. The Victim Advocate will provide advocacy, resources, and support services to victims impacted by non-violent crimes committed by individuals under the CCP's jurisdiction. A Victim Advocate will ensure that victims' voices are included in the criminal justice process, particularly during decisions regarding restitution owed to the victim and notification to the victim upon the defendant's release from custody.

Justification:

The Victim Advocate is a critical component of the criminal justice process. A Victim Advocate is vital in making the criminal justice system more understandable, accessible, and responsive to victims. Crime victims often face immense financial, emotional and psychological challenges, compounded by the unfamiliar and often complex legal processes they must navigate. A Victim Advocate aims to reduce the trauma that victims may experience in the wake of a crime and provides essential support in addressing challenges, ensuring victims' rights are safeguarded, and encourages their active participation in legal proceedings.

1. **Addressing the Needs of Victims of Non-Violent Crimes:** Victims of non-violent crimes, such as identity theft, burglary, fraud, arson, and property damage, often face significant emotional and financial harm. A Victim Advocate will help these individuals navigate the criminal justice system and provide them with necessary resources, such as assistance with victim compensation through the California Victims Compensation Board (Cal VCB) when eligible, assistance with restitution, emotional support, and preparing victim impact statements. By having a dedicated advocate, victims will be more informed and empowered throughout the legal process.

2. **Balancing Offender Rehabilitation with Victim Support:** CCP's primary focus is on offender rehabilitation and reducing recidivism for non-violent crimes, including offenses such as drug possession and petty theft. However, this should not come at the expense of victim well-being. The Victim Advocate will ensure that victims' perspectives are considered when decisions are made about offenders' offers and sentencing. This helps provide a balanced approach that acknowledges the harm caused by non-violent offenders and the need for victim restoration alongside rehabilitation efforts.

3. **Improving Public Trust and Accountability:** CCP has a responsibility to not only manage offenders but also maintain public trust in the justice system. Many victims of non-violent crimes feel overlooked, especially when offenders are released into the community. By hiring a Victim Advocate, CCP demonstrates its commitment to a fair and restorative justice process, increasing transparency and accountability. This action will improve the community's confidence in CCP's ability to serve both offenders and victims.

4. **Preventing Re-victimization:** While non-violent crimes may not physically harm victims, they can cause emotional trauma and financial distress that lasts long after the crime has occurred. For example, a victim of identity theft may face prolonged financial instability, and a business owner whose property was vandalized may suffer from ongoing economic losses. A Victim Advocate will provide these victims with critical resource referrals to counseling, assistance filing a claim with Cal VCB, or requests for restitution. This support helps to reduce victims from feeling marginalized during the offender's rehabilitation, which can happen when their needs go unaddressed.

5. **Fulfilling Ethical and Legal Obligations:** Under California's Marsy's Laws, victims have the right to be treated with respect and dignity throughout the criminal justice process, regardless of the severity of the crime. By hiring a Victim Advocate, CCP aligns itself with California's broader commitment to victims' rights and ensures compliance with legal standards. This also reflects a restorative justice model that focuses on healing both victims and offenders.

Key Responsibilities of the Victim Advocate:

- **Initial Contact and Support:**

- Victim Advocates initiate contact with identified crime victims at the earliest stages of the legal process, which increases victim engagement and participation.
- They inform victims of their rights under Marsy's Law, ensuring they are aware of their protections and the benefits to which they are entitled to.
- Victim Advocates act as a liaison between victims and the criminal justice system, simplifying legal procedures and providing consistent guidance.

- **Empowerment and Emotional Support:**

- By offering personalized support, Victim Advocates help victims regain a sense of control and empowerment throughout the process.
- They provide emotional support to victims who may experience feelings of fear, anxiety, or trauma, helping them cope with the aftermath of victimization.

- **Enhancing Victim Participation:**

- Assigning a Victim Advocate from the onset of a case encourages greater participation from victims in the criminal proceedings, which is critical for the successful prosecution of cases.
- Active victim participation often leads to stronger outcomes in criminal cases, fosters victim empowerment, and aids in the pursuit of justice.

- **Access to Resources and Services:**

- Victim Advocates connect victims with vital services, such as counseling, financial assistance, and resource referrals, which are crucial for their recovery and overall well-being.
- They ensure that victims are aware of and can access all the support available through the program, community agencies, and Cal VCB.

Data:

From January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, the District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) provided comprehensive services to approximately 3,700 crime victims, and of the 3,700 cases, approximately 564 cases involved some type of non-violent crime such as: Identity Theft, Grand Theft, Vehicle Theft, Vandalism, Property Crimes, Burglary, Arson, and Financial Elder Abuse. There are six advocates assigned to the VWAP, and each advocate

maintains a caseload of approximately 620 cases. An advocate assigned through CCP would be delegated to cases that align with the mission of restorative justice.

Fiscal Impact:

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025, there will be no fiscal impact on the CCP. The vacant Investigative Assistant position was funded at \$63,400. The cost to fund one Victim Advocate Specialist II at F step for about 10 pay periods for FY 2024-2025, is approximately \$31,045.

Enhancing the Partnership between CCP and the District Attorney's Office VWAP:

The District Attorney's Office and CCP have a long-established partnership that is committed to working together to promote a safer community. The proposed position will enhance the VWAP by allowing for more services and resources for victims affected by realignment. This position will successfully address the consequences of realignment to comply with the constitutionally mandated rights guaranteed to California crime victims. The advocate will coordinate the notification of victims of crime as to the early release of inmates and issues related to post-conviction hearings. In addition, the Victim Advocate will be responsible for assisting with "Restorative justice programs such as mandatory victim restitution and exploring victim/offender reconciliation" as a direction for the program (pursuant to PC §17.5(a)(8)(E) and PC §1229(c)(3)).

Conclusion:

The role of a Victim Advocate is essential in ensuring that crime victims' voices are heard, they receive the support and resources to which they are entitled and need to fully participate in the criminal justice process. This position contributes to the mission and values of CCP by committing to working together in order to promote a safer community through effective strategies, and its commitment to decisions which prioritize a safe and secure community, which increases the quality of life for all people in Imperial County.

Respectfully submitted,



George Marquez
District Attorney