

# STANISLAUS COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday – November 17, 2022

Stanislaus County Probation Department

### MEMBERS/STAFF PRESENT

MARK FERRIERA, Chief Probation Officer, Chair, Probation Department  
LETICIA RUANO, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Probation Department  
JEFF LAUGERO, FOR BIRGIT FLADAGER, District Attorney  
JENNIFER JENNISON, Public Defender  
BRANDON GILLESPIE, CHIEF OF MODESTO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PATRICIA SANCHEZ, VICTIM'S ADVOCATE, District Attorney's Office  
DORIS FOSTER, DIRECTOR, Workforce Development  
SARKIS "TONY" VARTAN, Behavioral Health & Recovery Services  
TERRY WITHROW, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
CHRISTINE HUBER, DIRECTOR, Community Services Agency  
CYNTHIA DUENAS, Center for Human Services  
HANNAH PALMER, Sheriff's Office  
DEPUTY STEVEN ROSALES, Sheriff's Office  
SGT. JEREMY PEREA, Sheriff's Office  
TRISHA BIRCHARD, Modesto Police Department  
JEREMY GREEN, LCA  
CONSUELO GUZMAN, LCA  
MICHAEL BAGLEY, Nirvana  
DANE HELDING, Nirvana  
MARINA BETANCOURT, Learning Quest  
ISELA GUTIERREZ, Learning Quest  
MONICA POLINSKY, Sierra Education  
MICHAEL WALKER, Realignment Manager, Probation Department  
RAUL DOMINGUEZ, CARE Manager, Probation Department  
VANESSA BRAVO, Crime Analyst, Probation Department  
MARTHA CHIODINI, Crime Analyst, Probation Department  
YUEN CHU, Crime Analyst, Probation Department  
MARCO OLIVEIRA, Supervising Probation Officer, Probation Department  
ERIKA RUANO, Supervising Probation Officer, Probation Department

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by Chief Probation Officer Mark Ferriera. Members of the group introduced themselves.

### 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public present.

### 3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM MAY 26, 2022, AND AUGUST 25, 2022, MEETINGS**

MOTION: Brandon Gillespie. SECOND: Jennifer Jennison. The minutes for the May 26, 2022, and August 25, 2022, meetings were approved unanimously.

#### **4. ANALYST UPDATE:**

Trisha Birchard, Crime & Intelligence Analyst Trisha Birchard shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the cost of justice involvement in Stanislaus County and how the cost was constructed. The presentation focused on the following:

(The presentation is attached to the minutes):

- PROJECT ORIGINS
- WHAT IS JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT
- WHY LOOK AT THE COST OF JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT
- COST CONSTRUCTION
- WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COSTS
- COSTS FOR JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT IN STANISLAUS COUNTY
- KEY POINTS OF INTEREST

Trisha Birchard stated that the data utilized was from the fiscal year 2018-2019 to avoid skewed data by the impacts of COVID-19 and policy changes. She advised that the costs only included felony convictions, omitting misdemeanors because they fall under the Court's supervision and have no obligations to the Probation Department. Additionally, she noted that cost averages were figured out partly by the average length of stay in jail of felony convicts in this county. The highest cost to society was a statewide average that a project consultant and scientific literature provided.

Ms. Birchard also shared that there will be a second part of the Cost of Justice Involvement in Stanislaus County analysis that she will present at the next CCP meeting. The focus will be on the effectiveness of the programming offered in the fiscal year 2018-2019 and the effects of client attendance and participation on recidivism, society, and costs.

Board of Supervisor Terry Withrow commended Ms. Birchard on her presentation, highlighting that cost avoidance is cost savings because effective, evidence-based programming will result in a return on costs invested.

#### **5. PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Marco Oliveira, Supervising Probation Officer from the Probation Department, provided an update on programming at the Day Reporting Center (DRC). He advised that their tattoo removal program, Ink Doctor, will serve clients at the DRC on November 29, 2022. He noted that they needed more referrals to fill up the 5 hours of service provided and asked the group present to contact him with client referrals wishing to take advantage of the opportunity to have unwanted tattoos removed.

Michael Walker, Realignment Manager from the Probation Department, reported that a Domestic Violence class has been implemented for females and that the Probation Orientation Meetings (POM) will soon resume. Mr. Walker noted that there had been conversations with BHRS on how to streamline services offered to clients for a smoother transition into the appropriate services. He also reported that the Probation Department partnered with other local law enforcement agencies and participated in Regional Apprehension Team (RAT) operations resulting in the recovery of stolen catalytic converters, a self-made gun, and arrests. He shared that three RAT operations are scheduled to happen before year-end. The group expressed excitement about resuming POM meetings noting they are very beneficial to the clients.

