Placer County Criminal Justice Policy Committee
Criminal Justice Master Planning Project
Objectives and Recommendations
DRAFT - 1 21 2015

Objective #	Objective	Benefit of Objective	Rec'd #	Recommendation - Short Text	Recommendation - Background	Recommendation Area	Timeline to Initiate Effort	Estimated Time to Complete Effort	Estimated Level of Effort Required for Implementation	Estimated Hard Dollar Costs [1]
1	***Reduce the Elapsed Time From Arrest to Case Disposition***	Shorter times from arrest to case disposition help to reduce system cost, create a closer link between behavior and outcome, speed the delivery of services (where appropriate), and reduce uncertainty for victims.	1.1	Complete construction of a courtroom for arraignments, in-custody hearings, and other criminal matters inside the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility to enable the court and other justice partners to improve security, reduce travel and transport time, and consolidate functions.	The completion of the interior of the courtroom shell attached to the South Placer Adult Correctional facility would result in significant system improvements for the County criminal justice agencies and the Superior Court. These include: -Supporting criminal justice system efficiency through the consolidation of locations. -Enhance public safety and reduce county costs by reducing the need and frequency of in-custody transportation for hearings between Auburn and Roseville. -Improve access to justice by locating hearings closer to the main population center of the County.	General Case Processing	Immediate (0-6 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	High	High (>$2 Million)
			1.2	Continue to explore opportunity to implement the State funded restoration of competency program at the Placer County adult correctional facilities.	The State Department of Mental Health is looking to expand their successful Restoration of Competency Program beyond the initial pilot locations. Under this program, the State provides funding for the beds and provides staffing to treat defendants who have been declared incompetent to stand trial in the local jail while they are waiting for a bed in the State Hospital. The pilot programs have been able to significantly reduce the time to restore individuals to competency. The program does require a minimum number of participants and could require the Sheriff's Office to receive defendants from other Counties to meet the required population. The Subgroups suggests that if the program ultimately requires the housing inmates from other counties, it should be implemented in a way that does not reduce bed space available for Placer County defendants and/or inmates.		Short (0-12 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	High	Undetermined (Could result in net revenue to County, be cost neutral, or increase some incarceration-related expenses)
			1.3	Expedite efforts to establish a Placer County crime laboratory and, in the interim, allocate resources needed to reduce current delays in obtaining laboratory test results.	A significant contributor to case processing delays is the return of test results from the District Attorney's current provider. Exploration of a County run crime lab, and in the interim a focus on alternatives to the existing provider, is paramount to reduce these unnecessary delays.		Immediate (0-6 months)	Long (2+ Years)	High	High (>$2 Million)
			1.4	Increase access to attorney visits and inmate rehabilitation programs at the Placer County adult correctional facilities.	It is imperative that attorneys have access to their in-custody clients to discuss cases, allow for the participation of the defendant in his/her defense, and relay any plea negotiations prior to court hearings. Without sufficient staffing to allow for defendant movement within the correctional facilities, the time for interviews is currently limited. This results in the need for attorneys to discuss items with their clients at court hearings, resulting in court delays, and at times, additional continuances.		Immediate (0-6 months)	Short (0-12 months)	Medium	Medium ($250,000-$2 million)
2	***Reduce "FedCap" releases of defendants and sentenced inmates.***	Early release of individuals from custody reduces the effectiveness of sentences and the integrity of court orders and can negatively public safety.	2.1	Expand the operational capacity of the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility to enable utilization of additional bed space and allow for bookings at that location while maintaining booking options in Auburn.	The South Placer Adult Correctional Facility was constructed to increase the overall bed capacity for Placer County to address the growing population in the past two decades. While the partial opening has provided some relief, additional bed space is needed in the near term to ensure system integrity and improve public safety. Other key features of the facility, including bookings and inmate services, are not yet fully operational. These additional elements reduce costs for south placer law enforcement at the time of booking while also increasing the system's ability to offer evidence based services to inmates serving a sentence in the facility.	General Case Processing	Immediate (0-6 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	High	High (>$2 Million)
			2.2	Increase pre-trial release options to allow for additional supervision options for persons being released from jail.	Recent changes to Penal Code § 1203.018 have increased options available to the Probation Department for use in pretrial release programs. The Subgroup recommends that this expanded option be considered as part of the overall pre trial release programs.		Immediate (0-6 months)	Short (0-12 months)	Medium	Medium ($250,000-$2 million)

[1] Cost estimates provide a rough order of magnitude. Detailed cost analyses will need to be conducted to identify specific one-time and ongoing system costs.

