

County of Kern

Public Safety Realignment Act

FY 2023/24 Plan

(Approved by CCP 06/07/2023)

(Approved by Kern County Board of Supervisors 06/27/2023)



Community Corrections Partnership

Executive Committee

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AB 109 Background

Assembly Bill 109 (AB 109), the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011, was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on April 4, 2011. It became effective on October 1, 2011. This Act, along with numerous trailer bills, made major changes to the criminal justice system in California. With these changes has come a large shift of responsibilities passed from the State to the Counties.

Some of the most significant changes in the law that Realignment brought include the following:

- Certain felonies, often referred to as Non, Non, Nons (non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex offenses), are no longer punishable by a state prison term. Instead, these felony charges are only eligible for county jail sentences.
- Certain offenders released from State prison are no longer released on State parole but instead are released on “Post Release Community Supervision” (PRCS). These offenders are supervised by the Probation Department.
- Most offenders on State parole and all offenders on PRCS will now serve time in county jail for violations instead of State prison.
- The Court and not the State Parole Board began hearing violations of PRCS offenders. On July 1, 2013, the Court also began hearing violations of offenders on State Parole.
- The law states that counties should focus on using alternative sanctions and evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism (PC 17.5) more effectively.

AB 109 also created the Executive Committee of the previously established Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). This committee is responsible for creating and presenting a plan to the County Board of Supervisors regarding allocation of funds and implementation of policies and procedures related to Realignment. The plan is deemed accepted unless the Board of Supervisors rejects the plan with a four-fifths vote against. In such a circumstance, the plan is returned to the CCP for further consideration.

Existing Implementation

Each fiscal year since October 1, 2011, the Kern County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved the Kern County Public Safety Realignment Act Plan as recommended by the Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) as mandated by Penal Code Section 1230.1. These plans have directed funding to numerous county agencies and community organizations to account for the additional public safety burden placed on the County. The plans included a mix of intense supervision, evidence-based assessments and treatment, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, a day reporting center, increased jail capacity, jail incarceration alternatives, employment services, community-based organizations, District Attorney and Public Defender staff, multiagency law enforcement operations, and veteran services.

The CCP understood from the beginning that the Realignment process would evolve and change as it moved forward. The CCP acknowledged the need to be flexible in its approach to address aspects of Realignment as the practical and logistical realities presented themselves. The keys to making Realignment successful include the collection of data, communication between community partners, and a willingness to find solutions which best benefit our community.

There have been both successes and struggles since the beginning of Realignment. Challenges include the sheer number of realigned offenders continues to be significantly higher than projected (Tables 1 and 2). These higher than anticipated numbers put a strain on all CCP partners in the form of higher supervision caseloads and increased need for a variety of community services. The limited amount of State dedicated funds for Kern County has also been a challenge. This puts Kern County at a disadvantage compared to other counties who have considerably more resources to devote to services. The CCP developed a strategic plan to address the performance elements which will impact the amount Kern receives in Growth funding (the strategic plan is discussed in greater detail below). While Kern County has taken many positive and innovative steps to address Realignment, additional steps are needed; however, limited funding may restrict implementation.

There have been many positive actions taken by the CCP in response to Realignment. All parties involved in implementation have been fully engaged and worked together to make this difficult transition as successful as possible. By incorporating AB 109 legislative intent and ideas, Kern County is currently doing the following:

- Implementing evidence-based programs that have more long-lasting positive results.
- Utilizing Sheriff's Virtual Jail to allow and monitor conditional releases, which can save millions of dollars compared to incarceration.
- Improving interdepartmental cooperation in addressing specific issues and goals to improve communication, form partnerships, and expand services.
- Creating employment services and paid work-experience program
- Providing a Pre-Trial Release Program
- Reorganizing department workloads and units for maximization of efficiency related to implementation of AB 109 programs.

- Operating the Day Reporting Center, which produces pivotal changes in anti-social behaviors of offenders.
- Expanding in-custody educational, vocational, and evidence-based programs to provide the necessary tools to reduce recidivism.
- Utilizing the community-based organizations (CBO) program, which provides a multitude of services to offenders.
- Applying information gained from the criminal justice system benefit-cost analysis developed through collaboration with the national Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative
- Operating the Probation Department’s Adult Programs Center, which has an emphasis on evidence-based programming focused on changing anti-social behavior.

The CCP is dedicated to ensuring Realignment will be as successful as possible. Reviewing and revising the plan each year, provides the impetus for a strategic continuous improvement process.

Table 1 – PRCS and Mandatory Supervision Offenders (Sentenced under 1170-h)

Time Period	PRCS Packets Received	PRCS Population* (Snapshot as of April 25, 2022)	Offenders Sentenced to MS (As of May 20, 2022)	MS Population* (Snapshot as of April 25, 2022)
Oct 2011-May 20, 2023	10,572	2,255	3775	744

*Includes those on warrant status

Table 2 – AB 109 Population Impacts to Kern County Sheriff’s Office (KCSO)

Time Period	Parole Violators Received	Probation PRCS Violators PC 3455(A)	Probation Flash Violators PC 3454(C)	AB 109 NNN Population Received	Total AB 109 Population Impact to KCSO
Oct 2011-April 25, 2023	23,961	17,694	2,182	9,984	60,015

Strategic Plan for Factors Affecting Growth Funds

In October 2014, the CCP approved the establishment of an Ad Hoc Strategic Planning committee to develop a strategic plan specifically to address the factors affecting AB 109 Growth funds which become performance-based beginning with the Growth funds received in the Fall of 2016. In December 2014, the CCP contracted with a consultant to assist in the development of the plan. From January to May 2015, over 250 various community, agency and offender stakeholders were engaged through personal interviews and surveys. Many of them also participated in one of three stakeholder sessions which elicited their input regarding gaps, barriers, community resources, and innovative programming for the criminal justice community of Kern County. Their input was captured into five key focus areas. From the data collected, the Ad Hoc committee developed Mission, Vision, and Values statements (listed below) which were approved at the July 15, 2015, CCP meeting. The Strategic Plan is in final draft form and will be an on-going document as the CCP proceeds with refining and further developing Strategic Plan initiatives.

The Strategic Plan was relied heavily upon when determining the focus areas for the Request for Applications (RFA) released in September 2015, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) released in June 2016 and June 2018. The CCP will continue to utilize the Strategic Plan when determining areas of need for the adult criminal justice population.

Mission:

The Community Corrections Partnership is committed to working together in order to promote a safer community through effective strategies.

Vision:

The Community Corrections Partnership provides leadership through the partnering agencies and partnerships with the community to encourage, support, and network effectively for a safer community by doing the following:

- **Decrease criminal recidivism through data-driven decision making which addresses substance abuse, criminogenic factors, and mental health issues**

- Increase offenders' successful reintegration into the community using research-based strategies and interventions
- Encourage and support effective prevention strategies for members in the community
- Create opportunities for self-sufficiency among offenders

Values:

Community Safety: The CCP is committed to decisions which prioritize a safe and secure community, which increases the quality of life for all people in Kern County.

Accountability: The CCP holds itself and its partners to all established standards, agreements and policies.

Fiscally Responsible: The CCP believes in being good fiscal stewards of the public funds entrusted to the Partnership.

Research Matters: The CCP recognizes the importance of outcome-driven decision making by implementing current research and evidence-based practices.

Transparency: The CCP meetings are open to the public, all reports and agendas are available for review, and public input is welcomed.

Change: The CCP acknowledges people can change when they are willing and provided the opportunity and resources to succeed.

Evidence-Based Programming

Realignment encourages counties to focus on community-based corrections programs and evidence-based practices. To this end, Kern County has focused on the use of proven assessment tools, evidence-based practices, and the addition of evidence-based programs specifically to reduce recidivism and ensure public safety.

The Kern County Probation Department and Sheriff's Office utilize the Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA). The SRNA can accurately predict the level of an offender's risk to recidivate which allows targeted supervision for those at higher risk to re-offend. These departments have also implemented the dynamic needs portion of the assessment tool, the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA is a critical aspect of Programming and Supervision plans that focus on addressing the specific criminogenic needs of the offender.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services' (KernBHRS) Substance Use Disorder Division bases screening and assessment on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria that covers six dimensions including withdrawal potential, biomedical conditions, psychiatric conditions, motivation for recovery, relapse or other problem potential and recovery environment. The Stressful Life Experiences Screening (SLES) is utilized in substance use disorder treatment programs in order to gauge trauma that individuals may have experienced and to address it in a trauma-informed environment. These tools are strength-based, multidimensional assessments that address the patient's needs, barriers, liabilities, and willingness to participate in treatment. The screening tools also incorporate clients' strengths, resources, and support structure within their environment. These assessments are utilized in the creation of treatment plans in order to accurately place individuals into programming. Departments are committed to continuing to implement the use of assessments as a valuable evidence-base tool to most effectively serve the AB 109 population.

In addition to utilizing these various assessment tools, Probation Officers, Sheriff's Deputies, and KernBHRS staff have been trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI). MI is a conversational method that assists staff with developing intrinsic motivation within clients in order to change behavior. Once a Supervision, Programming, and/or Treatment plan is developed individuals are referred to various evidence-based programs.

Evidence-based programs are valuable assets due to their significant reduction of recidivism when completed with fidelity. The Probation Department's Adult Programs Center (APC) provides validated evidence-based programs to address specific criminogenic needs. APC offers Thinking for a Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART) and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and utilizes Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) which is an evidence-based approach to case management.

The Sheriff's Office Programs Unit of the Compliance Section has partnered with the KernBHRS' Substance Use Disorder Division and Correctional Behavioral Health to provide evidence-based curriculum to individuals in custody. Inmates are offered ART, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Matrix Program, MRT, Seeking Safety, and T4C. The classes equip offenders with new ways of

thinking, substance use disorder treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and coping skills. KernBHRS also provides these programs as out-patient services after release from custody.

Joint Evaluation Teams (JET) are AB 109 co-response teams uniquely qualified to assess the individual's crisis care service needs and simultaneously address public safety. Each co-response team is comprised of a staff member from KernBHRS and an officer from the Sheriff's Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) or Bakersfield Police Department (BPD). JET responds to crisis situations and visits a prioritized list of AB 109 individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorder issues. This collaborative approach places a law enforcement officer and member of KernBHRS in the same vehicle for the first time in Kern County, increasing the level of collaborative crisis care services. This collaboration leads to better service for individuals in crisis and heightened public safety.

A key component to the success of evidence-based programming is attributed to the collaboration between CCP agencies. The Probation Department shares data such as SRNA scores with the Sheriff's Office which is used as an added element for release and programming decisions. There is also a high level of inter-departmental cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and KernBHRS.

Many evidence-based programs offered to clients are facilitated by CCP agencies. These collaborative efforts foster greater communication and helps contribute to the success of programs. The increased use of evidence-based tools and inter-departmental cooperation is a positive by-product of Realignment.

Data Collection, Research, and Analysis

The passage of AB 109 compelled department heads to review the amount of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration that currently existed between county agencies. As a result, the department heads sought to gain an understanding of what impact AB 109 would have on individual departments and the county. Each department has assigned key knowledgeable staff to collaborate to formulate innovative ideas and solutions, to make well informed data-driven decisions on a timely basis, and to produce results in accordance with these observations.

In October 2011, the Kern County Probation Department created the Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) unit to assist Probation and the CCP with data collection and reporting. In fulfillment of these goals, the RAD unit provides the following services:

- Review and analysis of vital program data and quarterly reporting of dashboard reports to the CCP and Board of Supervisors regarding realignment activity within Kern County.
- Incorporate evidence and research into program development and policymaking.
- The submission of annual data reports to the Chief Probation Officers Association of California (CPOC), which report on data elements pertaining to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS), Mandatory Supervision, felony probation and youth offenders.
- Prepares, conducts, and administers the Request for Proposal (RFP) and the Request for Application (RFA) competitive grant processes for AB 109 funds, which are distributed through the Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Program.
- Conducts program evaluations, such as the DRC evaluation.
- Manages large inter-departmental projects, such as the Kern Targeted Outcomes Project.

The Sheriff's Office is also committed to data collection, research, and data analysis. The Sheriff's Office has partnered with California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) to examine the effects of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program. In 2013, the Department received grant funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for the RSAT program, an expansion of the Matrix Program. The RSAT program focuses on intensive, outpatient, substance abuse treatment which requires extensive data collection. Through the RSAT program, the Sheriff's Office provides two Office Service Assistants to collect and monitor data elements such as drug tests, class participation, ONA scores, recidivism, and others.

Additionally, the Department staffs two Sheriff Program Technicians (SPT) to collect and monitor data. One SPT is designated to evidence-based programming and works closely with Sheriff Deputies in the Programs Unit to monitor out-of-custody case management, recidivism, and other factors. The second SPT is dedicated to the CBO Program and receives daily census data from CBOs. They also track financial information, enrollment and waitlists, and successful completions or failures.

KernBHRS has implemented several changes to collect and maintain accurate data. In FY 2014/15, the Substance Use Disorder Division implemented the use of Flow Data to manage the number of program participants, which is used to capture accurate AB 109 participant numbers and to run reports.

Correctional Mental Health uses the Electronic Health Record (EHR) to collect screening data and run reports, such as crisis calls and discharge plans. Correctional Mental Health has also created pre and post-tests that collect information for programs, such as Thinking for a Change (T4C). The pre and post-tests allow for an in-depth analysis of data to move programs forward and were implemented in FY 2017/18.

Since the implementation of AB 109, the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, and KernBHRS have continued to participate in data sharing to effectively serve the population. The three departments collaborate and pool data to report CBO information (such as financial information, number of participants, services received, etc.) to the CCP, Board of Supervisors, and state agencies on an as-needed basis.

The Sheriff's Office participates in the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) pilot project by contributing to the state-wide research project to track and assess the reorganization of California's incarceration systems through data sharing.

Additionally, numerous agencies including the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, KernBHRS, Employer's Training Resource (ETR), Bakersfield Police Department, County Administrative Office (CAO), Public Defender's Office, and Kern County Superior Court collaborated to participate in the national Results First Initiative. Results First is brought to jurisdictions through a Pew Charitable Trust and the John D. and Catherine T. McArthur Foundation collaborative. Results First is a benefit-cost analysis of the Kern County adult criminal justice system. All agencies involved participated in data sharing and internal research to identify programs offered, marginal operational costs, and to obtain a county recidivism rate. The Results First model indicates the projected recidivism reduction produced by programs offered here in Kern County and monetizes these results. This information is then given to departments and policy makers to inform program decisions. The Results First initiative was reassigned to the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) who work directly with each county localizing the program. Kern County's is now called Kern Targeted Outcomes.

