

Sacramento County



Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board

The CCP Advisory Board is responsible for providing ongoing data collection, evaluation and analysis, as well as, input from local agency and community stakeholders, including formerly incarcerated individuals, to meet needs for AB 109 Plan updates due to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) each December.

Agenda: May 8, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: County Administration Center (Open to the Public)
Board of Supervisors Chambers
700 H Street, 1st Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Invitees: CCP Advisory Board Members - Melinda Avey (Chair - Community Member), Nina Acosta (Vice Chair - Social Services), Chris Baker (Sheriff's Office), Joe Cress (Public Defender's Office), Robyn Howland (Probation Department), Michelle Jeremiah (Superior Court), William B. Norwood (Community Member), Bill Pieper (Community Member), Andrew Soloman (District Attorney's Office), Sameer Sood (Sacramento Police Dept.), Muriel Strand (Community Member)

Alternates: Matthew Hovermale (Sheriff's Office), Kelly Finnegan (Probation Department), Alice Michel (Public Defender's Office), William Satchell (District Attorney's Office), Robbie Young (Sacramento Police Dept.)

Staff: Laura Foster, CCP Analyst; Peter Zilaff, County Counsel

CCPAB Meetings are Open to the Public.

Topic	Item Type	Chairperson	Presenter (If Applicable)
1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Public Comment Procedures		Melinda Avey	
Consent Matters	Action	Melinda Avey	
2. Approve Action Summary From April 10, 2023			
3. Review Updated 2023 Workplan			
4. Update from Public Awareness Ad Hoc Committee			
Discussion Matters			
5. Survey and Focus Group Results from Outreach to Justice Involved Individuals and Families Ad Hoc Committee	Information/ Discussion	Melinda Avey	Laura Foster

Topic	Item Type	Chairperson	Presenter (If Applicable)
6. Discussion of Services/Programs for Potential Inclusion in AB 109 Plan 2023 Update and Development of Member Questionnaire	Discussion	Melinda Avey	Laura Foster
Matters Not On The Posted Agenda			
7. Public Comment On Off Agenda Items		Melinda Avey	
Separate Matters			
8. Member Reports	Information	Melinda Avey	CCPAB Members
9. Adjournment		Melinda Avey	

Next CCPAB Meeting: June 12, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Next CCP Meeting: June 1, 2023, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Public Comment Procedures:

The CCPAB fosters public engagement during the meeting and encourages public participation, civility and use of courteous language. The CCPAB does not condone the use of profanity, vulgar language, gestures or other inappropriate behavior including personal attacks or threats directed towards any meeting participant. There will be a designated time for public comment at the end of each item. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Speaker time limits

In the interest of facilitating the conduct of CCPAB business, members of the public (speakers) who wish to address the board during the meeting will have specific time limits as enumerated below. Matters not on the posted agenda will be discussed in accordance with the order of the agenda. Speakers should not expect CCPAB members to comment on or respond to comments directly during the meeting. The CCPAB may request county staff to follow up with a speaker or provide additional information after the meeting or at a later date.

The Chairperson, at their discretion, may increase or decrease the time allocation. Each speaker shall limit remarks to the specified time allotment as follows:

- Speakers will have 3-minutes total for each separate item.
- Speakers will have 3-minutes total for any matter not on the posted agenda.

In-Person Public Comment

Speakers will be required to complete and submit a speaker request form to staff. Staff will invite each individual to the podium to make a verbal comment.

Zoom Public Comment

Members of the Public participating through Zoom should observe the following procedures when providing public comment. Comments submitted through the "Chat" feature will not be accepted. If you wish to speak on an item, click on "raise hand" after the item has been called. When it is your turn to speak, your name or telephone number will be called and you will be able to address the body. Please be sure your device is not muted. If you raise your hand after public comment has been closed, you will not be called.

Written Public Comment

The Public may provide written comments in regards to a specific item on the agenda or off agenda matters by emailing SacCountyCCPAdvisoryBoard@saccounty.gov. Written public comments should include the meeting date item number or off-agenda item. Providing contact information is optional. Written comments are distributed to members and filed in the record.

