



**IMPERIAL COUNTY
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP (CCP)
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

**Imperial County Administration Building
940 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243
Conference Room C&D**

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 Executive Meeting Minutes from October 31, 2024
- c. Approval of CCP Executive Meeting Minutes from December 5, 2024

2. Chair's Report

3. Member Updates

- a. District Attorney's Office – Mr. George Marquez
- b. Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Fred Miramontes
- c. Behavioral Health Services – Ms. Leticia Plancarte-Garcia
- d. Public Defender's Office – Mr. Ben Salorio
- e. Brawley Police Department – Chief Jimmy Duran
- f. Superior Court – Ms. Maria Rhinehart

4. Discussion / Action Items

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

5. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Program & Development
- b. Budget & Fiscal

6. Agency Updates, Informational Item(s), Announcements

- a. Imperial County Sheriff's Office
- b. Imperial County Behavioral Health
- c. Imperial County Probation Department
- d. Geo Group
- e. SMART Recovery
- f. Public Health
- g. Additional Updates

7. Public Comment – *Limited to items that are not on the agenda. Members of the public may speak at this time on any issues of interest to the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). Comments may also be emailed to joseramirez@co.imperial.ca.us to be read during this period.*

8. Adjournment / Next Meeting

Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership – Executive Board Meeting

Imperial County Administration Building
Conference Room C & D

The Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership & Executive Board met at the Imperial County Administration Building Conference Room C&D on Thursday, October 31st, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

October 31st, 2024

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Dan Prince, George Marquez, Ben Salorio, Leticia Plancarte-Garcia, Jimmy Duran, Fred Miramontes, Maria Rhinehart

Members Absent:

Guests: Jose Ramirez, Don Gorham, Catherine Apalategui, Elizabeth Sais, Jennifer Gomez, Carlos Contreras, Juan Chavarin, Everardo Rodriguez, Jon Blackstone, Jessica Pineda, Gabriela Jimenez, Robert Benavidez, Victoria Mansfield

Call to Order:

CCP Chair Dan Prince thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Mr. Jose Ramirez conducted roll call; all CCP Executive Members were in attendance.

Approval of CCP Meeting Minutes:

a. Approval of CCP Executive Meeting Minutes from September 26th, 2024.

After review of the CCP Executive Board meeting minutes from September 26th, 2024, Ms. Plancarte motioned to approve the minutes; Sheriff Miramontes seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Chair Report:

Chief Prince stated that he would defer his Chair's Report for this meeting.

Member Reports:

a. Imperial County District Attorney's Office

Mr. Marquez stated that the agency has recently hired some new attorneys and will be starting its violence task force which will focus on working with the Sheriff's office.

b. Imperial County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Miramontes stated that he would defer his agency updates to his staff later in the meeting.

c. Imperial County Behavioral Health Services

Ms. Plancarte stated that the agency will be going to the Board of Supervisors to apply for a BHSA grant which will provide some additional funding for infrastructure. Ms. Plancarte added that they are looking to expand services in the northern area of Imperial County and recently held a meeting with Brawley PD to provide feedback about the expansion.

d. Imperial County Public Defender's Office

Mr. Ben Salorio stated that he had no updates to provide at this time.

e. Brawley Police Department

Chief Jimmy Duran stated that they opened a youth center last week and had 130 kids enrolled into the program and are looking to expand with further activities, such as boxing, but have some limitations due to the current building.

f. Imperial County Superior Court

Mr. Rhinehart stated that November 21st they will be celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the courthouse.

Subcommittee Reports:

a. Program & Development

Ms. Everardo Rodriguez stated that the subcommittee met earlier in the month where they discussed and approved the two items on today's agenda.

b. Budget & Fiscal

Ms. Catherine Apalategui stated that the Budget & Fiscal subcommittee met earlier this month where they discussed and approved the current items on today's agenda.

Discussion/Approval(s):

a. Discussion / Approval to fund a new Correctional Sergeant position through CCP funds.

Cpt. Juan Chavarin presented this item on behalf of the Sheriff's Office and stated that since the inception of AB109 in 2011, the Sheriff's Office has had to handle an increased jail population, but did not receive the requested number of staffing to be able to provide a wide variety of in custody programming for the AB109 population. Cpt. Chavarin noted that this requested position would allow the Sheriff's Office to provide more programming services through organizations such as the Learning Institute of California where inmates could learn skills related to Barbering, Cosmetology, and Barista work.

Ms. Maria Rhinehart motioned to approve the item; Ms. Plancarte seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion / Approval to fund a new Print Shop Operator – Extra Help position through CCP funds.