In FY 2023/24, data collection, research, and reporting remain significant as decision making will be based upon data extracted and reported, correlations between variables, and statistical analysis. Plans include further development of data tracker definitions and working within the development of the new system(s) to expand and/or improve the capacity for data collection, measurement, and evaluation training. Additionally, direct collaboration with other counties will be implemented, when possible, to facilitate networking opportunities and the development of new ideas to best serve AB 109 clients. The new CBO contract period will provide services for the period of calendar years 2023-2025. An annual report template was added in the new contracts to include consistent data elements such as demographics, drug screening, length of stay, program completion, supervision status, employment, programs and services.

County staff remain active on the State level to ensure Kern County is receiving all crucial and available resources, access to accurate and useful information, and recognized as an important and significant member of the Central Valley community. Each year, information will be provided to the CCP and the Board of Supervisors that provides a comprehensive assessment of all AB 109 implementation and Realignment activities.

FY 2023/24 Plan

Every year the CCP is tasked with developing a new plan which will address the pressing issues of Realignment in Kern County. The guiding principles remain public safety, reducing recidivism, and data-driven decision making. Each individual agency's specific plans are explained in the following pages.

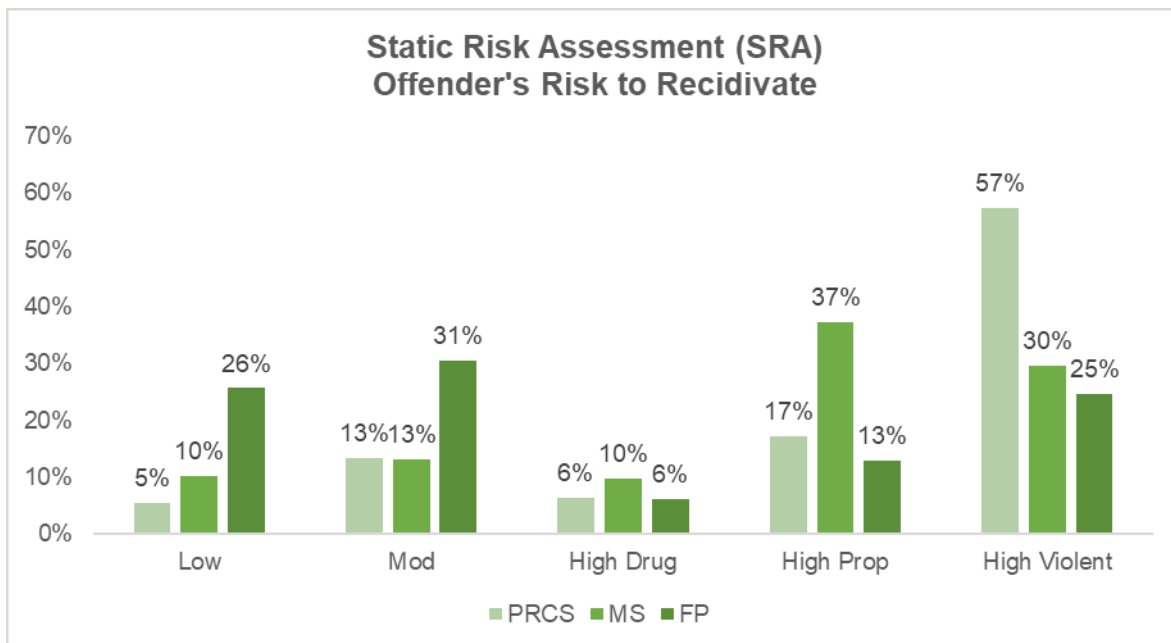
Probation Department

AB 109 redefined the California criminal justice system resulting in significant changes to the Adult Divisions of the Probation Department. Since the inception of Realignment, approximately 3,000 additional felony offenders are now under the supervision of the Probation Department. However, there are much more significant changes beyond the sheer numbers. Real philosophical and pragmatic transformations have permeated the way Probation does business. Evidence-based practices and data collection are the cornerstones of our recidivism reducing strategy. Breaking the cycle of re-offending is essential to ensuring long-term safety in our County. The Probation Department is on the cutting edge in this arena using such tools as evidence-based assessments, individualized case plans, response matrix, and criminogenic needs targeted programming. The benefits of reducing recidivism are evidenced by the reduction in victimizations and significant systematic cost savings. A detailed explanation of Probation's plan follows below.

Evidence-Based Assessment Tool

The foundation of the Department's movement toward evidence-based practices is a proven assessment tool. The Static Risk and Needs Assessment (SRNA) can predict with significant accuracy the level of an offender's risk to recidivate. This allows targeted supervision for those at higher risk to re-offend, thereby utilizing the Department's resources to greater capacity, efficiency, and effectiveness. Every offender under supervision is assessed with an SRA (Static Risk Assessment). This provides needed direction with caseload processing and prioritization. This tool also reveals the fundamental differences between the different supervision statuses (see Chart 1).

Chart 1 - Static Risk Assessment (as of April 25, 2023)



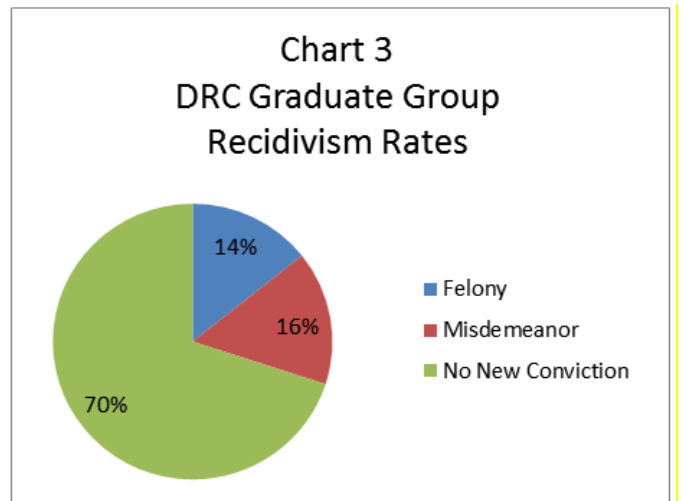
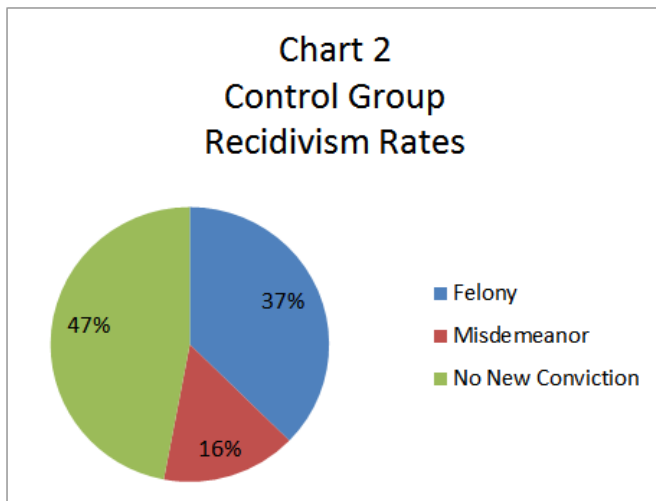
Based on this information, it is clear the realigned offenders (i.e., Post Release Community Supervision and Mandatory Supervision) are at a much higher risk to reoffend than the traditional felony probationers from a ratio standpoint. However, based on the high total of felony probationers, there is a significant number of high-risk offenders in this population as well.

The Probation Department shares SRA scores with the Sheriff's Office. This information is used as another element in decision making for releases and programming. The increased use of evidence-based tools and inter-department cooperation is a positive by-product of Realignment. The Probation Department is committed to cooperating with all of our criminal justice system partners. We all benefit when we share information and business tools.

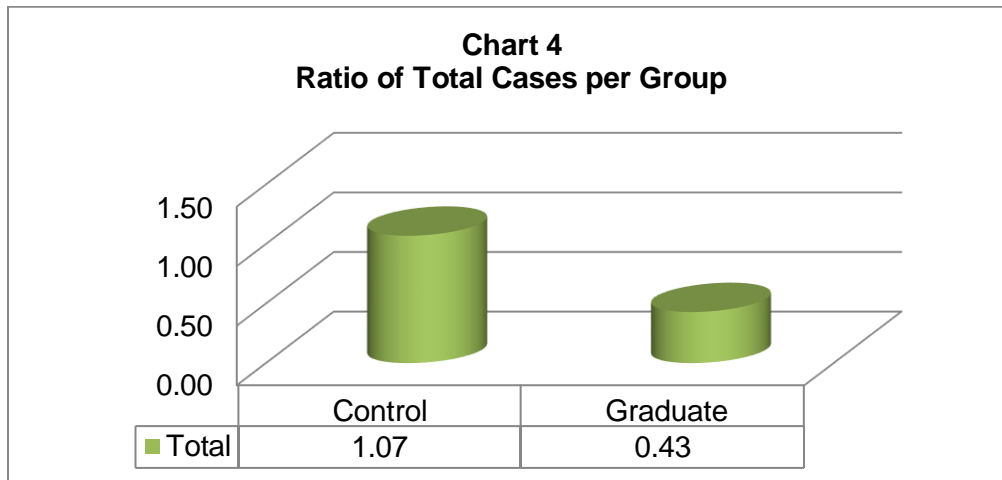
In addition to the SRA, the Department has implemented widespread use of the dynamic needs portion of the assessment tool, the Offender Needs Assessment (ONA). The ONA is a critical part of Probation's supervision plan post Realignment. The ONA identifies the offender's criminogenic needs and helps develop an individual case plan to address those needs. The Probation Department utilizes a holistic supervision paradigm. Holding offenders accountable is a priority; however, we must also attempt to place them in the best situation to succeed. This can be accomplished by matching their needs to the appropriate services. The Department is committed to conducting ONAs on all offenders on high-risk caseloads.

Day Reporting Center

One of the Probation Department's most innovative programs resulting from Realignment is the Day Reporting Center (DRC). The DRC has a capacity to serve 100 high risk offenders at a time. A previous internal study of the effectiveness of the DRC showed the positive impact the program has on participants by significantly reducing recidivism. Graduates recidivated only 30% of the time compared to the control group at 53%; felony recidivism was 14% compared to 37% (see Charts 2 and 3).



The impact was even more pronounced when the actual number of criminal cases was examined. The control group produced a ratio of 1.07 criminal cases to offender while the graduates only produced .43 cases to 1 offender (see Chart 4, top of page 16). The full study can be located at <http://www.kernprobation.com/ab109ccp-realignment/plans-and-reports/>.



In addition to our internal study, there are national studies which reflect the positive benefits of day reporting centers.

The DRC is contracted with GEO Reentry, a company that operates similar reporting centers throughout the nation. GEO Reentry has a long history of successfully reducing recidivism with their programs. They use the same assessment tool as the Probation Department, formalize specific case plans to address criminogenic needs, and provide a wide variety of evidence-based programs (EBP's) and other services onsite. Criminogenic needs related to employment, education, aggression, anti-social behavior, and substance abuse can all be addressed in one location. Key components of the DRC include Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, job readiness, substance abuse testing, daily reporting, sanctions, rewards, and supervision in conjunction with GEO Reentry and the assigned Deputy Probation Officers (DPO). The DRC can change the lives of offenders and break the cycle of criminal behavior, which is crucial to decreasing recidivism, reducing crime, ensuring public safety, and limiting societal and monetary costs. The Probation Department has witnessed the incredible and positive transformation of DRC graduates and believes this program is key to reducing recidivism and complying with the AB 109 legislative intent.

Adult Programs Center

The Adult Programs Center (APC) is a program within the Adult Programs and Supports Unit of the AB 109 Services Division which focuses on delivering evidence-based programs (EBP) to adult offenders on Felony Probation, Mandatory Supervision, and Post Release Community Supervision. APC is unique in that the program is mostly delivered by non-sworn Probation Program Specialists. These Specialists are provided extensive training in numerous EBP modalities to address the specific criminogenic needs of the offender, such as employment, education, aggression, anti-social peers, anti-social behavior, and substance abuse. Currently, APC delivers the following EBP modalities: Thinking for a Change (T4C), Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), and Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). The modalities involve both group and individual counseling sessions and have demonstrated to reduce recidivism through empirical evidence.

APC is essentially two programs, a day program and night program. The night program is reserved for those with employment, school or childcare barriers preventing them from participating in the day program. Since school and/or employment are often strong protective factors for remaining crime free, these participants do not always require the more intensive services offered through the day program. The day program provides more flexibility for class times and attendance frequency, allowing the offender to complete the program in a shorter time frame.

Dedicated onsite Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) provide daily truancy and retention interventions for the APC. Should an offender not attend the program for an unexcused reason, the officers attempt to locate and return the participant to the program. This is essential to improving performance outcomes as participants stay in the program longer and are more likely to complete the program due to increased supervision and swift accountability. For those that choose non-compliance, their behavior is addressed in a timely and immediate manner. The onsite DPOs are also trained in the EBPs used at APC and can reinforce what is being delivered by the specialists. Additionally, the onsite DPOs assist with any behavioral problems and participant conflicts, thus providing the specialists and participants with added security and convenient access to an officer.

The APC is constantly adjusting and evolving to meet the needs of the offender and the community. As a result, the APC is focused on increasing the delivery of services by adding the following components: job development, education coordination, trauma-informed care, and substance abuse treatment with drug/alcohol testing.

Supervision

As a result of Realignment, the Probation Department's supervision responsibilities now include PRCS offenders, Mandatory Supervision offenders and an increased number of felony probationers. Regardless of the supervision status, certain supervision principles are universal. This includes manageable caseload sizes with the goal of continuing to improve the officer to offender ratio. The smaller ratio provides officers with more time to dedicate to each interaction, which enhances the effectiveness of evidence-based practices.

A Response Matrix, including redirection, additional terms and conditions, treatment, electronic monitoring, flash incarcerations, the DRC and APC, community-based organizations, and formal violations resulting in custody time, is being used to address violation behaviors. A response commensurate with the nature of the violation, the number of prior violations and the offender's risk level will be imposed. Responses will be swift, certain, specific and graduated. As part of the Response Matrix, appropriate incentives will also be utilized to facilitate and reinforce the positive behaviors of offenders. Research shows that the incentive to sanction ratio should be 4:1 to be effective. The Response Matrix was designed to be clear and easy to follow which fosters consistency in officers' responses to offender behaviors. DPOs also utilize Motivational Interviewing, a technique which has been shown to develop an offender's intrinsic motivation to initiate a change in their own behavior.

Investigations

Investigations staff have responded to the need for additional assessments, increased court reports and other needed services. These staff help ensure the Court continues to receive pre-sentence investigation reports in a timely manner and that current courtroom coverage can be maintained. They also create an SRA for every Felony Probation and Mandatory Supervision offender who is sentenced locally. Investigations staff play an integral part in the criminal justice system. Several AB 109 positions have been added to these units to help compensate for the increased work as a result of Realignment.

