

## **Implementing the Medi-Cal Transformation Justice-Involved Initiative (1115 Waiver) and Lessons Learned Along the Way**

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Nilanie Ramos, MSW

Patricia Ceballos, MA

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### **Level**

Intermediate

### **Room**

### **Track**

PALs

### **CE**

CPA/BBS/CJER

### **Bio**

**Lynn Carr, MPA, MPH** is the Chief of Agency Operations for the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Medical Care Services' San Diego Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (SDAIM) Unit. Lynn has over 19 years of experience with the County of San Diego leading and supporting collaborative efforts to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable members of the community. Prior to joining the Medical Care Services Department, she worked for the Office of Homeless Solutions leading the development and implementation of innovative programs to reduce the cycle of homelessness and incarceration. In her current role, she is committed to the successful implementation of Medi-Cal Transformation, including the Justice-Involved Initiative, which creates a pathway for eligible Californians who are incarcerated to enroll in Medi-Cal and receive behavioral health linkages and reentry services in the 90 days prior to their release. Lynn received her Master of Public Health and Master of Public Administration degrees from San Diego State University and has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Illinois State University.

**Nilanie Ramos, MSW**, is an Assistant Medical Services Administrator for the County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Behavioral Health Services' Healthcare Oversight Unit. Nilanie has over 26 years of experience with the County of San Diego, with her last eight years in Behavioral Health Services leading, developing programs, and supporting efforts in justice involved intersections, hospitals, and workforce education. Prior to joining Behavioral Health Services, she worked in the field of child welfare services. Nilanie received her Master of Social Work from San Diego State University and has a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the University of San Diego.

**Patricia Ceballos, MA** is the Reentry Services Manager for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Patricia works collaboratively within the Sheriff's Department to develop, implement and evaluate reentry and rehabilitation services in all seven detention facilities. This includes developing strategic plans to identify key areas for future enhancement opportunities within the Sheriff's Department. As the Manager of the Reentry Services Division, Patricia oversees a division of professional, sworn and contract staff who provide direct services to the reentry population. Patricia is part of several local, state and national committees focused on creating and implementing best practices within reentry services. Patricia has 18 years of experience in reentry services, program development, facilitation, and training. She has provided training and conducted workshops throughout San Diego County on evidence-based practices, reentry and community engagement. Patricia holds a Master of Arts in Human Behavior from National University.

**Renée Stapley, MPP** has been with the County of San Diego since 2015. She is currently the manager for Probation Program Planning and lead for the Probation Department's Transforming Medi-Cal 1115 Waiver. Renée has over 20 years of experience working in local and state government, specializing in data analytics and business process reengineering to support law enforcement and fiscal planning. She has a Master's Degree in Public Policy from George

Mason University and a B.A. in Political Science from San Diego State University. She is also an advocate for rare diseases and her medically fragile child.

### **Narrative**

In January 2023, California became the first state in the nation approved to provide targeted Medi-Cal services in State prisons, county jails, and youth correctional facilities 90 days prior to release. As mandated through the 1115 Waiver, the County of San Diego, through cross-agency collaboration implemented pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment, behavioral health links, and is preparing to launch 90-day pre-release services to ensure youth and adults returning to the community from County jails and youth detention and reentry facilities receive and maintain health and social supports. The coordinated community reentry process to connect individuals with healthcare, behavioral health services, social supports, and Medi-Cal Managed Care providers is complex and requires coordination. This session will describe the requirements of the Justice-Involved Initiative, explain how the County of San Diego is implementing each component, and you'll hear from the County of San Diego's Sheriff's Office, Probation Department, and Health and Human Services Agency about the lessons learned throughout the collaborative planning and implementation process.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Identify the CA 1115 Waiver and Justice Involved Reentry Demonstration key elements
2. Describe the role of cross-agency collaboration in planning and implementing the CA state-mandated requirements for the Medi-Cal Transformation Justice Involved Initiative
3. Explain three benefits and challenges of implementing the State mandated 1115 waiver