Merced County

Public Safety Realignment
&
Post Release Community Supervision

2011 Implementation Plan

Executive Committee of the Community Corrections Partnership

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Summary of Recommendations

1. **Post-Release Community Supervision Authority**
   The Probation Department is designated as the county agency responsible for implementing post-release community supervision and will provide the following related services:
   - Referrals to Treatment, Educational, and Vocational Services
   - Arrest and Flash Incarceration
   - Lead Collaborative Operations with Local Law Enforcement
   - Referrals to Re-Entry Court for Formal Revocations
   - Referrals to Mental Health Court
   - Collaboration with CDCR on Returnees
   - Provide Electronic Monitoring as a Sanction
   - Measure Activities and Outcomes
   - Oversight of Community Service Referrals and Outcomes

2. **Treatment and Other Services**
   The Probation Department will have responsibility for the following treatment, educational, and vocational efforts:
   - Oversight of the Day Reporting Center through a contract with Behavioral Interventions.
   - Development and oversight of Special Courts, which will include Mental Health and Re-Entry Courts.
   - Collaboration w/ County and community agencies for services specific to offender needs.

3. **Home Detention (Sheriff and Probation)**
   The Sheriff's Department and Probation Department will operate a home detention program, in which inmates committed to the County Jail may voluntarily participate or involuntarily be placed, including electronic monitoring, during their sentence in lieu of confinement in the jail.

4. **Electronic Monitoring in Lieu of Bail**
   The Sheriff's Department and Probation Department will operate electronic monitoring programs for inmates being held in lieu of bail in the County Jail.

5. **Moving Forward – Strategic Plan**
   The Community Corrections Partnership will develop a strategic plan for FY 2012/2013.
   Timeline: January – June 2012.

OVERVIEW OF 2011 PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT ACT (AB109)

In an effort to address overcrowding in California's prisons and assist in alleviating the state's financial crisis, the Public Safety Realignment Act (Assembly Bill 109) was signed into law on April 4, 2011. AB109 transfers responsibility for supervising specified lower level inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to counties. Implementation of the Public Safety Realignment Act is scheduled for October 1, 2011.

Additionally, Section 1230 of the California Penal Code is amended to read "Each county local Community Corrections Partnership established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1230 shall recommend a local plan to the County Board of Supervisors for the implementation of the 2011 public safety realignment. (b) The plan shall be voted on by an executive committee of each county's Community Corrections Partnership consisting of the Chief Probation Officer of the county as chair, a Chief of Police, the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, Presiding Judge or his or her designee, and the department representative listed in either section 1230 (b) (2) (G), 1230 (b) (2) (H), or 1230 (b) (2) (J) as designated by the County Board of Supervisors for purposes related to the development and presentation of the plan. (c) The plan shall be deemed accepted by the County Board of Supervisors unless rejected by a vote of 4/5ths in which case the plan goes back to the Community Corrections Partnership for further consideration. (d) Consistent with local needs and resources, the plan may include recommendations to maximize the effective investment of criminal justice resources in evidence-based correctional sanctions and programs, including, but not limited to, day reporting centers, drug courts, residential multiservice centers, mental health treatment programs, electronic and GPS monitoring programs, victim restitution programs, counseling programs, community service programs, educational programs, and work training programs."

Key elements of AB109 include:

Target Population: The post-release community supervision population, released from prison to community supervision, is the responsibility of local probation departments and is inclusive of non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenders with a prior PC 667.5 (c), PC 1192.7 (c) or register-able offenses pursuant to Penal Code section 290. The population that will serve their prison sentences locally includes the non-violent, non-serious, non-sex-offender group. The California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR) estimates Merced's "average daily population" (ADP) of these offenders will be:

• Post-release Community Supervision	211
• Parole & Community Supervision Violators in Jail on Revocations	44
• Sentenced to Local Incarceration under AB109	173
	428

At some point in time, all 428 offenders will be on post-release community supervision under the jurisdiction of the Probation Department, requiring the full range of supervision, sanctions, and service resources available through the department.

This population becomes a local responsibility as of October 1, 2011, when the Post-Release Community Supervision Act of 2011 is implemented. **These estimates are based upon data provided by CDCR. There is the potential for the actual population to be greater than the State projections.**

Additional key elements of AB109 include:

- **Redefining Felonies**: Revises the definition of a felony to include certain crimes that are punishable in jail for 16 months, 2 years, or 3 years. Some offenses, including serious, violent, and sex offenses, are excluded and sentences will continue to be served in state prison; however, the excluded offenders will be subject to probation rather than parole supervision upon release from prison.

