Overview

Key stakeholders of El Dorado County's Community Corrections Partnership met over a two-day workshop to discuss the purpose and intent of the public safety realignment, local impacts, needs, opportunities, and challenges, and to develop strategic directions to advance and support public safety under California's Public Safety Realignment (AB 109) and subsequent related legislation.

Key Takeaways

The planning group reviewed data related to improved public safety in EDC since the advent of Realignment (lower reported crime rates and fewer arrests). While no direct causation can be drawn to CCP related efforts, the group acknowledged improvements and the likely impact of various practice changes to reduce recidivism, as measured by three-year re-conviction rates.

Despite notable public safety gains, crime remains concerning and systemic challenges persist, principally associated with coordination across agencies and availability of services. Though data shows that numerically, the count of individuals in the system under realignment are not materially greater than prior to AB 109, experience suggests that the type of individuals under local jurisdiction has changed – with a greater proportion of people having higher level needs served by the local systems. The planning group recommended more attention to improving coordination and better access to services which are responsive to the higher-level needs of people in custody and on probation.

One opportunity to increase services are new benefits for MediCal members, under CalAIM. Guest presenters from the Managed Care Health Plans shared updates with the group on the rollout of new benefits, including enhanced care management services and jail transition programming for exiting inmates. Other participants talked about the important contributions of EDCOE in developing job training programs and encouraged more focus on employment as a component of rehabilitation.

Recommendations

The group recommended exploration of three approaches to strengthen the impact of the CCP:

- 1. Convene cross-agency training sessions on evidence-based interventions and local practice norms (including referral and reporting strategies) to promote rehabilitation.
- 2. Establish measures of success and track impact of work occurring across partners.
- 3. Expand service availability, especially with regards to mental health treatment at all levels, substance abuse recovery services, and job training programs.

Next Steps

- Review data describing local practices and service delivery trends.
- Conduct partner key informant interviews and site visits.
- Next meeting late July or early August to select shared measures and refine funding approach.