

## **CCP Strategic Plan Revise – Public Input Report**

The Yolo County Community Corrections Partnership has undergone a revise of its 2014-2019 Strategic Plan. This revise is in part due to the completion of most of the objectives set out in the original Strategic Plan. In addition, Yolo County has seen a shift in criminal justice system, due to the implementation of Proposition 47, which changed certain sentences into misdemeanors.

A significant part of our strategic planning process has been public outreach to get feedback on our efforts and the criminal justice system. This was done through a three part strategy in order to get the largest and most varied feedback possible. The first method was through presenting and discussing the CCP's efforts with advisory bodies and work groups that assist our criminal justice and health agencies. The second method was to hold public input meetings in multiple communities within Yolo County. The third method was to advertise and release an online public survey. Using this three method approach, the County was able to gather public feedback to report back to the CCP with helpful insights and direction for our upcoming workshops. This report contains summaries of the public feedback that was given according to each method.

### **Summary Themes**

The public input garnered from our outreach efforts has yielded a large amount of feedback. Below are six common themes that emerged.

#### **Mental Health and Substance Abuse**

- ❖ Tracking number of those in jail with mental illness.
- ❖ Educating the community about how to interact with the mentally ill.
- ❖ Specialty courts (mental health court and addiction intervention court) should be supported and expanded.
- ❖ Expand the Day Reporting Center and other treatment programs.
- ❖ Mental health and substance abuse ranked #1 in the top priority areas in criminal justice according to online survey.
- ❖ Mental health and substance abuse ranked #1 in where we should be expending resources according to the online survey.
- ❖ Train officers to better interact with the mentally ill.

#### **Housing**

- ❖ Housing was looked at as key to successful reentry and lower recidivism.
- ❖ Housing and homelessness ranked #2 in the top priority areas in criminal justice according to the online survey.
- ❖ Temporary housing for probationers ranked # 2 in where the CCP should be expending resources according to the online survey.

### **CCP Information and Functions**

- ❖ There was a desire for the CCP to gather or generate data and use said data to determine future funding and efforts. The specific data mentioned was the costs and benefits of CCP funded programs, the recidivism rate in Yolo County, and the cost of putting an offender through the Yolo County criminal justice system.
- ❖ Explore new ways of interacting with the public that will improve public awareness of the CCP. Specifically the top three methods expressed in the online survey were print media, social media, and online media.
- ❖ Establish a citizen’s advisory board to work with the community in addressing criminal justice.
- ❖ Create more partnerships with organizations within the community.
- ❖ Make changes to the CCP webpage to I make it a better resource for the public, such as putting the criminal justice intercept map, the budget, and programs on the webpage.
- ❖ Partner with the Yolo County registrar’s office to give offenders voting rights information and registration cards.

### **Job Training and Education**

- ❖ Job training and educational opportunities ranked #3 in the top priority areas in criminal justice according to the online survey.
- ❖ Look into creating a partnership with trucking companies to provide work to applicable offenders.
- ❖ Give training in soft technology skills, such as online job applications and using social media.

### **Yolo County Jail and Community Re-entry**

- ❖ Make improvements to the jail, such as access to library materials, an exercise area, and expanded visitation.
- ❖ Finding a way to administer involuntary medication to those with serious mental illnesses to prevent break downs.

- ❖ Have navigators to assist offenders with transitioning from the jail, including signing up for Medi-Cal, transportation assistance, and securing referrals to reentry services.
- ❖ Better diversion of mentally ill offenders from the jail to treatment programs.
- ❖ Expanding diversion programs ranked # 3 in where the CCP should be expending resources according to the online survey.
- ❖ Expand resources available for offenders in the jail, including free phone time for inmates, a list of “felony friendly” employers, a mentor or buddy system for reentry, and a mitigation clinic to help with clearing applicable charges.

### **Miscellaneous**

- ❖ Establish a 24 hour hotline for residents to report mentally ill folks - with EMS and specialist responders.
- ❖ Expand restorative justice efforts.
- ❖ Focus on prevention and diversion.
- ❖ Use community service as a diversion program.
- ❖ Form a county wide task force to study recidivism and its causes in Yolo County, as well as the youth school to jail pipeline.
- ❖ Juvenile justice, while not under our jurisdiction, was a source of concern.