Pre-Trial

On March 25, 2021, the Supreme Court of California authored an opinion affirming the First Appellate District decision, *In re HUMPHREY*. At issue was the setting of bail and the defendant's ability to pay that bail. The Supreme Court of California held true that bail must be set in an amount that is affordable to a defendant. A Court must make a finding the defendant has the ability to pay bail but willfully refuses in order for a detention to be based solely on monetary bail conditions. Absent that finding, the Court must find the defendant to be a danger to the community, a danger to a specific victim, or is not likely to make future court hearings to continue any pre-trial detention. Additionally, if the Court makes a clear and convincing finding as to one of those considerations, the Court must still consider less restrictive options to detention.

To comply with this decision, the Probation Department created a Pre-trial Unit to assist the Court in making informed decisions regarding pre-trial defendants and to provide monitoring services for those defendants released from custody. The assessment unit gathers and submits a summation of the defendant's criminal history at the time of arraignment. The monitoring unit provides monitoring services based on the level of monitoring designated by the Court and defendants are contacted monthly, bi-weekly or weekly via phone and/or home calls. Additionally, GPS monitoring is available on select defendants.

Research, Analysis, and Data Unit

The Research, Analysis, and Data (RAD) unit is responsible for data collection, state and local reporting, and program evaluations. The unit has also been involved in several large projects, including the Kern Targeted Outcomes Project (formerly the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative), the data collection effort lead by the Public Policy Institute of California, and several Request for Proposals/Applications. Within the RAD unit, three Departmental Analysts and an Office Services Specialist are funded with Realignment dollars. The Probation Department understands the importance of, and has committed to, research and data.

Information Technology

AB 109 has created numerous IT challenges for the Probation Department. The Department is the hub of Realignment data collection for the CCP and the County. Integration of information, data reports and complex recidivism formulas are all necessary and important components of the overall success of Realignment. Furthermore, the changes in the law have created the need for additional reports and case management system (CMS) capacities. There has also been an increased request for information from State agencies and organizations for numerous studies. The Probation Department must maintain a sufficient level of IT services to meet these challenges.

Support Staff

Four Office Service Technicians (OST's) are specifically assigned to the Adult Probation Services and AB 109 Services Divisions. These positions are needed to support the increased work associated with reception areas, reports, filing and miscellaneous paperwork. Additionally, three Probation Technicians assigned to the Adult Probation Services and AB 109 Services Divisions assist DPOs directly with their case management duties. Support staff play a vital role in the Department's success in meeting mission critical goals and in the implementation of programs.

Collaboratives

The Probation Department has maintained and grown numerous collaboratives since the beginning of Realignment. It is clear that to accomplish the Department's goals of public safety and reducing recidivism, a county-wide team approach is needed. Some of these collaboratives include ETR, KernBHRS, CBOs, and other law enforcement agencies. ETR receives referrals from DPOs for AB 109 employment and work experience programs. These programs offer offenders a way to improve their job skills and readiness for employment. Officers work closely with both mental health professionals and substance abuse specialists from KernBHRS. Certain offenders must have their behavioral health and substance abuse issues addressed before they can move forward with their overall rehabilitation. The Probation Department directly refers offenders into a number of community-based organizations which address many different issues, including transitional housing. These additional services increase the likelihood of successful completion from supervision and are a welcome and needed resource for officers. Probation works closely with other law enforcement agencies on a regular basis and is an integral member of the Street Interdiction Team (SIT), a group that conducts collaborative operations throughout the County.

Operating Costs

To achieve the stated goals and objectives as listed in this section, there are numerous associated operating costs. These costs include office and field equipment, licensing rights, vehicle maintenance and fuel, training, overtime, and more. The largest expenses are building leasing costs for our AB 109 Services Division.

Probation Department's FY 2023/24 AB 109 Base Allocation

<u>Position/Item</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Cost per Unit</u>	<u>Cost for 1 Year</u>
Probation Division Director	2	\$306,599	\$613,198
Probation Supervisor	5	\$215,375	\$1,076,875
Deputy Probation Officer III	15	\$194,899	\$2,923,485
Deputy Probation Officer	62	\$155,590	\$9,646,580
Probation Program Specialist	10	\$113,252	\$1,132,520
Probation Technician	10	\$99,853	\$998,530
Office Services Specialist	1	\$98,610	\$98,610
Office Services Technician	4	\$91,258	\$365,032
Departmental Analyst	3	\$124,552	\$373,656
Database Analyst	1	\$178,174	\$178,174
Programmer	1	\$159,025	\$159,025
Technical Support Specialist	1	\$115,469	\$115,469
	115		
Total Salaries & Benefits			\$17,681,154
Day Reporting Center (DRC)			\$1,164,996
Operating Expenses			\$3,100,346
Total Services & Supplies			\$4,265,342
Total			\$21,946,496

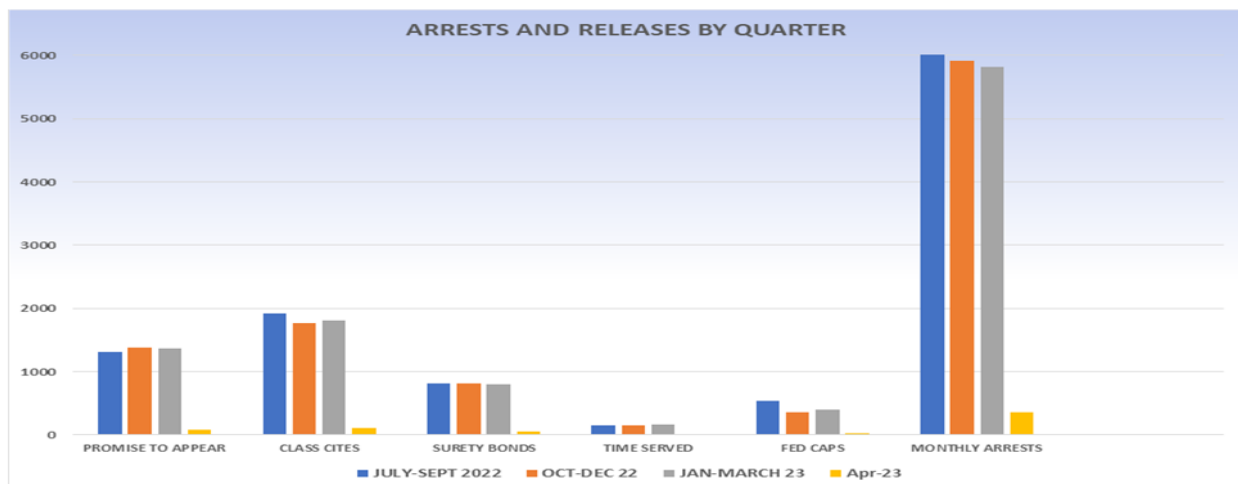
Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office jail system was heavily impacted by the pandemic in 2021, resulting in significant operational changes necessary to protect staff, incarcerated persons, and the community from the threat of COVID-19. In June of 2021, many key jail activities, such as visiting, in-custody classes, and religious services had to be suspended or limited based on guidance from local health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As of August 2022, classes resumed on a limited basis, with a 6:1 student-teacher ratio. As pandemic restrictions have been reduced, the Sheriff's Office has gradually resumed normal operations in the jails. Despite continuing challenges, the Sheriff's Office continues its AB 109 related efforts to reduce recidivism.

AB 109 diverted many offenders who would previously have been sentenced to state prisons and sentenced them instead to the county jail. This shift increased the jail population during the first three years of Realignment, forcing the Sheriff's Office to release as many as 9,500 inmates early per year to keep the population under federally stipulated limits. In the wake of Proposition 47, which took effect in 2014 and converted many felony crimes into misdemeanors, the number of arrests and the need for early releases declined significantly.

Early releases have again increased in recent years as portions of the Sheriff's Office jail capacity remain unoccupied due to staffing challenges. Releases based on the California Judicial Council's zero-bail order and releases to reduce the inmate population in response to the threat of COVID-19 accelerated early releases. As of April 1, 2023, there were 6,963 early releases (generally called "Fed Caps" and "Class Cites") in FY 2022/23. Fed cap's and non-violent unsentenced felonies were cited to prevent incarcerated persons population levels from exceeding the limitations imposed by the Anderson v. Kern court order.

The chart below illustrates the number of arrests made each quarter of FY 2022/23, along with the types of releases during the same time periods. The types of arrest and releases were consistent throughout each quarter. Please note, the fourth quarter data for each category, represented by the gold bars, indicate lower numbers because data for May and June of 2023 was not available at the time of this report.



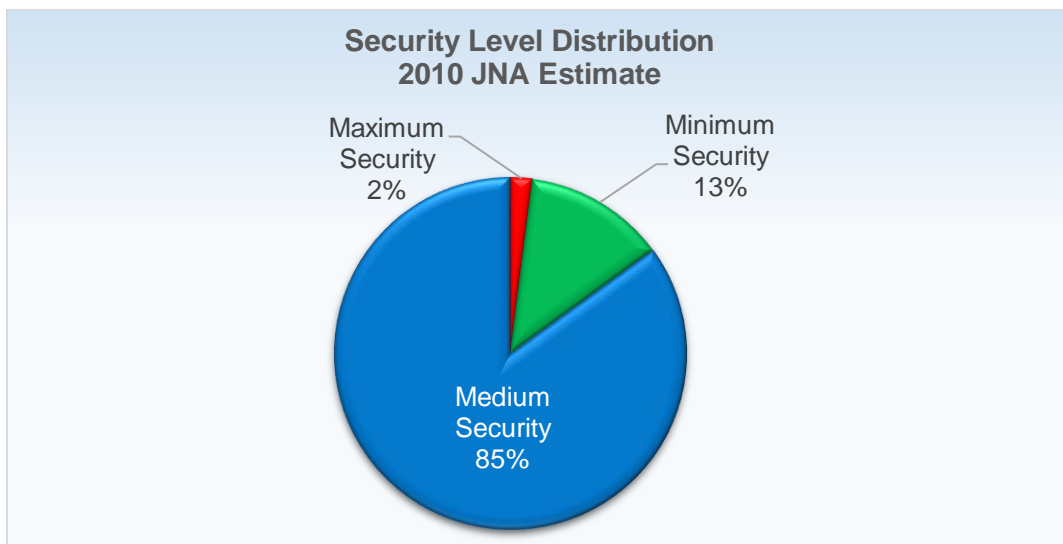
Realignment also sentenced individuals to county jail for terms similar in length to what they would have served in state prison. Whereas the maximum pre-Realignment jail sentence was generally one-year, post-Realignment inmates are often sentenced to two years or longer. The longest sentence currently being served in the Sheriff's jail is three years.

The Challenges of the Post-AB 109 Incarcerated Population

Apart from the number of inmates and length of their sentences, the current incarcerated population is qualitatively different than that of the pre-realignment era. The more challenging nature of the post-Realignment jail population can be illustrated by comparing a snapshot of the current jail population with statistics presented in the *2011 Jail Needs Assessment*. Of the 1,560 individuals in custody on April 14, 2023:

- 4% were classified as high-risk/staff assaultive, as opposed to 0.5% in 2010;
- Approximately 12.4% were in custody for murder or attempted murder;
- 19% were administratively separated (housed by themselves), as compared to approximately 3% to 5% of inmates in 2010;
- 57% were gang affiliated, as opposed to 33% in 2010; Of the gang-affiliated inmates currently in custody, 43% were charged with violent crimes;
- 95% were felons, compared to 84% in 2010;
- Approximately 71% were receiving mental health services, as compared to the 2010 estimate of 15%.

The chart below illustrates the inmate security levels in 2010. In 2023, the maximum-security inmates comprise approximately 12% of the current jail population, as opposed to only 2% in 2010.



AB 109 also created a core of inmates serving longer sentences in the jails. Long-term inmates tend to present more challenging inmate management issues, as they often require more services, including medical and mental health care. Additionally, they tend to become familiar and comfortable in their surroundings, learning to manipulate procedures and circumvent security. As they become more skilled, they influence shorter term inmates to act in a similar fashion.

The above-mentioned increase in gang activity among inmates poses considerable security challenges. Serious gang rivalries and gang-politics are key drivers of violence among inmates, which has increased markedly in the wake of Realignment. Coordinated criminal gang activities, such as the smuggling of narcotics, cell phones, and other contraband have also increased.

The increase in inmates needing special housing, such as administrative separation, has also taken its toll on jail operations. Inmates who require special housing create a significant draw on jail resources in terms of available beds, the capacity of holding cells, and the staff time needed to manage and supervise these inmates.

These changes in the inmate population have posed significant security and operational challenges in the Sheriff's jails. AB 109 funding continues to play an important role in helping the Sheriff's Office meet these challenges.

Meeting the Challenge

The Kern Justice Facility has helped to mitigate some of the above-mentioned issues by providing more flexible housing better suited to the post-realignment jail population. That said, the Sheriff's Office has continued to improve safety and security in other areas. AB 109 funding has supported these efforts, funding improvements such as the installation of improved security cuff-ports in cell doors at the Pre-Trial Facility.

While these improvements can have a positive impact on the safety and security of the jail system, there is no substitute for dedicated and well-trained staff. Staffing continues to be a struggle for the Sheriff's Office. While academies and other hiring efforts work to mitigate this issue, keeping up with the rate of attrition continues to be a challenge. AB 109 funding continues to play an important role in staffing the jails and operating various programs related to Realignment.

Programs and Services

The Sheriff's Office continues to provide quality inmate programs grounded in evidence-based practices. Program staff facilitate empirically proven curriculum to incarcerated individuals that focuses on cognitive behavioral therapy. Evidence-based practices strive to meet the specific needs of incarcerated persons by integrating clinical expertise, external scientific evidence, and client perspectives. The reduction of recidivism remains the core mission of program delivery.

Proper assessment is the key to ensuring incarcerated persons are provided the treatment, services, and a level of supervision appropriate to their needs and risk of recidivating. Sheriff's program staff is trained in evidence-based assessment techniques that improve the selection of programs and services

specific to an individual participant's criminogenic needs. These techniques also help to create a re-entry case plan and link participants to available resources upon release.

