

INCREASING SAFETY & REDUCING COSTS UNDER REALIGNMENT & THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Supporting Counties' Strategies & Implementation

CO-SPONSORED BY:

Partnership for Community Excellence, a Project of California Forward
The California Endowment
Californians for Safety and Justice
Community Oriented Correctional Health Services

The Partnership for Community Excellence (PCE), Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ) and Community Oriented Correctional Health Services (COCHS) have partnered to bring small groups of counties together to assist in developing county-specific strategies that take advantage of opportunities provided through the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act (Realignment) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to improve public safety outcomes and reduce county costs. Opportunities include:

**Increased flexibility and local responsibility;
Expanded Medi-Cal eligibility for offenders; and,
Generous federal reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal services.**

OBJECTIVES OF CONVENINGS

- Learn how to leverage the increased opportunities for health coverage under ACA and the increased flexibility and local responsibility under Realignment to increase safety and savings;
- Learn how partnerships between county criminal justice and health care systems can increase the number of people receiving services, particularly those with substance use disorders and/or mental illness, and reduce recidivism and costs;
- Identify specific issues, goals or strategies, and partnerships needed to address the unique needs of your county;
- Identify specific next steps for follow up; and,
- Identify potential technical assistance needs.

CONVENINGS INCLUDE

- Morning presentations by Steve Rosenberg, President of COCHS; and Jenny Montoya Tansey, Research and Information Director for CSJ; with ample time for questions and answers.
- County work sessions guided by a set of questions designed to identify key issues, partnerships, next steps and technical assistance needed.
- The Partnership, along with its partners providing follow up assistance to support counties' success.



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WHY IS THIS OPPORTUNITY IMPORTANT TO MY COUNTY?

The convergence of Realignment and ACA creates significant opportunities that can be leveraged to reduce recidivism and county costs and better integrate public services in counties. A large percentage of the individuals who cycle in and out of the justice system do not have health insurance and suffer from a myriad of health problems, including mental illness and substance use disorders. These untreated or unmanaged health problems, particularly behavioral health disorders, contribute to recidivism and high costs in the justice system.

The generous Medicaid reimbursement rate of 100 percent from 2014 to 2016, then decreasing to 90 percent by 2020, and the plan subsidies provided for those who are not Medicaid eligible, provides enormous opportunities for local criminal justice systems. Widespread health plan enrollment of people in jails and on probation coupled with both currently under-utilized and new health care resources, wholly or partially funded by federal dollars, will result in reduced:

- Jail operating costs;
- Jail population pressures;
- Health care expenditures by probation; and/or,
- County general fund expenditures for health care and criminal justice.

Partnerships between criminal justice and health care systems will be critical to taking full advantage of these opportunities to address the long-standing challenges caused by the prevalence of uninsured individuals with health problems, particularly behavior health problems, in the justice system.

The regional convenings will assist counties in leveraging both the increased opportunities for health coverage under ACA and the increased flexibility and local responsibility under Realignment to increase both safety and savings.

A series of webinars also will be conducted on various aspects of ACA, the interface between ACA and community corrections and a variety of technical aspects of Medi-Cal enrollment and eligibility that will help build overall capacity in counties. Other follow up assistance will be provided as needed.

Counties may want to develop strategies around a different opportunity or challenge and convenings can be arranged to assist in these efforts.

TARGET AUDIENCES

These convenings are designed to move participants from gaining knowledge and understanding to identifying the key elements of a plan to take advantage of this opportunity and next steps. In order for your county to make the most of this convening it is important that key leaders from county administration, criminal justice and health and human services attend. Counties that gained the most and were most successful in developing and following through on the plans they developed at the convenings included the following:

- County Administrative Officers - Coordinator of the County Team
- Chief Probation Officers
- Sheriffs and their jail health services administrators
- District Attorneys, Public Defenders and the Court
- Behavioral Health Officials
- Health and Human Services Officials, particularly those with specific knowledge in Medi-Cal including Drug Medi-Cal and enrollment.
- Public Health and Social Services Officials
- County or Regional Health Plans Representatives
- Legislative Affairs Officials

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Sharon Aungst at Sharon@cafwd.org or 916-529-0912 for more information about how to hold a convening in your county. These convenings are offered to counties at no cost.