

Community Advisory Board FY 2021-22 Policy & Budget Recommendations - Analysis

| Rec # | Description | Staff Recommendation |
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| 1 | Direct QAC to work with CAB to issue a joint annual survey each June to all public and private agencies receiving AB 109 funding, with the goal of reporting the survey's results (including agency participation) to the CCP on or around September, and the understanding that the CCP will consider an agency's failure to participate in this process when making its budget recommendations each December. | Agendize CCP discussion - The CCP should consider agendizing discussion around the survey that was submitted to public entities and community-based partners to determine the recurrence and establish buy-in from all stakeholders for completion of the survey. Discussion should include any concerns that stakeholders may have around the details of the survey questions to ensure that information received will best assist the CCP in identifying future funding priorities. |
| 2 | To address the affordable housing needs of the justice involved population, establish regularly reviewed metrics related to obtaining and maintaining permanent housing and allow this metric to drive future levels of AB 109 investments into housing resources. | Agendize CCP discussion - ORJ (including community programs) and H3 have housing data that could be used to establish metrics that can be updated regularly, based on CCP determination. CCP should agendize this discussion to give direction as needed. |
| 3 | The CCP should encourage the Probation Department to establish a Pandemic Emergency Fund to address the emergent needs of returning residents that are related to transportation, PPE, improving access to the technology required to engage in virtual service provision, or responding to other CCP approved needs, and this fund should be created by matching up to \$100,000 dollar for dollar with some other funding source and include the requirement that Probation provide the CCP with a report each year on the sources and uses of Pandemic Emergency Fund money with a general description of the benefits this fund provided. | No further action needed - The Probation Department has mechanisms in place to assist clients with housing, transportation and technology-related needs. Deputies can issue clients gift cards for groceries. In addition, Probation has ample supplies and can issue PPE as requested/needed. Probation has also recently increased their contract with Rubicon by \$75K to issue ChromeBooks with 1 year of WiFi access to adult clients so they can access online programming and services. As such, creating such a fund is unnecessary. |
| 4 | The CCP should explore using the current amount allocated to law enforcement for MHET so that up to three additional cities in the County receive partial funding from this allocation for MHET police officers with additional funding provided to the Health Services Department for three new MHET clinicians to support the expansion of MHET to six teams in the County. | Agendize CCP discussion - Given the impact that the pandemic has had on city budgets, it would be a challenge to ask for our partner cities to pay for a higher portion of costs for their officers at this time. It would be helpful to have the MHET response data from Antioch, Richmond and Walnut Creek in order to evaluate utilization and effectiveness to better gauge future needs. The need for data around this recommendation ties into #6 below. |
| 5 | The county should immediately invest the resources necessary to add additional support staff to effectively complement and advance the important work of the ORJ Research and Evaluation Manager. | In progress by Probation - Probation is currently in the process of establishing and hiring a new Planner/Evaluator position in the ORJ by the end of FY 2020-21 to assist staff with the workload. |

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| 6 | Immediately direct the ORJ to provide CCP with a report at its first meeting following the conclusion of each fiscal year detailing each AB 109 funded agency's strict compliance with periodic reporting requirements, and establish a policy that prevents recommending new or continued funding of agencies with outstanding periodic reports or that have not shown a good faith compliance with the reporting requirements. | Agendize CCP discussion - CCP should agendize a discussion around data needs. While it would be challenging for ORJ to police reporting compliance, understanding the data issues/needs would help to understand the reporting challenges for all stakeholders. This ties into feedback regarding recommendation #4 above. |
| 7 | Direct the ORJ to facilitate a comprehensive evaluation of the programs and services paid for through AB 109 for any evidence of their effectiveness, their impact on key performance indicators of the criminal justice system and provide adequate resources for the completion of this effort. | Agendize CCP discussion - Current staffing challenges in ORJ would prevent this from being done internally, however, the CCP should consider if contracting an outside consultant for this recommendation is fiscally feasible. This ties into previous responses around discussing data needs as the CCP. |
| 8 | Provide the Office of Reentry and Justice direction to work with H3 and CAB to assess housing options that are currently funded through AB 109, and see if any recommendations exist to create more flexibility in the use of housing funding, and variety in the housing options that are offered, so that the housing services provided better align with the range of circumstances and characteristics of the county's reentry population. | Agendize CCP discussion - The funding isn't very flexible in that all AB 109 housing are in contained programs and the type of housing the providers use are fairly static. A housing assessment would best be performed in collaboration with H3 and ORJ could assist by framing the types of housing potentially needed based on reentry population data. CCP should agendize this discussion to give direction as needed. |
| 9 | Establish a policy directing AB 109 funded agencies to submit budget requests with line-item descriptions that clearly explain all expenses intended and ensures that each contract or expense passing through to another agency is listed on its own line in the request. | Maintain current practice - Line item requests more granular than they are currently is impractical and would not provide significant fiscal benefit. Such a policy would also not be aligned with current countywide practices in place for budget submissions, which provides for broad budget categories. Staff recommendation is to maintain the status quo. |
| 10 | Establish a policy directing AB 109 funded agencies to use the same line-item descriptions from its approved budget request documents when reporting any expenses made on those items – even where this would result in reporting when no spending has occurred for a particular item. | Maintain current practice - Similar to the response to recommendation #9, more granular reporting would be inconsistent with current countywide budget of using expenditure categories for budget and expense reporting. Staff recommendation is to maintain the status quo. |
| 11 | Establish a policy directing AB 109 funded agencies to explain any significant under/overspending on any line items. | Maintain current practice - While there is no formal policy around this recommendation, quarterly reviews of budget and expenses are agendized in CCP meetings and provide the opportunity for committee members, CAB and the public to ask questions or make suggestions. Staff recommendation is to maintain the status quo. |