As discussed below, the number of participants able to attend in-custody programs was significantly curtailed by the restrictions necessary to protect staff and the jail population from COVID-19. In FY 2022/23, 31 individuals attended evidence-based and rehabilitative classes while in custody. Some of the evidence-based classes being offered within the jail facilities include the following:

- The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program is a program in which participants are housed, to the degree feasible, separately from the general population. The treatment program includes a 100 day in-custody component followed by a four-to six-month-long aftercare (out-of-custody) component. RSAT includes several evidence-based curricula including the following, some of which are also provided outside of the RSAT program:
- The Matrix Model is an intensive drug treatment program that teaches inmates about their addictions and helps them identify and examine ways to cope with high-risk situations that lead to relapse.
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART) utilizes multi-component, cognitive-behavioral treatment to promote pro-social behavior by addressing factors that contribute to aggression.
- Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) is a cognitive-behavioral treatment strategy designed specifically for offender populations. The purpose of MRT is to instill and develop higher levels of moral reasoning in inmates, which leads to moral thinking and behavior. It also helps inmates acknowledge how their behaviors affect others and helps them learn to change their behaviors to more positive social behaviors and beliefs.
- Educational and Vocational Services: The Bakersfield Adult School (BAS), a part of the Kern High School District, has worked in partnership with the Kern County Sheriff's Office for over three decades. It is one of the largest partner agencies currently working with the Sheriff's Office. Prior to the pandemic, there were nearly 25 teachers instructing upwards of 90 educational and vocational classes per week in a variety of subjects. Approximately 416 inmates attended education based and vocational courses during their incarceration in FY 2022/23. There continues to be strong relationship between educational programs and the reduction of recidivism.



As mentioned above, the pandemic presented a challenge regarding programming in the custody setting. Social distancing requirements significantly restricted the ability to hold in-person classes in the jails. As of August 2022, classes resumed limiting class sizes to accommodate COVID-19 guideline restrictions. To adapt to those limitations, the Sheriff's Office agreed on a class size ratio of 6 students per 1 instructor. Shortly thereafter, the first post-pandemic, in-person RSAT cohort was started with a limited number of participants. RSAT has successfully completed 3 cohorts during the FY 2022/23. With the assistance of our specialized programs deputy, a Spanish speaking only cohort was successfully facilitated for the first time. The program has continued with additional in-person cohorts while maintaining social distancing and following the guidelines recommended by local health officials.

Bakersfield Adult School offers several courses such as Substance Abuse Prevention, Anger Management, Parenting, GED Preparation/Testing as needed, and Batterer Intervention. Many of the classes offered are approved by the courts, as well as the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, Probation, and State Parole.

The Lerdo staff dining facility is operated by in-custody program participants who are taught basic food service skills and industry standard equipment training. As of April 13th, 2023, we have awarded 79 cafeteria certificates in partnership with the Bakersfield Adult School Program. Participants of this program can also earn a ServSafe certificate, which improves their employment marketability when applying for jobs after release. During FY 2022/23, 14 students obtained ServSafe certificates.

Partner Services

The Sheriff's Office collaborates with numerous governmental agencies and community-based organizations to improve the provision of services that help remove barriers to successful community re-entry for the inmate population. For example, the Sheriff's Office continues its established partnership with the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) to assist inmates in resolving child support issues. In FY 2022/23, 122 inmates utilized this service.

The Sheriff's Office also maintains a strong working relationship with America's Job Center (AJC). AJC staff located at the Lerdo Facilities provides employment services to in-custody participants with

additional referrals to AJC services after release. AJC continues to work with the Sheriff's Office to develop a "small bites" curriculum model to better serve participants with short jail stays, who can find it difficult to complete longer classes before their time in custody is over. The "small bites" model will allow for flexible participation in one or more short-term classes as an alternative to committing to a longer program.

Pretrial Release Program

The Sheriff's Office continues to release low-risk inmates into the community prior to their arraignment via the Pretrial Release Program. The Kern County Superior Court has given the Sheriff's Office authority to release inmates deemed eligible by the Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI). The VPRAI is an evidence-based tool that assesses an inmate's risk of failing to appear in court and their risk to community safety.

In FY 2022/23, 6 inmates were released by the Sheriff's Office via the Pretrial Release Program.

Sheriff's Virtual Jail

The Virtual Jail program allows the Sheriff's Office to maintain varying degrees of oversight and compliance monitoring for released participants. Many Virtual Jail inmates participate in mental health services and substance abuse treatment programs. Some continue to attend educational or vocational programs. There are three Virtual Jail programs: Sheriff's Parole (SP), the Work Release Program, and the Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP). The overall goal of the Virtual Jail is to reduce recidivism and to help participants reconnect with their families and become gainfully employed, law-abiding citizens.

In FY 2022/23, as of April 24, 2023, EMP and Sheriff's Parole combined had a total of 457 participants. For the fiscal year so far, 255 participants had successfully completed the EMP and Sheriff's Parole program. However, 98 participants violated the terms of the program and were subsequently returned to custody.

The Virtual Jail staff has continued its emphasis on drug testing to ensure compliance among program participants. EMP staff conducted 141 drug tests with a 68% negative test rate. Responses to participants who tested positive included admonishment, discipline, arrest for violation of their terms of supervision, or a referral to the Probation Department's Day Reporting Center (DRC), the BHRS Gateway Team, or NA/AA meetings to help in rehabilitation.

More than 87 remote alcohol detection devices have been deployed among released inmates who had convictions for driving under the influence through April 24, 2023. The remote alcohol detection devices require participants to test randomly at least five times per day and use facial recognition software to confirm the identity of the users. In FY 2022/23, these devices conducted a total of 38,794 breath tests on participants with the following results: 32,100 passed tests, 116 failed tests, and 6,578 missed or incomplete tests. This amounts to an overall compliance rate of 83 percent. Participants who missed a scheduled test were contacted and required to test immediately. Those who tested positive were admonished, disciplined, and/or arrested for a violation of their terms of supervision.

Occasionally, the Sheriff's Office may use ankle monitors for inmates requiring prolonged admittances at Kern Medical. In the past year, the Sheriff's Office used a monitor on one inmate for 144 hours in the hospital. This equates to 18 eight-hour shifts that would otherwise have been filled by a deputy to guard the inmate, resulting in approximately \$5,760 in staff cost savings.

Moving Forward

Proposed AB 109 Base Allocation Funding for FY 2023/24

The Sheriff's Office proposes allocation of its FY 2023/24 base funding in the amount of \$24,236,190. in accordance with the established 39.27% of the overall base allocation.

The funding will be allocated to fund the following:

- The implementation of a drone system;
- The installation of cell door cuff-ports in Pre-Trial housing units;
- Upgrades to a Pre-Trial Pod control system;
- Increases to contracted services and facility improvements funded or partially funded by AB 109;
- Increased Salary and Benefits Costs - To cover increased personnel costs. These costs include recent salary increases, and escalating benefits costs (e.g., health care, retirement).

The chart below shows the recommended Sheriff's Office AB 109 Budget for FY 2023/24, including updated staffing costs.

Sheriff's Office Proposed FY 2023/24 AB 109 Allocation

POSITION / ITEM	QTY	COST PER UNIT	ANNUAL COST
Detentions Deputy	42	\$178,830	\$7,510,857
Deputy Sheriff II CA	19	\$193,684	\$3,680,001
Program Specialist	8	\$111,426	\$891,406
Deputy Sheriff II C	5	\$182,151	\$910,757
Sheriff's Support Technician	7	\$86,820	\$607,740
Senior Deputy Sheriff	2	\$220,295	\$440,589
Sheriff's Aide	4	\$104,556	\$418,223
Detentions Senior Deputy	2	\$198,671	\$397,341
Sheriff's Lieutenant	1	\$295,962	\$295,962
Program Technician	3	\$93,325	\$279,974
Detentions Lieutenant	1	\$257,985	\$257,985
Sheriff Sergeant	1	\$247,657	\$247,657
Admin Coordinator	2	\$117,457	\$234,914
Detentions Sergeant	1	\$209,745	\$209,745
Light Vehicle Driver	2	\$86,820	\$173,640
Programmer II/Systems Analyst II	1	\$152,925	\$152,925
Info Syst/Technical Support Specialist III	1	\$123,892	\$123,892
Maintenance Worker 4	1	\$105,353	\$105,353
Sheriff's Support Specialist	1	\$93,684	\$93,684
Total Salaries & Benefits	104		\$17,032,648
Overtime			\$500,000
Total Services and Supplies			\$6,703,542
Total Proposed FY 23/24 AB109 Allocation			\$24,236,190

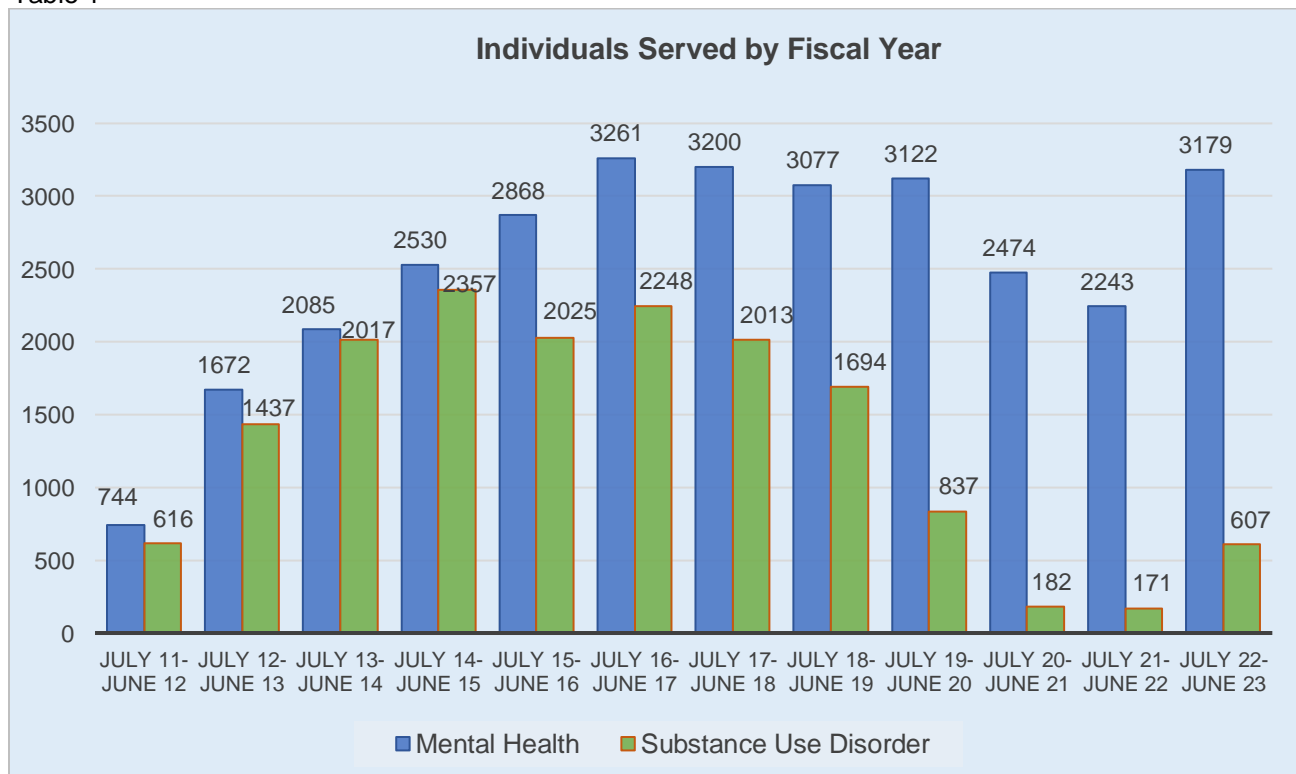


The Kern County Sheriff's Office is committed to work in partnership with our community to enhance the safety, security, and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Kern County through professional public safety services.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department

Since the implementation of AB109 in October 2011, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) experienced an increase in the service needs for individuals with criminal justice involvement. As noted in the graph below, the number of individuals requesting services decreased during the Covid-19 Pandemic when a stay-at-home order was in place. Currently, with restrictions lifted and the department responding to the changing needs in the community, the number of individuals obtaining services has significantly increased and more individuals have been served. Through AB109 Public Safety Realignment funding, the goal of KernBHRS is to address mental health and substance use disorders of AB109 designated individuals as well as their families. Making treatment in these two areas a priority will aid in reducing recidivism in hospitalization, incarceration, and days of homelessness for the population served. The department's treatment strategies target life skills development, anger management, psychological trauma, and errors in reasoning or criminal thinking. Services utilize evidence-based and/or best practice strategies focusing on mental illness and substance use. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are prorated), KernBHRS served a total of 3,786 individuals with an AB109 category assignment. Of those, 313 individuals were treated in both Mental Health (MH) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) service systems. Over the past year, KernBHRS has fully transitioned back to in-person services where client care has continued to be of utmost importance. The graph (Table 1) below reflects the number of AB109-assigned individuals who were provided mental health and/or substance use disorder services by the department since 2011.

Table 1



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated) - July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Programs and Services

Behavioral Health In-Custody Services

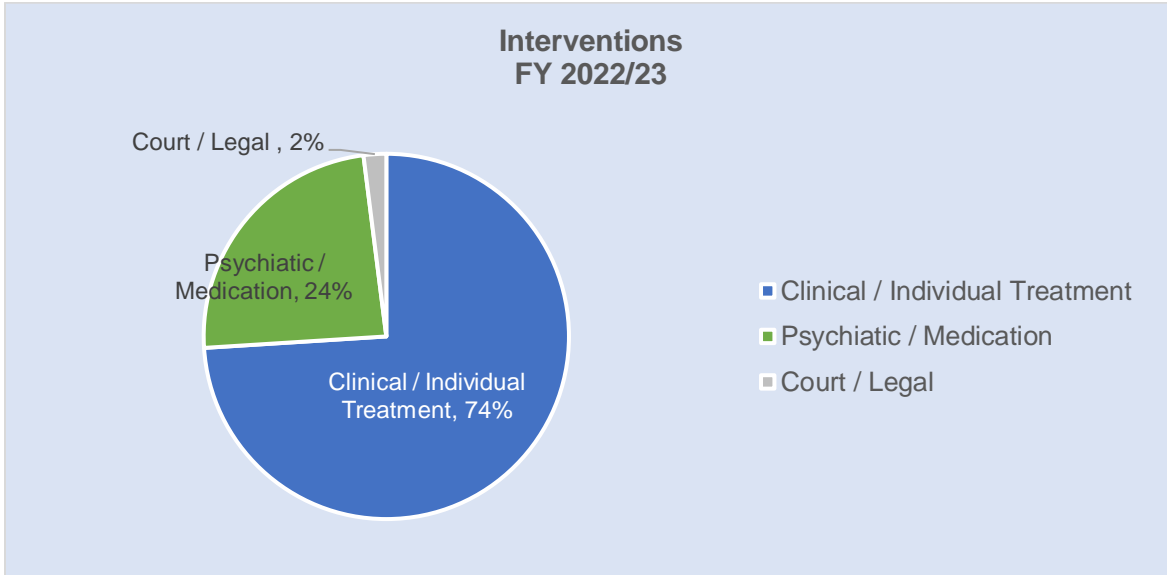
Within the Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Detention Facilities, (which include Central Receiving Family (CRF), Justice, and Pre-Trial), the KernBHRS Correctional Behavioral Health Team (CBH) provides onsite behavioral health services to the incarcerated population. The team links these individuals to KernBHRS outpatient teams including Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services, contract providers, outside agencies (Probation and Parole) and Community-Based Organizations to provide continuity of care upon release to the community. CBH is an access point within the KernBHRS System of Care, as well as an adjunct team as they look for opportunities to link individuals for continued treatment once released from custody. Prior to release from custody, discharge planning for continued treatment, such as immediate service appointments and bridge medications are set up for post release. The CBH team worked a hundred percent on site throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and were diligent to follow all CDC guidelines. Staff and clients' safety were of uttermost importance during these challenging times as face to face services continued. As we have worked to transition out of the pandemic, CBH has worked to get clients to engage and increase overall services for this population with both individual and group services. The CBH Team collaborates with the Kern Linkage Division treatment teams: Adult Transition Team (ATT), Forensic Services Team, Supportive Pathways Opportunities (SPO) Team, as well as SUD Division treatment teams including the Gateway and Substance Treatment and Recovery Team. Coordination and continuity of care are established by linking individuals to these community-based specialty mental health, and substance use treatment teams to address severe and persistent mental illness and provide services that focus on the reduction and elimination of re-entry into the jail/prison system. CBH has established a strong relationship with KCSO and the Kern Hospital Authority, Kern Medical, allowing for access to holistic treatment for the incarcerated population by addressing mental health, substance use and physical care needs while incarcerated and continuing upon release while individuals reintegrate into the community. CBH also provides after hour services for support to KCSO for consultation, discharge planning, and/or reporting out to the facilities for 5150 evaluations if needed.