### **Advisory Bodies and Work Groups**

The first method in the outreach strategy was to present and discuss the CCP Strategic Planning process with five advisory bodies/work groups. The five groups that staff attended were the Provider Stakeholder Work Group, Proposition 47 Work Group, Local Mental Health Board, Substance Use Disorder Providers, and the Homeless Poverty Action Coalition. Below is the feedback given at each meeting.

#### **Provider Stakeholder Workgroup**

- No feedback was given to staff.

#### **Local Mental Health Board**

- Interest in knowing the number of mentally ill inmates in the jail.
- While revising the CCP 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, consider extending it further into the future.
- At least one board member was interested in the following:

- Inmates having access to library materials in the jail;
- Need for an exercise area in the jail;
- More flexibility in jail visitation;
- Concern over the limited hours an inmate has out of their cell;
- Understanding the reduction in felonies from Prop 47 and jail capacity;
- What programs and services are available in the jail;
- What programs in the criminal justice system are successful;
- Does the environment in custody contribute in any way to the deterioration of mental health conditions?

### **Prop 47 Work Group**

- Re-entry from jail back into the community was expressed as an area of need.

### **Homeless Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC)**

- Desire to see the Neighborhood Court program continue.
- In order to reduce recidivism, more housing for people is needed. Housing shows the best success to reduce recidivism.
- It is important to re-integrate individuals into their own community.
- There is a need for employment for individuals.
- Need to determine an area in the criminal justice system where resolution services can be provided to help individuals build bridges as they reintegrate into the community.

### **Substance Use Disorder Work Group**

- Explore the provision of Vitriol medication (opioid blocker and assists with alcohol withdrawal) at re-entry through Communicare. It is a 30 day shot that can be provided free of charge through Core Medical Clinic. Rikers Island is an example of a jail that connects individuals to vitriol to stabilize before release.
- Interest in the provision of involuntary medication at the jail. This is viewed as a preventative measure to de-escalate mental health crisis episodes for individuals while in custody.
- Concern that the timeline to check-in with Probation after jail release (48 hours) is too soon for individuals to get their basic life needs handled and then return for a check-in with Probation. However, more time before the check-in may not be the best solution. A potential alternative would be the provision of case managers/navigators or peer worker relationships to help individuals in obtaining those basic life needs and making it to their check-in.
- It is difficult to re-establish Medi-Cal for those without a set release date from jail. Navigators may be able to assist in re-entry for those without a set release date.
- For individuals that are released from jail and live out of county, it would be beneficial to provide a bus ticket or have a small reserve to assist them in returning home.

- It may be beneficial to provide transportation from the jail to the Urgent Care Center when an individual is released, particularly if they are being released from jail in the morning before the urgent care is open.
- There should be re-entry planning that occurs before someone is released from the Urgent Care Center as well. Potentially a CBO can be determined as the best link to care or maybe a re-entry coordinator.

### Public Input Meetings

The second method in the CCP outreach strategy was to present and discuss the CCP Strategic Planning process and receive feedback at public input meetings in different locations within Yolo County. These meetings included three traditional public meetings (in Dunnigan, Esparto, and Davis), and one tabling workshop at the Davis Farmers Market. These locations were chosen by staff based on historical turn out for CCP public meetings as well as the preferred public engagement methods of the residents of these communities, as perceived by staff. The format of these meetings included a presentation from County staff (including the County Administrators Office and Probation Department, CCP members, and the County Supervisor from the district) on history and purpose of the CCP and the Strategic Planning process for the revise. This was followed by a dialogue with attendees about their interests and concerns. At the Davis Farmers Market workshop residents viewed the questions from the online survey on posters at the table and wrote their responses on index cards. These cards were then collected and recorded separately from the online survey results. Below is a short description of the feedback given at each meeting.