- **Local Post-release Community Supervision:** Offenders released from state prison on or after October 1, 2011, after serving a sentence for an eligible offense shall be subject to, for a period not to exceed 3 years, post-release community supervision provided by an agency (Probation Department in this case) approved by the County's Board of Supervisors.

- **Revocations Heard and Served Locally:** Post-release community supervision and parole revocations will be served in local jails (up to 180 days), with the exception of paroled 'lifers' who have a revocation term of greater than 30 days. The Courts will hear formal revocations of post-release community supervision while the Board of Parole will conduct parole violation hearings in jail.

- **Changes to Custody Credits:** Jail inmates will be able to earn four days of credit for every two days served. Time spent on home detention (i.e., electronic monitoring) is credited as time spent in jail custody.

- **Alternative Custody:** Penal Code Section 1203.018 authorizes electronic monitoring for inmates being held in the county jail in lieu of bail. Eligible inmates must first be held in custody for 60 days post-arraignment, or 30 days for those charged with misdemeanor offenses.

- **Community Based Sanctions:** Authorizes counties to use a range of community-based punishment and intermediate sanctions other than jail incarceration alone or traditional routine probation supervision.

Summary of Realignment Components & Local Plan

Population Affected	Component of Public Safety Realignment	Local Plan
Release from State Prison	State prisoners serving sentences for non-violent, non-serious and non-sex offenses with one of these offenses in their criminal history will be placed on county post-release community supervision instead of state parole. The Court will adjudicate violations of county post-release community supervision.	The Probation Department is designated as the administrator of county post-release community supervision.
On State Parole	Violations of State Parole will be adjudicated by Board of Parole hearings inside the County Jail.	The Sheriff will provide a venue for Parole Board hearings.
Currently Held Pretrial in County Jail	Certain inmates may be released pre-trial on electronic monitoring.	The Sheriff is designated as administrator of electronic monitoring for pre-trial inmates.
Currently Sentenced in County Jail	Certain sentenced inmates may be placed on home detention.	The Sheriff and Probation designated as administrators of electronic monitoring for sentenced inmates.
Measures and Outcomes	Establish outcome measures related to local incarceration inmates and post-release community supervision populations (per AB109).	The Probation Department is designated to develop research design, collect data, and report on outcomes associated with AB109.
Evidence Based Practices and Treatment	Each of the involved agencies, including those participating in the Community Corrections Partnership, will support and/or assist in the implementation of the following activities, practices, and efforts.	• Flash Incarceration • Alternative Sanctions • Day Reporting Center • Vocational Training • Educational Training • Specialized Courts • Multi-agency Operations • MH and AOD Services

Local Planning and Oversight

Community Corrections Partnership

In the last two years, there have been statewide efforts to expand the use of evidence based practices in sentencing and probation practices, and to reduce the state prison population. SB678 established a Community Corrections Partnership in each county, chaired by the Chief Probation Officer, charged with advising on the implementation of SB678 funded initiatives. AB109 established an Executive Committee of the CCP charged with development of a 2011 Realignment Plan that will recommend a county-wide programming plan for the realigned population, for consideration and adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

The CCP Executive Committee will advise on the progress of the Implementation Plan. Chaired by the Chief Probation Officer, the executive committee will oversee the realignment process and advise the Board of Supervisors in determining funding and programming for the various components of the plan. Voting members of the executive committee include: a Judge (appointed by the Presiding Judge); Chief Probation Officer; County Sheriff; District Attorney; Chief of Police; Public Defender; and one Director of County Social Services/Mental Health/Public Health (as determined by the Board of Supervisors). In Merced County, the Mental Health Director was designated by the Board of Supervisors as was the City of Merced Police Chief.

