



Merced County Proposition 47 Cohort III Local Evaluation Plan

Project Background

Proposition 47, also called the Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act, was a voter-approved initiative to focus prison spending on violent and serious offenses, to maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime, and to invest the savings generated from this act into prevention and support programs. The money saved from Prop 47 will be deposited into a fund and disbursed through three grant programs according to the specifications of the Act. Proposition 47 grant programs will be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) to public agencies aimed at supporting mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and diversion programs for people in the criminal justice system, with an emphasis on programs that reduce recidivism of people convicted of less serious crimes, such as those covered by the measure and those who have substance abuse and mental health problems.

Merced County submitted for the third round of BSCC Proposition 47 grand funding and was awarded \$6,000,000 for its Pathways to Wellness Program. The Pathways to Wellness Program is a significant expansion to Merced County's existing pretrial diversion program(s). Specifically, this project applies to individuals who qualify for pretrial diversion pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 1001.35 and 1001.36 but are unlikely to succeed without intensive supports due to their history and current issues with mental health and/or substance use disorders.

The Merced County Probation Department has certainly seen the impacts of individuals with mental and/or substance use disorders lacking access to necessary services who eventually become enmeshed in a cycle of costly justice system involvement. In fact, according to data submitted in 2019 to BSCC by the Merced County Sheriff's Department, 97% of the daily jail population were presentenced individuals. Nevertheless, the vast majority of Merced County inmates being released from jail lack resources, services and support, leaving them alone to meet their basic needs. In response, Merced County has created a framework for behavioral health, justice system partners, and community stakeholders to work collaboratively across systems to provide evidence-based programming to forward the dual goals of individual recovery and public safety risk reduction. The Pathways to Wellness Program will have a dedicated clinical team to provide mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, intensive case management, job skills training/employment services and housing related support. In addition, we plan to offer enhanced training to the justice partners, judges, district attorneys, defense counsel, that will promote innovative cross-system collaboration for the benefit of the pretrial diversion population. Moreover, the Local Advisory Committee (LAC), which includes local stakeholders who have experience and expertise related to Prop 47

programs and services, will provide ongoing support for the implementation and evaluation of this project.

Project Overview

In an effort to address the gaps in its current criminal justice continuum, the Pathways to Wellness project has defined the following: Target Population, Project Goal, Project Description, Diversion Program Process and Performance Outcomes.

Target Population

The project's target population is adults age 18 and older who:

1. Have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of a criminal offense;
2. Are currently eligible for a diversion program in Merced County; and
3. Have a history of mental health issues and/or substance use disorders.

Program Goal

The project proposes to reduce recidivism and advance the recovery of people in the target population by improving four key areas in the lives of each participant, including:

1. Criminal justice involvement;
2. Housing stability;
3. Behavioral and physical health; and
4. Self-sufficiency.

Program Components

The project's collaborative components include:

County and Community-based Organizations:

1. Outreach and assessment;

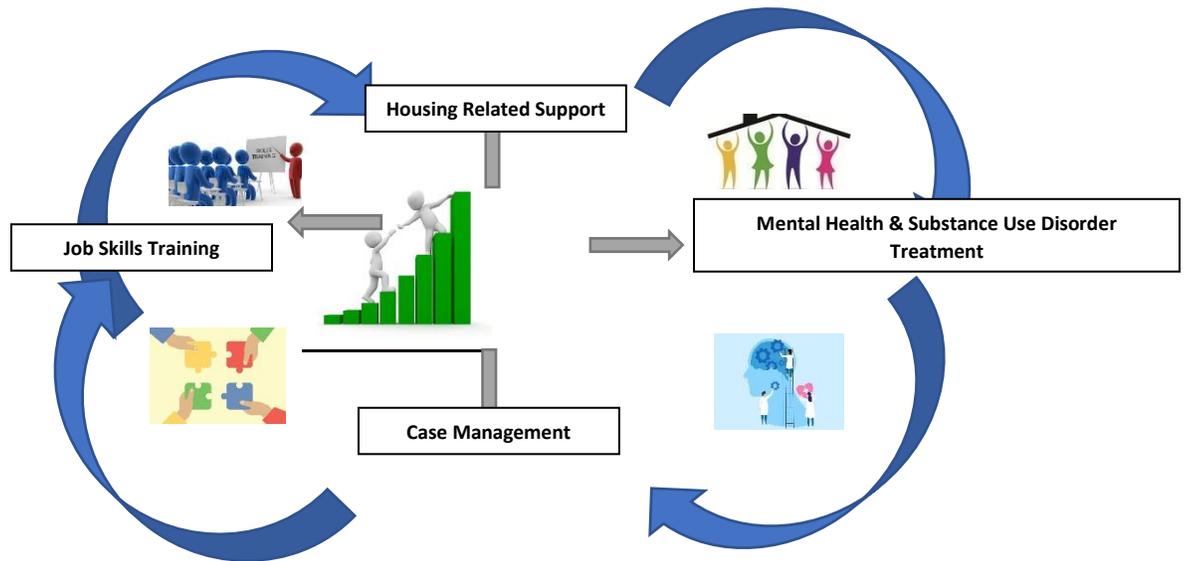
County:

2. Criminal justice diversion

County and Community-based Organizations:

3. Intensive case management & treatment; and
4. Housing related support; and
5. Individual Job Placement and Support; and
6. Victim-Offender Dialogue.