#### Dunnigan

**Date:** 06-19-18

**Location:** Dunnigan Fire Protection District

**Number of Participants:** 2

#### **Feedback:**

- ❖ The major causes of recidivism are a lack of jobs, homes, and issues with anti-social family members and friends of offenders.
- ❖ Are we getting adequate returns on our investments into rehabilitation programs?
- ❖ Change the job program – instead of trying to get offenders to work full time hours immediately, start with part time and build up over time. We should also focus on teaching offenders “soft skills”.
- ❖ Reinstigate the resident-deputy program to act as a deterrent to crime in unincorporated county areas.

#### Esparto

**Date:** 06-21-18

**Location:** Esparto Branch Library

**Number of Participants:** 2

**Feedback:**

❖ Job training:

- Look into a partnership with a trucking company to create a probation job training program.
- Look into the Cal-Trans construction and job program.
- Assist offenders with a technology training program (E.G. job apps, basic software skills, etc.)
- Use data to inform budgetary decisions.

❖ Homelessness and mental health:

- Explore community support of homeless with mental health issues (E.G. Faith-based partners to provide food, bathrooms, and amenities).
- Look into community education campaigns to educate about mental health and homelessness.
- Use Next Door mobile app to disseminate information to residents and get information back.

**Davis Farmers Market**

**Date:** 06-23-18

**Location:** Davis Farmers Market

**Number of Participants:** 18

**Feedback:**

❖ Question 1: Priority focus areas

- 1<sup>st</sup> priorities – Housing (8 votes for 1<sup>st</sup> priority)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Priorities – Mental health and substance abuse (5 votes for 1<sup>st</sup> priority, 8 votes total)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Priorities – work training and education (5 votes total)

❖ Question 2: How should we use our resources

- Mental illness and substance abuse / treatment (7 comments), Juveniles (2 comments), find partners to work with (2 comments), Work training (1 comment).

❖ Question 3: Which CCP Goals are priority?

- Goal 1 – Ensure a safe environment for all residents and visitors by reducing and preventing local crime (2 votes)
- Goal 2 – Restore victims and the community (0 votes)

- Goal 3 – Hold offenders accountable (3 votes)
- Goal 4 – Build offender competency and support community reintegration (5 votes)
- Goal 5 – Reduce recidivism (1 vote)
- ❖ Question 4: Do we sufficiently do outreach?
  - Yes (1 vote)
  - Somewhat (5 votes)
  - No (3 votes)
- ❖ Question 5: How does the public receive their news?
  - Print media (5 votes), social media (3 votes), online (2 votes), other (Church, Next Door app) (2 votes), radio (1 vote), County website or press release (1 vote).
- ❖ Question 6: How would the public prefer to receive their news?
  - Print media (5 votes), radio (3 votes), social media (3 votes), other (email) (2 votes), online (2 votes), county website or press release (1 vote).

### **Davis Public Input Meeting**

**Date:** 06-27-18 **Location:** Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School **Number of Participants:** 10

#### **Feedback:**

- ❖ Mental health and substance abuse treatment
  - Folks with mental illnesses should be removed from jail to treatment.
  - Put more funding towards specialty courts.
  - Look into transportation services to get offenders to services.
  - There should be a shift from punishment towards treatment.
  - Expand the Day Reporting Center's treatment and competency building programs.
- ❖ CCP Transparency, information, and resources
  - Put adult criminal justice intercept map on CCP webpage.
  - Give more updates to members of the public.
  - Inform the Grand Jury of the CCP and their efforts.
  - Create a citizen advisory committee for the CCP or for criminal justice more broadly.
  - Change the time and location of CCP meetings to make them more accessible to working folks.

- ❖ Strategic Plan and other CCP recommendations
  - Develop a concrete plan to accomplish objectives and goals. Show this plan and the supporting data to the public.
  - Look into the cost of sending someone to jail and putting them through our criminal justice system.
  - Lower conviction rates.
  - Facilitate the involvement of offenders' communities and families to help with offender rehabilitation, including while they are in jail.
  - Work with the county registrar's office to provide information and voter registration cards to offenders.

