

Twelve Key Elements of Successful Realignment Planning & Implementation Process

Implemented properly, realignment need not lead to an increase in your county's jail population; in fact, the new state funds coming into your county can and should be utilized to decrease incarceration by improving and increasing community programs demonstrated to reduce recidivism. Incarceration is expensive and, especially for low-risk populations, counterproductive. That is, there is evidence that it can produce more crime over the long run than it reduces. With a clear focus on reentry and on evidence-based alternatives¹ to incarceration, each county's realignment plan can reduce recidivism, improve public safety, and decrease incarceration levels while providing accountability to taxpayers, protecting against costly liability and reducing structural inequalities.

In adopting and implementing an AB 109 realignment plan, in order to maximize the opportunity for success, each county should incorporate the following key elements:

- 1) Set up a process from the outset that is public, inclusive and transparent and that complies with the Brown Act.**
- 2) Assess the characteristics of the currently supervised population and the anticipated new realignment population.**
- 3) Determine whether programs have a valid scientific basis demonstrating success, set program targets, and engage in periodic program evaluation and adjustments.**
- 4) Develop a comprehensive approach that includes each aspect of your local criminal justice system, from pre-entry to re-entry, addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior and recidivism.**
- 5) Establish a system of pre-booking or pre-charging diversion for your lowest-risk population.**
- 6) Reduce immigration-based detention and booking costs.**
- 7) Expand current, and adopt new, alternatives to incarceration utilizing home detention and work furlough to replace pre-trial jail detention.**
- 8) Instead of relying predominately upon jail to punish non-serious, non-violent offenders, utilize appropriate community corrections alternatives.**
- 9) Ensure that jail conditions and alternative sanctions meet constitutional standards and are subjected to legal review before implementation.**
- 10) Establish effective evidence-based post-release community supervision programs.**

11) Develop a financing model that prioritizes funding programs and services necessary for successful rehabilitation, treatment and reentry, instead of adding costly jail beds.

12) Do not get into the prisoner exchange business.

i The realignment legislation defines evidence-based practices as “supervision policies, procedures, programs, and practices demonstrated by scientific research to reduce recidivism among individuals under probation, parole, or post release supervision.” AB 117 § 5, 2011 Cal. Stat. Ch. 39, at 12 (to be codified at CAL. PENAL CODE § 17.5) *at* § 17.5(a)(9).