

Contra Costa Holistic Intervention Partnership

*Improving Public Safety, Reducing System
Costs, Strengthening Communities*



Ellen McDonnell, Chief Public Defender

Contra Costa County Office of the Public Defender

Report to Public Protection Committee

May 18, 2026

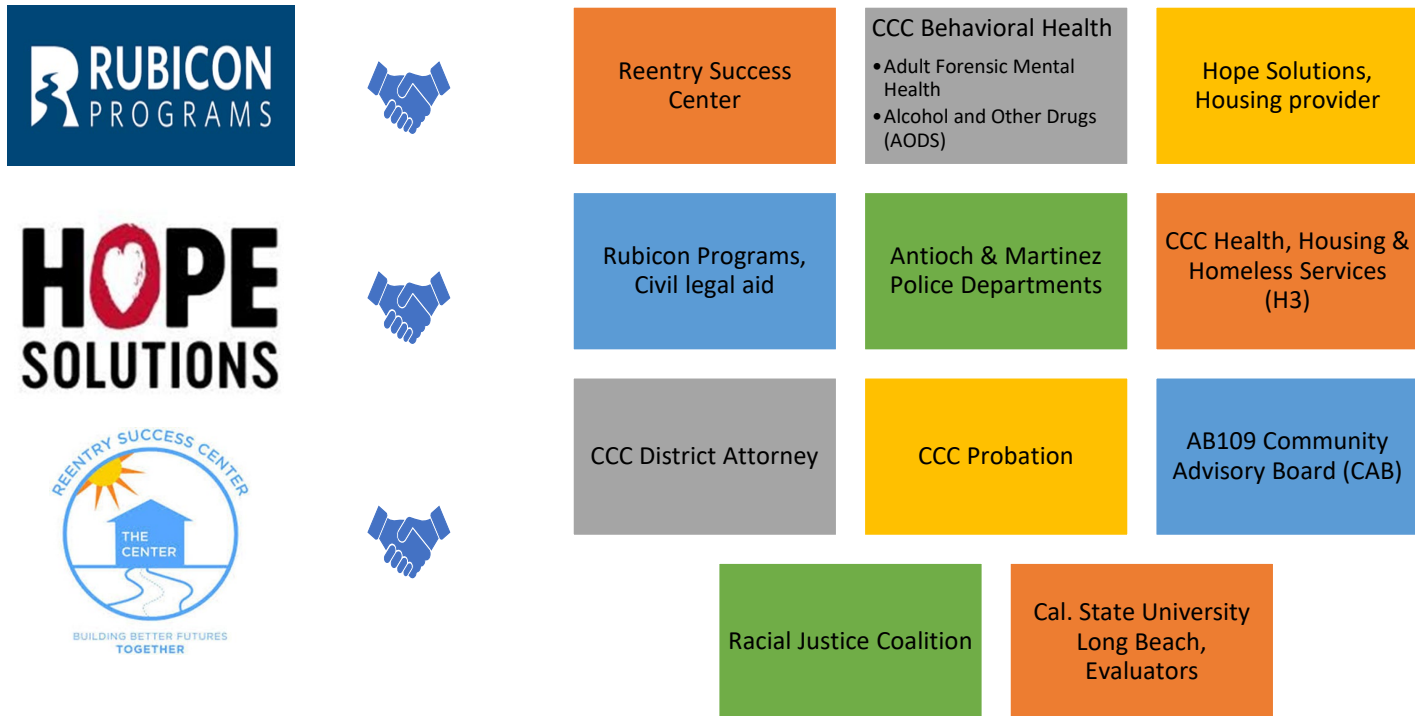


What is The Holistic Intervention Partnership?

HIP launched in 2020; this is a state-funded diversion & stabilization initiative

- Focus: Highly vulnerable Public Defender clients facing misdemeanor or “wobbler” charges with:
 - Homelessness, substance use, mental illness, disability, extreme poverty
- Since its launch, HIP has served **1,965** total people
- **1,195+** people served in last 2.5 years
- Exceeded three-year goal of clients served by 158%

HIP Partners are County and Community-Based



Who Does HIP Serve?

Current HIP clients present with more complex issues

- Increase in unhoused HIP clients and those with Behavioral Health & Substance Use Disorder challenges
- Reduction in those with health insurance or receiving public benefits
- HIP target population similar to the Familiar Faces population serving those with repeated system impacts



One of Many HIP Success Stories

HIP Client living in car struggling to maintain employment

- Rapidly housed through HIP partnership
- Connected to employment support and CalAIM services
- Case resolved without incarceration
- Permanently housed and stably employed