### **Online Public Survey**

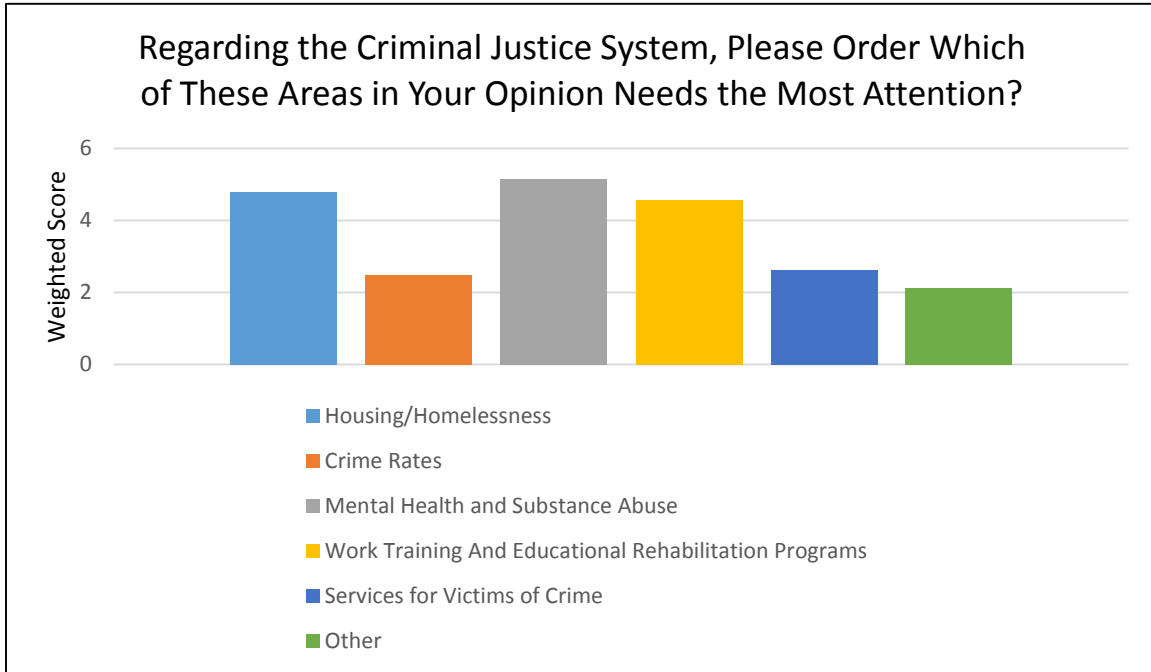
The third method in our outreach strategy was to open up an online survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide an opportunity to reach a larger number of residents in Yolo County that may not attend public meetings. \. The survey contained seven questions in the online format, but was condensed to six questions for this report. These were composed of two general criminal justice preference questions, one question about the CCP's 2014-19 Strategic Plan goals, and three questions regarding public outreach by the CCP. The survey was opened on June 12<sup>th</sup>, closed on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, and resulted in 64 responses. The questions and responses were as follows:

#### **Question 1 – Regarding the criminal just system, please order which of these areas in your opinion needs the most attention?**

- ❖ Rank 1 – Mental health and substance abuse services (25 votes for 1<sup>st</sup> priority, 57 votes in top 3 slots)
- ❖ Rank 2 – Housing and homelessness (19 votes for 1<sup>st</sup> priority, 55 votes in top 3 slots)
- ❖ Rank 3 – Work training and education rehabilitation programs (13 votes for 1<sup>st</sup> priority, 56 votes in top 3 slots)
- ❖ “Other” responses included:
  - Focus on diversion programs (6 votes)
  - Youth crime prevention (3 votes)
  - Police training for mentally ill (2 votes)
  - Ending monetary bail (1 vote)



- Community safety education (1 vote)
- More resources for probation and the public defender (1 vote)
- Immigration crisis (parental separation) (1 vote)



\* Weighted score is derived by multiplying each vote (1) by the rank it was given, and then averaging that score. E.G. If housing is rank as most important by an individual, that 1 vote is multiplied by 6 (number of options) = 6.

