

Governor's Reentry Council
Governor's Large Conference Room, State Capitol
March 22, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Pierre, SD

Members present: Denny Kaemingk, Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Corrections, JR LaPlante, Secretary of Tribal Government Relations, Roland Loudenburg, Mountain Plain Evaluation, LLC., Terry Dosch, Executive Director of the SD Council of Mental Health Centers, Pamela Roberts, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Regulation, Mark Lauseng, Executive Director of SD Housing Development Authority, Carrie Johnson, Division Director of Economic Assistance for the Department of Social Services (representing Kim Malsam-Rysdon, Secretary of the Department of Social Services), Colleen Winter, Division Director of Health and Medical Services for the Department of Health (representing Doneen Hollingsworth, Secretary of the Department of Health), Melody Schopp, Secretary of the Department of Education, Laurie Gill, Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Steve Harding, Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Military and Veterans Affairs, Steve Allender, Rapid City Police Chief, Deven Scott, Intern for the Governor's Office, Jim Seward, General Counsel for the Governor's Office, Bryan Gortmaker, Director of the Division of Criminal Investigation, Trevor Jones, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety, Chad Straatmeyer, Reentry Program Grant Manager for the Department of Corrections, and Robyn Seibel, Corrections Specialist for the Department of Corrections.

Joining by phone: Mike Huether, Mayor of Sioux Falls and Kevin McLain, Director of Research and Grants for the Department of Corrections.

Members absent: Paul Bachand, Executive Director of the States Attorney's Association, Ed Ligtenberg, Director of Pardons and Paroles of the Department of Corrections, and Nancy Allard, Director of Trial Court Services of the Unified Judicial System.

Welcome and Opening Comments

The Governor's Reentry Council meeting began at 2:00 p.m. Denny Kaemingk, Secretary of the Department of Corrections, welcomed the Governor's Reentry Council members and asked them to introduce themselves beginning with the members on the phone.

Council Membership and Introductions

Secretary Kaemingk said there are the five new Reentry Council members who the Department of Corrections (DOC) works closely with and whose insight is valuable to the Council as decisions are made regarding how to best prepare inmates for parole and make them successful.

1. Jim Seward, General Counsel for the Governor's Office;
2. Nancy Allard, Director of Trial Court Services for the Unified Judicial System;
3. Paul Bachand, Executive Director of the States Attorney's Association;
4. Bryan Gortmaker, Director of the Division of Criminal Investigation; and
5. Trevor Jones, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety.

The DOC releases approximately 200 inmates every month. Offenders must be prepared with the tools necessary to be successful and at the same time the public must be kept safe. Secretary Kaemingk went on to say roadblocks that may prevent offenders from being successful must be identified before they are released from prison. The DOC is investigating state statues that may hinder an offenders progress and determine if changes can be made to them while continuing to keep the public safe.

The DOC recidivism rate for 2010 is 25.9%, which was achieved within a year and a half. Secretary Kaemingk expressed his appreciation for everyone that worked to achieve this. However, offenders released in 2011 may prove to be more of a challenge. Since the murder of Correctional Officer Ronald Johnson by Berget and Robert and the murder of Maybelle Schein by McVay, there has been an understandable increase in caution and conservativeness with discretionary decisions. Secretary Kaemingk requests each Council member to make sure they have staff members available for Reentry Workgroup meetings and to offer ideas that will strengthen the reentry program. Council members were directed to the [Reentry Workgroup membership list](#) included in the packet they received.

Finally, Secretary Kaemingk expressed concern of the availability of programs and services accessible to offenders (including halfway house beds) across the State. The meeting was turned over to Laurie Feiler, Deputy Secretary of the DOC.

Deputy Secretary Feiler expressed how thankful she is to the Reentry Council members for coming together and mentioned how it had become apparent DCI, DPS, UJS, and the States Attorney's Association was needed on the Council to help with the Reentry Initiative.

Review of Meeting Minutes and Materials

Deputy Secretary Feiler said the meeting minutes and materials from the [October 31, 2011](#) meeting were emailed to the group in December 2011 and asked if there were any changes that should be made. No changes were recommended.

2011 Annual Report

Deputy Secretary Feiler explained the Executive Order 03-2011 signed by Governor Daugaard requires the Reentry Council to submit an annual report each calendar year. The [draft 2011 Annual Report](#) covers reentry activities throughout 2011 and will be submitted under Secretary Kaemingk's signature. The draft 2011 Annual Report was summarized to the Council members and there were no questions or comments.

