



## **Alternatives to Incarceration**

### **Advisory Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 4:30-6:00 p.m. PST**

Advisory Group Members Present: Charlene Autolino, Laila Aziz, Lon Chhay, Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin, Manuel Enriquez, Dr. Darwin Fishman, Anthony Gonzales, Martin Leyva, Betsy Jacobson, Bill Payne, Jackie Reed, Wehtahnah Tucker

Advisory Group Members Absent: Niki Martinez, Reginald Washington

SANDAG Staff: Dr. Cindy Burke, Mike Duncan, Sydney Frierson, Octavio Rodriguez Ferreira, Cesar Sanchez

#### **Open Sharing by Advisory Group Members**

- Bill Payne discussed how personal experiences shared in community forums (e.g., recently incarcerated speaker who had desperate need for income) emphasized the importance of this project's work.
- Betsy Jacobson expressed uncertainty of the Advisory Group's influence.
- Charlene Autolino inquired about the level of participation seen in the community forums.
- Andrea Dauber-Griffin noted the importance of recognizing how diverse group of individuals are differentially affected by incarceration. She noted that incarceration affects individual's experiences with their family, employment opportunities, and access to services.
- Anthony Gonzales described his own experience with incarceration and discussed how he was able to benefit from certain services.
- Darwin Fishman expressed interest in splitting the Advisory Group into working subgroups. Dr. Cindy Burke let the group know that time had been allotted later in the meeting to work out the details of working groups.

#### **Discussion of Community Survey Results**

- Dr. Cindy Burke presented preliminary results from the community survey that was circulated through the community.
- The group commented on questions in the survey that asked about services received and barriers to receiving services.
  - Multiple members of the Advisory Group (i.e., Charlene Autolino, Andrea Dauber-Griffin, Bill Payne, Jackie Reed) discussed the importance of considering personal struggles (e.g., cost issues) related to receiving and completing services. Most frequently, the group discussed how requiring offenders to pay for programming is a barrier to service completion.

- Manuel Enriquez noted that another barrier to completing programs may be a lack of financial support and stability.
- Andrea Dauber-Griffin noted the importance of understanding how criminogenic risks and relationships with parole officers affects the efficacy of services.
- Martin Leyva expressed concern that survey respondents may have misunderstood a question about service availability.
- Advisory Group members had a substantial discussion about questions in the survey that asked about factors that made re-entry successful.
  - Bill Payne discussed the importance of getting people ready to make change. He suggested considering options like motivational interviewing and cognitive behavioral therapy.
  - Martin Leyva emphasized that structural issues must be recognized when considering readiness to change.
  - Andrea Dauber-Griffin noted that flexibility from service providers influences successful re-entry.
  - Laila Aziz shared her thoughts on how empathy from the community can affect whether one successfully re-enters society. Lon Chhay emphasized Laila's comment with a personal anecdote.
  - Anthony Gonzales described how impactful substance abuse and other personal issues are in successful re-entry.

### **Discussion of Community Forum Participation**

- Dr. Cindy Burke shared a slide that described what additional analysis will be forthcoming.

### **Discussion of Advisory Group Activities and Involvement**

- A majority of the group expressed interest in forming working subgroups and Darwin Fishman offered to help set up said groups.
- Bill Payne expressed interest in discussing topics that are relevant but missing from the project's scope of work.

### **Update on Project Timeline**

- Dr. Cindy Burke shared a slide showing upcoming project goals.
- Andrea Pella noted that if a project extension is granted, Dr. Cindy Burke's return to the Board of Supervisors would be pushed to October.