



## The History

- Began as the Berkeley Own Recognizance Project (BORP) in 1970
  - BORP was a foundation funded non-profit
  - Alameda County took over program funding 1972
  - Limited expansion in spurts involved Probation
  - Moved from Berkeley to Oakland in 2002
    - Became court-administered
  - Essentially structured as it has been since 1970



## Current Structure

- Operates at 1 of 5 Criminal Court locations
- Referral based:
  - Primarily Public Defenders
  - Made after first appearance and setting of bond
    - Bond review process
- Qualitative and Time-Consuming Interviews Required
  - 3 staff + student interns
  - 1,333 interviews conducted in 2013



## Current Structure

- No PTS supervision or services
- Defendants reminded of court dates by phone call



## Impetus for Reform

- Limited Scope
  - Location and reach
- Qualitative and Time Consuming Process
  - Does not result in recommendation
- OR rates higher at most locations w/out PTS
  - From 2002-2013:
    - 18-36% misdemeanor OR rate
    - 12-42% felony OR rate



## Impetus for Reform

- Realignment and Community Corrections Partnership
  - Comprehensive re-assessment of status quo impacting custody rates
  - Focus on evidence-based practices and alternatives to incarceration
  - Need to provide services countywide



## Towards a New PTS Program

- 2014 Judicial Fellow Assessment
  - Reviewed current process
  - Reviewed literature on validated risk assessment tools
    - Focused on the Ohio (ORAS) and Virginia (VPRAI) tools
      - Oldest and validated both during development and subsequent to implementation
    - Identified use in other CA courts/counties



## Towards a New PTS Program

- Of 6 courts reviewed
  - 3 used Virginia or some variation of
  - 3 used Ohio
    - 1 to begin piloting PSA Court
- Need for local validation
  - 1 CA jurisdiction uses a locally validated tool
- Pressure to add additional questions



## Towards a New PTS Program

- Ohio tool selected
  - Judicial and staff review resulted in requests for additional fields/modification
  - Disagreement between PD and DA regarding substance abuse question
    - Self report + Criminal history
    - Criminal history only
- Commitment to locally validate
  - With focus on requested modifications



## Recidivism Reduction Fund – The Future

- Expand PTS screening
  - Risk assessment
    - Validated tool based on Ohio
  - All Criminal Court locations
- Add Needs Assessment
  - Substance abuse and mental health
  - Employment, housing, education, health care
- Front load the work as early on in the process as possible



## Challenges and Opportunities

- Multi-jurisdiction collaboration
  - Can we all agree?
- Net widening
- Providing services to those that don't need
- Innovative and holistic approach to addressing root causes of recidivism
- Commitment to evaluation will enable retrenching and Doing What Works

