

Governor's Reentry Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2010
Governor's Large Conference Room, State Capitol
Pierre, SD

Members present: Tim Reisch, Secretary of Corrections, Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of Corrections, Jennifer Evans, Tribal Relations sitting in for Roger Campbell, Mark Lauseng, Executive Director for SD Housing Authority, Jerry Hofer, Secretary of Human Services, Pam Roberts, Secretary of Labor, Doneen Hollingsworth, Secretary of Health, Deb Bowman, Secretary of Social Services, Terry Dosch, Executive Director of SD Council of Mental Health Centers, Mary Stadick-Smith, Department of Education sitting in for Secretary Tom Oster, Kevin Forsch, Senior Policy Advisor for the Governor's Office, Major General Steven R. Doohen, Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, and Robyn Seibel, Department of Corrections.

Joining by phone: Barb Garcia, City of Rapid City sitting in for Mayor Alan Hanks, Judy Buseman, City of Sioux Falls sitting in for Mayor Dave Munson, and Roland Loudenburg, Mountain Plain Evaluation.

The Governor's Reentry Council meeting began at 10:05 a.m. Tim Reisch, Secretary of Corrections, welcomed the participants and asked them to introduce themselves. Reisch explained the importance of working toward reducing recidivism state wide. The average daily count for state inmates has increased from 2,424 in 1999 to 3,387 in 2009. Reisch explained the key precepts of reentry are to focus on public safety, evidence based practices, and collaboration among state agencies and community programs. Focusing on these key issues and reducing recidivism will help offenders, their families, and keep the community safe.

Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Corrections, explained use of alcohol, insufficient community based Chemical Dependency services, not having stable housing, inadequate employment, and lack of basic needs such as medical care or transportation are contributing to recidivism. The goals of the reentry program are to form collaborative teams that can evaluate institutional assessments, programs, case planning, and services for individuals that will address recidivism reduction.

Barb Garcia, Rapid City Task Force, explained the Task Force has been active for almost two years and there is an Admissions Committee that handles the initial evaluation of a referral for the program. Garcia said Cornerstone Rescue Mission, Behavior Management Systems, Community Health, Pennington County Health and Human Services, Department of Social Services, a police psychologist (when needed), and the parole department are part of the Admissions Committee. Garcia explained the Committee also decides on other

secondary services the person may need such as additional education or job training but said the services change as the persons needs change.

Judy Buseman, Sioux Falls Task Force, explained the Task Force is new and still developing their implementation process, but will be hiring the Local Reentry Coordinator soon. Buseman said the Task Force is organized into two different committees. The first is a Case Management Committee, focused on the reentry pathway and developing lines of communication and intervention and the second is a Mentoring Subgroup which is still establishing their process.

Feiler explained the way to address recidivism is to change offender behavior, adjust policies and practices that may hinder re-entry, and track outcomes. It is important to understand those who violate may, with additional services and support, avoid return to prison. Feiler reviewed a draft of the SD DOC Adult Reentry Program Plan flow chart process. This is a visual diagram showing how the inmate proceeds through the institution and out to the community under the Adult Reentry Program.

Feiler reviewed the Project Implementation Update sheet that identified people in the target population at specific locations. Supervision violators (individuals unsuccessful out of prison before) make up 74% of the target population. Feiler explained the need to have family integration as a part of the reentry process because it was identified as an important structure piece for recidivism reduction. Feiler also reviewed the recidivism data showing within 12 months of release 29.9% of offenders returned to prison with a new conviction or a technical parole violation. Feiler gave examples of a technical violation such as drinking, driving if your not supposed to, installment buying, going into debt, pawing items, gambling, not complying with treatment plan, failure to get a job, and failure to pay restitution. There were 2,072 inmates released in the 2007 calendar year and 620 of those returned to prison within 12 months (29.9%). Of the 620 that returned to prison, 109 (5.3%) were new convictions and 511 (24.7%) were technical violators.

Roland Loudenburg, Mountain Plains Evaluation, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with the group and explained the analysis of inmates released in 2007. He went on to say males recidivated at a higher rate (30.5%) than females (25.8%) and Native Americans recidivated at a higher rate (42.0%) than White (22.8%) or other (34.4%) races. Individuals who are 30 years of age or younger will be targeted for services because data shows that this age group has a higher rate of recidivism. Loudenburg explained the importance of using evidence based programming and sound assessment through the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) assessment. The LSI-R assessment instrument has been used by the DOC and accepted within the corrections community throughout the United States as a tool for identifying individual services, needs, and program placement. In conclusion, Loudenburg said the goal is to monitor LSI-R and domain scores, match those scores to the type of services individuals receive in

the institution and out in the community, identify their length of time in services, and determine any change in the recidivism rate which will help identify how to apply appropriate programming.

Reisch explained in Section Five of the Executive Order, the Council is required to report on the progress of the Second Chance Act to the Governor annually. He asked that the Council read the draft report and get back him or Laurie regarding suggestions or changes that may be needed. He explained it was decided to send this report to the Governor in March 2010 which will be one year from when the Executive Order was signed. Feiler passed the draft report around and explained the report covers activities of the Council, major issues the Council identified as significant for reentry, the grant application, services provided under the grant, evaluation provisions, baseline recidivism and progress, and the listing of attachments.

The South Dakota Prisoner Reentry Initiative document was handed out to the group and Feiler explained it is a reference tool that explains the Adult Second Chance Act program and can be distributed to the public.

Secretary Reisch thanked the Reentry Council for joining the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.