Community-Based Cross-Collaborative System of Care



Program Process

Following arrest and referral from the Superior Court on an eligible offense, potential project participants will meet with a clinician to complete an assessment. Once determined eligible, project participants are directed into the Pathways to Wellness Program. Once enrolled in the Pathways to Wellness Program, project participants will complete a comprehensive assessment with a clinician focused on determining their unique strengths and needs in each of the 4 Project Goal areas. The comprehensive assessment will guide appropriate program placement and service delivery and will involve obtaining information on basic demographics and pathways to criminal justice involvement; clinical needs (i.e. identification of probable or identified diagnoses, severity of associated impairments, and motivation for change); strengths and protective factors (i.e. family and community support); social and community support needs (i.e. housing, education, employment, and transportation); and public safety risks and needs, including changeable (dynamic) and unchangeable (static) risk factors, or behaviors and attitudes that research indicates are related to criminal behavior.

The individualized plan for treatment and services required to address the individual's needs will be developed using the information obtained from the risk and needs screening and assessment process and will consist of: the appropriate level of treatment and intensity; targeted interceptors to address the defendant's criminogenic needs in order to have the most

impact on recidivism; effective interventions to mitigate any aspects of the defendant's mental/substance use disorder(s) that could potentially be a risk to public safety; strategies for integrating appropriate recovery support services into service delivery models; and dosage of treatment identifying what, where and how intensive services provided to defendants will be. The individualized treatment plan will consist of collaborative responses between behavioral health, the community-based treatment team and the justice system that match the defendant's level of risk to public safety and behavioral health need with appropriate levels of case management oversight and treatment.

Redefining Success

Individualized treatment plan goals will vary based on the person's biopsychosocial assessment and as a result, successful completions will look different for program participants. Some individuals may successfully complete the Pathways to Wellness Program, but will continue to need ongoing support to ensure they do not encumber the cycle of homelessness, jails, shelters and hospitals. The community-based team will assist these individuals in finding stable, safe and affordable housing that will foster ongoing recovery which will ultimately prevent hospitalizations, homelessness and the collateral consequences of justice involvement.

Performance Outcomes

The Merced County Probation Department, in partnership with a professional evaluation firm, will use a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) model to measure progress toward the following objectives. Each of the areas listed in the Program Components section above will complete tracking and reporting on objectives in the RBA, as relevant to the specific component within the overall Pathways to Wellness project. The awarded subcontractors will be required to track and report on the bullets below:

How much did we do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hundred fifty (150) people will be contacted and assessed each year • Seventy-five (75) people will be provided with case management and treatment each year • Sixty (60) people will be provided Individualized Job Placement and support each year • Sixty (60) people will be provided with rapid re-housing assistance each year • Twenty (25) Victim- Offender Dialogue Circles will be conducted each year
How well did we do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninety percent (90 %) of potential project participants will have an assessment completed (ORAS, LOCUS, ASAM, ANSA, and/or VI-SPDAT as appropriate) within thirty (30) days of initial engagement • Fifty percent (50 %) of individuals who are contacted and determined to be eligible for the program will choose to voluntarily participate

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninety (90 %) of project participants will be engaged in case management and treatment services within thirty (30) days of enrollment in the project • Demographic makeup of project participants will be comparable to demographic makeup or overall arrestee population in Merced County (approximately 56% Hispanic, 29% White, 11% Black, 4% Other/Multiple Races)
Is anyone better off?
<i>Criminal Justice Involvement</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventy-five percent (75%) of participants will not recidivate while engaged with the program • Seventy-five percent (75%) of participants will not recidivate within twelve (12) months of graduating the program • Fifty percent (50%) fewer days in jail for participants while in the program • Fifty percent (50%) fewer arrests/tickets for participants while in the program
<i>Housing Stability</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventy percent (70%) of participants will secure and/or maintain permanent housing • Eighty (80%) of participants who secure permanent housing will remain housed at six (6) months
<i>Physical and Behavioral Health</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifty percent (50%) fewer emergency care visits while in the program, as compared to year prior to enrollment • Seventy-five (75%) fewer days in psychiatric hospitalization while in the program, as compared to year prior to enrollment
<i>Employment/ Self-Sufficiency</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninety percent (90%) of enrolled participants will secure monthly income (employment or permanent benefit)