Recidivism Reduction

Roland Loudenburg, Mountain Plains Evaluation evaluator for the Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Grant discussed the data presented in the PowerPoint presentation titled [South Dakota Governor's Reentry Council Update on Second Chance Grant](#). Loudenburg explained the 12 month recidivism rate of 25.9% for inmates released in 2010. Looking at the recidivism rate by gender, males are recidivating more than females. Males continue to pose a different challenge than females. Native American males and females represent a challenge in terms of recidivism because they continue to have a high rate of recidivism. Overall, the 2010 Native American releases show improvement when compared to the 2009 releases. In order to meet the recidivism target goal, the outcomes of Native American parolees must improve.

Loudenburg explained the specific criteria used to identify the population at high risk for recidivism and the areas that contribute to high Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) scores.

At the last Reentry Council meeting, Mayor Huether and Chief Allender asked about data specific to county. Loudenburg reviewed data for the county inmates were "sentenced from" and said that gathering data specific to the county they were released to is difficult because needs of the individual and their reentry program plan change over time. Mayor Huether expressed his appreciation for this information and asked if this information could be shared with Mike Milstead, Minnehaha County Sheriff and Doug Barthel, Rapid City Police Chief which Loudenburg replied would not be a problem.

Loudenburg expressed the importance of being able to link Native American's from the community they are released to and their home community/reservation. How can this be accomplished?

Loudenburg briefly discussed Thinking for a Change, Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP), provided by the Department of Labor and Regulation, and Credit Where Credit is Due, and how offenders show an increase from their pre-test to post-test scores. Once the data is sufficient the courses will be evaluated for their effectiveness on recidivism.

Laurie Gill, Secretary of the Department of Human Services, asked if the "programs" and components are all provided to inmates while still in the facility. Loudenburg said there is a core program provided while they are in the institution and reentry services are provided once they reach the community in Pennington (PE) and Minnehaha (MA) Counties.

Chief Allender expressed concern for inmates that leave prison without identification as a major roadblock. Chad Straatmeyer, Reentry Program Grant Manager for the Department of Corrections, explained how the DOC institutional case managers are now required to attempt to locate the inmate's social security card and/or birth certificate. It can be a struggle to verify some offenders identity because some have an alias or multiple social security numbers. If this is the case, they can not apply for a social security card while in the institution and this affects many high risk offenders in the institution.

Reentry Workgroup Update

Deputy Secretary Feiler discussed the different collaborative teams involved in the Reentry Initiative, specifically the Reentry Workgroup. This group has evolved and sometimes only requires specific staff involvement. For instance, most recently the DOC has started working with the SD Housing Development Authority to improve case management between inmates working on the housing project at Springfield and placement in construction trade jobs in the community. The DOC is also working with the Department of Labor and Regulation to firm up utilization of JSAP. Currently it is delivered in a six hour block of time but there may be a better delivery method. The DOC is also working with the Department of Social Services (provider of chemical dependency and mental health services within the correctional facilities) regarding the way substance abuse services are provided within the institutions. The next Workgroup meeting is April 24, 2012 at the Solem Public Safety Center.

Next Deputy Secretary Feiler expressed the need to continue the development of shared missions and visions regarding prisoner reentry across departments. The DOC will initiate "listening sessions" with representatives from the Workgroup members and staff to discuss reentry barriers or challenges they may see, and strategies or programming they think could be helpful for prisoners reentering society.

Steve Harding, Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Military and Veterans Affairs said there are services, benefits, and programs specific to veterans so it may be beneficial to have a County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) available to explain the services available to them. Straatmeyer said the DOC works with Becky Hess from the VA hospital in Sioux Falls who is provided a list of releasing offenders who she meets with individually in the institution and determines their eligibility for veteran assistance. Harding agrees this is beneficial, but a County VSO should also be involved. Feiler pointed out how this is an example where the listening sessions will be helpful because agencies have many other programs that can be explored and used in the reentry program.

There was discussion about the list of releasing veteran offenders and how it is not provided to anyone else as of right now. Other departments or agencies that feel they have beneficial services for releasing veteran offenders should contact Straatmeyer.

Pamela Roberts, Secretary of the Department of Labor and Regulation, mentioned her department receives federal funds to conduct very intensive one on one case management with any veteran through a new Gold Star Program, from the U.S. Department of Labor. They will work with the veteran offender until they get a job.