Over the past fiscal year, CBH has facilitated bridge medications for individuals discharging from all facilities (CRF, Justice, Pre-Trial), when transitioning to out of custody resources including the Access and Assessment Team, Co-Response Team, KernBHRS outpatient teams, contract providers and/or a support person. Discharges to the Psychiatric Evaluation Center (PEC) and or the Crisis Walk-In Clinic (CWIC) are provided for individuals who have been ordered released from custody but are not yet stable and require additional support upon their release. CBH can complete 5150 evaluations in-house to negate unnecessary transports to crisis services, alleviating an increase in inpatient bed space. If a transport is necessary to either PEC or CWIC, CBH works with those teams and KCSO for the coordination of this linkage. The goal is to provide continuity of care and a "warm" handoff to easily access behavioral health services without a lapse between release and outpatient services.

The Inmate Stabilization and Assessment Team (ISAT) works collaboratively with CBH and Kern Medical to ensure medication compliance, cleanliness of cells, managing the Direct Observation Unit, managing suicide watch and bed space, and conducting daily welfare checks of all Administrative Segregated inmates. The ISAT Sergeant and CBH Supervisor meet weekly to discuss cases and develop plans of care and treatment. Having ISAT staff available has ensured CBH has a specific point

of contact to make for easier access to individuals, improved follow-through, increased medication compliance, consistency, and more accurate referrals. Since the initiation of ISAT, there has been a decrease in deaths by suicide as well as suicide attempts within the KCSO Facilities.

Table 2



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

CBH provided a total of 27,079 services to incarcerated individuals during FY 2022-23 (Table 2) inclusive of treatment services that were court ordered or related to other legal activities, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, other psychiatric/medication related services, clinical group and/or individual treatment services.

Substance Use Disorder In-Custody Services

The KernBHRS in-custody substance use program is supported by KCSO in collaboration with CBH. The program increases in-custody and out-of-custody linkage to treatment for all individuals within the jail system. Staff providing substance use disorder services are certified drug and alcohol counselors. During the FY 2022/23, two Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) cohorts completed 250 groups with 36 participants and 21 graduating from the program. CBH works in collaboration with KCSO to increase and obtain consistent engagement from participants in treatment. Moving forward out of the pandemic, CBH has worked to incorporate Gateway back into in-custody services to ensure rapport building, linkage, and continuity of care for RSAT clients; successfully linking eleven participants. The program utilizes evidenced-based treatment modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Aggression Replacement Therapy, The Matrix Model, Seeking Safety, and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). By participating in these groups, individuals learn pro-social skills and resources to better equip themselves for real life situations they will encounter upon release. Individuals practice skills and evaluate their effectiveness towards achieving their goals in preparation for challenges they may face during reintegration into society and gain skills needed to successfully achieve their goals.

Adult Transition Team

The Adult Transition Team (ATT) serves individuals with serious and persistent mental health conditions who have a lengthy legal history often with multiple incarcerations. In addition, ATT serves individuals returning from State Hospitals who have received competency restoration services and require support to obtain continuity of care. ATT staff include Recovery Specialists, Therapists, and Substance Use Disorder Specialists who utilize evidence-based treatment approaches. This team works closely with the Kern BHRS Correctional Behavioral Health (CBH) team, with the primary point of entry facilitated by an ATT Liaison stationed within the Sheriff's Detention Facilities. The Liaison conducts screenings and assessments while individuals are incarcerated in order to assist with linkage to outpatient services. Individuals who meet criteria for services with ATT are then linked with a Recovery Specialist to establish rapport and assist the individual in their transition from jail to the community prior to release. Referral sources include self-referrals, other outpatient Clinicians, detention staff, family members, CBH, family advocate, probation officers, parole agents, the Public Defender, and the District Attorney's Office. ATT service goals are to improve the mental health and substance use status of individuals served, and reduce recidivism days of hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness.

Throughout the last fiscal year, ATT began to return to pre-pandemic services, although ATT was able to provide almost all services face-to-face, while still offering telehealth options for those who became ill prior to their appointments during the pandemic. ATT staff continued to make asserted efforts to see high risk individuals by coordinating with housing providers and inpatient facilities to schedule and facilitate safe face-to-face visits. Furthermore, ATT staff worked collaboratively with housing providers, families, The Conservators Office, and other agencies to enhance support for individuals who required intensive services regardless of COVID status. Additionally, ATT has reinstated several group services, including a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy group, Aggression Replacement Therapy group, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis, Coping Through Creativity, Relapse Prevention, and a socialization group with several others currently in the development process.

When treating individuals, ATT staff utilize the following Evidence-based programs and modalities: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Solution Focused Therapy (SFT), Motivational Interviewing, and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. ATT staff have also been trained in the New Direction curriculum that utilizes Cognitive Behavioral Therapy interventions to target criminal thinking and antisocial behaviors. Moreover, ATT staff engage individuals by providing targeted case management and skill-building interventions in the field to foster relationships and encourage continued treatment. Recovery Specialists assist individuals in accessing community resources, financial benefits, and low-income housing depending on the individual's need. Furthermore, ATT staff have begun fostering relations with local navigation centers and homeless shelters to assist clients in accessing long term housing solutions to maintain stability even when they've completed treatment. Ultimately, ATT staff strive to improve critical thinking to endorse recovery and stability and promote continuity of care. After-hour services are supported by on-call staff to ensure individuals' needs are met beyond regular office hours and crises are addressed promptly. When necessary, ATT staff provide face to face services on the weekends or holidays to ensure those in the most need receive adequate follow up and care.

ATT has also continued to increase services to individuals who have been approved for diversion services through the court. The ATT Diversion program serves individuals with severe mental health

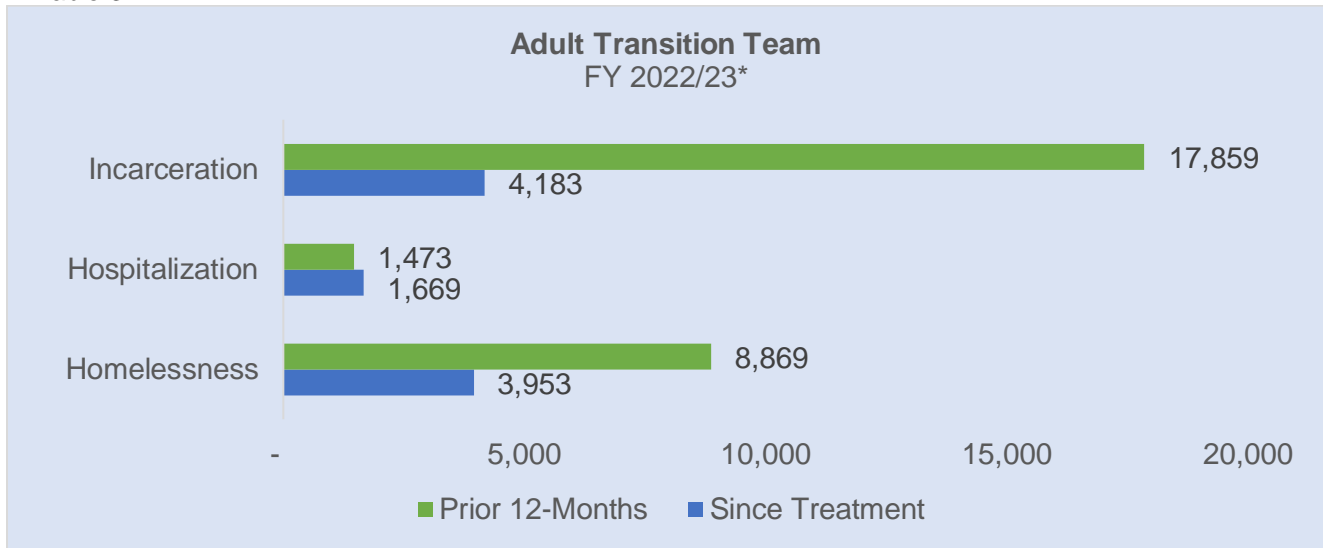
conditions who are referred by the Court after one or multiple serious crimes have been committed. The program also ensures linkage to appropriate resources including medical, housing, transportation, and benefits. The one to two-year program is designed to reduce recidivism of individuals who suffer from serious mental conditions and/or substance use and are involved in the criminal justice system, reduce incarceration due to program failures, and enhance public safety by providing necessary mental health care. Treatment is closely monitored by Recovery Specialists and Therapists and participants are required to attend treatment services up to five days per week depending on need. Individuals who are then successful in their treatment have their charges dismissed at the conclusion of the program. During the last year, ATT has had several individuals successfully graduate the program and continue their journey through recovery in the community with improved life functioning.

ATT has also continued to increase services to individuals who have been approved for diversion services through the court. The ATT Diversion program serves individuals with severe mental health conditions who are referred by the Court after one or multiple serious crimes have been committed. The program also ensures linkage to appropriate resources including medical, housing, transportation, and benefits. The one to two-year program is designed to reduce recidivism of individuals who suffer from serious mental conditions and/or substance use and are involved in the criminal justice system, reduce incarceration due to program failures, and enhance public safety by providing necessary mental health care. Treatment is closely monitored by Recovery Specialists and Therapists and participants are required to attend treatment services up to five days per week depending on need. Individuals who are then successful in their treatment have their charges dismissed at the conclusion of the program. During the last year, ATT has had several individuals successfully graduate the program and continue their journey through recovery in the community with improved life functioning.

ATT continues to have great success with the employment-based program Individual Placement Support for our consumers. Individual Placement Support consists of an Employment Specialist who is assigned a caseload of individuals in need of support finding employment and addressing barriers to successful employment. This all-inclusive program does not deny anyone based on readiness to work, but instead accepts anyone with the desire and willingness to work. The Employment Specialist provides supportive services throughout the entire employment process from completing applications, attending interviews and supporting clients in maintaining employment despite continued mental health concerns. As a result of this program, Individual Placement Support has had several individuals move on to full time, competitive employment within the community, and clients often express gratitude for the opportunity to work as it promotes the importance of having meaningful roles.

ATT measures its AB109 recidivism outcomes by comparing the number of days individuals spend in-custody, in an inpatient psychiatric setting, or are homeless during the 12 months prior to service initiation with the number of days in these categories while in treatment following their release. The target goal is to reduce the number of days in these categories by 30%. From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated), ATT served 92 unduplicated individuals with severe mental illness, many of whom had a secondary diagnosis of a substance use disorder and were homeless. In aggregate, the number of days incarcerated decreased by 76%, psychiatric inpatient setting reduced by 28% and homeless days decreased by 38% (Table 3). In addition, KernBHRS staff work together with the Homeless Collaborative and partner agencies to coordinate efforts to address housing needs.

Table 3



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

Supportive Pathway Opportunities

Supportive Pathway Opportunities (SPO) was created as a diversion program for individuals found incompetent to stand trial (IST) for felony offenses. Although, the program is not funded by AB109, this is an available referral option for eligible AB109 individuals. SPO is funded through the Department of State Hospitals and provides quarterly reports to Department of State Hospitals regarding individuals treatment progress. SPO collaborates with the Correctional Behavioral Health (CBH) team in identifying individuals in-custody who are awaiting placement at a state hospital and may be appropriate candidates for outpatient diversion.

KernBHRS has served a total of 89 individuals over a three-year period. The SPO team will provide mental health and substance use treatment using a Forensic Assertive Community Treatment model. Forensic Assertive Community Treatment is a service delivery model intended for individuals with serious mental illness who are involved with the criminal justice system. The model is designed to assist individuals in reducing criminological behaviors and increasing community-based self-sufficiency. Many of the individuals in the program have co-occurring substance use and physical health disorders. The SPO program aims to help each individual with mental health/substance use disorders achieve recovery, improve self-sufficiency, stabilize chronic symptoms, reduce recidivism rates and reduce the Department of State Hospitals waitlist/wait time.

Currently, SPO is engaging with and providing intensive services to 29 individuals through face-to-face contact, offering case management, assessments, treatment planning, advocacy, linkage to community resources, coordination of services, and monitoring individual activities. Furthermore, SPO offers comprehensive and defined services that vary in level of intensity and address the unique needs of each individual. During FY 2022-23, there have been 19 successful graduates and 6 projected to graduate by July. Upon graduation the individuals are linked to a community provider to ensure continuity of care.