This plan received advisement from the CCP members on May 17, July 6, and August 10, 2011, and approved by the Executive Committee on August 29, 2011. Meeting attendees included:

Scott Ball	Probation Chief	Hon. Brian McCabe	Superior Court
Jeff Kettering	Probation	Hon. Marc Garcia	Superior Court
Patricia Highlander	Probation	Linda Romero-Soles	Superior Court
James Bucknell	Probation	Michael Pro	Public Defender
Janice Rector	Human Services Agency	Mark Pazin	Sheriff
Laura DeCocker	Human Services Agency	BJ Jones	Sheriff's Department
Stephen Pierce	Human Services Agency	Keith McClain	Sheriff's Department
Larry Morse	District Attorney	James Buttrey	Sheriff's Department
John Goold	District Attorney's Office	Erin Ristine	Sheriff's Department
Harold Nutt	District Attorney's Office		
Larry Combs	County Executive Officer		
James Brown	CEO's Office		
Scott DeMoss	CEO's Office		
Norman Andrade	Merced Police Chief		
Manuel Jimenez	Mental Health Director		
Tabith Weeda	Mental Health		
Sharon Robinson	Mental Health		
Lisa DeSantis	DA's Office / Victim Witness		
Andrea Baker	Workforce Investment		
Kathy Hassett	Child Support		
Holly Newlin	County Office of Ed.		
Jill Macha	County Office of Ed.		

New Populations and Funding

Projected Population

The State has estimated that Merced County will assume responsibility for approximately 430 additional offenders at any point in time countywide. This population is diverse and includes offenders who have been convicted of property, public order, drug, and gang-involved offenders. Of these 430 offenders, it is anticipated that at any one time an average daily population of 217 will be serving a sentence of local incarceration or sanction to other custodial/programmatic options, such as home detention, electronic monitoring, and work furlough. All 430 offenders will at some point be on post-release community supervision.

Projected Funding

The formula establishing a statewide allotment was developed by the State Department of Finance and agreed to by County Administrative Officers (CAO) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC). The level of funding is based on a weighted formula containing three elements:

- 60%: Average Daily Population (ADP) of offenders meeting AB109 eligibility criteria;
- 30%: U.S. Census Data pertaining to total population of adults in the county;
- 10%: SB678 Prison reduction outcomes.

Based on this formula, Merced County is projected to receive $2,824,824 for FY 2011-12 to serve approximately 430 additional offenders at any point in time. Funding includes:

Post-release Community Supervision / Local Incarceration	$2,498,524
AB109 Planning Grant	$ 150,000
AB109 Training and Implementation	$ 176,300
	$2,824,824

Funding in the amount of $89,560, to be divided by the District Attorney and Public Defender for revocation activities, is not included in the above calculation. Funding for Merced Superior Court operations is to be determined by the DOF and Administrative Office of the Courts.

The post-release community supervision funding formula is based on an October 1, 2011, implementation through June 30, 2012, and is for the first year only. CSAC/CAOs and the Department of Finance will revisit the formula for future years. State funding for planning, training, and implementation is expected to be provided to counties prior to October 1, 2011. Thereafter, annual state funding for community supervision will be allocated to Merced County's Community Corrections Performance Incentive Fund (CCPIF). This fund was established by SB678 (2009), the California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act. SB678 gives broad discretion to probation departments in selecting and implementing evidence based practices to maximize return on investment and improve outcomes with more effective supervision of probationers, which ultimately impacts commitments to state prison. The Probation Department's use of evidence based practices has successfully reduced the number of probationers being sent from Merced County to state prison for probation violations, from a three-year average of 193 (2006-2008) to 132 in 2009.

AB 109 REALIGNMENT PROPOSED BUDGET FY 11/12

DESCRIPTION	UNITS	COST	TOTAL
SALARIES & BENEFITS			$733,748
DPO III	3	$208,806	
DPO I/II	4	$280,414	
PA	2	$118,570	
LPC Re-class	2	$97,170	
Overtime - LE (Approx. 360 hours)		$20,000	
Bilingual Pay Slots	4	$6,688	
Evening Shift Differential	300	$2,100	
SERVICE & SUPPLIES			$39,520
Safety Equipment-Current	$400	$1,200	
Safety Equipment-New	$2,800	$11,200	
Telephone Service	$20	$1,620	
Cellular Phone Service	$20	$1,260	
Computer	$1,260	$5,040	
Furniture	$600	$1,200	
Vehicle Mileage	2	$8,000	
Drug Testing		$10,000	
FIXED ASSETS			$89,200
Modular Furniture	4	$10,000	
County Vehicle	2	$78,200	
Vehicle Logo	2	$1,000	
CONTRACT SERVICES			$1,962,356
BI - DRC		$600,000	
Electronic Monitoring & GPS		$221,320	
Jail Custody		$600,000	
S/O Alternative Custody		$359,256	
S/O Alternative Custody - Equipment		$60,000	
Mandated Outcome Measures (LPC/PA)		$0	
MH Court - 1 FTE Clinician		$91,780	
Vocational Training		$30,000	
			$2,824,824
FY 11/12 TOTAL ALLOCATION		$2,824,824	

Implementation Strategies

The strategies that follow take into consideration the multifaceted needs of the AB109 population and the resources necessary to achieve desired public safety outcomes. A cornerstone of all these strategies is a validated risk and needs assessment made possible through the Static Risk Offender Needs Guide (STRONG), which is being implemented with guidance from Assessments.com, Inc. and administered by the Probation Department.

