



ADVISORY BODY ANNUAL REPORT

Advisory Body Name: Community Advisory Board on Public Safety Realignment (CAB)
Advisory Body Meeting Time/Location: Second Thursday of the month/10am/50 Douglas Dr., Martir
Chair (during the reporting period): Harry L. Thurston
Staff Person (during the reporting period): Donte Blue
Reporting Period: 2019

I. Activities

(estimated response length: 1/2 page)

Describe the activities for the past year including areas of study, work, special events, collaborations, etc.

During the 2019 calendar year, the Community Advisory Board on Public Safety Realignment (CAB) advised the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) and other County stakeholders on appropriate financial investments including the use of revenue in the County's Community Corrections Subaccount and Local Innovation Fund. To inform this advice, CAB learned through presentations to the Board from the community-based program Fast Eddie's Auto Service; the Contra Costa County Office of Education; and County agencies including the Probation Department, Office of the Sheriff, the Alcohol and Other Drug Services Program of the Health Services Department Behavioral Health Division, Office of the District Attorney, and the Public Defender's Office. CAB also developed and presented a White Paper on Improvements in Linkage to Services for Individuals Released Outside of Regular Business Hours from County Jails, and as part of this effort, CAB Members toured both the Martinez and West County Detention Facilities. Finally, CAB ended the year by presenting the CCP with a policy brief that advocated for the institutionalization of the Office of Reentry and Justice, increase in County investment in more diverse housing options, improvement of linkage to services for individuals released outside of regular business hours from the County's Jails, and the use of a process that encourages more informed discussion and decision-making as it relates to budgetary actions of the CCP and its Executive Committee.

Among CAB's most notable collaborations in 2019 was its partnering with the Public Defender's Office for the allocation of nearly \$5,000 as the County's matching costs for a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA fellow that will work on criminal justice issues in the County for a full year.

II. Accomplishments

(estimated response length: 1/2 page)

Describe the accomplishments for the past year, particularly in reference to your work plan and objectives.

CAB began the 2019 term with its Annual Retreat that helped set the Board's sights on, among other things, increasing the level of transparency and accountability in the County's budgeting and use of money in the Community Corrections Subaccount, improving the internal operations of the CAB, educating its membership on the operations of the County's AB 109 funded activities and related reentry programs, and improving communication between CAB and County stakeholders. As a result of these objectives, CAB was successful in getting the County Administrator's Office to revise the AB-109 budget reporting template and provide a more frequent accounting of expenditures from the Community Corrections Subaccount. CAB also successfully updated its Operating Guidelines. Thanks to the collaboration and coordination of CAB, more than 10 public presentations were provided to educate CAB Members and interested community members on topics ranging from the newly created in-custody "Game Plan for Success" program for more effective pre-release planning to the impact of the Drug Medi-Cal Waiver on substance use disorder treatment services in the County, and the AB 109 funded program to support confronting the harms of deportation: "Stand Together Contra Costa." Finally, to improve the Board's messaging and communication with County decisionmakers, CAB restarted its ambassador program which assigns CAB Members to each member of the Board of Supervisors and Community Corrections Partnership Executive Committee to ensure these other bodies remain informed of CAB's work and are able to provide invaluable input on CAB's objectives, challenges, and ongoing activities.

It is also worth noting that CAB's advisement of the Probation Department and County Administrator's Office of Reentry and Justice on the reentry needs of the County ultimately led to increased funding to support the provision of evening reentry services at the Reentry Success Center in Richmond for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

III. Attendance/Representation

(estimated response length: 1/4 page)

Describe your membership in terms of seat vacancies, diversity, level of participation, and frequency of achieving a quorum at meetings.

In 2019, CAB membership fluctuated from 12 Voting Members entering the year to as low as 8 Voting Members after Members resigned at various times because of a variety of scheduling conflicts and health concerns. Nonetheless, quorum was successfully achieved at all twelve monthly CAB general meetings. Each Member also participated on at least one CAB subcommittee and personally met with at least one County decisionmaker as part of the CAB Ambassador Program. Additionally, many of CAB's Members also filled seats on other bodies that were reserved for CAB representation, participated on RFP response review panels convened by the County, and was also a stakeholder in the County's development of a winning grant proposal. Given CAB's commitment to diversity, a Member Diversity Survey was conducted to inform future outreach and membership recruitment efforts. CAB ended 2019 with 11 Members: 4 representatives of West County, 3 Central County representatives, 4 representatives of East County (3 men and 8 women). As CAB begins 2020, three of the 12 Voting Member seats are vacant and all three of CAB's Alternate Member seats are vacant, which comes to a total of six CAB vacancies.

IV. Training/Certification

(estimated response length: 1/4 page)

Describe any training that was provided or conducted, and any certifications received, either as a requirement or done on an elective basis by members. NOTE: Please forward copies of any training certifications to the Clerk of the Board.

All past and present 2019 CAB members timely completed the Brown Act/Better Governance Ordinance Training and the Ethics Training.

V. Proposed Work Plan/Objectives for Next Year

(estimated response length: 1/2 page)

Describe the advisory body's workplan, including specific objectives to be achieved in the upcoming year.

Each year CAB's strategic objectives and activities are informed by the work done by the body during its annual retreat. Although CAB's retreat for 2020 is scheduled to occur on February 7th & 8th, the Board ended 2019 expressing an intent to at least continue working on the following objectives:

- Greater accountability through the use of standardized metrics that are able to better identify community needs and can link outcomes to AB109 spending.
- Institutionalization and increased investments into the Office of Reentry and Justice for additional staffing resources that match the expanding responsibilities the office has experienced over the last several years.
- Conduct a robust recruitment for new members to have a full 15 Member CAB at some point during 2020.