Mental Health Systems

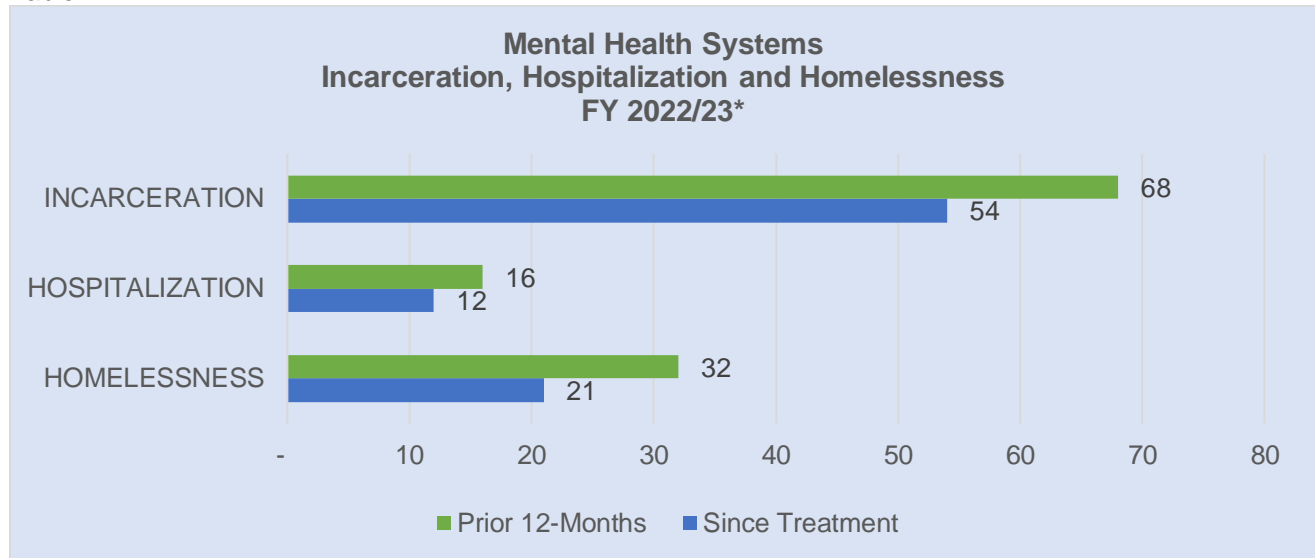
The Mental Health Systems/TURN Behavioral Health services is contracted with KernBHRS to provide intensive outpatient treatment to AB109 individuals who do not respond to traditional outpatient treatment. The service delivery model known as Assertive Community Treatment model assists these AB109 individuals with severe and persistent mental illness which contribute to severe functional impairment in several life areas, and who have a history of criminal justice system involvement. The goal is to reduce frequent psychiatric hospitalizations, homelessness, reoccurring incarceration, and assist individuals in developing meaningful activities in the community and to improve their lives through mental health recovery services.

Individuals work collaboratively with Mental Health Systems/TURN Behavioral Health services staff to develop personal goals. Treatment consists of self-empowerment, skills building, staff role modeling, and side by side support to name a few interventions developed collaboratively. Services are provided in locations that meet the needs of the individual served in addition to services at the Mental Health Services/TURN Behavioral Health services office. The outpatient team works closely to combine their knowledge and skills to provide the individual with the services they need for as long as they need them, 24 hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week including after hours on call availability.

From July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated), AB109 individuals received 684 individual therapy and rehabilitation services and 198 med management visits. There were 12 hospitalizations and 51 incarcerations for these individuals. There was a total of 41 crisis services which include MET/PEC/CWiC contact. There were 24 homeless individuals. During this time period, Mental Health Systems/Turn Behavioral Health services had continued restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic which included, an inability to provide groups, and at times, an inability to see individuals who were in a facility that was on isolation protocol, including Lerdo Pretrial, and Justice facilities in the community.

Mental Health Systems/TURN Behavioral Health services will continue to collaborate Correctional Behavioral Health in assessment and engaging individuals still incarcerated and in following individuals upon release from custody.

Table 4



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

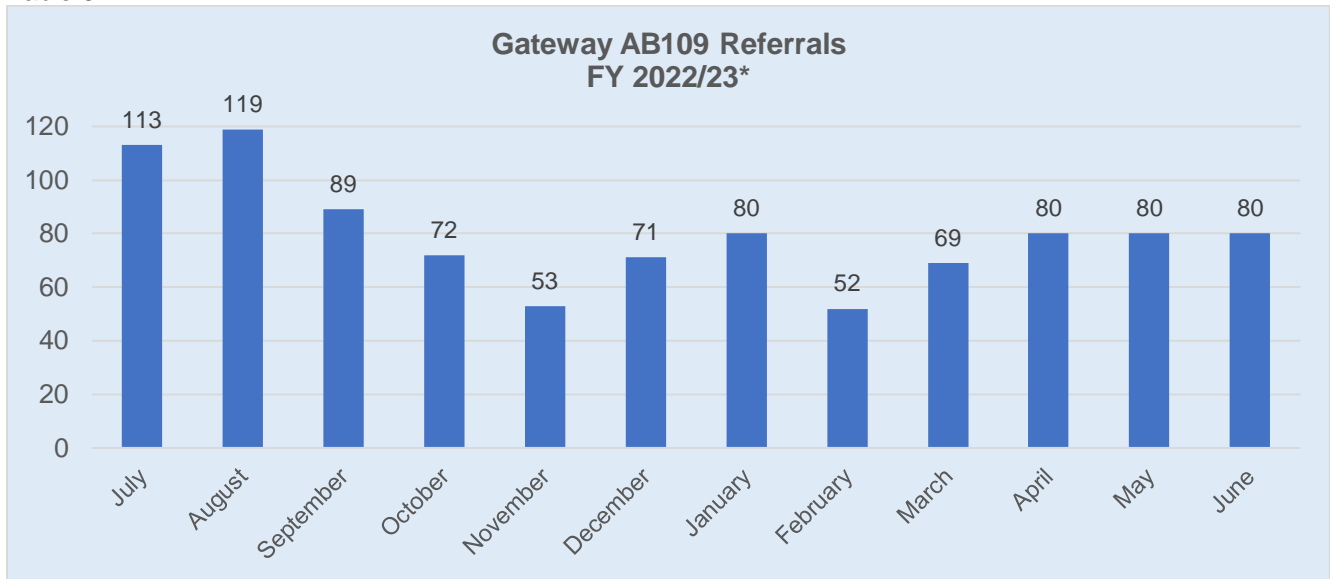
Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services

Gateway

Substance use disorder outpatient services for AB109 assigned individuals are primarily provided through KernBHRS contracted service providers. Individuals are linked to service providers through the Gateway Team. The Gateway Team is the central screening and referral service for SUD treatment for both metropolitan Bakersfield and outlying areas of Kern County. Gateway offers screening and referral services 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week through the SUD Access Line. The SUD Access Line allows individuals to complete their screening and obtain a referral for treatment services over the telephone. In continued efforts to reduce barriers to treatment and increase accuracy of referrals, KernBHRS began utilizing Co-Triage. This is provisional referral tool that reduces the time needed to engage and refer individuals and increases accuracy of referrals made.

The Gateway Team also has several locations where individuals may be screened in person throughout the community. Screenings are also conducted in the in-custody and psychiatric inpatient settings and at local hospitals. In addition to screening and referral services, the Gateway Team case management to inmates participating in the in-custody treatment program, and Gateway case managers provide community re-entry kits to individuals and assist with linkage to additional community services and resources. During this fiscal year we had a total of 26 graduates from the In-custody treatment program. Group numbers have risen as the program worked to recover from the impacts of Covid-19. In collaboration with Correctional Behavioral Health (CBH), Gateway case management staff are now participating in group facilitation with the goal of increasing rapport and encouraging clients to stay linked after discharge. The in-custody treatment has seen steady growth during FY 2022/23.

Table 5



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

As shown in Table 5 above, there were a total of 718 unduplicated criminal justice involved individuals referred to outpatient SUD services through the Gateway Team between July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated). We saw an increase of 34% from the previous year.

In FY 2022/23 we saw Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) return to in-person services, and this was well received by clients. Staffing shortages in clinical staff continue, and KernBHRS has worked with providers to allow for some exceptions to requirements to ensure quality services continue. Despite these challenges, the average number of individuals in SUD treatment remained steady.

Crisis Intervention Services

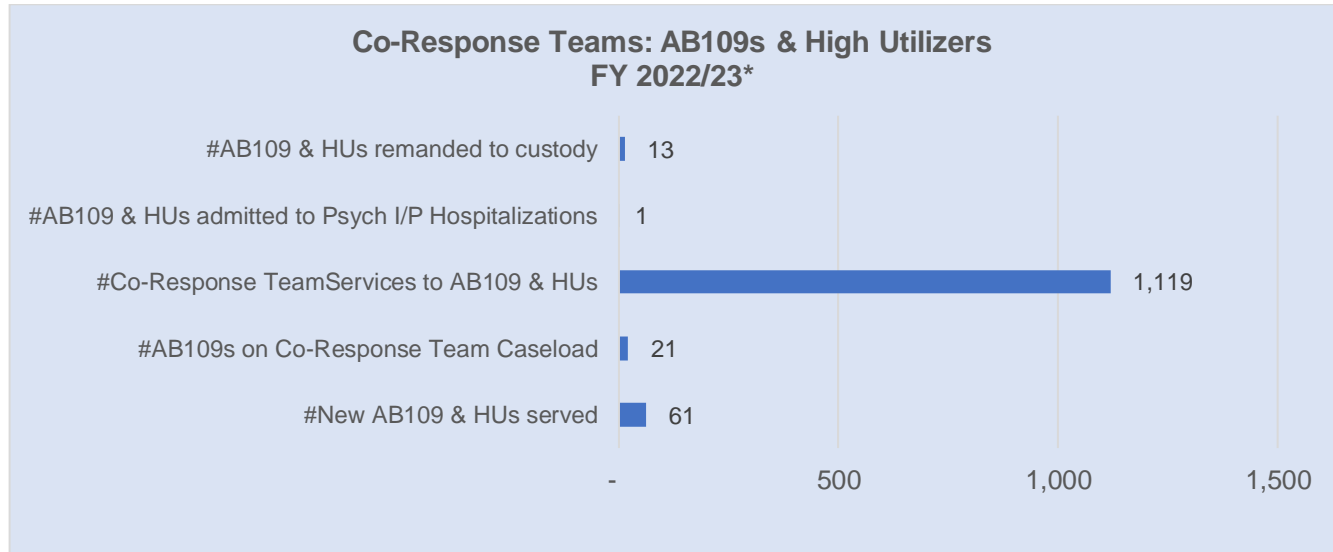
Mobile Evaluation Services

The KernBHRS Mobile Evaluation Team (MET) has historically acted as an adjunct to law enforcement with community response, and it has been standard for MET to be dispatched through law enforcement. Since the launch of the AB109 Co-Response Team in June 2015, MET, in conjunction with KCSO and the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD), has taken on a more proactive role in reducing crises and recidivism. Historically there has been two Co-Response Teams in place: one for KCSO and one for BPD. Since April 2022 there is only one Co-Response Team for KCSO. Each Co-Response Team consists of a law enforcement officer and a staff member of MET. The MET staff of the Co-Response Teams are senior-level, experienced members of the team. Individuals served are High Utilizers of law enforcement 911 services who, without early intervention, may become hospitalized or incarcerated. This joint response approach places the law enforcement officer and MET staff in the same vehicle, increasing the level of collaborative crisis care services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, services continued, and staff maintained all directives recommended through the State and CDC guidelines to help keep staff and individuals safe. The Co-Response Teams

provided initial contact to 46 new AB109 and High Utilizers individuals during the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (data provided is for 07/01/22-03/31/23). The caseload of the Co-Response Teams included 16 AB109 and High Utilizers individuals. Overall, the Co-Response Teams provided 839 services to AB109 and High Utilizers. One EMP individual was admitted to inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations and 10 AB109 EMP individuals were remanded to custody during this period.

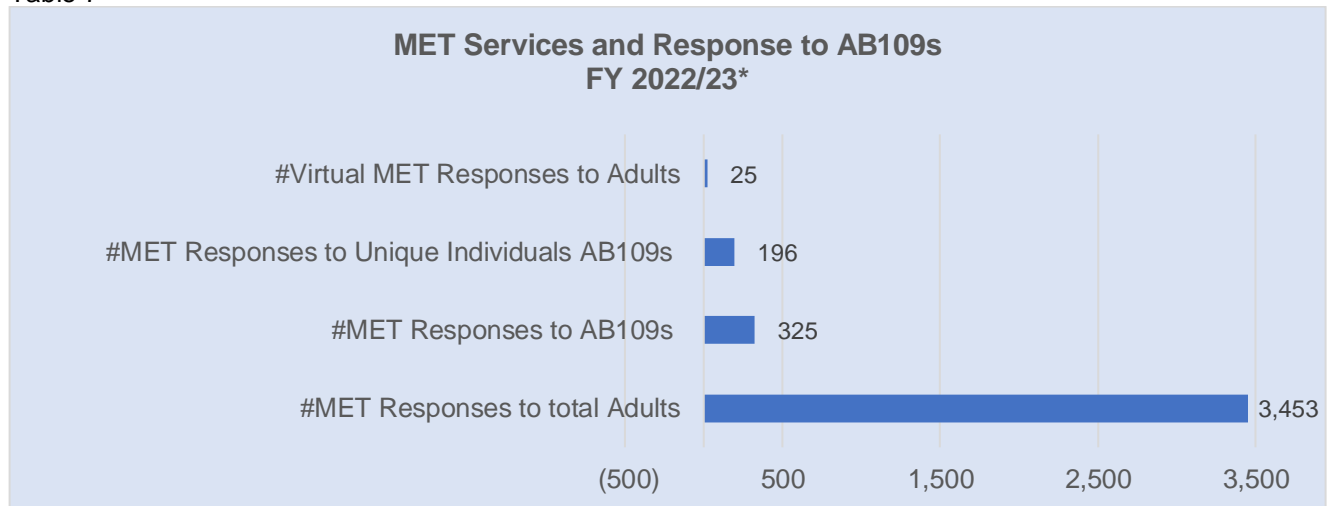
Table 6



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

In addition to Co-Response Team services, traditional MET services continue to be provided throughout Kern County. At the request of law enforcement, MET provides community-based crisis intervention services including evaluation and transportation for involuntary psychiatric care. Between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated), MET and/or Virtual MET responded to 2,590 adults with local law enforcement, 244 of these responses were provided to 147 unique individuals known and assigned as AB109, and 19 Virtual MET Responses to Adults (Table 7).

Table 7



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

The Crisis Intervention Team

The Crisis Intervention Teams' (CIT) goals are to improve officer and individual safety when the scene is a mental health crisis and redirect individuals with mental illness from the Judicial System to the Behavioral Health System. The CIT 40-hour class, CIT Advance Officer 8-hour class, CIT Steering Committee, CIT Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) Subcommittee, and CIT High Utilizer Subcommittee specifically focus on closing the gaps between law enforcement and behavioral health agencies who often encounter the same individuals in the community that need behavioral health services. Through the collaboration of the CITs' work, services are enhanced for the AB109 population.

The CIT 40-hour class and CIT Advance Officer 8-hour class provide training to law enforcement on how to identify behavioral health behaviors to assist officers in linking individuals to behavioral health and substance use disorder services. The class provides resources that may reduce recidivism by offering referrals to address their behavioral health needs. Between the period of July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023, four CIT 40-hour classes for the Kern County Sheriff's Office were completed (August 2022, October 2022, January 2023, & April 2023), one CIT 40-hour class for the Bakersfield Police Department (March 2023) and one CIT 40-hour class for Bakersfield City Park Rangers (September 2022).

