

# ***California Realignment Background***

The state began to push  
for increased  
programming and  
rehabilitative services

# SB - 678

- Overcrowded prisons, and a crippling prison budget lead to dramatic change in 2009

# What did SB678 do?

- Incentivize rehabilitative programming
- Link funding to a reduction of those sent to state prison

# How was the money allocation figured

- Improvements from established baseline numbers

# Change Was Here

- Strong incentive to keep people local and link them to services

# SB-678 is still around

- The dollar figures are smaller, but the state is now using the quarterly reports to track what occurred in 2011 (criminal justice realignment).
- Changes that occurred because of SB-678 were significant (thinking, tools, etc.)

# California realignment and Lake County

- What it is? An abbreviated long answer
- When?
- What does it look like in Lake County?

# Brown v Plata

In 2011, in a 5 – 4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that California Prison overcrowding was a violation of Prison inmates eighth amendment right against cruel and unusual punishment

# California Prisons prior to realignment

- Designed to house 85,000
- Prisons were housing approximately 156,000 in 2011.
- The prison budget was in terrible shape

# State's action required

- AB109 and subsequent cleanup legislation to "reduce recidivism."
- The state needed to decrease the population to 110,000 (137% of capacity)

# D day

- October 1, 2011 – skepticism abounds

# What is criminal justice realignment

- Shift housing from State Prisons to local facilities
- Shift responsibilities of supervision from State to county (Probation in every case)
- Shift some funding from State coffers to counties
- Consequently, new populations of supervisees now exist – PRCS and Mandatory Supervision

# Local Housing has been huge

- We've had more than 230 people sentenced to local prison commitments since October 1, 2011
- The average length of sentence is just under three years

# Funding shifts

- FY 2011 -2012 the counties received approximately \$400 million
- FY 2012 – 2013 the amount increased to \$850 million
- FY 2013 – 2014 the amount again increased to approximately \$1 Billion

# Lake Counties cut of money

- FY 2013 – 2014 – over \$2 million

Community Corrections Partnership (CCP)

Other procedural changes present across the state as a result SB67 and realignment

- Validated tools now abound
- Improved case management systems are being used
- Analysts, previously unfunded in departments, are present in just about every department

# Realignment Myths

- Prisoners were to be released early
- "low level" offenders would remain local, and/or would be supervised by county
- State would pay for costs to county

# PRCS

- These are people whose last offense was not recognized in the Penal Code book as serious or violent. Also, the person has not been assessed to be a "high risk" sex offender
- Different rules of supervision – not probationers

# Mandatory Supervision

- These are people whose present offense, and criminal history render them ineligible for State Prison, and whose prison commitment is "split."
- Our county is in the minority with this population

# New legislation coming soon?

- Making Mandatory Supervision mandatory

# How many PRCS are there?

- As of today, we have 66 PRCS offenders on supervision
- We've handled 222 PRCS in some way since realignment began

# Different rules for discharge

- 6 months – discretionary
- 1 year - mandatory

# Probation Challenges

- Educate partners about legal changes and new populations
- Tracking
- Supervision in general
- Identifying criminogenic needs and linking with appropriate service providers (Many services previously provided by state disappeared soon after realignment) and ...

# What services?

Lake County has limited resources and services

# Education

- The changes are numerous and detailed, and continue – clean-up legislation abounds
- Communication with law enforcement partners
- New processes for court involvement
- Community education - continuing

# Tracking for Evidence Based purposes

- Evidence Based practices boils down to "what works"
- What works?
- No longer going off of "gut feelings," or anecdotal information
- This is where everyone is heading – this creates opportunities for new service providers, especially if they track their results

# Supervision

- We need more officers in the field
- EBP indicates that "high risk" caseloads range from 35 – 50. Our "high risk" officers have approximately 100 on their caseloads
- Our officers are frequently given court assignments

# What do the PRCS need

- Housing  
A significant % of the population is either homeless or couch surfing
- Mental Health services (CCCMS, EOP, etc.)
- Employment
- Controlled substance treatment
- Transportation
- General support services

These are examples of possible criminogenic needs

# Where are the services

- Residential services are available through Hilltop. Some funding has been set aside through CCP. They also have Sober Living Environments
- No facilities available for homeless sex offenders locally
- The Bridge
- We need homeless shelters

# Mental Health

- Services available through Behavioral Health
- Information sharing is a must (some was built into the legislation, some we've built with partners)

# Partnerships

We started meeting on a monthly basis with Behavioral Health. It has grown in size and purpose

# Employment

- The Lake County unemployment rate as of August of 2013 was 11.6%
- Few jobs available, let alone living wage jobs
- There are some employment service providers locally
- Schools help as well

Ex-offender employment workshop

# Controlled Substances

- AODS
- BI
- AA/NA

# Transportation

- Most of our offenders are without a car, a driver's license, or money for public transportation
- Many of our services are in Lakeport, the majority of our neediest people are in Clearlake

Nearly ½ of our population reside between Clearlake Oaks and Middletown

# Some services we just don't have

- SAFER, for instance

# People with needs

- Lake County has 791 on formal felony Probation
- Nearly 200 on formal misdemeanor Probation
- We don't track those on summary Probation (many)

# Where are our people who need services

## Breakdown by zipcode

Clearlake	95422	290
Clearlake Oaks	95423	43
Clearlake Park	95424	4
Cobb	95426	15
Finley	95435	2
Glenhaven	95443	5
Kelseyville	95451	100
Lakeport	95453	90
LochLomond	95426	15
Lower Lake	95457	24
Lucerne	95458	68
Middletown	95461	28
Nice	95464	47
Upper Lake	95485	34
Hidden Valley	95457	24
Witter Springs	95493	2

Clearlake	95422	395
Clearlake Oaks	95423	59
Clearlake Park	95424	8
Cobb	95426	19
Finley	95435	4
Glenhaven	95443	7
Kelseyville	95451	118
Lakeport	95453	125
LochLomond	95426	19
Lower Lake	95457	41
Lucerne	95458	78
Middletown	95461	37
Nice	95464	55
Upper Lake	95485	47
Hidden Valley	95457	31
Witter Springs	95493	3

# When they get out of Prison, they express .....

- Fear
- Hopelessness
- Confusion about their direction
- Concern about tattered relationships
- Institutionalization

# Occasional optimism

- Some get out with a positive agenda (they're in the minority)
- Optimism without progress doesn't last

# Why we need to link this new population to services

## Recidivism

- Don't know, yet
- Typically, about ½ of our PRCS are rearrested for a new crime, or a violation of the terms of their arrest

## Rehabilitation

- Stops the revolving door

# What is needed

- Better communication
- Community involvement and education
- More services
- Residential treatment
- Transportation
- Job training and employment opportunities
- Fully utilize the Affordable Care Act

# Questions and Ideas