

AFFIDAVIT OF ALLISON McCOVEY

Allison McCovey, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and states as follows:

Background

1. I am Chief Operating Officer of the San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project (SFPDP), a non-profit organization that is contracted by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department to provide pretrial services for criminal defendants in San Francisco.
2. I have worked for SFPDP for a total of 13 years. I have been COO for two years. I previously served as Human Resources Director/Executive Assistant and as Director of Program Services.

Overview

3. In this affidavit, I will describe the San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project and the various programs that it operates to facilitate pretrial release for defendants in San Francisco.
4. The facts expressed in this affidavit are based on my thirteen years of experience working for the SFPDP.
5. I am receiving no compensation for the preparation of this affidavit.

Background

6. The San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project was established in 1976 through the joint efforts of a group of socially conscious citizens, the San Francisco Bar Association, and the judges of the Municipal Courts. The experience of these groups had shown that most individuals charged with a misdemeanor offense did not perceptibly benefit from jail time. They were convinced that both the goals of crime prevention and rehabilitation would be better served by an alternative program of rehabilitation, education, and community service work.

7. The mission of SFPDP is to facilitate, within various communities, positive and effective alternatives to fines, criminal prosecution, and detention.

San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project's Programs

8. SFPDP's Supervised Pretrial Release program was started in 1995 to alleviate jail overcrowding and to help non-violent offenders receive necessary social services. Eligible clients are released directly from custody into SPR's supervision, where they receive daily case management. Case managers ensure that clients attend their court dates and help clients access services such as drug and alcohol counseling. Case Managers also communicate with the Court regarding the client's progress. Clients remain under SPR's supervision until they are sentenced, diverted, or their cases are dismissed or discharged. In the first three quarters of 2015, 92% of SPR clients were not charged with a new offense during the pretrial stage.

9. Pretrial Diversion provides first-time misdemeanor offenders with court-proceeding alternatives and services on issues such as anger management, parenting, domestic violence, and substance abuse counseling and education. In the first three quarters of 2015, 96% of PTD clients were not charged with a new offense during the pretrial stage.

10. Court Accountable Homeless Services (CAHS) provides case management and supervision services to homeless misdemeanor and felony defendants referred by the Court. CAHS is an alternative to pretrial detention. Once a client has been released to CAHS, a SFPDP staff will accompany a client to all court dates and escort them to other appointments with community providers. If a client does not comply with check-in requirements, the CAHS case manager or Peer Outreach Worker conducts searches, using the background and/or collateral contact information gathered while the client was in custody. In the first three quarters of 2015, CAHS served 167 unique clients. 42% of the successful graduates of the program had more

stable housing at case completion. 87% of the clients were not charged with a new offense during pretrial stage.

11. The O.R. Project interviews all eligible defendants housed in the County Jail System.

12. These interviews elicit information regarding a person's ties to the community. The O.R. Project will then call the defendant's references and verify the given information. The O.R. Project will also run the criminal history and obtain the police report. The entire O.R. document is presented to the duty judge for O.R. review. The criteria for eligibility for pre-arraignment review is based on the California Penal Code and the Sheriffs citation release policy. If the judge grants pre-arraignment O.R., the O.R. Project will process the release. Defendants whose O.R. applications are denied by the duty judge or who are not eligible for pre-arraignment review may have their applications reviewed by the judge at their arraignment. At arraignment, the judge will review the O.R. workup and may choose to release the defendant on Court O.R. or refer their case to Supervised Pretrial release for additional consideration. Additionally, persons who have outstanding felony and certain misdemeanor warrants may contact the O.R. Project and apply for pre-approved O.R. In the first three quarters of 2015, 96% of people released through the O.R. Project were not charged with a new offense during the pretrial stage.

Conclusion

13. The San Francisco Pretrial Diversion Project offers services that facilitate safe and effective pretrial release. The vast majority of defendants who are supervised by SFPDP are not charged with a new offense during the pretrial stage.

14. With additional resources, SFPDP could provide pretrial supervision services to additional defendants.

Allison McCovey

Allison McCovey

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME
This ____ day of _____, 2016
San Francisco, CA

NOTARY PUBLIC

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF San Francisco
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 17 day of March
20 16 by Allison McCovey

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

[Signature]
(Signature of Notary)

