

REENTRY COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP – 8/15

Attendees:

Lesli	Ruth	Lloyd	Susie	Pat	Pam	Raymond
Rosemary	Mitch	Tanya	Steffan	Kit	Tom	Andy

Issues and Concerns + Recommendations for the Plan:

1. Reentry Coordination / Reentry Coordinator in Jail -- Do LSCMI at intake – either probation officer or jail staff – share the risk and needs findings w/ jail staff and court and link to needed services as soon as possible. Want screening and assessment for physical health, mental health and substance use issues as early as possible – link to services in custody and after custody.

Reentry Coordinator meet w/ inmates early in their stay, preferably day one of incarceration, to identify needs and strengths (get information from LSCMI) and refer to appropriate local services.

Want program providers to have access to inmates while still in custody so as to develop individualized case plans prior to release.

Perhaps have PAC - like meetings in the jail to prepare inmates for release and to introduce them to available services and resources. Bring service providers into the jail to meet w/ inmates who need their services.

Perhaps also have a Reentry Facilitator (they suggested a second staff person but this could be the Probation Officer who will supervise the offender after release) who will work with the individual and his/her family to link to needed programs / services and support positive reentry.

2. Want to ensure screening and assessment where indicated for mental health and substance use issues so can follow up with in-custody and post custody services and treatment. Jail has CFMG and Cathie Wright Institute interns to provide in custody services. Linkage to post custody needs to be developed for follow up and medication provision. Medication at release should be enough to carry the person until he/she can get to doctor or clinic in the community.

3. Develop strategies and processes to include families and children of incarcerated people in reentry planning and service delivery.....family focus rather than focus only on the offender.....assess family strengths and needs as well as offender's.

4. Help people being released get identification cards. (Mission Solano will do this for \$7/person thru their existing link w/ DMV. Sheriff's Dept. could get the \$7 from the inmate's account or perhaps use IWF to pay for those who don't have money on the

books. CDCR is currently providing ID cards for inmates 90-120 days prior to release – thru DMV.

5. Line up or arrange for transportation for people being released who have a place to go and no way to get there. Also transportation is needed to get releases to doctors' appointments, job interviews, etc. Look into possibility of procuring bus passes – look to Bd. of Supervisors and/or Federal Govt. for transportation help.

6. Continue to work on housing issues, to provide housing for homeless parolees / releases -- develop or expand housing opportunities such as supported housing, transitional housing, etc.

7. Create a 'small needs' fund to provide essentials for reentering folks (like clothes for job interviews, or bus vouchers, tools for job, adult school fees, or etc.)

8. Develop place where ex inmates can go for services or at least support – a one stop service center or DRC, or Reentry Center to address the need for a "Sense of Place" – somewhere they can share experiences and perhaps help each other out. Day Center could also provide family support and/or counseling, NA/AA, support groups, etc. Give reentering people something to do that provides a sense of purpose by helping others / being of service.

9. Would like County Govt. to mount a campaign to encourage businesses to hire ex offenders – support employers who do hire ex offenders, etc. Are anxious to invite E.J. Lily Corp. Foundation to bring its Community Conversation Program speakers to Solano to help build public awareness and volunteer support for those reentering community after custody.

10. Also important to make it possible for inmates to have documents notarized while in custody.

11. Not necessarily part of plan, but Reentry Council should sponsor and/or conduct surveys and Focus Groups w/ inmates and probationers/releases to get their ideas of what's needed and what services might make things easier for them / keep them out of trouble.

12. It is essential to continue the dialogue in and through the 3-5 year plan. The Reentry Council wants to be included in planning going forward, wants to partner w/ Probation and the Sheriff's Dept. not be in competition with them or a problem to them.