View Meeting

The meeting is live streamed via Zoom. Members of the Public may participate via Zoom using the following link, meeting ID, and passcode:

Link: <https://saccounty-net.zoomgov.com/j/1610752549?pwd=YnBZVDIXbkVZeVR5NIZYUzBFV3NXQT09>

Meeting ID: 161 075 2549

Passcode: 034293

Meeting Material

The on-line version of the agenda and associated material is available at <https://sacprobatation.saccounty.gov/Pages/CCPAB.aspx>.

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Note: The audio was inadvertently not captured during this meeting. The names of the members who motioned and seconded the approval of the consent calendar and adjournment were missed. Staff will happily receive and issue corrections to the record as necessary.

Action Summary from: April 10, 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Location: County Administration Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers, 700 H Street, 1st Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Facilitator: Laura Foster, Management Analyst II, Public Safety and Justice

Attendees: CCP Advisory Board Members: Melinda Avey (Co-Chair - Community Member), Nina Acosta (Vice Chair - Social Services), Chris Baker (Sheriff's Office), Joe Cress (Public Defender's Office), Michelle Jeremiah (Superior Court), William B. Norwood (Community Member), Bill Pieper (Community Member), Andy Soloman (District Attorney's Office), Muriel Strand (Community Member),

Staff: Laura Foster (CCP Analyst)

Absent: Robyn Howland (Probation Department), Sameer Sood (Sacramento Police Department)

CCPAB Meetings are Open to the Public.

Topic	Item Type	Chairperson	Presenter (If Applicable)
1. Welcome, Roll Call, and Public Comment Procedures		Melinda Avey	
The meeting was called to order, roll call was completed, and a quorum was established. The meeting procedures were read and reviewed.			
Consent Matters	Action	Melinda Avey	
2. Approve Action Summary From January 30, 2023			
3. Review Updated 2023 Workplan			
A motion was made to approve the consent calendar, the motion was seconded, and the motion was approved by consensus. No public comment was received.			

Discussion Matters			
4. Update from Public Awareness Ad Hoc Committee	Information/ Discussion	Melinda Avey	Muriel Strand / Laura Foster
<p>The Ad Hoc Committee shared the success of its recent community webinar, held on March 6. The Committee shared that it has not yet had an opportunity to meet to review the questions from the webinar and determine where and how it will be posted. The Committee intends to meet again soon in order to move forward.</p> <p><u>Public Comment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the public commented that CCPAB members had reached out to Decarcerate Sacramento for inclusion in a focus group related to the Outreach to Justice Involved Individuals and Families Ad Hoc Committee and were unable to participate. The member of public shared that the Ad Hoc Committee was provided with a copy of the People Power For Public Health report that is related to the Committee’s work. 			
5. Update from Outreach to Justice Involved Individuals and Families Ad Hoc Committee	Information/ Discussion	Melinda Avey	Nina Acosta / Laura Foster
<p>The Committee and staff shared an update on focus groups and surveys completed, with 117 individuals surveyed in total. The Committee expressed that the process was highly beneficial and will be valuable in shaping the priorities in the AB 109 Plan. The Committee looks forward to sharing a summary of what was learned from the outreach efforts during upcoming CCPAB and CCP meetings. No public comment was received.</p>			
6. Discussion of Layout and Structure for 2023 Plan Update	Discussion	Melinda Avey	Laura Foster
<p>Staff requested input from advisory board members on overall direction and structure for the upcoming 2023 Plan Update. Based on member feedback shared during the meeting, staff aims to streamline the 2023 Plan Update and move information not directly pertinent or critical to this year’s plan to another location. Staff will also seek to have the plan items prioritized so that it most accurately reflects the intentions and goals of the advisory board and community members. It was noted that history of prior year’s funding is reported to the BSCC annually, while the plan is designed to be forward-thinking and used for planning purposes. The plan should be accessible and serve as a guidebook for the departments and agencies in developing budget and growth requests related to the use of AB 109 funds. Staff will provide a presentation on available data as well as a proposed outline for the plan update in an upcoming meeting.</p>			

<u>Public Comment:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A member of the public commented that they look forward to seeing the presentation on available data. 			
Matters Not On The Posted Agenda			
7. Public Comment On Off Agenda Items		Melinda Avey	
No public comment was received.			
Separate Matters			
8. Member Reports	Information	Tiffanie Synnott	CCPAB Members
Member reports were provided by Members Strand, Pieper, and Norwood. Member Strand's report was supplemented by a written report that was included in the materials packet.			
9. Adjournment		Melinda Avey	
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded, and the motion was approved by consensus. The meeting was adjourned.			

