Mike Durfee State Prison
Ludeman Hall Transitional Release Housing
From Prison to Community

The Department of Corrections has implemented a reentry pilot project at Mike Durfee State Prison. The goal of the project is to lower recidivism of offenders while on parole. MDSP began this pilot project in March of 2013 with 16 offenders.

This is a volunteer project where offenders who choose to be in the group are screened to meet eligibility criteria. Offenders must be within 6 months of a possible release date. They cannot be eligible for minimum custody and must discharge from MDSP. They must be in one of the evidence- based programs, such as Thinking for a Change or Moral Reconation Therapy, or have completed one of those programs since their last parole violation. The most important criteria is that offenders must truly want to better themselves, become more productive members of society and not want to return to prison.

By having offenders volunteer, it gives them some autonomy or control while in prison.   Those that do volunteer and meet the criteria are moved to Ludeman Hall, first floor, south wing. MDSP has allotted 36 beds for this project. Moving offenders out of their current housing units and grouping the offenders together creates a more structured environment with everyone having the same goal. Offenders don't have to deal with those other stressors such as gangs, violence and negative peer pressure.

They can concentrate on working their own individual program and recommended classes. Disciplinary issues within this group are handled with alternative sanctions such as thinking reports or volunteering for Community Service work. These sanctions are developed to meet the individual needs of the offender and to enhance behavior change. Standardized sanctions, such as cell restriction, are not used within this group. Every sanction given to an offender must be completed in a specific amount of time and then the offender must give a verbal and written report to the Unit Manager and Case Manager. The Unit Manager and Case Manager will have a conversation with the offender evoking positive behavior change from them.

Within the Ludeman Hall Transitional Reentry Housing, offenders can volunteer for the Prison Fellowship Pathfinders program. Prison Fellowship conducts a six month long program on a variety of topics such as relationships, communications, money management, etc, utilizing biblical based scripture within their programs. Prison Fellowship attempts to align a community based mentor with pro-social value, with an offender for six months prior to parole and for six months while on parole. The mentors usually meet with their offenders once a week. While on parole the mentors will continue meetings as needed but at least once a month.

The unit structure of Ludeman Hall consists of a Unit Manager, Case Manager, Unit Coordinator, two Corporals and six Senior Correctional officers, all of whom have volunteered and were hand-selected based on their commitment to the program and its goals. The staff does not rotate out of the unit but does rotate shifts. This allows the staff to build a professional working relationship with the offenders, recognizing problems they may be having and addressing those issues in a constructive way.

Mike Durfee State Prison
Ludeman Hall Transitional Release Housing
From Prison to Community

Staff members have been trained in Motivational Interviewing (MI). They utilize MI extensively when dealing with those offender issues. This creates a positive atmosphere where offenders are comfortable in talking with staff and have the confidence that staff members are there to help them when needed.

The number of offenders volunteering for the project continues to climb, but does fluctuate from month to month as offenders are released.

Above: Inmate facilitators involved in the Ludeman Hall Transitional Reentry Housing pilot program review program materials with other group members. They use biblical scriptures to reinforce positive behavior change with offenders.