

The Public Safety Realignment Act

AB 109

Implementation Plan 2014 – 2nd Update

County of Fresno



Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership

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AB 109
The Public Safety Realignment Act
Second Update to the 2011 Implementation Plan
County of Fresno
October 2013

Background

In the original legislation under AB 109 in 2011, Section 1230 of the California Penal Code was amended to read “Each county local Community Corrections Partnership established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1230 shall recommend a local plan to the County Board of Supervisors for the implementation of the 2011 public safety realignment. (b) The plan shall be voted on by an executive committee of each county’s Community Corrections Partnership consisting of the Chief Probation Officer of the county as chair, a Chief of Police, the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, Presiding Judge or his or her designee, and the department representative listed in either section 1230 (b) (2) (G), 1230 (b) (2) (H), or 1230 (b) (2) (J) as designated by the county board of supervisors for purposes related to the development and presentation of the plan. (c) The plan shall be deemed accepted by the County Board of Supervisors unless rejected by a vote of 4/5ths in which case the plan goes back to the Community Corrections Partnership for further consideration.

On August 19, 2011, the Fresno County Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) Executive Committee approved the Public Safety Realignment Act, Assembly Bill (AB) 109 Implementation Plan for 2011. On September 13, 2011 the CCP moved the Implementation Plan and associated Budget and Salary Resolutions to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors for approval of the plan pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 117. On that date, the Implementation Plan and the associated budget and resolutions were approved. The Plan has been operational since that time.

Again on March 15, 2013, the Community Corrections Partnership approved an update to its existing plan and April 23, 2013, the Plan Update and associated Budget and Salary Resolutions were moved to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors which were approved. In a budget workshop on October 1, 2013 the CCP accepted proposals for modifications to the Plan and on October 15, 2013, the CCP approved funding for the proposals consistent with the original intent of the legislation and the Fresno County Plan.

The plan continues to undergo modifications to increase and maximize the effective investment of criminal justice resources in evidence-based correctional sanctions and programs for public safety. In keeping with the legislation as to reporting changes in county CCP operational plans and services, this second update to the original plan delineates changes and modifications to the original 2011 plan for the County of Fresno as approved by the CCP on October 15, 2013.

Changes to 2011 Original Implementation Plan

Programs that were approved and funded in the original Implementation Plan of 2011 are ongoing. Due to the additions and changes that have occurred in the operation of AB 109 programming, a second update to the plan is required for the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) as well as the attendant budget and salary resolutions that will be reviewed by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors following CCP approval.

Based on a determination of needs as ascertained through the operation of the AB 109 programs locally, and on the presentations made to the Community Corrections Partnership, there are several noteworthy additions and modifications to the 2011 approved plan.

Fresno County Probation Department

Data Collection and Evaluation Positions

After 18 months of Realignment in Criminal Justice in California, the need to collect local data at the County level that is consistent, timely and useful data across multiple agencies, systems and contractors has become critical. With the advent of data based decision making and requirements at the state and local level, processes have changed significantly in the area of data and information collection. In addition, the introduction of proposed expansion of research efforts on multi-levels including the PEW-supported Results First Initiative, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the Urban Institute, require new methods of data management. It has become apparent that there is a gap in developing high quality data sets for the County and its multiple agencies requiring the data for use in a number of efforts. While the County has contracted for research and data analysis with an outside agency, the need for ongoing institutional management of many levels of data and coordination of data efforts between the agencies is a critical need. Two data positions were needed to meet the growing and continuous needs of public safety realignment: a data manager and a data collector. Two Fresno County approved corresponding positions have been identified; an Information Technology Analyst and a Program Technician.

Data continues to be needed from the following agencies: Adult Probation, APS data base; District Attorney's Office, STAR data processing system; Superior Court, V2 system; County Jail, Offender Track; County Behavioral Health and Private Provider case files. The end product of these systems coordinating with each other would be excel data sheets that allow merging based on unique identifiers for the use of all data reporting requests and agency needs.

The data manager will be responsible for collaborating with research partners and justice agencies to identify and develop data set requirements, contents and schedules. The data manager would work with both County and contract provider partners to obtain requested data. These county partners include Probation, Sheriff's Office (Jail IT), and

the DA's Office, Behavioral Health, the Superior Court and others. Contract providers would include any agency or entity that provides services to the realignment effort. Other critical data manager duties would include: locating missing data, reconciling conflicting data and merging data sets. This person would also work directly with the CCP Research and Evaluation Subcommittee.

