

## Reentry Data Management in Contra Costa: Analysis and Recommendations

### Executive Summary

The [Office of Reentry and Justice](#) (ORJ) is a pilot project under the County Administrator's Office in Contra Costa County which seeks to advance the county's programs and initiatives around realignment and reentry. ORJ would be better enabled to fulfill its mission if it had increased access to data about how individuals move through the criminal justice system in Contra Costa County (CCC), but the necessary data is today fragmented across multiple different stakeholders and is therefore difficult to access and use. This report proposes a technical system that would improve ORJ's capacity to use data, and describes some of the important non-technical considerations should such a system be implemented.

If the proposed system were implemented, questions offering insights into countywide reentry and recidivism would become easier to answer. We will explore these questions in more detail, including here just two illustrative examples:

- 1. What percent of individuals currently on probation received services from CBOs or county providers during their probation?*
- 2. Of individuals who are convicted of a crime and are then released on probation, is a pre-trial detention period negatively associated with subsequent attainment of housing and employment?*

Under the proposed system, data owners would transfer certain data to ORJ periodically, approximately once a month. ORJ would maintain scripts to ingest that data into a cloud-hosted database, which would support automated quarterly reporting as well as other analyses. We consider in detail four data owners within CCC: the Probation Department, the Court, and the Reentry Success Center (which houses data for community and county providers of reentry services), and the Office of the Sheriff. Through the periodic data transfer, records would be linked in the new ORJ database, and ORJ would have data describing how individuals move through the entire county criminal justice and reentry ecosystem. ORJ would be able to analyze this data to uncover insights into best practices within the county, and possible improvements in the existing ecosystem and in initiatives around realignment, reentry and justice.

There are important considerations to be addressed before this system is implemented. ORJ will be responsible for the protection of and proper utilization of private data, and we recommend that ORJ develop administrative and governance structures to supplement the proposed technology and tools. The proposed data pipeline depends on ongoing coordination with the data owners who will be submitting data to ORJ, and it will be important for ORJ to maintain trust and provide ongoing incentives to these data owners to ensure that they have a stake in the maintenance and development of the system. ORJ will need to understand and comply with agreed restrictions on use of data, and put into place data use agreements (DUAs) with each data owner. We discuss in this document considerations around privacy and the ethical use of this data. We also estimate implementation and maintenance costs for the system.

Implementing this technical system would advance the County's ability to understand and improve criminal justice outcomes and recidivism. To our knowledge, it would be an innovation in the realignment and recidivism field, which could serve as a model for other counties across the state and the country.