I. Sheriff's Department – County Jail Inmates

Additional inmates eligible for incarceration in the Merced County Jail include (1) those convicted of a felony now sentenced 16 months to 3 years in lieu of state prison; (2) violators of post-release community supervision; (3) violators of state parole and formal PRCS revocations, up to 180 days (an exception is that paroled 'lifers' with revocation terms greater than 30 days will serve revocations in state prison); and (4) post-release community supervised offenders sanction with 'flash incarceration', up to 10 days for each violation.

Proposed Strategies for County Inmates

To address these projected increases, the Sheriff's Department will utilize alternatives to incarceration through alternatives to custody programs. By expanding the Sheriff's authority in the use of home detention and electronic monitoring, there will be additional alternatives to incarceration available for both the pre-trial and sentenced populations.

County Jails

The Sheriff's Department currently operates two jails. Offenders convicted of non-serious, non-violent, and non-sex offense felonies will serve sentences in the county jail, unless placed in an alternative to incarceration program. This change will apply to anyone who is convicted on or after October 1, 2011. Typically these sentences will be 16 months to three years, which is longer than the average 90-day sentence currently served in California county jails. AB109 changes how credits for good and work time are calculated from one day of good time and one day of work time for every six (6) days served to one day of good time and one day of work time for every four (4) days served in jail. This means that inmates will be required to serve 50% of their sentences in custody, minus any credits for time served prior to their sentencing, instead of two-thirds of their sentences. This change will help mitigate the impact of longer sentences being served in the county jail. Further, all post-release community supervision revocations and almost all parole revocations will be served locally. AB109 encourages the use of flash incarceration up to 10 days in county jail for post-release community offenders who violate their community supervision terms.

Alternatives to Incarceration

Alternative to incarceration programs provided by the Sheriff's Department include electronic monitoring and work furlough for sentenced offenders. These alternatives are utilized to transition inmates back into the community. In collaboration with the Probation Department, the Sheriff's Department will increase reliance on alternatives to incarceration in order to manage anticipated population increases under AB109. These additional alternatives provided by AB109 legislation include involuntary home detention, global positioning tracking, and electronic monitoring for the pretrial population.

Jail programming and alternatives to incarceration managed by the Sheriff will be made available to AB109 offenders providing they meet eligibility criteria and space is available. Once an offender has been sentenced to the county jail, both jail and probation staff will collaborate on transition from the county jail to an appropriate alternative to incarceration. Decisions regarding this plan will consider in-custody behavior, participation and progress in jail programs and service, the pre-sentence report (if applicable), eligibility based on current charges and prior convictions, and availability of the alternatives to incarceration best suited for the offender. Sheriff and Probation deputies will supervise offenders in alternative programs through a highly visible community presence and random site checks. Either or both agencies will respond if a person absconds or violates conditions of their participation in the program.

II. Probation Department

Projected Additional Number of Offenders on Post-release Community Supervision

In the first year of implementation, the Probation Department will oversee approximately 210 additional offenders released from state prison to post-release community supervision. These include only those inmates who would have otherwise been placed on state parole. Additional offenders (as many as 170) who will now be subject to probation oversight will be those who are released from the county jail after serving sentences that previously would have resulted in state prison sentences. This new population of offenders will be eligible for discharge from probation after six months and mandated for discharge within 30 days after one year of supervision without having suffered a revocation.

Strategies for Post-release Offenders

The Probation Department is designated as the county agency responsible for administering supervision and programs directed to the post-release community supervision population. This includes the full-range of options for community supervision spanning intensive community supervision, including arrest, search, and seizure; home detention with electronic monitoring; day reporting; residential substance abuse treatment; outpatient behavioral health treatment, including substance abuse and mental health services; batterer's intervention; urinalysis testing; cognitive behavioral interventions; community service; referral to educational, vocational, and housing resources; flash incarceration up to 10 days jail as a sanction for violating supervision conditions; incarceration up to 180 days as a formal sanction for violating conditions; and referral to special courts.