CPO Ferriera advised the group that the Regional Apprehension Team is designed to be a partnership between other local law enforcement agencies in a specific jurisdiction and the Probation Department to target people on probation that are not being compliant. He also noted that the MOU is due to expire soon, and once updated, it would be sent out to all the partnering agencies for review and signature.

The group discussed the substance use treatment options available to clients that would eliminate transportation barriers. Cindy Duenas announced that the Center for Human Services now offers services in Patterson and Oakdale and is ready to start servicing the Ceres and Turlock area. She stated that clients should be placed into the nearest treatment slot available once they get assessed and evaluated. BOS Terry Withrow questioned if there was knowledge of how many treatment slots and beds for in-house treatment are available in this county. Tony Vartan, Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery

Services, emphasized the sensitivity of time when starting the assessment process when clients are motivated to start treatment. He also shared that there has been an improvement in their numbers, and the wait times have decreased.

CARE: CARE Manager Raul Dominguez from the Probation Department shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the following: (The presentation is attached to the minutes)

- CARE SERVICE TIMELINE
- SERVICES PROVIDED
- CLIENT UPDATES
- RECENT SUCCESSES

Jail: Deputy Rosales and Sgt. Perea reported the following:

- As of October, inmate job placement before their release from custody started. Currently, 42 inmates have been lined up for interviews.
- There is a need for volunteers and service providers to offer parenting and substance use disorder classes. He asked the group present to please let him know if they have any connections interested in providing in-custody services paid or volunteering their time in addition to any employment contacts that would hire individuals with a criminal background.
- There is a need for veteran-specific programming for those in custody.
- They recently lost their service provider from Sierra Vista, which provided the in-custody batterer's treatment program.
- Sgt. Perea is in training to be a certified facilitator for the 52-week Domestic Violence class; once completed with the training, he will facilitate in-custody.
- The Agricultural Vocational Program continues to be in the construction phase.
  - They currently have chickens and plan to add 40 goats and 16 cattle that the inmates will care for and manage.
  - A partnership with OES is being formed to identify target areas for fire abatement. The goats will be used for this purpose.
  - The approximate program deployment date will be May 2023.
- A BHRS employee is due to start working in custody, providing victim services geared to those in custody that were victims themselves.
- Sgt. Perea stated that the following phase would be an Automotive Program that will initiate in the coming years.

CPO Ferriera announced that from December 10<sup>th</sup> through December 23<sup>rd</sup>, providers would have the opportunity to submit proposals through the Request for Proposal process.

District Attorney's Office:

Patricia Sanchez from the District Attorney's Office indicated that their office continues to deal with staffing shortages. However, once their staffing situation improves, they would like to start visiting Nirvana and attending the POM meetings once available. She reported that from August 25<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup>, 23 victims received victim information, one was submitted to the case file, and 31 requests from the Probation Department were received.

Workforce Development:

Doris Foster, Director of Workforce Development, reported the following for this past quarter:

- 79 previously incarcerated active clients.
- 24 are employed with an average wage of \$18.25.
- 30 are attending higher education.
- 2 are signed up in a vocational school.
- 7 are going through on-the-job training, for which Workforce Development pays 90% of the wages for the first 6 months; following the on-the-job training, participants get hired.
- 21 youth were serviced: 9 in-custody and 12 out-of-custody.

Doris announced that Workforce Development was awarded a grant for their Prison to Employment Program in addition to knowing employers that would hire previously incarcerated individuals.

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS): Tony Vartan from Behavioral Health and Recovery Services announced that on December 1, 2022, a Safety Summit would be taking place at the Modesto Center Plaza. He also shared that earlier in the month, BHRS held a couple of Youth Summits in addition to meeting with the Turlock and Waterford communities referencing opioid issues.

Mr. Vartan also stated that BHRS has been focusing heavily on the CARE Act and the CARE Court and that he intends to present the proposal to the Board of Supervisors. He reported that several work committees are collaborating to develop a workable process and reduce confusion by having a single-entry point to a referral team focusing on multiple issues. Supervisor Withrow noted that the focus at this point is to expand on CARE Court's use to deal with substance use disorder by legally getting individuals off the streets and into the treatment needed.

Public Defenders Office: Public Defender Jennifer Jennison provided the group with a recruitment update. Ms. Jennison also shared that the Public Defender's Office recently partnered with an organization that specializes in client advocates to assist them with finding advocates with a broader skill set that would be able to identify and address client needs in addition to providing attorneys with the training on how to utilize the advocates best when identifying their client's needs outside of their traditional legal limits.

