



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Daniel Kim

Interim County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 ▪ Woodland, CA 95695
Phone: (530) 666-8042 ▪ Fax: (530) 668-4029
www.yolocounty.org

Frank Schneegas
Communications Coordinator
frank.schneegas@yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2021

Contact: Jonathan Raven

Email: Jonathan.Raven@yolocounty.org

(530)666-8092

Yolo County's Community Corrections Partnership Allocates \$1.5 million to Enhance Treatment for those Suffering from Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Community Corrections Partnership recently allocated \$1.5 million to fund treatment for those living with substance use disorders in the county jail as well as programs to treat and support those living with mental illness in the community.

In 2011, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law AB 109, "Realignment," with the goal of fundamentally changing California's correctional system to stop the costly, ineffective and unsafe "revolving door" of lower-level offenders and parole violators through our state prisons. The responsibility for supervising and housing these individuals was shifted to the counties, with the state providing funding to each county to undertake these new duties and responsibilities. AB 109 requires that each county has a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP), responsible for the development of each county's AB 109 plan that advises the Board of Supervisors on specific programming needed to implement the provisions of public safety realignment legislation. <https://www.yolocounty.org/government/general-government-departments/law-justice/community-corrections-partnership>. Executive members of the CCP include the Sheriff, the Court, the Director of the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), the Public Defender, the Probation Chief who chairs the CCP, a representative from city police chiefs, and the District Attorney (DA).

In Yolo County, CCP funding is distributed to the DA, Public Defender, HHS, Sheriff, and Probation Department. Funds are also earmarked for treatment and innovation. This year, CCP members voted to dedicate 25% of the funding to treatment and increase the funding for treatment by \$1.5 million and innovation by over \$1 million. After reviewing numerous proposals, CCP members voted to fund treatment programs in the jail including a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for those suffering from opioid use disorder, as well as staff to provide treatment in the jail for those suffering from substance use disorders. Sheriff Tom Lopez plans to put these monies to good work, stating, "The goal of our jail expansion is not to add jail beds but to increase our ability to treat those individuals who are suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders. This funding will allow us to carry out that plan."

Additionally, the CCP voted to fund a Mental Health Diversion program to decriminalize those who suffer from a mental illness and commit crimes. District Attorney Jeff Reisinger stated, "We have an amazing Mental Health and Addiction Intervention Court. However, there's an underserved population of individuals with less serious mental illness. This program will allow our justice partners and HHS to help this population get better and become productive members of society." Public Defender Tracie Olson, who drafted the proposal with Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven, added, "This program is a rejection of the old, failed model of using incarceration to scare individuals straight. Instead, we will be addressing the root

causes of crime and making long-term impacts that will improve the lives of system impacted individuals and their families.”

Another program approved by CCP members was the Probation Department’s proposal for vocational development services. Probation Chief Danin Fruchtenicht stated, “The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically increased Yolo County’s unemployment rate. This will allow us to implement alternative options to provide vocational development services which are better targeted to meet the needs of those individuals in the criminal justice system.”

HHSAs’s proposal to help fund the County’s “Crisis Now” model was also approved. The goal of “Crisis Now” is to form a uniform system to respond to those in mental health and/or substance induced crises, that is not so heavily dependent on the police and hospital emergency rooms. The CCP allocated \$293,466 to support operations for a 24/7 crisis/receiving sobering center. HHSAs Director Karen Larsen praised the collaborative work. “This is the Yolo way! Crisis Now is the gold standard. This funding will help us move forward with this critical piece of the Crisis Now model.”

The last proposal to receive funding was submitted by the Woodland Police Department for the “Advance Peace” program which works to interrupt gun violence in urban neighborhoods by providing transformational opportunities to young adults identified as most likely to be perpetrators and/or victims of gun violence. “During 2019 through early 2020, a shooting occurred in Woodland every 10 days and this year to date, the City of Woodland has experienced 40 incidents of gun violence,” said Woodland Police Chief Derrek Kaff. “This program will provide opportunities to young adults by placing them in high-touch, personalized 18-month fellowships grounded in evidence-based practices.”

Winters Police Chief John Miller, who represents the police chiefs, was a member of the CCP ad hoc committee which worked to reallocate CCP funding to provide more dollars to treatment and innovation. “We worked hard to develop a plan that would provide more resources to treat those suffering from mental illness and drug addiction. I’m very impressed by the County partners and believe these new programs will have a profound impact on the cities in Yolo County.”

Board of Supervisors Chair Jim Provenza praised the work of the CCP. “The CCP members put their heads down and got to work reallocating funding consistent with our County Strategic Plan. If we can treat this population, rather than jail them, and get them well and reduce recidivism, it’s a victory for everyone.

###