Post-release Community Supervision

The term of post-release community supervision will not exceed three years, and individuals may be discharged following as little as six months of successful community supervision. Offenders may be revoked for up to 180 days with all revocations being served in the county jail. Post-release community supervision shall be consistent with evidence-based practices demonstrated to reduce recidivism and the Probation Department may impose appropriate terms and conditions, appropriate incentives, treatment and services, and graduated sanctions.

The Probation Department has invested heavily in establishing evidence-based supervision and intervention practices proven effective at reducing recidivism and improving outcomes. At the heart of evidence-based practices are concepts of risk, need and responsivity – the

practice of assessing and identifying criminogenic risk factors contributing to ongoing criminal behavior, which can be changed through application of culturally, developmentally and gender appropriate interventions, teaching new skills and building on offender strengths to mitigate criminality. These principles are applied in the recently implement STRONG assessment tool.

The Probation Department will task five deputy probation officers with responsibility for intensive supervision of the post-release community supervision population. These officers will administer the STRONG risk/needs assessment tool to every post-release offender – consistent with the above referenced principles – and ultimately develop an individual case plan. This action will guide supervision intensity, treatment/program referrals, case management efforts and offender activities.

Additionally, a system of rewards and responses will be developed for use with the post-release community supervision population and will ultimately drive intervention decisions with all offenders under supervision. The use of the rewards and response decision matrix will provide guidance to probation officers regarding the type of intermediate sanction to impose the responding violations. This strategy requires probation officers to consider offender risk and criminogenic need factors, severity of the violation, and their behavior before determining the most appropriate graduated response. A key component of successfully implementing AB109 relies on creating an effective violation hearings process combined with consistent imposition of graduated sanctions in response to violations of supervision conditions. Conversely, when an offender achieves a certain milestone in supervision, (e.g., completes substance abuse treatment), the probation officer needs to identify an appropriate reward (incentive). This matrix establishes a decision-making structure for supervision officers to ensure consistency in responses to violations. A methodology of this type is important given the fact a provision in AB109 allows discharge of post-release community supervision following six months of violation-free supervision. Given the anticipated risk to re-offend level of post-release community supervision offenders, additional deputy probation officers are needed to provide more intensive supervision of this offender cohort, proposed at a ratio of 50:1. The proposed ratio recognizes the reality of fiscal constraints; American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) standards recommend a 20:1 caseload ratio given the assessed risk level of the supervised population.

Collaborative case planning is the focal point of this active engagement approach involving the offender, his/her family, probation officer, law enforcement and multiple service providers (e.g. housing, employment, vocational training, education, physical health, nutritional supports, behavioral health, and pro-social activities). Individual factors such as strengths, risk factors, needs, learning style, culture, language and ethnicity are integral to determination of appropriate interventions and services. In addition to these important considerations, the risk/needs assessment and case plan will determine the level of supervision the probationer requires and identify the type of evidence based treatment and services the probationer needs to be successful on supervision, promoting dual goals of reducing the risk of re-offense and increasing pro-social functioning and self-sufficiency.

Educational deficits may be addressed through assessment of offender needs by Behavioral Interventions, Inc. and the Merced County Office of Education. GED and high school diploma programming is provided and post-secondary education and vocational training referrals are made when appropriate.

In addition to the intensive supervision and case planning mentioned above, the Probation Department will actively explore a variety of alternatives to incarceration for use in managing the post-release community supervision population and responding to violations. Building upon the success of the Sheriff's Department's alternative sanctions program and the Probation Department's pre-trial electronic monitoring program, these departments will draw upon experience to craft appropriate alternative custody options to address criminogenic risk factors, hold the offender accountable, and enhance community safety. It is envisioned that violations of post-release supervision could be handled through electronic monitoring or a similar alternative sanctions program to create greater consistency and ensure application of evidence-based sanctioning principles.