### Question 2 – How should the CCP expend its resources to meet these needs?

- ❖ Treatment facilities / mental health programs (14 suggestions)
- ❖ Temporary housing (6 suggestions)
- ❖ Diversion programs (4 suggestions)
- ❖ Improved police training (4 suggestions)
- ❖ Put money towards prevention and outreach (3 suggestions)
- ❖ Coordination between departments and agencies (3 suggestions)
- ❖ Educational opportunities for high risk folks (2 suggestions)
- ❖ Work training programs (2 suggestions)
- ❖ Youth programs (2 suggestions)
- ❖ Homeless possession storage site (1 suggestion)

- ❖ Resources for families of offenders (1 suggestion)
- ❖ Put funds towards more urgent needs (1 suggestion)
- ❖ Use evidence-based approaches (1 suggestion)
- ❖ Improve our county jail (1 suggestion)

**Question 3 – Below are the five goals that the CCP formed during the original strategic plan in 2014. Please provide any suggestions on how you think the CCP may further attain these goals.**

- ❖ Goal 1 – Ensure a safe environment for all residents and visitors by reducing and preventing local crime
  - Providing more resources for treating and addressing mental health illness and substance abuse (8 suggestions)
  - Give more resources for housing (7 suggestions)
  - Focus on public safety and policing (more patrols, policing alternatives such as a 24 hour hotline for mental health responders and neighborhood watches, and increased police training to deal with mental health and substance abuse) (6 suggestions)
  - Recreational and educational opportunities for the youth (5 suggestions)
  - Job and educational opportunities for offenders (4 suggestions)
  - Focus on community outreach about issues (3 suggestions)
  - End the gang injunction and assist youths with resources (2 suggestions)
  
- ❖ Goal 2 – Restore victims and the community
  - Expand restorative justice programs, such as neighborhood court (10 suggestions)
  - Focus on crime prevention measures, such as education about cycles of incarceration, housing, and re-entry services (4 suggestions)
  - Offer counseling and support groups for victims (3 suggestions)
  - Community outreach and victim awareness (2 suggestions)
  - Offer community service as a diversion from jail or prison time (1 suggestions)
  - Increase police training (2 suggestions)
  - Reduce price of fines and fees so that offenders can pay restitution to victims (1 suggestion)

❖ Goal 3 – Hold offenders accountable

- Have low level offenders perform meaningful community service as punishment (7 suggestions)
- Provide more treatment for mental health illnesses and substance abuse, as well as supervision (7 suggestions)
- Pursue less aggressive charging practices (6 suggestions)
- Expand restorative justice (E.G. Neighborhood Court) (6 suggestions)
- Provide educational, housing, and work opportunities to offenders as a way to prevent future crime (6 suggestions)
- Increase police accountability measures (4 suggestions)
- Hold violent offenders in jail (2 suggestions)
- Provide diversion programs to low level offenders (2 suggestions)
- Perform outreach to communities to understand crime (1 suggestion)

❖ Goal 4 – Build offender competency and support community reintegration

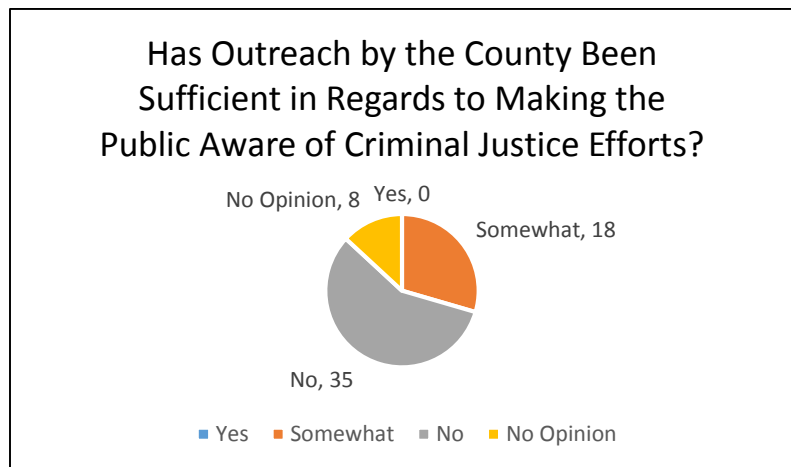
- Work training and educational programs (13 suggestions)
- Create resources for offenders, such as a list of felony friendly businesses, more involved case management, mentoring, and a mitigation clinic to help clear criminal records when applicable (6 suggestions)
- Utilize and expand the Day Reporting Center (4 suggestions)
- Devote resources towards housing (4 suggestions)
- Focus on mental health illness and substance abuse programs (4 suggestions)
- Lowering costs for inmates, including free phone calls (3 suggestions)
- Programs for adult and youth prevention (3 suggestions)
- Money bail reform (2 suggestions)
- Focus on diversion programs (1 suggestion)
- Have offenders perform community service (1 suggestion)
- Focus on restorative justice programs (1 suggestion)