Nirvana: Dane Holding from Nirvana advised that Nirvana has plans to decrease their residential bed capacity by 6 beds bringing their capacity level to 30 beds by the end of the month. He noted that they average 22 beds, and although they are aware of the need in the community, they need more referrals to fill the open beds, and the decision was solely a cost-saving measure. Jennifer Jennison commented on possibly having clients that could fill the vacant beds. Cindy Duenas was on the fence about closing beds, noting the client's demand for residential treatment. She stated that there is a lack of knowledge of how to get clients connected with the appropriate service provider, and it was essential to discuss finding a solution.

Leaders in Community Alternatives (LCA): Jeremy Green reported that LCA at the Day Reporting Center had an increase in referrals to the Employment Program as well as an increase in individuals reporting from the REACT Center.


**6. COMMENTS:**

CPO Ferriera announced that the CCP Meetings moving forward would be an hour and a half.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date will be set for March 16, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.



What is the Cost  
of Justice  
Involvement in  
Stanislaus County

Constructing the Cost

# Project Origins

- ◆ Partnership between California State Associations of Counties (CSAC) Support Hub for Criminal Justice Programming
- ◆ CSAC has experience working with multiple California counties on similar projects
- ◆ Utilized financial data from fiscal year 2018-2019

# What is Justice Involvement?

Any adult who is involved in any part of the criminal justice system (arrest, court [District Attorney and/or Public Defender], incarceration and/or probation) is considered justice involved. These components are not mutually exclusive.

# Why Look at the Cost of Justice Involvement?

- ◆ To understand the monetary effects of justice involvement:
  - ◆ On the county
  - ◆ To Taxpayers
  - ◆ To Society
- ◆ For future use, to analyze the cost and benefit of programs and policies that are designed to impact crime and reduce recidivism



# Cost Construction

## ◆ Included: Marginal Costs

- ◆ Marginal Cost is defined as: The cost of adding one additional person, staff, or class to the system (i.e., salary)
- ◆ Marginal costs were used because they more accurately estimate the impact to the system that small changes could and/or will make
- ◆ Where marginal costs could not be obtained average statewide data or data from comparable counties were used

## ◆ Excluded: Fixed Costs

- ◆ Fixed Cost: A cost that is constant regardless of the number of people, staff or classes added or subtracted from the system (i.e., utilities)