AB 109 Plan 2023 Update Workplan

Note: CCP Meetings may feature agenda items that are not generated or prompted by CCPAB Actions; those items may not be listed here. Future meetings items are tentative and may be adjusted as needed.

Month	CCPAB	CCP
<i>December 2022</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brown Act Refresher Training</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review Ad Hoc Committee Plans</i> • <i>Review AB 109 Plan 2023 Update Workplan</i>
<i>January 2023</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentations from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Public Defender's Office</i> ○ <i>Probation Department</i> 	<i>No Meeting</i>
<i>February 2023 (Moved to January 30th due to County Holiday)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation From:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Social Services</i> • <i>Overview of County's Jail Population Reduction Plans</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Report back on Department Presentations</i> • <i>Overview of County's Jail Population Reduction Plans</i> • <i>AB 109 Revenue Projections and Funding Discussions for FY 23/24</i>
<i>March 6th, 7 pm Over Zoom: Community Workshop</i>		
<i>March 2023</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentations From:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Sheriff's Office</i> ○ <i>District Attorney's Office</i> ○ <i>Superior Court</i> 	<i>No Meeting</i>
<i>April 2023</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discuss Layout/Structure for 2023 Plan Update</i> 	<i>Cancelled</i>
<i>May 2023</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation from Outreach to Justice-Involved Individuals Ad Hoc Committee</i> • <i>Discussion of Services/Programs for Potential Inclusion in AB 109 Plan 2023 Update and Development of Member Questionnaire</i> 	<i>No Meeting</i>

June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/Discuss Available Data/Metrics from 2022 AB 109 Plan Priorities • Discuss Member Questionnaire Results • Develop Plan for Community Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Findings/Trends from Outreach to Justice-Involved Individuals Ad Hoc Committee Efforts • Review/Discuss Currently Available Data on 2022 AB 109 Plan Priorities
July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/Discuss Draft 2023 Plan Update (v1) 	No Meeting
July/August (Date TBD): In Person Community Workshop		
August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/Discuss Community Feedback • Discuss Recommended Changes to Draft 2023 Plan Update • Review CCPAB Bylaws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive Overview of Proposed AB 109 Plan 2023 Update • Report Summarized Feedback from Community Workshop
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend 2023 Plan Update (v2) for CCP Approval • Discuss/Recommend Bylaw Amendments (if desired) • Discuss/Brainstorm Ideas for 2024 Plan Update 	No Meeting
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present 2024 Plan Update Workplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve AB 109 Plan 2023 Update and Recommend for Board of Supervisors Approval • Approve CCPAB Bylaw Amendments (if desired)
November 2023	*Dependent upon 2024 Plan Update Workplan	No Meeting

**Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board
Ad Hoc Committee Update Memo**

Ad Hoc Committee: Public Awareness and Community Engagement
CCPAB Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

Update:

The Committee met on May 4, 2023 to follow up on next steps related to the webinar held on March 6 and conclude the Committee's work.

The Committee determined that the presentation portion of the website will be posted to <https://saccoprobation.saccounty.gov/Pages/CCP-Presentations.aspx>. Staff and the Committee are continuing to follow up on a few questions raised during the webinar to ensure that complete and thoughtful responses are provided. The responses will be posted to the CCPAB website and included with the June CCPAB meeting materials.

The Committee has also provided direction and feedback on how to improve and clean up outdated materials on the CCPAB website. After confirming with the Community Corrections Partnership, Staff will work with the Probation Department to make the requested updates.

Originally, the Committee was intended to plan and host a community workshop in July to receive feedback on the draft of the AB 109 Plan 2023 Update. However, because the Committee would like to include all members of the CCPAB in this effort, staff will prepare a proposal for the June 2023 CCPAB meeting for discussion.

