



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Proposition 47 Local Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: 03/18/2025

Location: Town Hall

Present: Ted Williams, Barbara Kilian, Queta Villalpando, Rachelle Sutherland, Neil Cervenka, Bernadette Rafanen, Bernie Norvell, Mellisa Johnson, Thomas O'Neal, Jason Morse, Jason Godeke, Cassandra Robbers, Randy Knutsen, Rob Torcynskil, Eloise Kelsey

Meeting started at 5:30pm

- Welcome & Overview of Project
 - Attendees introduced themselves and stated why they were interested in being on the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)
 - Thomas O'Neal went over the objectives for the meeting, an overview of Prop 47 grant and project
 - Key Points:
 - The goal of Prop 47 is to reduce recidivism
 - We received \$2.5 million for the project, of which \$1.5 million will be used to contract and work with a Non-Government Organization (NGO)
 - FBPD sees the LAC as a designated think tank to provide feedback, steer the direction of the project, and drive it forward
 - We are in Cohort 4 of Prop 47 grantees. The grant is coordinated by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
 - Two Community Response Unit (CRU) positions were funded out of Measure B to focus on Mental Health Illness (MHI) and Substance Use Disorders (SUD). Project Right Now, which was borne out of Prop 47 was defunded at the end of October however it is being re-funded and FBPD is asking for funding for a substance use counselor to share among local schools.
 - The goal of our local project is to expand the CRU program south to Mendocino and north to Westport. Half of current CRU time is dedicated to expanding services and the other half is dedicated to Fort Bragg
 - A stakeholder meeting is being scheduled for the end of April in Mendocino.
 - FBPD is in the process of contract negotiations with the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) to implement the

other part of the project. With Prop 47, CRU will have one emergency bed and six transitional beds at MCHC.

- FBPD is working with MCHC to address some early challenges due to the lack of communication from the State regarding the grant.
- Mellisa Johnson provided some successes of the program to date
 - Key Points:
 - She has been attending the meal outreach at the Mendocino Presbyterian Church on Tuesday afternoons to engage with folks and gain their trust.
 - Getting some referrals from church staff
 - Mendocino Presbyterian Church has offered us office space
 - Working to identify housed clients with MHI to keep them housed and connect them to resources
 - Have been asking MCSO for the assistance of a deputy
- Review of Bylaws
 - Bernie asked if we would be using Robert's Rules of Order to help structure the meetings and decision-making. Bernie agreed to send Thomas the procedures of Roberts's Rules of Order for review and consideration
 - A question arose as to whether we are subject to the Brown Act. Thomas will send this question to the City Attorney for an opinion.
 - Barbara asked if we could publish all materials in English and Spanish
 - The review of the bylaws was tabled until we get the answers to some of the questions posed above.
- Feedback and Questions
 - Queta asked how we identify clients needing assistance when they don't have an advocate
 - There was a discussion about behavioral health needs being apparent in the courtroom and that the judge has the ability to give a jail sanction to be released for services. Behavioral Health Court and CRU provide wraparound services. In addition, local law enforcement has been better at identifying needs and encouraging a mental health treatment instead of incarceration. The CRU has been key in this regard. Our goal is to capture them and pull them out of the criminal justice system and work on ego development and future thinking.
 - Barbara suggested that we reach out to RCS as another link for behavioral health resources.
 - Rob noted that we need to consider what might have come first and what caused what – in other words, is the mental health illness cause the homelessness or the homelessness cause the mental health illness?
 - Transportation was brought up as a huge issue and that we try to meet them where they are.
 - Mendocino residents might have a different view of their homeless population and the FBPD. We need to stress that CRU are not police officers and our goals are to target nuisance crimes and connect individuals with resources. Our target is

not the voluntary homeless population. Messaging will be important in Mendocino and Barbara suggested Narcan is a good way to start the dialogue – focus on providing Narcan and training. Perhaps a Narcan booth at the Mendocino Farmers Market?

- Just last year, CRU gave out 882 doses of Narcan along with training.
- Maybe CRU can start attending church meetings to gain trust and familiarity?
- Randy had a question about the winter shelter and according to Mellisa there have been a record number of beds and a record number of nights being open. Rob wondered if we should consider using the church setting for shelters.

- Homework

- Jason will send meeting minutes to the group
- Thomas will try to find example meeting minutes from LACs from past Prop 47 cohorts
- Thomas will try to find examples of bylaws from LACs from past Prop 47 cohorts
- Thomas will ask the City Attorney if the LAC is subject to the Brown Act
- Bernie will send Robert's Rules of Order procedures to Thomas
- Jason will send a Doodle scheduling poll to the group for our next meeting. Most likely in about 6-8 weeks.
- Jason will finalize the date of the Mendocino Stakeholder meeting and advertise it

- Adjournment – 6:40pm