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2012 SEP 27 AM 11:51

# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** DEANNA J. SANTANA  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

**FROM:** Sara Bedford

**SUBJECT:** DHS Informational Report on Reentry

**DATE:** September 17, 2012

City Administrator  
Approval

Date

9/20/12

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** Citywide

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Public Safety Committee accept the informational report from the Department of Human Services (DHS) /Community Housing Services Division and Measure Y Division on collaboration of Reentry Housing, including programs partnering with Alameda County, serving individuals on probation and on Post-Release Community Supervision (AB 109).

## OUTCOME

This report provides the Public Safety Committee with information on how DHS is partnering with Alameda County Probation on AB 109 and other reentry housing initiatives.

## BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Last year the California Assembly passed AB 109, historic legislation that will enable California to close the revolving door of low-level inmates cycling in and out of state prisons. This is achieved largely through transferring responsibility for incarceration and supervision of many low level inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to the county level. The Department of Human Services is partnering with the Oakland Housing Authority and the Alameda County Probation to provide housing services to this new reentry population.

Alameda County Probation has developed an Implementation Plan for AB109 which includes a housing pilot plan to place Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) clients into permanent housing in the community. Homelessness is a real concern for many offenders. It is difficult for an offender to maintain a job or get regular services if they do not have a place to live. Transitional, subsidized housing is a valuable tool for offenders because it is often paired with employment opportunities and mental health services. These services are critical to reducing recidivism and returning offenders to productive membership in society.

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Public Safety Committee  
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The housing pilot plan builds upon a Housing First model developed through the Oakland PATH Rehousing Initiative (OPRI) and the Housing Resource Center model developed through the EveryOne Home Priority Home Partnership (PHP). Because the new housing pilot program builds upon the existing partnerships and capacities developed through EveryOne Home and PATH, Oakland will continue to be a participant in criminal justice realignment as the new PRCS population is integrated into the community.

## ANALYSIS

Two Housing First program models developed under the EveryOne Home Plan to End Homelessness in Alameda County and its Oakland-specific companion Permanent Access To Housing (PATH) strategy laid the groundwork for the Realignment housing pilot program now being implemented: OPRI and Housing Resource Center (HRC).

Oakland's OPRI was created through the Oakland Housing Pipeline Committee in 2010 as a partnership between the City of Oakland and the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA). It is a sponsor-based housing assistance program designed to provide permanent housing placement and ongoing subsidies and supportive services to homeless individuals living in encampments, to transition age youth exiting from the foster care system, and to individuals exiting the criminal justice system. The public agencies involved in the program include the OHA, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services (BHCS), the Oakland Department of Human Services, Community Housing Services and Measure Y units; the housing and service providers include Abode Services, First Place for Youth, Operation Dignity, Volunteers of America, East Oakland Community Project, St. Mary's Center and Lifelong Medical Care.

Through June 2012, a total of 124 clients were placed in permanent supportive housing through the OPRI program. Of these, 106 clients retained their housing through the end of the period, a retention rate of 85%. Of the clients in housing, 39 were encampment clients, 19 were behavioral health clients, 38 were re-entry clients, and 10 were re-entry youth.

The OPRI partnership has dedicated forty (40) OHA units to Oakland's reentry population, for those who are engaged in wrap around services. Measure Y's Project Choice (pre- and post-release intensive case management) supports re-entry clients as they reestablish themselves in the community after incarceration. Project Choice services include life planning, cognitive restructuring and support groups, mental/substance abuse assessments, and referrals to other wrap around services (housing, employment, education, etc). Since 2006, Volunteers of America Bay Area (VOABA) has provided Project Choice services at San Quentin State Prison and in the community. The 40 OPRI reentry participants are case managed by VOABA. VOABA has been challenged to provide services to both Project Choice and OPRI participants. In response, DHS and VOABA created a Reentry Housing Specialist position whose job is to support OPRI housing retention. It should be noted the Project Choice clients are not AB 109 clients, but rather individuals with a more serious offense history and so remain under parole supervision.

Thru June 30, 2012, forty four (44) Project Choice participants have been housed through the OPRI program; thirty-one (31) participants have been housed at least 6 months, and nineteen (19) have been in housing for over a year. Six OPRI (6) participants exited the program, 4 for lease violation/abandonment, 2 re-incarcerated (recidivism rate 4.5%).

Another Housing First program model, Housing Resource Centers (HRC), was developed in 2010 through the EveryOne Home Priority Home Partnership collaborative under the federal stimulus Housing Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. HRC used rental assistance resources and shallow or tapering housing subsidies to place homeless populations into permanent housing. Housing search and acquisition services for the HRC were provided by Abode Services. The HRC model uses many of the same elements as OPRI, and acts as a model for the PRCS housing pilot program.

