

Contra Costa County Community Corrections Partnership Seeking Candidates for the Community Advisory Board to the *Contra Costa County Community Corrections Partnership*

Assembly Bill 109: An Overview

Context: In April 2011, the California legislature enacted Assembly Bill 109 (“AB 109”), which is sweeping new legislation that changes the way low-level offenders are incarcerated and supervised upon release from incarceration. Known as the Public Safety Realignment Act, the new law is designed to reduce the overcrowded prison population and decrease recidivism through the use of new and innovative approaches to corrections and reentry into the community. To accomplish these goals the Act shifts responsibility for incarceration and supervision of low-level offenders from the state level to the local county level. The legislation encourages counties to incorporate evidence-based practices and community-based punishment to improve public safety outcomes among adult felons and facilitate their integration back into society. The major components of the Act went into effect on October 1, 2011.

What Changes Under AB 109:

1. For eligible inmates, AB 109 transfers the location of incarceration from state prison to local county jails and provides an expanded role for post-release supervision for these people.
2. For people qualifying low-level offenders released from incarceration, AB 109 transfers responsibility for post-release supervision from the state to the county, by creating a new category of supervision called Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS).
3. Under AB 109, parole violators will be returned to custody in county jails, not in state prison.

Response in Contra Costa County: AB 109 directs each county to convene a Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) to oversee the development of a plan to implement the Realignment changes on a county level. In Contra Costa County, the CCP is governed by an Executive Committee of seven members: Diana Becton, Presiding Judge in Contra Costa County; Cynthia Belon, Director of Behavioral Health for Contra Costa Human Services; Philip Kader, Chief Probation Officer [Committee Chair]; Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender; David Livingston, Sheriff-Coroner; Chris Magnus, Chief of Police for the City of Richmond; and Mark Peterson, District Attorney. This group has been meeting regularly since July of 2011 to draft the initial Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in early October. The Plan is an ongoing project that will be revised and adjusted as the group evaluates the progress of Realignment.

Next Step: Community Involvement: To ensure community involvement and communication, the CCP’s Executive Committee included in the Implementation Plan a commitment to forming a Community Advisory Board to the CCP. The responsibilities of the CAB will include:

- 1) Providing input on community needs with regard to the realigned population
- 2) Assessing implementation of the realignment plan
- 3) Reviewing data on realignment outcomes
- 4) Advising the Executive Committee of the CCP on community engagement strategies
- 5) Offering recommendations for ongoing realignment planning
- 6) Advising the Committee on available county based organizations and programs that can support the implementation plan
- 7) Encouraging outcomes that are consistent with the County’s Reentry Strategic Plan

The CCP will meet with the CAB on a periodic basis to receive and discuss the CAB’s recommendations regarding the implementation process.

Why Get Involved? As realignment implementation proceeds, the Community Advisory Board will provide a meaningful opportunity for members of the community to inform and improve the County's realignment implementation process. Participants may include members of community groups, service providers working with people with criminal backgrounds, members of the criminal justice system including community courts and restorative justice advocates, subject-matter experts, formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, crime victims and the families of crime victims, and other interested individuals.

Proposed CAB Structure: The CAB will consist of 12 members. All members should have demonstrated experience or expertise in issues of incarceration, reentry, and recidivism. Members should include people involved with community-based organizations or service providers serving the Reentry population, faith-based organizations, subject matter specialists, formerly incarcerated people, family members of incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people, and crime survivors and the family members of crime survivors, as well as interested and qualified community members. The CAB will include representation from East, Central and West County.

Time Commitment: Members of the CAB agree to participate in two meetings per month in addition to participating in and completing projects for working groups, for a minimum of one year. CAB members must commit to attending the CCP monthly meetings held in Martinez, along with a monthly meeting of the CAB held via phone conference or in person at various county locations.

Open Participation: Community involvement and input is a core goal of the Community Advisory Board. All meetings of the Community Advisory Board will be open to the public.

Questions? Contact:

- Robin Lipetzky, Contra Costa Public Defender, by phone at 925 335-8035 or at robin.lipetzky@pd.cccounty.us
- Chris Magnus, Police Chief, City of Richmond, by phone at 510 621-1802 or at cmagnus@richmondpd.net

How to Apply:

- You can download the entire Contra Costa County Public Safety Realignment Implementation Plan, the Community Advisory Board overview, and the Community Advisory Board application form online at <http://www.furtherthework.com/publications.html>
- Applications can be submitted by email at applications@furtherthework.com. We prefer to receive applications by email, but if necessary you may submit your application by fax at 510 243-0132.
- Applications must be received by **5 PM on Friday, November 18, 2011**.
- The Executive Committee of the CCP will review and approve applications for membership on the Community Advisory Board at its meeting on December 1, 2011.
- Applicants will be notified of the results by December 3, 2011.