The CIT Electronic Monitoring Program Subcommittee is a collaboration between KCSO, BPD and KernBHRS to assist Co-Response Teams find solutions for participants who have behavioral health issues during their participation in the EMP program. The Co-Response team's goal is to prevent the AB109 participants who have substance use and behavioral health disorders from recidivism to incarceration.

Access and Assessment Center

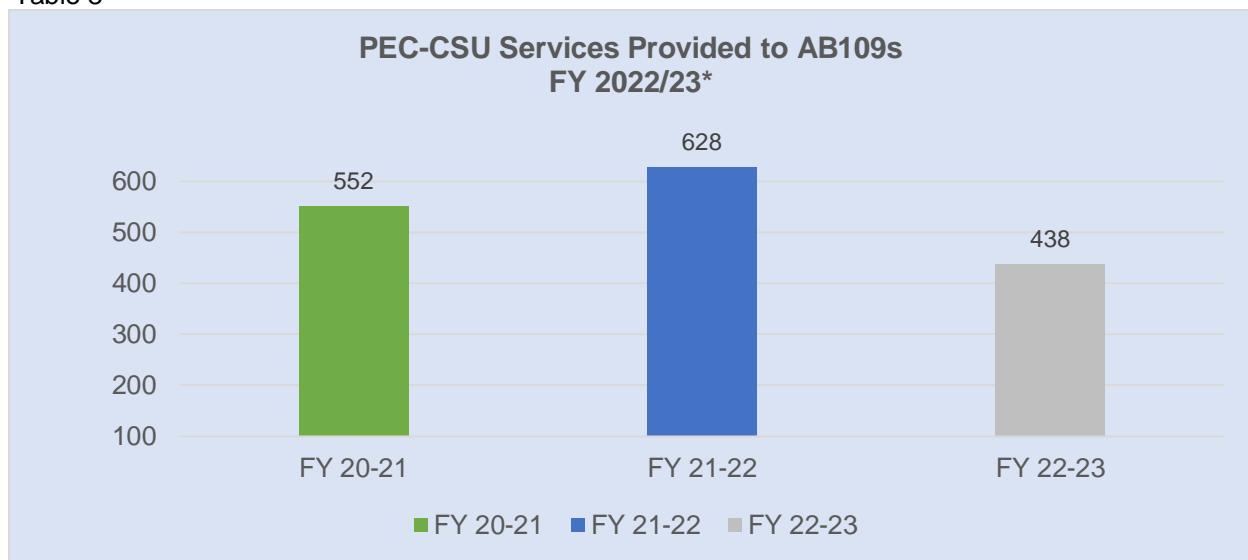
The Access and Assessment Center serves as the centralized access system for adults entering mental health treatment outside of the criminal justice setting. Access and Assessment Center is currently located at the Mary K Shell location. We receive individuals who are seeking mental health services for themselves or community resources for a family member. Access and Assessment Center also receives referrals from the Probation Department, Child Protective Services, and Public Health. Access and Assessment Center provides routine and urgent mental health assessments, linkage to an outpatient team, link individuals to medication management services (in crisis situations), request second bridge medication for eligible individuals, link individuals to crisis services, provide psychoeducation to individuals/families, educate individuals on how to navigate the system of care, and collaborate with other teams within the system of care for quality/continuity of care.

During the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated), the center served 39 AB109 assigned individuals. Access and Assessment Center conducts field assessments for individuals who have challenges with mobility, utilize American Sign Language services for the hearing impaired, and utilize the Language Line for translation services. For individuals with substance use challenges, we directly link them to Gateway Services within the Substance Use Division. If a client doesn't meet criteria for specialty mental health services, we are able to assist them in securing appointments with community providers.

Psychiatric Evaluation Center and Crisis Stabilization Unit

The Bakersfield Psychiatric Evaluation Center – Crisis Stabilization Unit (PEC-CSU) and the Ridgecrest CSU (Ridgecrest Mental Health Urgent Care Center) are the designated facilities to receive involuntary psychiatric holds from law enforcement and KernBHRS designated staff. The Ridgecrest CSU serves the communities of East Kern. Individuals may be voluntarily admitted to the Bakersfield PEC-CSU or the Ridgecrest CSU during a crisis. The PEC-CSUs determine if there is a need for hospitalization or if the individual can be treated and released back to the community. Discharge from the CSUs is coordinated with the individual’s current service provider for the community release, or a notification is provided that the individual was admitted to a psychiatric inpatient facility. During the period of July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated), the Ridgecrest CSU provided services to 33 AB109 identified individuals. Between July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated), the Bakersfield PEC-CSU provided services to 405 AB109 identified individuals in crisis who were designated with an AB109 individual category (Table 8). Many of these individuals had more than a single crisis encounter during the fiscal year. These services contribute to the impact of this 24-hour facility.

Table 8



*FY 2022/23 (April, May & June 2023 data are pro-rated)

Housing Support Services

Housing is often a significant barrier for individuals re-entering the community after incarceration. A welcoming, recovery-oriented home environment is important for successful reintegration back into the community. The Housing Services Team coordinates KernBHRS’ System of Care housing subsidy assistance services and makes recommendations to teams by identifying emergency and temporary shelter placements. This assistance allows individuals to focus on participating in outpatient treatment to include the goal of planning for permanent housing. KernBHRS secured \$215,000 AB109 FY 2022/23 funds for short-term emergency housing targeting individuals released from jail and/or hospitalization who would be homeless upon discharge.

Specialty Transitional Housing	AB109 Totals		Housing Services Team: Short Term Funding	AB109 Totals	
	FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023		FY 2021-2022	FY 2022-2023
FY 22-23 as of March 31, 2023			FY 22-23 as of March 31, 2023		
Client Vouchers Processed	23	38	Claims Processed	11	3
Days Vouchered	612	935	-	-	-
Unique Client Count	5	38	Unique Client Count	8	2
Amount Spent	\$17,136.00	\$25,832.00	Amount Spent	\$6,506.99	\$2,485.00

KernBHRS, along with partner agencies, meet with the AB109 housing providers monthly to discuss issues, concerns, and success stories. As part of these meetings, regular presentations are provided to educate providers on programs or current events.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, KernBHRS Housing Services provided bi-weekly COVID-19 monitoring reporting with AB 109 Housing Providers to ensure the health and safety of individuals and staff. As we have come out of the COVID-19 Crisis, Housing Services continues to ask providers to inform the department of any new cases or potential exposures so that this information can be provided to system of care partners. The providers have been diligent in consistently reporting incidents and collaborating with Housing Services during this time.

As part of the Quality Standards Program, Housing Providers who receive individual referrals from KernBHRS Housing Services, are required to participate in regular site visit monitoring. Over the past year, Housing staff has been able to maintain these site visits virtually to continue to support residents and providers and address any topics of concern. In addition, site visits have proven over time to reduce the number of complaints while fostering positive relationships with housing providers. On-site, in-person site visits will resume in the current year.

Moving Forward

As we come out of the COVID-19 restrictions, KernBHRS continues to expand and shape services for AB109 assigned individuals with a focus on the recommendations outlined in the CCP Strategic Plan, the Kern County Stepping Up Initiative, and with consideration for capacity and service needs identified by the Department.

KernBHRS continues to strive towards promoting a high standard of care. By concentrating on individual care despite the many barriers resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. KernBHRS provides meaningful services through crisis intervention services, individual therapy, medication management, psychiatric services, groups, substance use disorder services, case management, and linkages to benefit the individuals appropriate level of need. Coordination with community partners and treatment providers continues to ensure individual's gained access and had transportation, resources for basic needs, and essential appointments. KernBHRS collaborated with local agencies and departments to establish treatment plans, provide warm hand offs for continuity of care, and coordinated access to housing for incarcerated and at-risk individuals to reduce risk and decrease recidivism, homelessness and hospitalization.

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Spending Plan

In FY 2023/24, KernBHRS has been designated to receive \$8,368,799.00 in Public Safety Realignment funding to support mental health and substance use disorder programming and administration. Over the past year, the department has experienced changes in personnel and contracts, making it necessary for funding shifts to support costs associated with in-custody mental health and crisis services. For the next year, KernBHRS proposes to allocate costs as outlined in the chart below. KernBHRS will continue to identify ways to improve upon the programs established for the AB109 population. Additionally, KernBHRS will continue to develop, implement, and monitor data collection methodologies to maximize resources and funding available.

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services AB109 Budget Justifications / Spending Plan FY 2023/24

Salaries and Benefits			
Service	Position	FTE	Annual Cost
Correctional Behavioral Health-Jail Personnel	BH Program Supervisor	1	\$200,858.00
	BH Recovery Specialist	13	\$1,671,501.13
	Behavioral Health Therapist	9	\$1,515,007.26
	Psychiatrist	1	\$600,000.00
	Office Services Technician	3	\$248,378.43
	Licensed Vocational Nurse	13	\$1,379,567.15
Psychiatric Evaluation Center Cost			
Nursing Registry Staffing Contract			\$956,622.00
Administration			\$683,230.03
Contracted Services			
Adult SOC Contractors			\$678,108.00
Special Projects / Housing Contractors			\$215,000.00
Pharmacy Contractors			\$220,527.00
SUD Contractor			
Total Projected Expenditures for FY 2023/2024			\$8,368,799.00
CCP Base Allocations to KernBHRS for FY 2023/2024			\$8,368,799.00
Total Projected Expenditures Exceeding Allocation for FY 2023/2024 (*KernBHRS to absorb this projected expenditure cost)			

KernBHRS continues to plan to absorb any expenditure exceeding allocations to provide the most comprehensive treatment services for this population.

Employers' Training Resource

Employers' Training Resource (ETR) began the FY 2022/23 Fiscal Year (FY) with the launch of four additional Transitional Jobs programs, bringing the total to seven. Transitional jobs programs combine short-term, job-readiness and occupational learning with hands-on, subsidized work in jobs entry level jobs or better with growth potential—good jobs with opportunities for better jobs as the individual gains experience. This model is particularly well suited to our re-entry clients who often come to us with low skill and/or educational levels and inconsistent or no work histories but need to begin earning a wage as quickly as possible. Early in FY 2023/24, we expect to winnow the field from seven down to the highest performing programs that have demonstrated effectiveness, high customer interest, and the ability/willingness to enroll enough re-entry clients to operate their programs primarily for this population. We will be working with potential providers to adopt more collaborative outreach practices to enable us to move clients from AB 109 enrollment to enrollment in training, especially paid training, more quickly.

In addition to Transitional Jobs and our more traditional training opportunities, we have another cohort of the Multi-Craft Pre-Apprenticeship—a collaboration with Valley Build and seven local trade unions—starting in late June and running into FY 2023/24.

We have bolstered our efforts to do outreach to Sober Living facilities and other Community Based Organizations and have begun working much more closely with Probation to increase referrals. Our AB 109 team has made presentations to staff and provided informational materials for distribution at five Kern County Library branches so that library staff may better assist and direct AB 109 customers to us. We've assisted customers wishing to enroll in programs operated by partners such as KCCD's Arborist program and continue to provide our in-custody job readiness class, though those cohorts remain smaller and come from only one program due to situational factors at Lerdo.

We continue to make proactive contact with those referred to us when possible and take care of preliminary issues by phone so that clients are prepared and have all the documents needed for their in-person enrollment appointment.

Through FY 2022/23 Quarter 3, we have received 485 "live" referrals (complete, signed), resulting in 66 completed enrollments. 20 have enrolled in training or documented employment so far. Numerous others have been assisted with "Ban the Box" issues and informational outreach. 164 "declines" were received through this period (EMP releases who chose to not to provide contact information or sign the release of information). 55 customers have completed the Post-Custody Positive Steps class, and 20 have completed the in-custody class with another ten scheduled to complete in April. Proctors at the Beale Library have administered 286 GED test modules for 264 test takers.

For FY 2023/24, we will continue, as discussed, to build upon the collaborative efforts begun and implement strategies to increase On-the-Job Training opportunities as well as other activities for clients on our caseload.

The budget below reflects the activities and strategies ETR plans to follow over the course of program year 2023/24 for the new allocation of AB 109 Base Funds. It includes the anticipated 4% Cost of Living Increase and Step Increases for those not already at Step 10 as well as Class & Comp increases that recently took effect for Analysts and Accountants.

Proposed Budget for Employers' Training Resource

FY 2023/24 AB 109 Plan

Program Staff

POSITION	NUMBER	FTE	YEARLY COST
Workforce Development Program Mgr	1	.01	\$1,835
Program Support Supervisor	1	.01	\$1,563
Program Specialist	2	1.05	\$117,169
Job Developer	1	1.00	\$116,931
Systems Analyst	1	.02	\$3,750
Senior Office Services Specialist	1	.05	\$4,996
Office Services Technician	2	.04	\$3,727

Administrative Staff

POSITION	NUMBER	FTE	YEARLY COST
Chief Workforce Development Officer	1	.01	\$3,166
CAO Manager – Admin	1	.02	\$5,196
Sr. Workforce Development Analyst	3	.05	\$7,369
Supervising Departmental Analyst	1	.85	\$113,096
Departmental Analyst	1	.70	\$61,654
Senior Accountant	4	.21	\$30,678
Accountant	1	.02	\$2,808
Administrative Coordinator	1	.01	\$1,521
Fiscal Support Specialist	3	.06	\$6,612
Fiscal Support Technician	1	.02	\$2,221
Marketing & Promotions Associate	2	.02	\$2,736

Program Staff Salaries	\$249,971
Administrative Staff Salaries	\$237,057
Overhead incl AB 109 room	\$93,052
Participant Training/OJTs/Transitional Jobs/PWEX	\$250,112
Supportive Services	\$20,000
Supplies	\$1000
Travel	\$500
TOTAL	\$851,692

District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office has seen increased workload responsibilities that have added to the workload increases attributed to AB109 and Proposition 47. The increased responsibilities have been the result of advances made in the investigative process, new legislation that reopens cases for further litigation, and changes to parole and custody credit calculations that have resulted in more prison inmates being released and subsequently reoffending.

The advent and increasingly widespread use of police body-camera units has resulted in a large amount of evidence on even the simplest criminal offense that must be downloaded, reviewed, and transcribed in order to effectively analyze cases and prepare for trial. While such evidence is a welcome boost to transparency and public safety, it places additional workloads on attorneys on both sides of the criminal justice system. The increased workload required to prosecute cases applies not only to the most serious crimes, but also crimes that have been converted to local custody qualifying sentences or reduced to misdemeanors pursuant to realignment.

State legislation has also created increased burdens upon the District Attorney's Office, which, in combination with increased caseloads attributed to realignment, has resulted in additional need for qualified attorneys and staff to effectively represent the public safety interest involved in ensuring that validly obtained convictions are not dismissed or vacated without opposition when the facts warrant it.