Cpt. Juan Chavarin presented this item on behalf of the Sheriff's Office and stated that similar to the previous item, the Extra Help Print Shop Operator would allow the Sheriff's Office to provide additional vocational training related to graphic design and print shop work. Cpt. Chavarin added that the Print Shop has received a lot of work requested from other County organizations and the extra help position would allow them to take on more orders and complete them in time as well as provide more opportunities for the in-custody inmates and the SB823 individuals that Probation Department oversees.

Chief Prince motioned to approve the item; Mr. Marquez seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Agency Updates, Informational Item(s), and Announcements

a. Imperial County Sheriff's Office

Undersheriff Benavidez stated that some staff members recently visited the Riverside Jail Site B location to view the way they handle and provide programming to inmates and noted that they have a wide variety of programming which included things such as a woodshop, a metal shop, and even food trucks. Undersheriff Benavidez added that it gave them good insight on how they can expand their services and hopefully one day grow into.

Cpt. Chavarin stated that the jail currently has 328 inmates split between 291 felonies cases and 37 misdemeanor cases and noted that of those inmates 143 have a chronic medical condition, and there are 269 on medication with 122 currently taking mental health medication.

Sgt. Figueroa stated that the work crews recently helped with the Cattle Call event in Brawley and so far for the year have worked over 800 hours and picked up 1000 trash bags.

b. Imperial County Behavioral Health

Ms. Gabriella Jimenez stated that the agency is implementing the Care Court system on December 1st of this year and noted that they met with stakeholders within the community to discuss the implementation process and to provide information on how the process will work. Ms. Jimenez added that this program will be for individuals with psychotic disorders and that referrals can come from almost any agency and would work with the individuals to prevent the need of higher levels of care.

Ms. Jessica Pineda stated that the agency has 53 active cases within the jail split between 38 males and 15 females and noted that there are currently 5 ongoing DVT groups. Ms. Ruiz added that they have 32 active AB109 cases with only 3 that haven't been able to be linked with mental health services at one of their clinics.

Ms. Victoria Mansfield reported for the previous month and stated the agency received 9 referrals from Probation resulting in 7 admissions and 2 screen outs. Ms. Mansfield added that they received 8 court ordered assessments and they currently have 25 clients in a residential treatment program with 5 out of 6 of the Foundations in Recovery beds currently occupied.

c. Probation

Ms. Jennifer Gomez stated that currently the AB109 unit has 89 PRCS cases, 52 Mandatory Supervision cases, 60 sex offender cases and 41 active bench warrants. Ms. Gomez noted that last month the Probation Department seized 3 grams of meth and 1 imitation handgun from supervised individuals.

Mr. Everardo Rodriguez stated that the Pretrial Unit completed 148 Pretrial Assessments, 69 Pretrial Progress Reports, 3 Bail Reviews, and 17 Humphrey Assessments last month and currently are monitoring 360 Pretrial cases.

Mr. Rodriguez added that the Probation Mobile Unit will be out in the community in December this year and they are looking to provide services to the homeless population and the northern areas of Imperial County.

d. Geo Group

Mr. Contreras stated that the program is continuing to get enrollments on a regular basis and are having people completing the program and enrolling into it at a similar rate. Mr. Contreras noted that GEO will be providing fish tacos at the Adult Summit event and are planning for around 500 plates of food.

e. SMART Recovery

Mr. Don Gorham stated that SMART is doing well and is looking forward to work with Probation and their mobile unit to provide more outreach in the community.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments were made at this meeting.

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

Assistant Chief Sais stated the next CCP Executive Board Meeting would be scheduled for December 5th, 2024. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership – Executive Board Meeting

Imperial County Day Reporting Center
Irene Rios Training Room

The Imperial County Community Corrections Partnership & Executive Board met at the Imperial County Day Reporting Center Irene Rios Training Room on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

December 5th, 2024
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Members Present: Dan Prince, George Marquez, Maria Rhinehart

Members Absent: Ben Salorio, Fred Miramontes, Leticia Plancarte-Garcia, Jimmy Duran

Guests: Jose Ramirez, Don Gorham, Catherine Apalategui, Antonio Garcia, Maria Ruiz, Everardo Rodriguez, Jonathan Blackstone, Elizabeth Sais

Call to Order:

CCP Chair Dan Prince thanked everyone for attending today's meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Mr. Jose Ramirez conducted roll call; three CCP Executive Members were in attendance.

Approval of CCP Meeting Minutes:

a. Approval of CCP Executive Meeting Minutes from October 31st, 2024.

Due to lack of quorum, the approval of minutes from the previous meeting would be tabled for the next CCP Executive Board Meeting.

Chair Report:

Chief Prince stated that he would defer his Chair's Report for this meeting.