Re-Entry Resource Review

Deputy probation officers, a supervising probation officer, and other support agencies will serve as the Re-Entry Resource Review Board team, having responsibility for:

1. Assessment
2. Pre-release Planning
3. Supervision Assignment (Including Courts – Reentry and MH)
4. Referral to Services (Day Reporting, Educational, Treatment, Vocational, Drug Court)
5. Incentives

The team will convene as needed to review incoming post-release community supervision cases. The CDCR will notify the Probation Department 30 days in advance of any PRCS case; therefore, ample time will be provided for conducting a risk assessment, making contact with family, and assessing the re-entry plan. The team will tentatively determine which services the offender should receive, including levels of supervision and treatment. The review team will also recommend incentives for offender participation in services and may confer on appropriateness of early termination for those who have successfully completed the re-entry and supervision plans.

Treatment Strategies

The following treatment strategies will be utilized for the specific needs of adult offenders:

I. Specialized Courts

The Superior Court will make available a court room and Judge/Commissioner one day per week to operate special courts, including Mental Health and Re-Entry Courts.

A. Mental Health Court

Through a collaboration of the Court, Mental Health, Probation, Public Defender, and District Attorney, efforts are underway to establish Merced County's first adult Mental Health Court. The Probation Department will designate one deputy probation officer to oversee PRCS and probation offenders with high levels of mental health needs. The officer will be tasked with supervising the offenders in the community and referring them to the Mental Health Court when additional attention is needed to address their adjustment to probation and performance in the community. The Court may impose alternative to jail sanctions or order the offender into custody for violations of their terms and conditions. More importantly, the Court will reinforce and support the offender's treatment plan. Offenders will also be referred to the Court to be acknowledged for successful participation in the community supervision and court program. The Probation Department will contract with Mental Health for a full-time clinician to treat this population and appear during court.

B. Re-Entry ("Progress") Court

Through a collaboration of the Court, Probation Department, Public Defender, and District Attorney, efforts are underway to establish a Re-Entry or "Progress" Court that would serve as a sanction for PRCS and probation offenders subject to formal revocations. Traditionally, when offenders are violated by the supervising probation officer, they appear before the Court one time and, if the violation is found true, do not appear again before the Court until another violation occurs. A Re-Entry or "Progress" Court would add a layer of supervision, referral to services, and accountability not currently present. Should an offender be violated, or be faced with a formal violation, he/she would be eligible for referral to this Court to appear regularly to provide the Court with an update on his/her progress. When not in compliance, the Court may impose alternative to jail sanctions or order the offender back into custody for a period of confinement. Additionally, regular appearances before the Court will help reinforce and support the offender's case plan. These offenders may also be referred to the Court to be acknowledged for successful participation in the community supervision and court program. Utilizing the general fund allocation, the Probation Department is committed to providing one deputy probation officer to appear in Court.

II. Day Reporting – Behavioral Interventions, Inc.

Behavioral Interventions, Inc. (BI) has been providing an Adult Day Reporting Center in Merced since March 2008. Since then, over 400 adult offenders have participated in the intensive outpatient program. The average length of stay in the program is 150 days and average attendance is 89% for a minimum of 20 hours per week.

The Probation Department has measured DRC outcomes utilizing recidivism rates during the 18 months following program exit. Just 15% of those who successfully completed the program were rearrested within 18 months, compared to a CDCR recidivism rate of approximately 70%. Even of those who were not successful in the program experienced a lower rate of recidivism (53%) than offenders released from CDCR.

AB109 funds will be utilized to expand the contract with BI to allow for 65 clients being served at any given time. All probation clients will be screened utilizing the risk/needs assessment to determine which will be best served by the multi-faceted services of the Day Reporting Center. The following services are provided by trained BI personnel to all offenders in the program:

- **Behavior Change Plan (BCP).** Merced County personnel administer the STRONG assessment to identify an offender's specific criminogenic needs. The client and case manager then create a BCP that matches treatment to the client's top two or three criminogenic needs.
- **Employment Readiness.** Unemployed clients initially attend an Employment Readiness group, which meets for four 2½-hour sessions. The sessions help clients discover their areas of interest and evaluate their skill sets. Clients also learn how to write a resume, how to search for jobs, and practice job interviews. In addition, the job developer does one-on-one job coaching with clients. Through the BI-provided computer lab, clients work through the KeyTrain software system to improve basic job skills.
- **Individual Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (ICBT).** The case manager and client review the BCP's goals and action steps, evaluate the client's progress, and make any adjustments to the BCP. Then the case manager and client work through a Carey Guide worksheet. Carey Guides translate evidence-based practices into strategies and short exercises called "15-Minute Tools" to address specific issues such as working with meth users and specific tasks such as involving families as well as addressing criminogenic needs such as antisocial thinking or emotional regulation. The Guides are especially geared towards offenders who are not highly motivated to change.
- **Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT).** MRT is a systematic, step-by-step cognitive skills rehabilitation system designed to develop moral decision-making strategies in individuals by positively altering how clients think, how they make judgments and decisions about the right and wrong thing to do in situations, and promoting actions and behaviors focused on changing negative relationships. MRT teaches clients thinking and judgment skills in a systematic group process.