Requests: N/A

Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board

DATE: May 8, 2023
TO: Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board
FROM: Laura Foster, Management Analyst II, Public Safety and Justice
RE: **STAFF REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM #5**

#5 - Survey and Focus Group Results from Outreach to Justice Involved Individuals and Families Ad Hoc Committee

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board (CCPAB) receive a presentation summarizing the results of the surveys and focus groups completed by Outreach to Justice Involved Individuals and Families Ad Hoc Committee.

Background:

In September 2022, the CCPAB established an ad hoc committee to perform dedicated outreach to formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. The committee, consisting of two CCPAB community member representatives and two CCPAB agency representatives, developed and circulated a survey aimed at elevating the voices of the justice-involved community and generating better understanding of the services, supports, and programs that would be most beneficial and effective for creating positive outcomes. The surveys also provided an opportunity for individuals to share the services, supports, and programs that were not deemed beneficial or successful. The surveys were posted online and emailed to 350+ individuals and groups. In total, 117 surveys were completed which represented a wide range of justice-involved community members with different backgrounds and experiences.

In addition to the surveys, CCPAB members facilitated a series of focus groups to allow for more free-flowing discussions and sharing opportunities. Eight focus groups were completed, and included Adult Day Reporting Center – Central, Alpha Oaks Residential Treatment, Clean & Sober Transitional Living, Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, River City Recovery Center, Bridges Professional Treatment Services, and Loaves and Fishes.

Additional efforts were made to have focus groups with the Sacramento LGBTQ Community Center, Washington Community Center, and Decarcerate Sacramento, though these organizations did not have the capacity or ability to participate at this time. It was suggested that offering incentives, or other forms of compensation, could be helpful in future survey and focus group efforts. Some organizations also provided additional resources that could benefit the ad hoc committee, including a report

developed with the People Power for Public Health (PPPH) available at <https://www.cpehn.org/assets/uploads/2022/08/DecarcerateSac.CompanionPiece.Sacramento.pdf> that shares commonalities with the ad hoc committee's work.

Based on the information shared in the surveys and focus groups, staff is providing a presentation that describes the population surveyed and the common themes seen throughout response. Once the presentation is delivered, the PowerPoint and any other materials displayed will be posted. Staff will use the feedback received to refine and modify this presentation for the upcoming Community Corrections Partnership meeting.

Attachments:

N/A

Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board

DATE: May 8, 2023
TO: Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board
FROM: Laura Foster, Management Analyst II, Public Safety and Justice
RE: **STAFF REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM #6**

#6 - Discussion of Services/Programs for Potential Inclusion in AB 109 Plan 2023 Update and Development of Member Questionnaire

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Community Corrections Partnership Advisory Board (CCPAB):

- 1) Review the Program and Service Categories – Priority Recommendations for Use of Funding from the AB 109 Plan 2022 Update;
- 2) Receive recommendations from advisory board members and members of the public on additional programs and services for consideration;
- 3) Direct staff to produce a questionnaire that includes the program and services from the 2022 Plan Update and all suggested programs and services and circulate the questionnaire to CCPAB members for ranking;
- 4) Direct staff to share the questionnaire results at the next CCPAB meeting to facilitate discussion on plan priorities.

Background:

The CCPAB is in the process of developing a draft of its AB 109 Plan 2023 Update. To do this, staff desires to better understand the CCPAB's priorities, as it will affect the direction of the final product.

As presented in its current form, the 20 program and service categories in the Sacramento County AB 109 Plan – 2022 Update are very inclusive and lack prioritization. As a result, there are very few limits on how funds can and should be spent, and much is open to interpretation. Staff seeks input from the CCPAB in identifying key areas of interest so that greater discussion can be held to develop shared understanding and expectations. Staff also recognizes that, while broad, there may be additional potential uses for funding that align with the overall goals of decreasing use of jail housing, maintaining community safety, and reducing recidivism that have not yet been considered.

To move forward, staff would like to develop a questionnaire that includes the program and service categories from 2022, as well as any items suggested by members and the community today. Staff will then distribute the questionnaire to members; the

questionnaire will also be publicly posted. The questionnaire will ask members to rank the list of proposed funding uses, and recommend whether usage should be limited to its application for the AB 109 population or available to all involved in Sacramento County's justice system.