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3	***Reduce failure to appear rates at court hearings.***	Failure to appears increase system costs due to the need for additional enforcement action and court proceedings.	3.1	Explore options for a telephone or electronic reminder system for court hearings.	Studies in other states have found that reminders, whether by mail or telephone, help to reduce failure to appear rates at court hearings. The subgroup recommends exploration of a telephone, text message, or email based reminder system and/or procedures to be operated by defense counsel or the probation department, potentially supported by data from the Courts. An initial six month pilot period is recommended to evaluate the success of the program before substantial funds are expended.	General Case Processing	Short (0-12 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	Low (<$250,000)
			3.2	Identify additional and alternative transportation options for defendants appearing at court hearings.	A major barrier for some defendants is the lack of adequate transportation to court facilities. While each facility is served by local transit, this can be difficult to navigate depending on the defendant's residence and the court facility (for example, those living in Auburn using transit to the Roseville courthouse). Local community groups have expressed interest in supporting those in the criminal justice system and transportation would provide an immediate benefit to those involved.		Short (0-12 months)	Short (0-12 months)	Low	None
4	***Reduce delays in collaborative court case processing***	Identifying and providing services earlier in the process can reduce overall costs to the system for adjudication and ensure treatment and recovery begins as early as possible and appropriate.	4.1	Develop protocols for early assessment of eligibility and suitability for alleged drug offenders for various probation/treatment options including participation in drug court, Prop 36, or any other drug court program.	It is important that cases eligible for collaborative courts be identified early in the process to more rapidly move the offender into treatment, when appropriate and in a way that respects the rights of the defendant. Early assessments can be considered by the court at the initial hearing and could be useful as part of consideration for pretrial release and supervision by the probation department.	Collaborative Case Processing	Short (0-12 months)	Short (0-12 months)	Low	Low (<$250,000)
			4.2	Expedite Laboratory process for analysis and test results for the presence of controlled substances in blood and/or suspected controlled substances.	Delays in laboratory processing can hinder the early identification of cases eligibility for the collaborative courts and can undermine the ability for these courts to implement timely sanctions. An expedited process for results in collaborative court cases should significantly improve the effectiveness of the existing programs while also ensuring more rapid access to services for eligible defendants.		Short (0-12 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	None to Low (<$250,000)

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5	***Institutionalize Coordination of Existing Collaborative Court Programs***	Collaborative courts require involvement from myriad entities and buy-in and agreement on key principles is vital to their success.	5.1	The Criminal Justice Policy Committee should establish a subcommittee with policy level representatives from Court, Probation, DA, PD, Defense bar, ASOC, and Law Enforcement tasked with developing guidelines addressing issues related to collaborative courts.	Collaborative courts are most effective when established through agreement with all system partners. This requires frequent communication and dialogue to ensure all perspectives are considered when developing a collaborative/treatment model. An ongoing committee should be established to facilitate this process and address the following topics: a. Eligibility and suitability assessment protocols for collaborative treatment court programs b. Terms and conditions for collaborative drug court programs c. Defining desirable outcomes and establishing performance standards d. Defining recidivism and developing processes for documenting recidivism e. Communicating with their respective agencies re: best practices and policy agreements. f. Developing options for expediting drug and alcohol test results g. Establishing protocols for the use of presumptive test results h. Advocate for sustainability of drug court programs. i. Explore increased participation of local law enforcement agencies in collaborative courts. j. Consider appropriate services and personnel to insure adequate supervision for offenders and their families k. Explore creation of a local data base (digital dashboard) that could be accessed by local justice partners for purposes of tracking defendant's compliance and communicating re: progress and criminogenic needs.	Collaborative Case Processing	Immediate (0-6 months)	Immediate (0-6 months)	Low	None
			5.2	Criminal Justice Agencies should adopt the "Ten Key Components" and "Best Practices" of Collaborative Courts to guide the implementation and ongoing practice of any collaborative treatment court.	Recognizing a common set of components for collaborative treatment courts will assist in ongoing dialogue related to these programs. Attachment A and B provide the full text of both the "Ten Key Components" and "Best Practices."		Immediate (0-6 months)	Immediate (0-6 months)	Low	None
			5.3	Provide adequate funding for technical and information services as recommended by the sub-committee.	The Subcommittee recommended in 5.1 will likely recommend improvements to tracking systems and data collection efforts. Sufficient funding will be necessary to support and implement any such recommendations or direction.		Short (0-12 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	Undetermined
6	***Improve services to collaborative court participants.***	Collaborative courts are most effective when participants receive the right services in a timely manner to address the behaviors that can lead to criminal activity.	6.1	Provide adequate funding to the Probation Department and for HHS to adequately staff collaborative courts and adequately supervise participants/probationers in collaborative court programs.	Participants in collaborative courts need access to case managers to support their completion in programs and monitor their compliance with court orders. This can only be accomplished through sufficient funding to the departments responsible for these activities.	Collaborative Case Processing	Short (0-12 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	Medium ($250,000-$2 million)
			6.2	Provide adequate funding for treatment, rehabilitative efforts, education, and mental health services for offenders.	Timely access to ordered services is vital to ensure offenders are able to both meet the terms of their sentence and benefit from treatment. Many offenders are unable to pay for these services, requiring a greater financial commitment from the criminal justice system to enable participation.		Short (0-12 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	Medium ($250,000-$2 million)

