



Alternatives to Incarceration

Advisory Group Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 4:00-5:30 p.m. PST

Advisory Group Members Present: Charlene Autolino, Laila Aziz, Lon Chhay, Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin, Manuel Enriquez, Dr. Darwin Fishman, Anthony Gonzales, Betsy Jacobson, Bill Payne, Jackie Reed, Wehtahnah Tucker, Reginald Washington

Advisory Group Members Absent: Martin Leyva, Niki Martinez

SANDAG Staff: Dr. Cindy Burke, Mike Duncan, Sydney Frierson, Cesar Sanchez, Caroline Stevens, David Tedrow

Members introduced themselves and described their backgrounds and interest.

Community Outreach Strategy

Dr. Burke described community outreach efforts, including the ATI webpage on the SANDAG website, the mailing list, use of social media, and options to supplement engagement with non-technical efforts.

Advisory Group Member feedback included:

- Dr. Dauber-Griffin suggested providing survey links on social media such as Facebook, as well as utilizing NextDoor.
- Ms. Tucker suggested small local newspapers as an option. She offered to provide a list of potential outlets.
- Ms. Autolino offered to share information on her social media and LinkedIn accounts and suggested the San Diego Reader. She also suggested churches and pastors and offered to help communicate with them.
- Dr. Fishman suggested that we be clear about what we want to accomplish with community forums and make sure they are meaningful to participants.
- Mr. Payne suggested paper information that could be left at probation offices.
- Dr. Dauber-Griffin also suggested outreach to the universities. Ms. Jacobson reinforced that comment.

- Mr. Enriquez noted the language diversity of the community and the need to make sure we had translators at meetings. He also noted that radio could be a medium.
- Ms. Autolino suggested a presentation at the Re-entry Roundtable on April 19.

Community Survey

Dr. Burke described the Community Survey and shared a summary, asking for feedback. Highlights include:

- Three-week window to complete
- On-line or paper copies upon request
- English, Spanish, and other languages as requested
- Confidential and anonymous
- Not a random sample

Sections of Survey:

- Section A: Victimization, Perception of Crime and Public Safety
- Section B: Personal Knowledge/Experience of Incarceration
- Types of Needs and Services Specified (for respondents with experience of incarceration).
- Section C: Agreement with Other Public Safety Statements and Need for Change
- Section D: Demographic Characteristics and Final Comments

Advisory Group Member feedback included:

- Dr. Dauber-Griffin suggested adding the impact of incarceration on general mental health of the individual.
- Ms. Jacobson asked how widely we would disseminate and whether we could make the survey available in the jails.
- Dr. Fishman asked if we would be collecting data on arrests and patterns of arrests.
- Mr. Payne asked if we were using experienced survey designers and that we should use an appropriate reading level. He also added that veteran and disability status should be added to demographics. He also offered to use his computer lab as a place to have people test out the survey experience.
- Ms. Tucker added that it would be desirable to get currently incarcerated individuals.

- Ms. Reed said that we needed to be careful on wording in terms of the trauma that many women have experienced, and that the reading level is very important.
- Mr. Washington asked if we could get the survey to the transitional age people that may be housed locally in Probation-operated facilities.
- Mr. Gonzalez asked if it would be possible to disseminate the survey at halfway houses.
- Ms. Autolino asked if it would be possible to share with State, Federal and Military incarcerated people.
- Mr. Payne said his agency has several transitional housing locations and that he would make sure the residents would have the survey. He asked if his staff could proctor if residents needed help.
- Ms. Aziz asked about having the Public Defender/Courts assist in the distribution of the survey

Jail Data Analysis

Dr. Burke introduced the Jail Data Analysis including:

- Primary Policy Drivers of Reduced Incarceration
- Violent Crime in the San Diego region with index data 1980 -2021
- Property Crime in the San Diego region with index data 1980 -2021
- Jail Bookings by Month
- Changes in Level and Type of Bookings Pre-COVID and During COVID
- Characteristics of Individuals Booked into Jail
- Length of Stay (in days) and How it Has Varied
- Percent of SAM Arrestees Positive for Any Drug
- Percent of SAM Arrestees with a Mental Health History
- Percent of SAM Arrestees with a History of Housing Instability
- Receipt of County Funded Treatment 18 Months Prior to First Booking Pre-COVID
- Receipt of County Funded Treatment 18 Months Prior to First Booking During COVID
- Percent of Individuals with More Than One Booking – Treatment Status

Advisory Group Member feedback included:

- Dr. Fishman asked if there was a pattern of individuals who had not received treatment being more likely to recidivate. Ms. Stevens answered that this is a research question being looked.
- Dr. Dauber-Griffin asked if we had been able to run any inferential statistics yet. Dr. Burke replied that we were in initial phases of data discovery and evaluation of data quality and appropriate statistical methods. She noted that we were still working to determine how to handle individuals who were incarcerated in both the pre-COVID and COVID period.
- Dr. Dauber-Griffin asked if we would be recommending improvements to the County data systems. Ms. Stevens added that most of these data systems are transient, such that data is in constant flux. Ms. Tucker asked that SANDAG report data problems to the Advisory Group so that the Group could make a recommendation to the County on improvements.
- Ms. Aziz asked about the percentage of individuals with more than one booking having received treatment. Dr. Burke noted that it seemed counter-intuitive, but it may reflect individuals presenting with higher levels of need for treatment. Ms. Aziz noted that Drug Court cases would have high levels of repeat bookings.
- Mr. Enriquez asked about the timetable for the community survey. Dr. Burke replied that the plan is to get it out early May and finish by Memorial Day.
- Ms. Jacobson asked about how we are trying to get opinions on alternatives to incarceration and safety concerns. Dr. Burke asked for thoughts from the Committee on how to word these questions.
- Dr. Dauber-Griffin noted that this was a very short time period for the project and whether SANDAG was open to asking the County for a contract extension.
- Dr. Fishman noted that on ride-along with the Police about 90% of the interactions were with homeless individuals and concerning issues that would not be solved by incarceration and hoped that analysis of alternatives to incarceration would not be a politicized issue.
- Mr. Enriquez was concerned about a tendency for people who are filling out the survey to have fears that are not based in reality. He also raised the question of phone interviews. Dr. Burke replied that we did not have any budget for phone interviews.

- Mr. Payne added that we should focus on identifying what works and then providing ideas on how to manage change effectively, including making recommendations for roadblocks and how to navigate them.

Discussion of Public Comments

- Ms. Aziz noted that she found the comments submitted by Jerry Hall to be informative and useful.
- Ms. Autolino noted that too often member of the community feel that they didn't have a voice.