Staff recommends two items be excluded from ranking, due to the significant and direct impact on county resources as a result of AB 109 legislation:

- Housing and health services costs associated with AB 109 inmates while in custody (Beneficiaries: Sheriff's Office and Adult Correctional Health)
- Supervision costs associated with the AB 109 population (Beneficiary: Probation)

To allow adequate time for members to thoughtfully complete their questionnaires and to maximize the effectiveness of the CCPAB's limited meeting opportunities, staff requests that all members return their questionnaires by June 6. Staff will then compile and summarize the results to guide a conversation during the June meeting about next steps and recommended priorities. Each member's questionnaire will be included in the CCPAB's June meeting packet and publicly posted.

Attachments:

ATT 1 - Sacramento County AB 109 Plan – 2022 Update Program and Service Categories – Priority Recommendations for Use of Funding

**Sacramento County AB 109 Plan – 2022 Update
Program and Service Categories – Priority Recommendations for
Use of Funding**

Alternatives to Incarceration:

1. Support and expand Jail Release and Pretrial Service Programs
2. Support and expand Collaborative Courts and Diversion Program services and staff
3. Support and expand District Attorney, Public Defender, Courts, and Probation staff for AB 109 workload
4. Support and expand Social Worker participation in the Pretrial and Collaborative Court Process
5. Support and expand Sheriff's Alternatives to Detention Programming
6. Support and expand partnerships with community based organizations

Sheriff's Jail Housing, Inmate Services, and Treatment:

7. Support housing for the AB 109 population in the Main Jail and RCCC
8. Expand services, treatment, and education: Evidence-based risk / needs assessment, case managers, GED testing, college credit classes, life-skills classes, job training, technical career education, substance misuse treatment services, cognitive behavioral therapy, job search/ placement assistance and development of transitional offender reentry plans with wrap-around services
9. Expand Jail Support upon Release to ensure safe transition into the community

Data Analysis and Reporting:

10. Support and expand Centralized Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting to inform all stakeholders

Correctional Health and Mental Health Services:

11. Support and expand assessments, clinical treatment, case management and psychotropic prescription medications for inmates needing crisis counseling and other supportive medical and/or mental health services

Community Supervision:

12. Support the Sheriff's Office Home Detention Electronic Monitoring (EM) Program with cognitive behavioral treatment services
13. Support and expand Probation's Adult Day Reporting Centers (ADRC) and Community Supervision Units with evidence-based risk / needs assessment, cognitive behavioral therapy, substance misuse treatment, and job/education assistance

14. Develop and expand collaboration for transitional offender reentry plans with wrap around services that also address psychotropic prescription medication needs

AB 109 Workload Augmentation:

15. Support Crime Lab staffing and supplies
16. Support increased workload of the Courts, including staffing and supplies related to hearings for Parole and Post Release Community Supervision

Benefit Eligibility Assistance, Transitional Housing, and Jail Discharge Support:

17. Support and expand Human Service Assistants/Eligibility Specialists within Probation and Jail facilities to link AB 109 offenders to critical benefits including General Assistance (GA) and referrals to Cal-Fresh, Medi-Cal, SSI, Veterans Benefits, Cal-Works, housing, and employment services
18. Support and expand transitional housing with wrap around services for AB 109 offenders
19. Support jail discharge coordination with community based and county partners
20. Support enacted legislation regarding criminal records to remove or modify convictions that are a barrier to housing, employment, and reentry

Poverty, by America

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/675683/poverty-by-america-by-matthew-desmond/>

Milton Friedman's idea that maximizing financial returns to shareholders would increase economic efficiency and optimize resource allocation is denied by the realities of modern American poverty that Professor Matthew Desmond describes with vivid anecdotes and telling statistics about inconvenient socioeconomic data.

“Every year: over \$11 billion in overdraft fees, \$1.6 billion in check cashing fees, and up to \$9.8 billion in payday loan fees. That's over \$61 million in fees collected predominately from low-income Americans each day—not even counting the annual revenue collected by pawnshops and title loan services and rent-to-own schemes. When James Baldwin remarked in 1971 how “extremely expensive it is to be poor,” he couldn't have imagined these receipts.”