The effects of AB 109 and Proposition 47 continue to manifest themselves within various areas of the District Attorney's Office. This has created a dynamic environment in which we strive to address the changes with staffing increases provided by AB109 funding. Although the increased staffing from prior years has helped to address some of the changes, the District Attorney's Office continues to experience heavy workloads that are taxing on staff. Increasing costs that exceed appropriations requires the District Attorney to absorb unfunded costs within the department's budget, which creates additional operational challenges to meet budget guidelines. Further gaps in funding could result in the reduction of funded positions in future years.

The District Attorney has made adjustments to counterbalance increased workloads, including the introduction of diversionary opportunities for many first-time low level misdemeanor offenses, and worked in partnership with the Public Defender, the Superior Court, and Behavioral Health to open an avenue of mental health diversion and diversion opportunities for incompetent defendants or in circumstances where treatable mental health factors played a substantial role in criminality in appropriate cases.

An additional development that has resulted in the wake of the pandemic is limitations in the labor market. The District Attorney's Office is seeing reduced interest and applicants for Deputy District Attorney positions, but has redoubled recruitment efforts to ensure that Deputy District Attorney positions are filled in this fiscal year. Some of the changes implemented on the county level include recruitment bonuses to attract new attorneys, and increases to salary to make Kern County more competitive in the labor market.

The total request from the Community Corrections Partnership is \$2,641,479. The District Attorney's proposal is to receive the same percentage of funding that was received in previous years. As staffing and costs have gone up faster than the available appropriations, the District Attorney's Office does request that when/if additional funds become available, they are considered for additional funding. This request represents the minimum amount necessary to maintain the existing level of service within the District Attorney's Office and the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory, in order to ensure the public safety needs of the citizens of Kern County are met.

Position/Item	#	Salary	Benefits	Total
Deputy District Attorney V	8	\$171,936	\$113,277	\$2,281,706.24
Criminalist III	1	\$105,989	\$74,415	\$180,403.60
Total Personnel	9			\$2,462,109.84
Recurring costs, phones, computers, licensing, Internet access, cell phones, vehicles, office furniture, training, Bar dues, MCLE, office supplies, etc.				\$179,369.16
Total				\$2,641,479.00

Public Defender's Office

Realignment has Profoundly Impacted Public Defender Workload

The overwhelming majority of criminal defendants are indigent, and the Public Defender represents a significant portion of these persons. Our mandate is Constitutional and statutory. Under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution, persons accused of committing crimes, who cannot afford to hire private counsel, are entitled to appointed counsel. Pursuant to California Government Code § 27706, the Public Defender is charged with representation of persons qualifying for appointed counsel.

The Public Defender's approved FY 2023/24 allocation equals \$1,320,740.00 or 50% of the amount appropriated to the prosecution. The amount is intended to help our department keep comparative pace with the tenacious, aggressive, determined and professional efforts of our counterparts in the criminal justice system, the District Attorney.

Guiding Principles of Fairness Support the Department's Allocation

Fairness and a "balanced allocation of resources" within the criminal justice system are recognized and operate as the controlling moral imperatives. Kern County Strategic Plan (2008), Section I, p. 5, Keeping Our Communities Safe; ABA Ten Principles of a Defense Delivery System (2002), p.3: "There should be parity of workload, salaries, and other resources (such as benefits, technology, facilities, legal research, support staff, paralegals, investigators, and access to forensic services and experts) between prosecution and public defense."

The Public Defender and the defense roles are reactive. Consequently, the impact of Realignment on the department reflects and is directly traceable to the District Attorney's work. Specifically, with the exception of dependency, mental health and conservatorship work, the Public Defender's workload is a function of law enforcement activity in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting suspected offenders. As noted, while the Public Defender does not defend all cases the District Attorney prosecutes,¹ the Public Defender represents the significant majority of alleged offenders.

Moreover, while the District Attorney's office performs certain functions with no analog to the defense (e.g., review and filing of complaints), so too the Public Defender performs work not visited on our prosecutorial counterparts. For example, lawyers with the Public Defender's office must investigate their own cases, while law enforcement often provides a completed investigation for the prosecutor. Separately, deputy public defenders are expected to and spend substantial time and energy interviewing and advising every client, including those housed at pretrial and correctional holding facilities.

¹ Some criminal defendants possess sufficient resources to hire their own counsel and, in other cases including co-defendant cases, the Public Defender has a conflict of interest which compels appointment of alternate counsel.

Implementation Plan

It is not possible to precisely align or attribute a particular defendant or crime to Realignment. Consequently, the department utilizes the AB 109 allocation to meet – as effectively as we can – the department’s significant Realignment driven caseload. Graphical depiction of the approximate/equivalent funding capacity provided by the department’s allocation is as follows:

Position Title	Number	Salary	Benefits	Total
Deputy Public Defender IV	3.5	\$546,504	\$322,396	\$868,900
Deputy Public Defender III	1	\$126,004	\$77,535	\$203,539
Sr. Investigator	1	\$93,883	\$61,394	\$155,277
Legal Secretary	1	\$50,331	\$39,509	\$89,840
Office expenses, licensing, computers, vehicles, phones, copiers, paper, etc				\$3,184
Total				\$1,320,740

Material Disclosures - Consistent with Prior Years

- 1) Use of Funds: Pen. Code §1230(b)(3) provides in relevant part that AB 109 funds shall be used to provide supervision and rehabilitative services for adult felony offenders. As in prior years, the department’s intended use of the funds relies on the understanding that legal advocacy and representation of indigent individuals in criminal proceedings may be appropriately characterized as involving rehabilitative efforts and services.

- 2) Supplemental versus Supplanting: Pen. Code §1233.7 provides that AB 109 monies shall be used to supplement, not supplant, any other state or county appropriation. The department is informed and believes the CAO’s recommended Net General Fund Contributions are calculated without regard to whether or not departments receive an AB 109 allocation. Consequently, the department’s allocation request reflects supplemental rather than supplanting funding. (Compare to a situation where the recommended contribution was reduced dollar-for-dollar based on any subsequently obtained allocation).

- 3) Accounting of Funds: If approved, the department intends to again apply the AB 109 funds on a pro-rata (i.e., quarterly) basis. As noted, while the department recognizes a significant caseload is attributable to Realignment, it is impossible to identify all cases or alleged crimes caused by Realignment.

Street Interdiction Team

The Street Interdiction Team (SIT) is a multi-departmental law enforcement task force consisting of numerous law enforcement agencies throughout the County of Kern. SIT periodically plans and operates enforcement teams in different regional areas to address specific community needs. Even though SIT was previously functional through the advent of AB 109, it was reactivated to address street-level crime. Financial funds were made available on behalf of the CCP and have greatly influenced the process of current and future SIT operations.

SIT operates in Kern County cities such as Arvin, Bakersfield, Bear Valley Springs, California City, Delano, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, and Tehachapi. In order to affectively address street-level crime, SIT proceeds with the following:

- Focuses on improving collaborations with law enforcement agencies throughout Kern County
- Establishes front-line operations in cities and towns throughout Kern County
- Meets on a monthly basis to discuss current AB 109 activities and impacts

In FY 2022/23, SIT completed a total of seven (7) operations with a timespan total of 21 days and 223 hours in Kern County as of April 20, 2023. The participating agencies consisted of Bakersfield Police Department, California City Police Department, Delano Police Department, District Attorney's Office, Kern County Sheriff's Office, McFarland Police Department, Ridgecrest Police Department, Shafter Police Department, and Taft Police Department. All agencies worked with the Kern County Probation Department as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the County and were reimbursed for overtime in relation to AB 109 SIT operations. Other outside agencies assisted SIT by providing their assistance at no charge.

Depending on the criminal activity and need, SIT teams have conducted multiple operations in a specific area over a short period of time. This has demonstrated a successful showing of force and cooperation throughout Kern County. SIT operations draw an assembly of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that provide a multitude of experience, information, and resources to ensure the most effective regional policing strategies are put into practice. SIT offers regional law enforcement agencies some relief in addressing AB 109 impacts by pooling resources for intelligence gathering, leveraging resources, and providing agency collaboration and cooperation in tracking offenders as they move throughout Kern County and the State. As a result, the decline of criminal activity has been noticeable following the application of these operations. Data below resulted from SIT operations as of March 31, 2023:

- 339 planned targets
- 75 total arrests
- 8 handguns/shotguns/rifles seized
- Confiscated 20 electronic devices and a dirk/dagger
- Seized varying amounts of methamphetamine, fentanyl, and drug paraphernalia.

The information above does not include data from the SIT operation in McFarland on 4/28/23 - 4/30/23. The total request is \$419,674.

Community-Based Organizations Program

The CCP Public Safety Realignment Act Plan includes funds for organizations to provide services to AB 109 individuals, with the goals of decreasing recidivism, enabling persons to reconnect with their family members, and contribute to their communities. Recidivism, in this context, is defined as the tendency to relapse into a previous negative condition or mode of behavior resulting in conviction of a new criminal offense.

The Community-Based Organizations (CBO) Program provides flexibility to support the needs of the community and respond under the direction of the Executive Committee. The CBOs have assisted the Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, and KernBHRS in creating and improving a continuum of care, allowing offenders to receive necessary services. Since the implementation of AB 109 in FY 2012/13 to date, the CCP has allocated \$24,725,998 to the CBO Program through Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Applications (RFA) and Personal/ Professional Services Agreement (PPSA).

In FY 2022/23, the CCP allocated a total of \$7,993,642 to CBOs through a competitive RFP process to assist in the overall success of Realignment in Kern County. This process focused on reentry services such as residential/transitional housing, employment and educational programs, case management services and other evidence-based programs, proven practices, and/or best practices aimed at reducing recidivism. Residential/transitional housing programs create a structured living environment for individuals reentering the community. Employment and educational programs provide individuals with valuable tools to succeed in the workplace. Case management services develop and maintain case plans for individuals.

The RFP was open from June 29, 2022 through August 5, 2022. With the CCP's recommendation, the County awarded contracts to the following organizations to provide community-based services for AB 109 male and female offenders reentering the community through SLEs, educational, employment, and/or vocation services, DUI education, and case management:

- 1) Bakersfield Recovery Services
- 2) Cottage of Hope and Gratitude
- 3) Freedom House Transitional Housing
- 4) Garden Pathways
- 5) Minnie Marvels Sober Living for Women and Children
- 6) New Life Recovery and Training Center
- 7) One Door
- 8) Third Tradition
- 9) STEPS
- 10) WestCare

To ensure the CBO's success in providing streamlined services, the Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and KernBHRS continue collaborating by doing the following:

- Monthly collaborative meetings
- Bi-Annual individual CBO meetings
- Annual individual CBO meetings
- Monitoring data tracker elements and quarterly reporting

- CBO provider trainings
- Exchange of key information for improved offender services
- Tracking drug testing
- Encouraging CBO representatives to interview potential candidates at the Lerdo Detention Facility
- Fostering an open line of communication and addressing provider's questions, concerns, and requests as they arise
- Monthly and/or quarterly site visits to CBOs in order to monitor contracts

The CCP continues to focus on utilizing CBOs to help offenders gain access to the services and tools they need to become productive citizens of the community. The CCP is committed to the partnership with the CBOs and the collaborative work that makes Kern County a safer place to live. The total request is \$1,684,869.

Veterans Service Department

Veterans Justice Outreach

The Kern County Veterans Service Department (KCVSD) has a dedicated Veterans Service Representative (VSR) designated to provide benefit advocacy and case management to veterans (and their families) at any stage in the criminal justice system. The initiative provides access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, California Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, as well as referrals to other community groups in an effort to eliminate barriers to successful reintegration into the community and reduce the recidivism rate of veteran offenders.

Having a dedicated point of contact for these veterans and their families has not only allowed for a smooth transition to benefits for the veteran once released from custody, but also allowed for consistent case management with a dedicated VSR. Moreover, having a single point of contact for justice-involved veterans has allowed for a more robust relationship between our VSR and the other service providers in the veteran community.

The VSR works with VA medical staff to enroll veterans in VA healthcare and arranges transportation to the VA domiciliary on the VA Medical Center's West Los Angeles campus, as well as connect veterans with the Vernon Valenzuela Veterans Justice Program operated out of the VA Bakersfield Outpatient Clinic. Our VSR works closely with California Veterans Assistance Foundation to secure housing for those veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. Additionally, our VSR works with spouses of veterans to request apportionments of the veteran's monthly benefits to ensure those funds are distributed to the veteran's family while the veteran is incarcerated.

Since the implementation of the program, we have assisted 220 local veterans and family members with 36 veterans assisted in FY 2022/23. Our VSR assisted ten veterans via virtual conferences while assisting with their VA compensation or pension benefits. Furthermore, our VSR has received numerous correspondence and has replied with valuable information for veterans regarding potential benefits as they prepare for release.

The KCVSD is excited by our continued success and looks forward to continuing to assist veterans and their families as they navigate the criminal justice system and move forward on life's journey. Based on our continued success, the total request from the Community Corrections Partnership for fiscal year 2023-2024 is \$166,635, which will be used to provide dedicated personnel, a tablet, and video-conferencing licensing to work with justice-involved veterans and their families.

Position/Item	Total
Veterans Service Representative (FTE: 1.0)	\$112,599
County Veterans Services Officer (FTE: 0.25)	\$37,336
Administrative Coordinator (FTE 0.1)	\$11,541
Equipment & Supplies	\$5,159
Total	\$166,635

Contingency Funds

The plan calls for the unallocated money, in the amount of \$80,232, to be placed in the contingency fund for unexpected expenses and/or additional items the CCP chooses to fund.

Allocation of Realignment Funds

The CCP has spent numerous hours developing a plan that addresses the pressing issues of Realignment in Kern County. In order to achieve the goals, the allocation of AB 109 funds is based on the CCP's plan as described herein utilizing the FY 2023/24 allocation from the State of California.

The base allocation amounts for FY 2023/24 totals \$61,716,806.

<u>Department/Entity</u>	<u>Base Allocation%</u>	<u>FY 2023/24 Base Allocation</u>
Sheriff's Office	39.27%	\$ 24,236,190
Probation Department	35.56%	\$ 21,946,496
Behavioral Health & Recovery Services	13.56%	\$ 8,368,799
District Attorney's Office	4.28%	\$ 2,641,479
CBO Program	2.73%	\$ 1,684,869
Public Defender's Office	2.14%	\$ 1,320,740
Employers' Training Resource	1.38%	\$ 851,692
Street Interdiction Team	0.68%	\$ 419,674
Veterans Service	0.27%	\$ 166,635
Contingency	0.13%	\$ 80,232
Total Base Allocation	100%	\$ 61,716,806