Qualifications should include knowledge of realignment and criminal justice and knowledge and extensive experience in diverse data sets with computer, software and statistical skills. The Data Collector position will provide data entry support to overall realignment data efforts. In addition funding was increased for IT consultant services as needed.

Fresno County Sheriff's Office

Jail Records Positions

With the implementation of AB 109 locally, there was a significant increase in long-term commitments and with them, an influx of legal and judicial documents. The Jail is now the custodian of records for all AB 109 commitments. Processing the commitment packets that are forwarded by the court requires consistency and specialized training. Staff are required to calculate and enter a variety of sentencing adjustments pursuant to Penal Code Sections 4019 and 4019.2. Jail Records is also required to compile PC 969 sentencing reports for the courts. In order to do so, staff must perform a substantial amount of specialized research on each commitment packet file. All of the additional AB109 paperwork and tasks related to processing additional paperwork significantly overtaxed limited resources

The Community Corrections Partnership approved funding for 4 Program Technician positions. The positions are subject to Fresno County Personnel's review of the classifications to be used to address jail records needs that are based on increased workload from AB 109 offenders. The appropriation from the CCP was \$164,000 for the remaining fiscal year and; \$328,000 for a full fiscal years funding.

Pending Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

At the Community Corrections Partnership meeting on October 15, 2013 the CCP approved funding for two additional contracts for offender services in keeping with the intent of the AB 109 legislation that would create, expand and implement community and agency resources for the offending populations.

Domestic Violence Services

The first allocation was for in custody, out of custody and pretrial counseling services for identified offenders. The purpose of a contract would be to provide holistic counseling services designed to reduce targeting individual behavior of offenders and services to family members that would reduce rec increase offenders' chances of success in the

community as well as improve family functionality. The contractee would be expected to provide services at the jail and through case managed supervision, at various locations in the county for both PRCS offenders and AB 109 offenders released from the jail. The program would be developed around the identified and assessed needs of offenders and with the direction of a probation officer or case manager in the jail. The Community Corrections Partnership has allocated approximately \$400,000 for this RFP.

Employment Assistance

After stable housing, one of the most important components of successful community corrections is employment which was originally described in the AB 109 Implementation Plan of 2011. Research supports that finding employment is a critical step for offenders to reduce recidivism and that employment training is a critical element of rehabilitation.

The purpose of the contract would be to provide employability services for offenders that have little to no work experience, have difficulty keeping a job, assist with workplace technology, employability and job placement services. Ancillary services as to coaching, counseling services including substance abuse education and social work services that focus on pro-social development to increase job retention would also be part of the contract. The Community Corrections Partnership has allocated approximately \$400,000 for this RFP.

Discussion of Program Operations since 2011 Data Collection

The firm of Owen Research and Evaluation (ORE) was hired by the CCP through contractual agreement to provide the CCP evaluative services as required and approved in the AB 109 Implementation Plan for Fresno County. The overall focus of activity has been to create an objective and evidence based evaluation and quality assurance plan for the county. In addition, the introduction of proposed expansion of research efforts on multi-levels including the PEW –supported Results First Initiative, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and the Urban Institute have required new methods of data management. The First Year Interim Report on AB 109 was released to the CCP in October of 2013 and is available on the Fresno County Probation website.

Status of Implementation Plan Programs: Nov, 2013

A review of the 2011 Implementation Plan for Fresno County at the present time reveals that programs slated for implementation have been realized and the overall tenure and direction of the CCP has been accomplished. Under the guise of both accountability and evidence based practices and principles consistent with public safety, programs identified for initial implementations have been enacted.

Since inception, the direction and goal of the Fresno County Community Corrections Partnership as established under AB 109, has been the successful implementation of the legislation with the consideration of the unique local issues that may impact offender achievements and public safety. A balanced approach has been struck that affords

offender accountability with the development of community corrections fitting the needs and identified correctional issues of this county.

The new modifications and additions to the Fresno County AB 109 operational plan serve the needs of the county. The Community Corrections Partnership of Fresno County is committed to philosophical and operational programs necessary to reduce the crime and recidivism while promoting a reduction in criminal victimization and increased public safety.