

## MEMORANDUM

### FY 2026-2027 Policy & Budget Recommendations- Community Advisory Board to the Contra Costa County Community Corrections Partnership

The Community Advisory Board (CAB) would like to submit the following memorandum to the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) for consideration and request public discussion of CAB's proposed policy and budget recommendations for fiscal year 2026-2027. CAB recognizes CCP for its ongoing support and attention to CAB's recommendations over the years and will continue to work in partnership with CCP members and members of the Board of Supervisors to refine, enhance, and improve our local criminal justice system.

As County residents and representatives of the community, we want a fair and effective justice system in Contra Costa County. Our approach to policy rests on four pillars:

- *We want to invest in what works.*
- *We believe that true justice requires social justice.*
- *We believe that incarceration should serve as a last resort.*
- *We believe that safety for all depends on justice for all.*

This year, the CAB would like to address the following topics:

- Updates on the \$15M excess AB109 fund deployment
- ORJ AB109 departmental data collection activities
- Recommendation to fund a stipended position on CAB
- Education on SB 678 alignment to CCP's annual plan
- General updates from each subcommittee

#### **Updates on the \$15M excess AB109 fund deployment:**

CAB has had the honor to host Health, Housing, and Homeless Services to hear about their expansion of services targeted to support this specific population. Specifically, we would like to highlight the increased number of emergency and short-term beds dedicated to AB109 individuals, as well as the CORE Outreach team, which has already shown a significant impact by connecting many members of our community to vital resources. CAB also received a presentation from Behavioral Health to learn about their strategies, both within and outside of incarceration, to ensure that individuals are assessed and treated with appropriate care, and to include strategies for connecting them to resources upon their release.

Other major accomplishments include: The development and expansion to the new CORE Reentry Team, the collaboration with EHSD in the development of the GI pilot, the award of funding for additional Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Prevention housing funds, the award of funding for In-custody to Post-Release Women's Services, the deployment of renovation funds for Richmond Reentry Success Center (grand re-opening in October), and the county departments continued dedication to collaborating, sharing data, and streamlining services so individuals can easily access all of the great resources available to them.

Two funded projects that could use the support of the CCP are the County Employment Pathway Pilot program and the allocation of \$150,000 for the HR department to support this program and create more

transparency around the County's hiring practices for the AB109 population. We believe that quality employment that creates economic power is a vital component to the success of an individual. We would like to explore how the board can support the launch and implementation of the previous recommendations.

**ORJ AB109 departmental data collection activities:**

CAB is excited to see the ORJ launch the data dashboards, monitoring the engagement of the AB109 population across each department. This is a step in the right direction, ensuring the community has transparency on how County funds are being spent and the success of the individuals who are receiving support. We want to say thank you to the ORJ for taking the time to walk us through the dashboards and for receiving our feedback.

CAB would like to raise this activity up as a priority for CCP this year. The infrastructure within the County has now been built to easily collect and create visualizations with this data. It is imperative that each County department adhere to the quarterly data request from ORJ so we can create a comprehensive picture of all services across the County. Additionally, CAB's Policy & Budget Subcommittee would like to use this information moving forward to assist with budget recommendations, as it will create the opportunity to review trends over longer periods of time, understand where more investment needs to be made, and even areas we can reallocate resources.

We thank you in advance for your work on this, as we understand that anytime you launch a new process, there are constraints that need to be addressed. We hope to see the continued commitment to sharing this information in a timely and accurate manner.

**Recommendation to fund a stipended position on CAB:**

CAB is a volunteer board that is committed to including the voices of individuals who receive AB109 services within the County. Over the years, the Board has struggled to fill positions with individuals with lived experience due to many of the barriers our services are designed to help overcome. The board would like to recommend the adoption of a specific stipended seat on the board. This would require the identification of ~\$600 on an annual basis. Below you will find a high-level overview of the recommendation, which was based off of the report created by HomeBase on board positions that receive stipends.

CAB would like to recommend the establishment of a seat on the board that is for an individual who has accessed AB109 services in Contra Costa County. This individual would be recruited through CBO outreach engagements and would go through the same application process as any other board member. The individual would receive a \$25 gift card for their attendance and participation in any general board or subcommittee meeting (up to \$600 annually). This seat would not be eligible for individuals who are being compensated for their participation through any other means. The title for the seat will be determined later, and the CAB is open to any recommendations or guidance CCP can provide.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Received AB109 services from a local provider within the last 3 years
- Served time in county jail or state prison within the last 10 years
- Lives in Contra Costa County

**Education on SB 678 alignment to CCP's annual plan**

CAB experienced a large turnover of members this past year and prioritized educating all new members to ensure a deep understanding of how AB109 funding works. During the retreat, the board learned about SB 678 and the County's ability to receive additional AB109 funds above the standard allocation if we reduce our jail population and show a reduction in recidivism.

As funding becomes increasingly difficult to obtain year over year, it is essential for the CCP to develop strategies to identify and secure additional funds for the AB 109 population. These goals are aligned with the County's overall objective of reducing incarceration rates and supporting those who have been released to have access to jobs and housing so they do not reoffend.

We recommend that the Probation and Sheriff's office detail strategies that will make our County more competitive in receiving these funds in future years.

**General updates from each subcommittee:****Policy & Budget Subcommittee**

The Policy & Budget Subcommittee has focused on understanding the data sharing agreements ORJ has with various County departments, supporting public access to data associated with AB 109 services, and providing feedback on RFPs released by ORJ.

**Programs & Services**

This year, the Programs & Services department concentrated on two main goals: thoroughly reviewing the current client survey process and establishing clear models for our 2025 goals. Key initiatives focused on gathering better data, starting with the creation of a focus group to identify service gaps before and after client release. We also implemented new post-release surveys scheduled for 30, 60, and 90 days after release. To improve in-custody data collection, we worked to identify better delivery methods and coordinated these efforts with the Sheriff's Office. Furthermore, the subcommittee explored collaboration with AB109 providers to share survey information and continues to brainstorm new service models while advocating for expanded resources for the reentry population beyond current AB 109 funding.

**Outreach & Community Engagement**

This year, the OCEC Community Advisory Board (CAB) focused on three strategic areas: enhancing internal processes, expanding community engagement, and strengthening collaboration with district leaders. Key initiatives included expanding community outreach by creating processes for tabling events and other community engagement activities. To streamline operations, the CAB updated its new member onboarding processes for a smooth transition and established clearer internal processes and a framework for all members. Additionally, the board refined the Ambassador program and process for meetings and implemented a mid-year check-in with district leaders to better understand gaps in services better and identify new areas of focus.

CAB understands that the current budget projections anticipate a reduction in funding from the state and would like to maintain the current level of investment in community programs with a standard cost-

of-living adjustment comparable to the county department's increases.

CAB is committed to ensuring the voices of the AB 109 population are amplified through our work and their needs are being met through County investments. As CAB continues to increase opportunities for more public involvement, we encourage the CCP, PPC, and CAO staff to share ideas and areas of focus to ensure we are in alignment.

Thank you for your consideration,

CAB Members 2025