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7	***Improve Access to Services for Offenders***	Evidence suggests that applying the correct level of services and supervision based on offender risk and needs results in improved public safety.	7.1	Support opening of a fully functioning South Placer Adult Correctional Facility to enable optimal use of the Probation PREP Center and other transitional services.	Efforts by the Probation Department and Health and Human Services to provide services to offenders following their period of incarceration can be maximized if services can begin while offenders remain in-custody. While the South Placer Adult Correctional Facility may have some available space for these types of functions, the facility was not specifically constructed for service delivery inside the secured areas. Efforts should continue to identify potential areas for this type of use as the phased opening of the jail proceeds.	Assessments and Programs	Immediate (0-6 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	High	High (>$2 Million)
			7.2	Streamline the process for Alternative Sentencing.	Further analysis should be conducted related to the Alternative Sentencing Process, specifically to review and update (if necessary) the current criteria, ensure use of appropriate assessment tools, and defining and imposing appropriate sanctions.		Medium (6-18 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	None to Low (<$250,000)
			7.3	Consider appointing a multi-disciplinary team to review the treatment programs utilized as part of a criminal sentence.	Many offenders will require a broad range of services to assist them in addressing their criminogenic behaviors. Because these services are often offered by multiple organizations and disciplines, it can become difficult to ensure the offender is able to access all services ordered as part of their sentence and that the services are consistent. A multi-disciplinary team could help to resolve these disconnects and assist the offender in locating appropriate services to both comply with their sentence and receive assistance in reducing their likelihood of recidivating. The multi-disciplinary team could also be tasked with reviewing the treatment options and other services available to offenders with the objective of assessing their quality, consistency and overall content.		Medium (6-18 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	None to Low (<$250,000)
			7.4	Address financial barriers preventing participants from completing the required courses.	Financial barriers should be identified as soon as feasible following the sentence or release from custody to minimize any gaps in services and enable the offender to begin addressing their sentence and needs immediately. Initially, this can be improved by having Revenue Services perform their financial assessment for ability to pay for programming, fines, and fees immediately after sentencing Additional consideration should also be given for funding to support individuals who are unable to pay for programs included in their sentence.		Medium (6-18 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	Medium ($250,000-$2 million)
8	***Improved Use of Assessment Tools***	Reliable and validating risk and need assessment tools help to ensure the correct services are offered and provided to the offender.	8.1	Expand coordination and integration of assessment tools being used in and between various agencies.	Assessment tools are already in use throughout the Placer County criminal justice system. These tools are used by the Sheriff's Office to make determinations for release from the correctional facilities, by the Probation Department to assess pretrial release options with a separate tool in use to identify appropriate programs post-sentence, and by Health and Human Services to determine additional treatment needs. Enhanced coordination among and between these agencies to improve communication, reduce redundancy, and ensure alignment between the various tools would improve overall system effectiveness and support greater offender accountability and treatment.	Assessments and Programs	Short (0-12 months)	Short (0-12 months)	Medium	Low (<$250,000)

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9	***Improve Ability to Assess Programs and Outcomes***	***Data analysis and review helps ensure valuable resources are directed to programs that work.***	9.1	Develop a mechanism for data collection and analysis regarding offender risk analysis, program participation, and recidivism for use by the court and county in selecting and supervising programs.	Ongoing review of programs, risk analysis tools, and overall system efforts is important to ensure scarce taxpayers dollars are being spent effectively and supporting reductions in recidivism and increasing public safety. Due to the disparate systems used by the various entities, additional work will be needed to identify to define required data and to establish mechanisms to collect and report on data collection and analysis efforts.	Assessments and Programs	Medium (6-18 months)	Medium (1-2 Years)	Medium	Undetermined

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