Evaluation Methods & Design

The Merced County Probation Department plans to contract and work with an independent evaluator to assist with both process and evaluation components to determine overall program performance. The process evaluation will determine if the program was implemented as expected, while the outcome evaluation will determine the program's results, outcomes and impacts. The independent evaluator will collect and analyze data from a variety of sources to provide a comprehensive assessment of the Pathways to Wellness Program. The evaluator will work with Probation and the community-based treatment team to provide ongoing training and technical assistance on data collection and recording, as well as provide input for improving implementation.

The independent evaluator will work with Probation and other key stakeholders to develop a data collection system to record all services, activities and outcomes. All participants will be required to sign a release of information (ROI) when they enter the program. Each participant will be assigned a unique Participant ID in accordance with BSCC guidelines. The evaluator will be responsible for assisting with the quarterly narrative reporting, de-identified participant data, obtaining and evaluation recidivism data, and evaluation reports.

Additionally, the independent evaluator will develop and evaluate different measurement tools to determine whether a change was achieved and the program produced the desired outcomes. A mixed-method approach will be used applying quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data includes available descriptive data of participant and non-participant demographics, risk indicators, calculations of program output and participant exposure, and tabulations of participant and non-participant legal outcomes. Qualitative data includes focus groups and interviews exploring provider and participant experiences and participant pro-social attitudes. Three preliminary areas of focus are:

1. Assessment of data integrity - Systematic data on participants and programming. This is necessary to ensure accuracy and reliability of data for assessing program fidelity and program outcomes.

2. Assessment of program fidelity -identifying program objectives that were implemented as intended and focus group data participant experiences.

3. Measurement of program outcomes -An examination of the primary long-term outcomes of program impact on recidivism and pro-social attitudes. Recidivism and the increase of pro-social attitudes will be measured using individual-level data.

- a. Client Satisfaction Survey - we will utilize this survey to help us understand and report participants' satisfaction levels of our services, identify participant's needs, and discover what participants have learned.

- b. Follow-up Survey - we will utilize this survey to determine whether our services have made a long-lasting impact on the lives of those we served.

Appendix A. Merced County Probation Department Proposition 47 Logic Model

Process			Outcomes & Impact	
<i>Inputs</i> <i>What resources are being used to support the project?</i>	<i>Activities</i> <i>What activities or services do we offer to accomplish our goals?</i>	<i>Outputs</i> <i>Once we realize our activities, what is the evidence of service delivery?</i>	<i>Outcome</i> <i>What do we expect to achieve?</i>	<i>Outcome Indicators</i> <i># of clients expected to achieve each outcome?</i>
Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •BSCC Prop 47 Grant Funding •Leveraged Funds Staffing & Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Probation Department •Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) •District Attorney •Public Defender •Local Advisory Committee •Funded Subcontractors (Providers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Services •Individual Job Placement and Support •Victim-Offender Dialogue Training & EBPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •BSCC Standards & Expectations •Community-Based Treatment Team •Evidence Based Risk/Needs Assessment •Trauma Training •Mental Health Training •Substance Use Training 	Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Screen and evaluate intake assessments •Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Treatment •Intensive Case Management •Referrals to other services Housing Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provide transitional housing & supportive assistance Individual Job Placement and Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Help participants obtain and retain employment Victim-Offender Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Restorative Justice Criminal Justice Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Following arrest and referral from the Superior Court on an eligible offense, Clinician completes an assessment •Divert individuals and enroll in Pathways to Wellness Program 	Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# individuals contacted & assessed for services •# of participants receiving case management Housing Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# of participants provided housing assistance Individual Job Placement and Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# of participants provided employment support Victim-Offender Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# of victim-offender mediations Criminal Justice Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •# of trainings •# of individuals diverted 	Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improve the well-being of pretrial services participants through community based treatment services Housing Stability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pretrial Services Participants are stable & secure Employment/Self-Sufficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pretrial Services Participants are stable & secure Criminal Justice Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reduce recidivism 	Behavioral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •50% fewer emergency care visits while in the program, as compared to year prior to enrollment •75% fewer days in psychiatric hospitalization while in the program, as compared to year prior to enrollment Housing Stability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •70% of participants will secure and/or maintain permanent housing •80% of participants who secure permanent housing will remain housed at 6 months Employment/Self-Sufficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •90% of participants will secure monthly income (employment or permanent benefit) Criminal Justice Involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Participants reduce rate of recidivism, per BSCC's definition •50% fewer days in jail for participants while in program •50% fewer arrests/tickets for participants while in program