Member Reports:

a. Imperial County District Attorney's Office

Mr. Marquez stated that he recently met with Behavioral Health to follow up on some meetings regarding cases involving Proposition 36 and will be working with them to help prevent overwhelming them with additional work.

b. Imperial County Behavioral Health Services

Ms. Maria Ruiz stated that since the Cares Act has gone into effect, they are ready to receive referrals and are in the process of creating protocols for the new cases. Ms. Ruiz added that the agency has been working on applying for a round of funding to expand their mental health services in the City of Brawley.

Ms. Ruiz added that for the SUD program, the agency received 10 referrals which resulted in 9 admits and 1 screen out and they currently have 18 clients in residential services with 4 out of 6 beds occupied for Foundations in Recovery. Ms. Ruiz noted that the SUD program currently has 407 cases.

Ms. Ruiz added that for their jail services, they currently have 32 participants involved with their DVT and MRT groups and will have 2 graduations from the program soon.

c. Brawley Police Department

Mr. Jonathan Blackstone stated that he had no major updates to provide at this time on behalf of Chief Duran.

d. Imperial County Superior Court

Mr. Rhinehart stated that there were no major updates to provide at this time.

Mr. Don Gorham congratulated the courts on the 100 Year Celebration event they held.

Subcommittee Reports:

a. Program & Development

Ms. Everardo Rodriguez stated that the subcommittee met earlier in the month where they provided updates on local programs and services.

Discussion/Approval(s):

There were no items for discussion or approvals.

Agency Updates, Informational Item(s), and Announcements

a. Imperial County Sheriff's Office

Cpl. Garcia reported on the work crews and stated that they had done 934 hours of public work and collected 1515 bags of trash. Cpl. Garcia added that the agency is looking for new programs and services for their jail population.

b. Probation

Mr. Everardo Rodriguez stated that the agency currently has 83 PRCS cases with 33 additional bench warrant cases and 50 Mandatory Supervision cases. Mr. Rodriguez added that the Pretrial Unit completed 187 Pretrial Assessments, 67 Pretrial Progress Reports, and 30 Humphrey Assessments last month and currently monitoring 383 Pretrial cases.

Mr. Rodriguez thanked the CCP agencies for attending and providing assistance with the Adult Summit event last month and stated that there were 40 vendors and over 100 justice involved attendees.

c. SMART Recovery

Mr. Don Gorham stated that SMART is doing well with its 4 face-to-face groups and 2 zoom groups. Mr. Gorham added that he would like to meet with judges to discuss some changes to the SMART program and is also willing to provide a presentation regarding fentanyl for the Juvenile Summit.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments were made at this meeting.

Adjournment / Next Meeting:

Assistant Chief Sais stated the next CCP Executive Board Meeting would be scheduled for January 30th, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

**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

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Vacant Investigative Assistant - Approved CCP Budget

Current Position	Status	Range/ Step	Hourly	Bi-Weekly Salary	Annual Salary	Retirement 20.52%	Retirement Pension 1.68%	Retirement Health 6.04%	Group Medical \$309.17 Per Pay Period	Dental/ Vision	Medicare 1.45%	Total
Vacant Investigative Assistant	R	A-217	20.53	1,642.77	42,710.72	8,764.24	717.54	2,579.73	8,038.42	0.00	619.31	63,429.96

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Cost for Approximately 7 Pay Periods (March 21, 2025 through June 30, 2025)

Position Requested	Status	Range/ Step	Hourly	Bi-Weekly Salary	Annual Salary	Retirement 20.52%	Retirement Pension 1.68%	Retirement Health 6.04%	Group Medical \$309.17 Per Pay Period	Dental/ Vision \$15.86 Per Pay Period	Medicare 1.45%	Total
Victim Advocate Specialist II	R	F-221	26.79	2,143.03	15,001.21	3,078.25	252.02	906.07	2,164.19	111.02	217.52	21,730.28
Additional Cost to CCP for FY 2024-25					-27,709.51	-5,685.99	-465.52	-1,673.66	-5,874.23	111.02	-401.79	-41,699.68

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Cost for the Entire Year

Position Requested	Status	Range/ Step	Hourly	Bi-Weekly Salary	Annual Salary	Retirement 20.52%	Retirement Pension 1.68%	Retirement Health 6.04%	Group Medical \$309.17 Per Pay Period	Dental/ Vision \$15.86 Per Pay Period	Medicare 1.45%	Total
Victim Advocate Specialist II	R	F-221	26.79	2,143.03	55,718.78	11,433.49	936.08	3,365.41	8,038.42	412.36	807.92	80,712.46
Additional Cost to CCP for FY 2025-26					13,008.06	2,669.25	218.54	785.68	0.00	412.36	188.61	17,282.50