- **Outpatient Substance Abuse Education (OSAE).** The OSAE group meets once per week for 1½ hours to work through a series of cognitive behavioral workbooks, and also uses directed skills training such as role playing to teach and build up personal skills.
- **Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment (OSAT).** The OSAT group meets twice a week for 1½ hours to work through a series of cognitive behavioral workbooks, and also uses directed skills training such as role playing to teach and build up personal skills.
- **Anger Management.** This group uses the *Anger* workbook from The Change Companies to examine the role of anger in making antisocial choices and how to avoid the traps of unmanaged anger.
- **Life Skills Training.** The Life Skills group uses the *Making a Commitment* workbook to address issues such as finding appropriate housing or avoiding recreational activities that encourage old, criminal behaviors. The Life Skills group also addresses communication skills, problem solving, decision making, anger management, conflict resolution, healthy lifestyles, parental responsibilities, employment skills, time management, health care, and interpersonal relationships.
- **Family & Parenting Skills.** The Family & Parenting Skills group uses the Common Sense Parenting® (CSP®) curriculum from Boys Town Press. CSP is an award winning, practical, skill-based parenting program that teaches parents easy-to-learn techniques and logical strategies to address everyday issues of communication, discipline, decision-making, relationships, and self-control.
- **Community Connections.** The Community Connections program matches clients with needed services. Community resource providers come to the DRC and present information about food, housing, mentoring, health services, support groups (NA, AA, etc.), education, employment, legal help, drug treatment, and vocational training. Clients also learn about specific job seeking and retention skills, key behaviors for successful reentry, and relapse prevention. After these presentations, clients can sign up for services, talk with the providers individually, and set up appointments.
- **Contingency Management.** Contingency management is a system of rewarding or punishing specific behaviors in order to change those behaviors over time. It encourages pro-social behaviors (e.g., abstinence, program attendance, work toward BCP goals) by giving reinforcement when such behaviors are performed or by withholding reinforcement when such behaviors are abandoned (e.g., positive alcohol or drug tests, not attending groups, not making progress). Rewards work better and have more lasting impact in shaping new behavior than punishments; the most successful strategies reward achievement rather than punishing a lack of achievement. The program includes numerous rewards as clients makes progress, from praise or verbal recognition in group to small rewards like pizza parties to larger rewards like bicycles or MP3 players.
- **Mental Health Services.** As noted in the Mental Health Court section, the Probation Department will contract for a full time clinician. This clinician will be housed at the Day Reporting Center and available to the center's mental health clients.

III. Other County and Community Services

The Probation Department utilizes several county and community agencies to provide treatment and services specific to offender needs. For those offenders (PRCS and probationers) found through assessment as not in need of the multitude of services provided by the Day Reporting Center, they may be referred to any of the following specialized services throughout the community:

- Alcohol and Drug – Mental Health Department
- Mental Health Services – Mental Health Department
- Vocational – Human Services Agency / Workforce Investment / MCOE
- Educational – Merced County Office of Education
- Transitional Housing
- Residential Treatment

Moving Forward: The Probation Department will seek the advice of the CCP on exploring contracts with County and community based agencies as needed to expand services provided by the above service providers.

Outcomes

The purpose of AB109 and the strategies articulated in the local Public Safety Realignment plan are intended to improve success rates of offenders under supervision resulting in less victimization and increased community safety. Accomplishing this in the most cost efficient manner and employing proven correctional and justice systems practices, is emerging as the primary strategic goal of the initiative.

Goals

1. Implementation of a streamlined and efficient system in the County of Merced to manage additional responsibilities under realignment.
2. Implementation of a system that protects public safety and utilizes best practices in recidivism reduction.
3. Implementation of a system that effectively utilizes alternatives to pre-trial and post-conviction incarceration where appropriate.

Measures

1. Recidivism rates for non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenders.
2. Recidivism rates for parolees now under Merced jurisdiction.
3. Number and type of offenders sentenced to county jail and state prison.
4. Number and type of offenders sentenced to probation or alternative programs.