Funding Challenges

State funding extended — but reduced

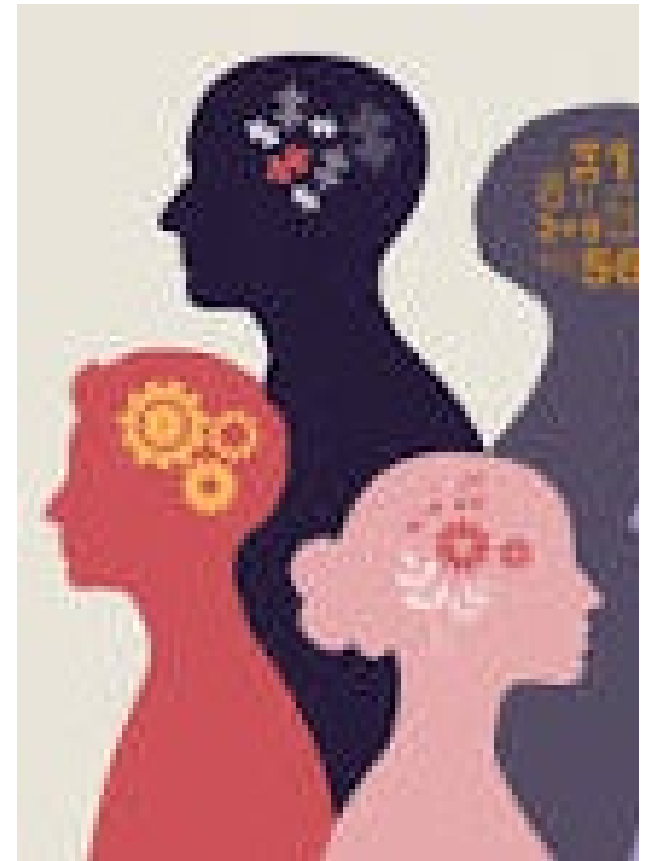
- Larger BSCC Prop 47 grant ends Summer 2026
- Small state grant maintains reduced services
- Acute need for housing and other reentry services continues to increase
- Client complexity increasing due to new focus on Prop 36

The need is growing. The funding is shrinking.

What Makes HIP Different?

Early identification + holistic intervention

- Strong county-CBO partnerships: Hope Solutions, Rubicon, Centro Legal
- Rapid housing placement and rental assistance
- Employment and reentry services
- Public benefits advocacy and CalAIM enrollment
- Local Advisory Committee from all sides of the justice system stewarding the project



Housing Impact

April 2023 – December 2025:

- **506** individuals/families received housing services
- **85.2%** successfully housed

122 HIP clients housed in 2025

- Average time in HIP-funded housing: 120 days



Prevention services stop homelessness before it starts.

HIP's Reentry Services and Civil Legal Aid Partnership



Public benefits

Employment training

Family court hearings

DMV hearings

Employment & licensing appeals

Support & transportation w/court ordered meetings

Fiscal Responsibility

\$6M grant over 3 years;
served 1,195+ people

- Average cost: **\$5,020 per person**
- Familiar Faces cluster average: **\$191,423 per person**
- HIP connects clients to benefits and healthcare

***HIP isn't a cost center.
It's a cost-avoidance strategy.***



Strategic Opportunity

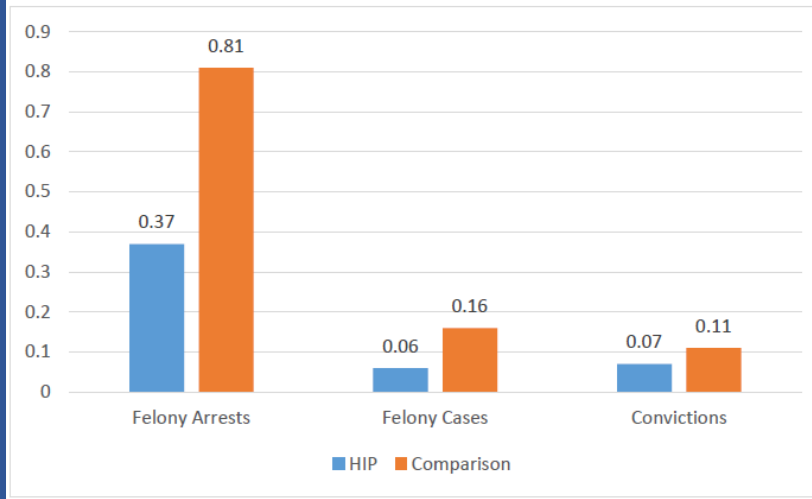
HIP has the potential to continue to:

- Support the Familiar Faces impacting systems across our county
- Expand benefits enrollment and increase community stabilization
- Leverage Continuum of Care funding
- Attract additional public and private grants

County collaboration positions HIP to unlock outside funding

HIP Decreases Future System Involvement

Figure 3-6: 12-month significant criminal history outcomes



Felony ARRESTS were 181% more likely for non-HIP public defender clients with comparable demographics & criminal backgrounds

Felony CHARGES were nearly two and a half times more likely (236%) for comparison group

Criminal CONVICTIONS as a whole were 238% more likely for comparison group

HIP is Proven, and More Critical Than Ever

- HIP is an effective model at reducing recidivism
- Local Misdemeanor and Felony filings have both increased driving the need for HIP services
- Proposition 36 filings are increasing incarceration time locally and in state prison
- Behavioral health and homelessness pressures rising
- HIP infrastructure already built and evaluated

Scaling HIP is critical to increasing community stability.

HIP Strengthens Public Safety and Equity

Reducing system costs by
reducing homelessness

Improving behavioral health
outcomes

Enhancing public safety

Advancing racial equity and
system efficiency

Maximizing state and federal
funding leverage

Thank you!



HOLISTIC INTERVENTION PARTNERSHIP

If you have had recent police contact, we may be able to connect you with free resources that will help you get back on the right track

- ✓ Employment assistance
- ✓ ID and document retrieval
- ✓ Fight an eviction
- ✓ Substance abuse treatment
- ✓ Counseling
- ✓ Reinstate/apply for benefits
- ✓ Restraining orders
- ✓ Debt collection issues
- ✓ Housing navigation
- ✓ Mental health services

Call, text, or email: **(925) 378-0058** / help@pd.cccounty.us