Participation in the National Evaluation

Kevin McLain, Director of Research and Grants for the DOC, said SD is one of seven grantees who received SCA second year funding. This is a demonstration grant with an expectation to be involved in a National Evaluation.

Chad Straatmeyer, Reentry Program Grant Manager, for DOC, reviewed the [2nd Chance Act Grant National Evaluation](#) PowerPoint. To be eligible for selection in the evaluation, males must have a LSIR score greater than or equal to 30 and are 30 years old or

younger. Females must have an LSIR score greater than or equal to 23 and must be 30 years old or younger and both females and males must have a release plan to MA or PE County. Once offenders are identified as eligible for the randomization study, there is a 60% chance they will be randomized into the treatment group and a 40% chance they will be randomized into the control group. Offenders that fall into the control group receive standardized services available to all inmates not participating in the SCA grant program.

Strategic Planning for Prisoner Reentry

Deputy Secretary Feiler discussed the Strategic Planning for Prisoner Reentry technical assistance (TA) project provided to the DOC. The TA project ran parallel to a DOC parole board and parole staff project called the “13 Parole Supervision Strategies to Enhance Reentry Outcomes” and is a good primer for what good reentry should look like. Feiler listed the 13 strategies:

1. Define success as recidivism reduction and measure performance;
2. Tailor conditions of supervision;
3. Focus resources on moderate and high-risk parolees;
4. Front-load supervision resources;
5. Implement earned discharge;
6. Implement place-based supervision;
7. Engage partners to expand intervention capacities;
8. Assess criminogenic risk and need factors;
9. Develop and implement supervision case plans that balance surveillance and treatment;
10. Involve parolees to enhance their engagement in assessment, case planning, and supervision;
11. Engage informal social controls to facilitate community reintegration;
12. Incorporate incentives and rewards into the supervision process; and
13. Employ graduated, problem-solving responses to violations of parole conditions in a swift and certain manner.

The Strategic Planning for Prisoner Reentry Team comprised of 20 staff throughout state government and partnering agencies, continues to meet and discuss ways to enhance and support the reentry effort.

Prison Population

Deputy Secretary Feiler stated the following in regard to the male and female prison population:

- In February 2012, there were 3,141 males and 452 females in the prison system.
- As of March 21, 2012 the male population was 3,191 and the female population was 439.
- The male population was projected to reach 3,155 and the female population is projected to decrease to 425 in FY13.

The reasons for growth in inmate population seems to be from increases in admissions and decreases in releases from prison. There was an increase in both the male and female parole violator admissions—approximately 10 a month/120 a year and a slight

increase in the new court commitments for the female population. The DOC is also estimating a decrease of approximately 110 inmates released this year.

Based on the 2010 data, for every 100,000 people, South Dakota ranks about 30th in male incarceration rate and 5th for female incarceration rate. States that rank above SD are Arizona, Louisiana, Idaho, and Oklahoma. As of March 19, 2012, 29% of males and 55% of females were in prison for felony DUI or drug possession or distribution. Looking at the impact of these offenders for FY12, 47% of males and 68% of females were admitted to prison for one of those crimes. Feiler concluded the presentation by explaining the need for a multi-pronged approach from all the agencies that work with offenders releasing from prison.

Final Comments and Discussion

Jim Seward, General Counsel for the Governor's Office, provided an update to the Reentry Council regarding the Criminal Justice Reform (CJR) Workgroup. The Governor's Office together with the Unified Judicial System worked to develop a statewide drug and DUI court. If individuals can receive help on the local level first the recidivism rate in the prison can be reduced. Seward went on to describe goals of the CJR Workgroup are to study recidivism, parole, probation, sentencing, and sentencing alternatives.

Terry Dosch, Executive Director of the SD Council of Mental Health Centers, thanked Secretary Kaemingk for being able to be a part of the Reentry Council and said the Department of Public Safety instated an Impaired Driver Taskforce which reviews specific issues of DUI. Dosch also discussed how the Governor appointed a Behavioral Health Workgroup whose focus is to reorganize community based behavioral health to make it more responsive and relevant to community needs. The Behavioral Health Workgroup has identified there is a need for additional regionally based services. Dosch went on to say there are many essential efforts going on that have real promise. He feels it will be challenging to make the connection between all them but expressed willingness to help however he can.

Kaemingk thanked the Reentry Council for their participation and the meeting concluded at 3:43 p.m.