The primary goal of the PRCS pilot program is to assist PRCS clients to locate, obtain, and retain housing as quickly as possible, so that they are not homeless upon release from the prison system. The pilot is designed on a Shelter Diversion and Rapid Rehousing model. When possible, PRCS participants will be assisted to find appropriate long-term or temporary housing immediately, to avoid both homelessness and a prolonged shelter stay. If the initial placement is shelter or temporary housing, the participant will be supported to locate and move into a longer-term housing setting as soon as possible.

Alameda County Housing and Community Development (HCD) Department will oversee the implementation of the housing pilot program. HCD has contracted with some existing OPRI and HRC agencies, including East Oakland Community Project (EOCP) in Oakland to provide housing services. Housing Specialists in the contracted agencies will work with PRCS participants, in close coordination with Probation Officer case managers to identify housing needs and provide resources and housing options. Because EOCP also has shelter capacity, Oakland PRCS clients may undergo a short period in the shelter facility using shelter beds funded through the county CHASS system, if necessary. Probation Officers will provide the primary case management for the clients, assisting them in achieving goals relative to income/employment, behavioral health care, primary health care and other needs to support their housing. Similar to the OPRI/HRC model, clients will be placed into permanent rental housing in the community with ongoing services support from the Probation Department and entities it contracts with using realignment funds, as well as other community services.

The Department of Human Services expects to continue to participate in the re-entry dialogue and broader collaborative around housing and community integration for PRCS populations and welcomes the opportunity to coordinate with Alameda County in the Realignment mandate. Through Measure Y, DHS is also involved in a variety of other initiatives and projects with Alameda County Probation. A description of these projects is provided in ***Attachment A***.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

This item did not require any additional public outreach other than the required posting on the City's website.

### **COORDINATION**

This item did not require any coordination with other City departments; the report and resolution have been approved by the Office of the City Attorney and the Budget Office.

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

No costs are incurred by the City through the Realignment Plan.

### **SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**


***Economic:*** Integration of formerly incarcerated clients into the economic mainstream reduces recidivism and crime and provides economic stability for clients, their families, and the community.

***Environmental:*** Integration of formerly incarcerated clients into familiar Oakland neighborhoods in supervised settings will provide for community stability and productive environments.

***Social Equity:*** Through the provision of housing and wrap around services to re-entry populations, these clients will begin to achieve stability and prosperity and contribute positively to the community.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Susan Shelton, Community Housing Services Manager at 238-6186 or Priya Jagannathan, Measure Y Interim Manager at 238-2360.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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ATTACHMENT

A – Measure Y Projects Description

## ATTACHMENT A

### Department of Human Services Collaboration with Alameda County Probation

- ***Measure Y Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Wraparound Strategy:***  
This strategy funds case management services to Oakland children and youth ages 12 to 18 who are leaving the JJC or Camp Sweeney and reconnecting with Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), or other appropriate educational institution. DHS, Alameda County Probation, OUSD, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, and funded case management agencies work in partnership to work with reentry youth. The collaboration includes monthly case conferencing meetings where information on referred youth is shared between the partners to improve outcomes for youth, as well as quarterly planning meetings where program successes and challenges are addressed.
- ***Second Chance Act Juvenile Offender Reentry Demonstration Grant:***  
DHS, in partnership with Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Alameda County Probation, received an initial grant, then a subsequent continuation grant for a total of \$1.125 million from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for further development of the Measure Y juvenile justice center. This grant funds a Probation Unit Supervisor located in the Transition Center, and increases the number of youth served.
- ***Measure Y Youth Employment – 4E Waiver:***  
The Measure Y Youth Employment strategy provides afterschool and summer employment opportunities for youth ages 14 to 18, prioritizing those youth participating in the JJC Strategy. Alameda County Social Services and Probation Departments have been able to provide both year round and summer Title 4E Waiver funding for most youth on probation. DHS is coordinating with both Probation and Social Services so Measure Y funding is made available to other high risk youth and young adults served by the Street Outreach Strategy but who are not eligible for Title 4E Waiver services.
- ***Measure Y Reentry Employment:***  
This strategy focuses serving on young adults under the age of 35 years old on probation or parole in Oakland through varied employment strategies such as transitional jobs, direct placement, and certification programs.
- ***Ceasefire Call-in Replication:***  
DHS is working in partnership on the Ceasefire Call-in replication in Oakland. The Call-in is a very coordinated effort led by the Oakland Police Department with collaboration from DHS, Probation, Parole, District Attorney, FBI, the Northern California Office of the U.S. Attorney General, Highland Hospital, faith based representatives and community members.