# Included in the Costs

## Law Enforcement

Arrest

## Case Processing

Court

District Attorney

Public Defender

## Jail

Felony Conviction

## Probation

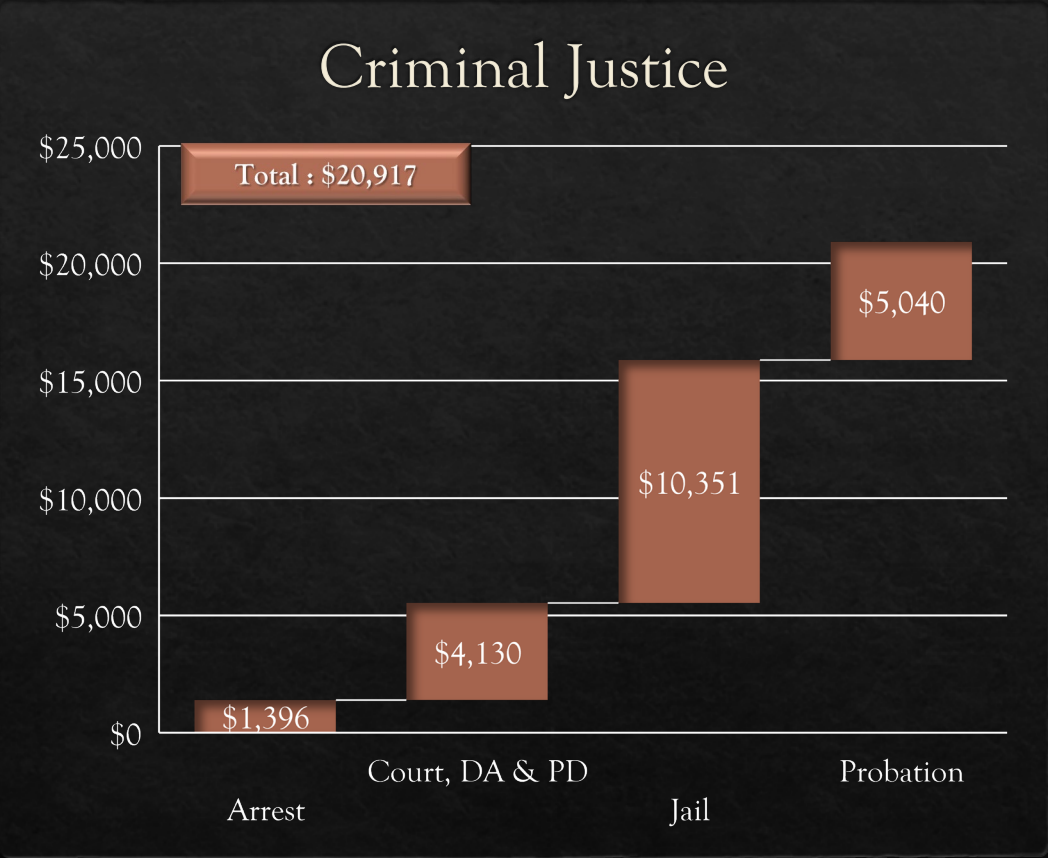
Felony Supervision

## Cost to Victims

Tangible Cost  
(property loss,  
lost wages . . .)

Intangible  
Cost (pain  
and suffering)

# Costs for Justice Involvement in Stanislaus County



# Key Points of Interest

- ◆ The cost of justice involvement is high (\$20,917)
- ◆ The cost is greater when the cost to victims is included (\$77,230)
- ◆ Gauge costs avoided by program participants that do NOT recidivate and re-enter the system
- ◆ Highlights the continuing need for evidence-based prevention, early intervention, and/or educational programs

# Questions or Thoughts

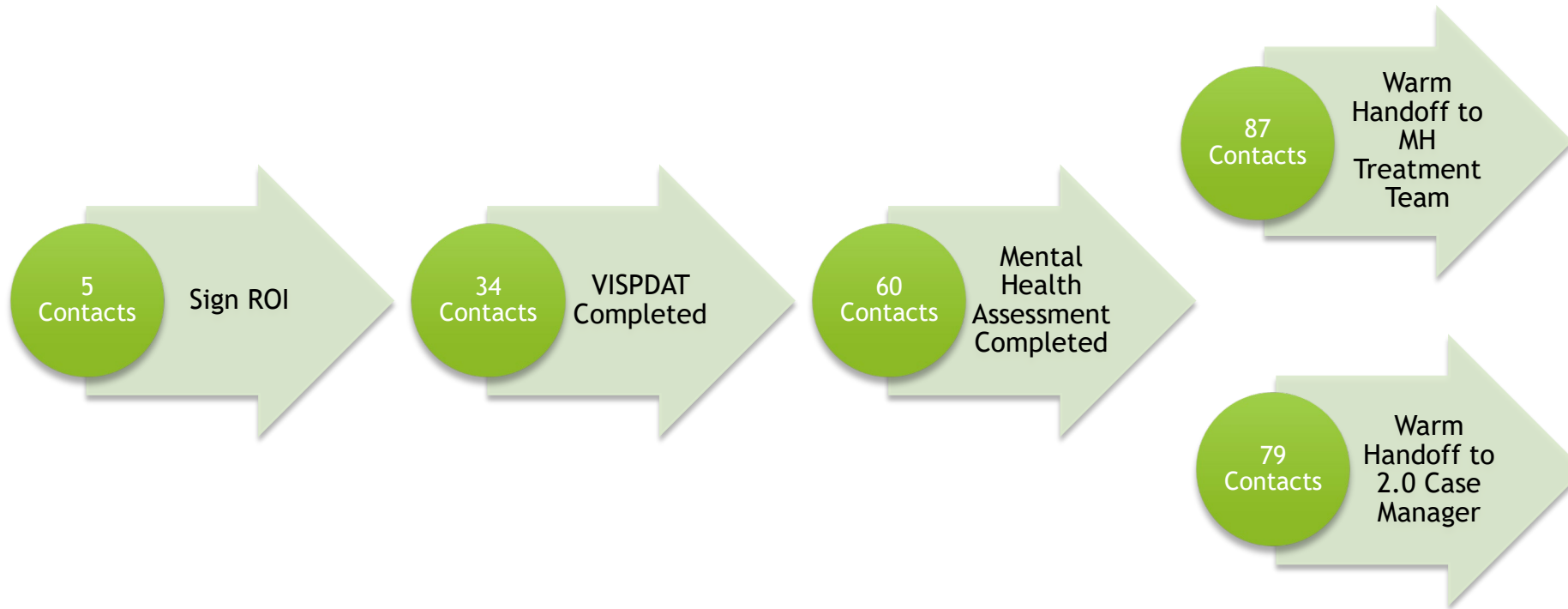




# CARE Service Timeline & Quarterly Update

November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# Service Timeline



- Outreach averages 15 contacts per client per month
- 2.0 Case Managers average 21 contacts per client a month