“In 2020 the federal government spent more than \$193 billion on homeowner subsidies, a figure that far exceeded the amount spent on direct housing assistance for low-income families (\$53 billion). Most families who enjoy those subsidies have six-figure incomes and are white. Poor families lucky enough to live in government-owned apartments often have to deal with mold and even lead paint, while rich families are claiming the mortgage interest deduction on first and second homes. The lifetime limit for cash welfare to poor parents in five years, but families claiming the mortgage interest deduction may do so for the length of the mortgage, typically thirty years.”

So the meme about ‘makers and takers’ is baloney. “We are all on the dole.”

Unfortunately, putting profits first too often leads to putting real economic results last. Yes, staying in the black is important, but that's about calculating things right. Accounting can't tell you what are the right things to calculate. So measures like GDP and market returns are no good at evaluating whether everyone has their basic needs met - clean air and water, healthy food, cooking, and plenty of sleep and exercise - and the rational expectation that one will have access to those necessities for the foreseeable future.

Historically, farmers, villagers and city folk have cooperated to furnish their common human needs. And prehistorically, so have hunter-gatherers. But various factors such as fossil fuel addiction, racism, classism, sexism, overpopulation, etc., have been causing lots of socioeconomic problems.

“America's obsession with incarceration has removed scores of poor people from their families, strictly controlling when they can call their children, spouses, and loved ones, and then releasing them back into society with a criminal record that impedes their already dim job and housing prospects. In the history of the nation, there has only been one other state-sponsored initiative more antifamily than mass incarceration, and that was slavery.”

Now, rich and poor alike confront climate chaos. Getting back to basics, the whole planet has been powered by the giant fusion reactor in the sky for several billion years up until the last few centuries. Meanwhile, technologies such as mining and pavement continue to reduce our ecological carrying capacity.

Permanent Distortion: How Financial Markets Abandoned the Real Economy Forever

<https://nomiprins.com/permanent-distortion/>

Wall Street survivor and observer Nomi Prins analyzes the severe market distortions created by the bailout policies that were followed in the wake of 2008 and also with the failures of SVB and Signature Bank. The financial market she has in mind is basically Wall Street, and the real economy is Main Street. Unfortunately, what's good for Wall Street tends to impoverish Main Street.

Recently, former FDIC chair William Isaac pointed out that in neither case were standard FDIC procedures used. The traditional and prescribed procedure would be to first pay the FDIC insurance claims (\$250,000 max and mostly for Main Street folks) and then put the rest of the deflated assets in receivership where they would be sold off gradually so as to maximize the residual value that could be realized, typically 80% or so of the nominal amount prior to its deflation. Instead, the Wall Street people whose assets should have gone into receivership because they should have known what they were doing, they got a slap on the wrist and no haircut.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?526807-6/washington-journal-william-isaac-discusses-role-fdic-governments-role-protect-bank-deposits>

The Big Myth: How American Business Taught Us to Loathe Government and Love the Free Market

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/big-myth-9781635573572/>

Historians Naomi Oreskes and Tim Conway take us on a guided tour of the roots of this selfish scam. When the 19th century ended with the Gilded Age of big business trusts and severe economic inequality, Congress responded with anti-trust legislation and early environmental protections. Then the Great Depression led to New Deal protections for ordinary people.

But after World War II, enemies of the New Deal set about making democracy again safe for unbridled capitalism. Detailed descriptions of a generously-funded, copious and long-term nationwide propaganda campaign by groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers, particularly General Electric, and by neoliberal economists such as Milton Friedman, provide some understanding of the so-called conservative economic philosophy of individualism and free-market magic that led to the Reagan Revolution and the neoliberal conformity of Clinton and Obama. Capitalists like government protection of their private property, and they like government bailouts when they get in trouble. But as citizens they do not seem to be team players. The free-market myth looks to me like cultural colonization.

The equation of real economic health with financial GDP is a trap, because data about financial wealth and profit cannot tell us if the real Main Street (and farming) economy is actually healthy. Symptoms such as increasing homelessness and ecological degradation suggest that the country is headed in the wrong direction, and many across the political spectrum agree. FDR's leadership made capitalism safer for democracy. Now we need to do that again and also make it safe for Mother Earth.

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/big-myth-9781635573572/>