❖ Goal 5 – Reduce recidivism

- Put resources into job training and education (9 suggestions)
- Focus efforts on programs for mental health illnesses and substance abuse (9 suggestions)
- Provide more resources for housing (5 suggestions)
- Utilize and expand the DRC (3 suggestions)
- Look at best practices, including from other counties (2 suggestions)
- Look into more diversion programs (2 suggestions)
- Get the data for recidivism to start making plans (1 suggestion)
- Have offenders perform community service (1 suggestion)
- Decrease the fees that offenders must pay (1 suggestion)
- Reform the money bail system (1 suggestion)
- Form a county wide task force to study recidivism and youth to jail pipeline (1 suggestion)

**Question 4 – Has outreach by the County been sufficient in regards to making the public aware of criminal justice efforts?**

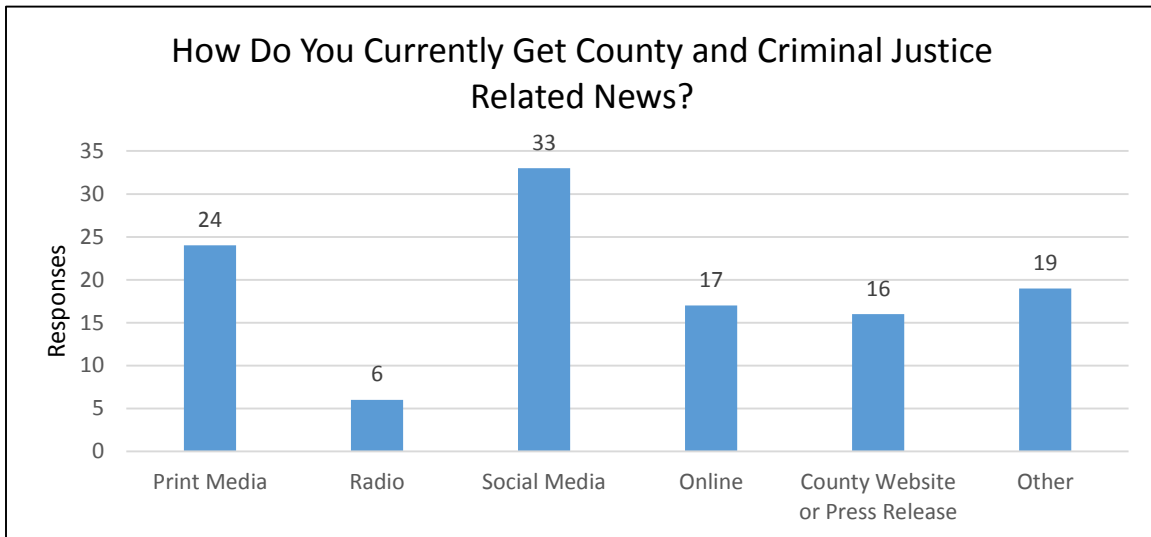
- ❖ Yes (0 votes)
- ❖ Somewhat (18 votes)
- ❖ No (35 votes)
- ❖ No Opinion (8 votes)



**Question 5 – How do you currently get County and criminal justice related news?**

- ❖ Print media (24 votes)
- ❖ Radio (6 votes)
- ❖ Social media (33 votes)
- ❖ Online (17 votes)

- ❖ County website or press releases (16 votes)
- ❖ Other (19 votes): Personal relations/community, television, work, public meetings, CCP minutes, elected officials, neighborhood court



**Question 6 – How do you prefer to get news and information?**

- ❖ Print media (22 votes)
- ❖ Radio (14 votes)
- ❖ Social media (26 votes)
- ❖ Online (28 votes)
- ❖ County website or press releases (19 votes)
- ❖ Other (14 votes): Television, community forums, email, county departments, CCP minutes (give success stories), Elected officials