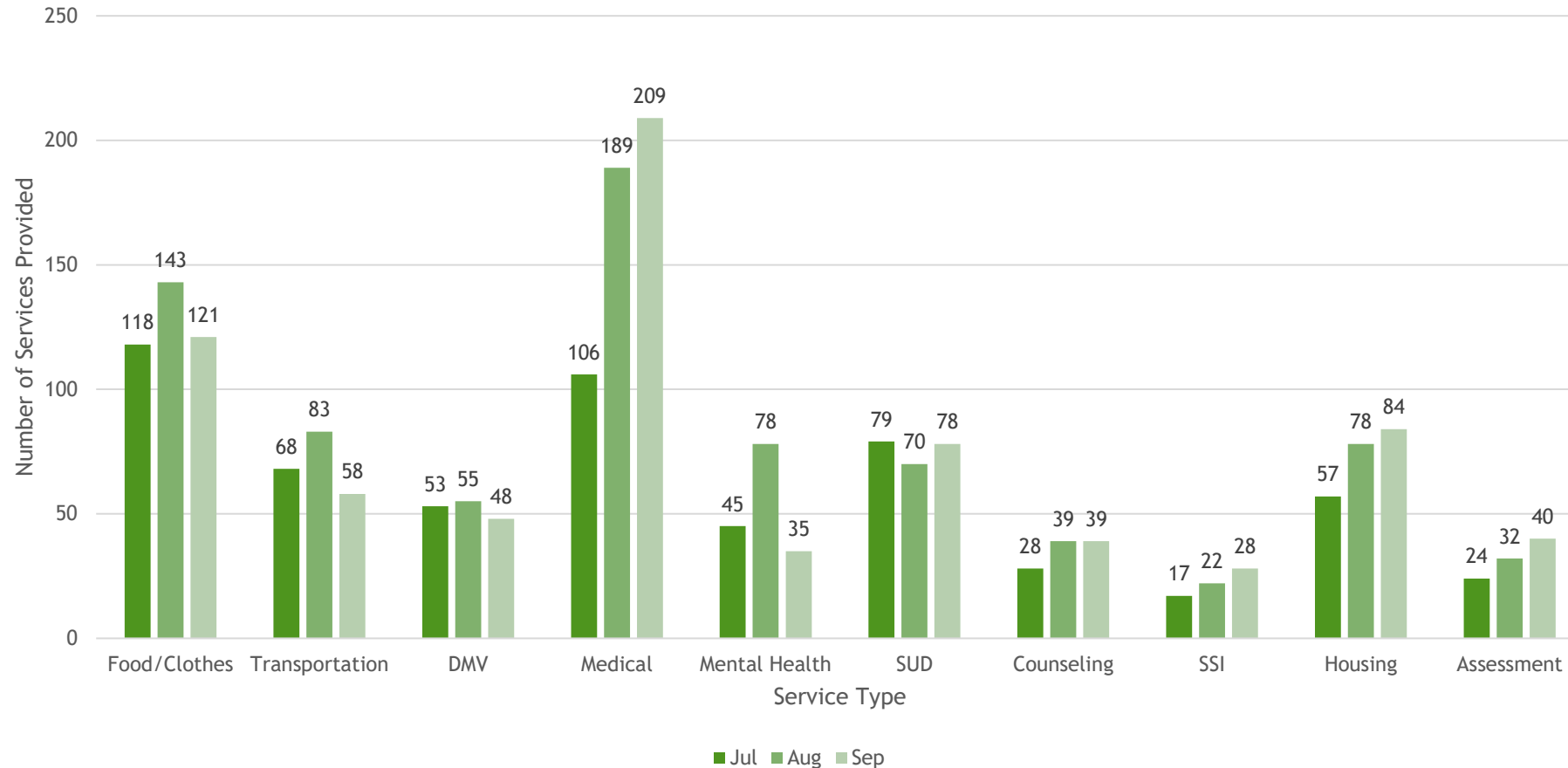
Non-treatment Closure

81 Contacts

Housed

105 Contacts

# Services Provided



- 1079 monthly contact average
- 351 individuals served on average per month



# Client Updates

- 93 Active Clients
- 14 New Referrals from Law Enforcement
- 40 clients case managed by CARE 2.0
- 7 clients opened to a Full-Service Partnership

# Recent Successes

- Two Turlock clients living at Broadway Park housed in a trailer at Driftwood mobile home park
- Pregnant client agreed to participate in SUD Tx and recently gave birth
- Client with medical risk agreed to shelter after many months of refusing services