



AGENDA

IMPERIAL COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP (CCP)

Budget and Fiscal Subcommittee

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Imperial County Administration Building - Conference Room C&D

940 Main Street, El Centro CA 92243

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 15, 2025

2. Discussion & Action Item(s):

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

3. Agency Updates

- a. Probation – Catherine Apalategui
- b. Sheriff's Office – Raquel Leal
- c. District Attorney's Office – Ivonne Peraza, Jose Flores
- d. Public Defender – Karla Armstrong
- e. Behavioral Health – Christian Gonzalez
- f. Human Resources – Eleanor Barraza
- g. County Executive Office – Mayra Widmann, Lorraine Martinez

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 Budget & Fiscal 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
Budget & Fiscal Subcommittee**

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Imperial County Administration Building - C&D Conference Room

The Imperial County CCP Budget & Fiscal Subcommittee met at the Imperial County Administration Building C&D Conference Room on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Catherine Apalategui, Jose Flores, Ivonne Peraza, Raquel Leal, Lupita Esqueda, Marlene Gavilan, Eleanor Barraza

Guest(s): Jose Luis Ramirez

Call to Order:

Ms. Apalategui welcomed the attending members and guests and called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Approval of CCP Meeting Minutes:

After review of the October 17, 2024, minutes, Ms. Eleanor Barraza motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Ivonne Peraza seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion / Action Item(s):

a. Quarter 2 Billing

Ms. Apalategui stated that other agencies can send their second quarter billing to her and noted that she wanted to complete budgets as soon as possible. Ms. Apalategui also stated that she would be taking a leave of absence for a few months and to direct all emails to Martha Trujillo for third quarter billing. Ms. Apalategui added that Ms. Elizabeth Sais would

Agency Updates:

a. Probation Department

Ms. Apalategui stated that staff will be attending the APPA event later this month and noted that staff from Probation, Behavioral Health, the Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office will be traveling.

b. Sheriff's Office

No updates were provided at this time.

c. District Attorney's Office

Ms. Peraza asked if Probation had received their action item for their requested position. Ms. Apalategui responded and stated that Probation did receive the item and it will be an action item on next month's CCP committees.

d. Public Defender's Office

No updates were provided at this time.

e. Behavioral Health

No updates were provided at this time.

f. Human Resources

No updates were provided at this time.

g. County Executive Office

No updates were provided at this time.

Informational Item(s) and Announcements:

No additional items or announcements were made.

Public Comment

There were no public comments provided at this meeting.

Adjournment:

Ms. Apalategui adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. The next CCP Budget & Fiscal Subcommittee meeting would be set for February 13th @ 1:30 PM at the County Administration Building.

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**
Jeffrey A. Brooker
Assistant District Attorney



**GEORGE MARQUEZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
940 West Main Street, Suite 102
El Centro, CA 92243
Tel: (442)265-1175
Fax: (760) 352-4474

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Marquez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Marquez" clearly distinguishable.

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