Alternatives to Incarceration
Advisory Group Meeting
Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 4:30-6:00 p.m. PST

Advisory Group Members Present: Laila Aziz, Charlene Autolino, Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin, Dr. Darwin Fishman, Anthony Gonzales, Betsy Jacobson, Bill Payne, Wehtahnah Tucker

Advisory Group Members Absent: Lon Chhay, Manuel Enriquez, Martin Leyva, Niki Martinez, Jackie Reed, Reginald Washington

Working Group Members Present: Melissa Bartolome, Lynn Car, Patricia Ceballos, Daniel Grubs, Dr. Nicole Esposito, Kathleen Flannery, Jorge Gonzalez, Sarah Gordon, Angie Law, Mica Miragliotta, Andrea Pella, Holly Porter, Natasha Robertson, Rachel Solov, Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, Matthew Wechter

SANDAG Staff: Dr. Cindy Burke, Dr. Octavio Rodriguez Ferreira, Sarah Egan, Sydney Frierson, Cesar Sanchez

Review of Scope of the SANDAG ATI Study and Addendum Opportunities for the Advisory and Working Group

- Dr. Cindy Burke presented an overview of the study goals and outlined the four significant remaining research tasks.

Overview of Working Group Efforts

- Andrea Pella provided an overview of the work and discussions that the Working Group has had in their respective Intercept Groups.

Overview of Advisory Group Working Group Efforts

- Dr. Octavio Rodriguez Ferreira discussed the Advisory Group’s role in the study and the general themes that have been discussed in its Working Group meetings.

Health & Human Services Agency-Public Safety Group Care Coordination/Data Sharing Presentation

- Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan presented an overview of the May 10th Board of Supervisors Action item: Supporting Care Coordination for Justice-Involved Individuals Through Funding and Integrated Data Infrastructure.
Open Sharing and Discussion Between Advisory Group and Working Group

- Bill Payne asked if Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan (WG member, representative from Behavioral Health Services) could provide any insight on how the data exchange framework at the state level (AB 133) is related to the data sharing/care coordination at the county level. Sayone commented that due to the similarity of these two efforts, County staff at Behavioral Health Services would continue monitoring any efforts that may affect or coincide with work at the county level.
- Dr. Andrea Dauber Griffin asked for more insight into the process of warm handoffs in sobering centers and other services provided to individuals in the county. She also inquired about how care coordination can be strengthened in the county.
- Dr. Darwin Fishman commented that he believes some conversations taking place in regard to the ATI project are too abstract and/or too focused on data focused issues. He also provided anecdotal examples of when law enforcement presence wasn’t necessarily needed.
- Andrea Pella asked a question about the social enterprise aspect of the Advisory Group’s Best Practices/Future Research subgroup discussion. Bill Payne offered insight into this discussion point by describing how this topic derived from their discussions about therapeutic community models.
- Charlene Autolino built upon the dialogue between Bill Payne and Andrea Pella by commenting on how a therapeutic community (i.e., Delancey Street) tried to come to San Diego, but ultimately was unsuccessful due to political stances.
- Cheryl Canson (meeting attendee) asked if there are any plans to improve the structure of mental health treatment efforts for incarcerated individuals. Dr. Nicole Esposito (WG member, representative from Behavioral Health Services) commented on ongoing/planned efforts related to improving mental health efforts for the justice-involved populations.
- Laila Aziz suggested taking a robust look at the peer support and warm hand off aspect of the sequential intercept model to help eliminate elongated jail stays and reentry issues.
- Jerry Hall (meeting attendee) suggested including recommendations that focus on data collection of longitudinal data that captures information about a justice-involved individual’s life before and after being incarcerated.
- Tom Packard (meeting attendee) asked what efforts were being done to merge all involved parties work (i.e., Advisory Group, Working Group, & SANDAG). Dr. Cindy Burke addressed this comment by discussing the content of previous and upcoming study reports. She also mentioned how members of the Working Group and Advisory Group will have the opportunity to author addendums to reflect any different opinions they may have.
- Dr. Andrea Dauber-Grimm asked if the police departments in San Diego engage in any other efforts to support ATI (outside of taking people who are contacted to sobering centers). Dan Grubbs (working group member,
representative from SDPD) noted how the police department always offer services before taking individuals to be booked for criminal charges. He commented that logistical reasons (e.g., time commitment needed to complete a booking) and orders from Chief Nisleit have influenced police officers to try to deter detained individuals to other services.

- Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin asked if SDPD collects data on the percentage of detained individuals who are diverted from custody. Dan Grubbs answered her question by explaining that specialized teams like H.O.T. (Homeless Outreach Team) and other community outreach teams typically do, however the general patrol officers typically do not.

- Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin noted that at Project In-Reach and Project In-Reach Ministry, they send multiple reports to various agencies for data analysis. However, given that there is no feedback loop regarding the data, it is difficult to make sense of what they have because they are unable to integrate their information with other higher-level data generated by partner agencies. She suggested that it could be very helpful for providers to understand how their specific data points (e.g. length of service, linkage to other services, etc.) link to other data that is collected and analyzed at the county level.

- Tom Packard (meeting attendee) asked about the data integration between law enforcement and referrals made to entities such as the MCRT (Mobile Crisis Response Teams). Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan commented on the data sharing and care coordination efforts and action plans that are being put into motion, following the May 10th Board letter. Sayone also commented on how MCRT is a use case that could highlight some of the opportunities and challenges that currently exist amongst the data sharing field.

- Holly Porter thanked the Advisory Group for their efforts and time commitment. She also commented on the alignment between the Advisory Group and Working Group views.

- Amanda Berry (representative from Supervisor Tara Lawson-Remer’s office) echoed what Holly Porter said by thanking all meeting panelists for their commitment and ability to integrate workflows and collaborate together to develop recommendations that will safely and meaningfully reduce the jail populations.

- Bill Payne commented on how short-term solutions for data sharing issues may still lead to fruitful and effective analyses and insights. He cautioned meeting panelists about the challenges and neglect that may arise while waiting for the development of perfect data sharing strategies.

- Lahela Mattox (meeting attendee, employee of the Regional Task Force on Homelessness) commented that there is a clear overlap in jail populations, individuals with mental health issues, and homeless population. She also highlighted her willingness to have additional roles in various capacities of the ATI project.