

2nd Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Meeting Minutes
Policy Workgroup
April 21, 2010 1-3pm
Solem Public Safety Center, Pierre
Multi-Purpose Room

In Attendance: Terry Dosch Council of Mental Health, Brandon Kucker DOL (representing Marcia Hultman), Jeff Bathke DHS (representing Gib Sudbeck), Shawna Fullerton DHS (representing Amy Iversen-Pollreisz), Grady Kickul DHS Voc Rehab, John Fette Military & Veteran's Affairs, Kevin McLain DOC Administration, Laurie Feiler DOC Administration, Colleen Winter DOH, Ed Ligtenberg Board of Pardons and Paroles, Roland Loudenburg Mt. Plains Evaluation, and Robyn Seibel DOC Administration.

Via Polycom: Barb Garcia City of Rapid City, Maureen Rohlfing Rapid City Local Program Coordinator, and Lisa Swallow Rapid City Local Program Coordinator (in training).

Absent: Nancy Allard UJS, Roger Campbell Tribal Govt. Relations, Sharon Sonnenschein DSS, Lorraine Polak South Dakota Housing Development Authority.

Review of Minutes

Laurie asked the Workgroup participants to review the meeting minutes from 1/06/2010 and no changes were needed.

Reentry Councils Annual Report to Governor Rounds

The annual report to the Governor is a review of the work that has been done with the Council and includes an explanation of the needs of reentering inmates, major program provisions addressed under the reentry grant, progress of work so far, and attachments that include the Sioux Falls and Rapid City Task Force members' names, grant project timeline, and developed metrics that track parole revocations by month.

Grant and Reentry Initiative Administrative Updates

Staff Updates

The Transition Case Manager (TCM) position in Pierre has been filled and will be responsible for providing Transition Case Management services to the Women's Prison and Rapid City Minimum Unit.

Amy Bisgard, Reentry Program Manager, has resigned and the recruitment process will begin for a new Reentry Program Manager.

Maureen Rohlfing, Local Program Coordinator in Rapid City has resigned and Lisa Swallow has accepted the position as the new Rapid City Local Program Coordinator.

The DOC is working with Minnehaha County to hire a Local Coordinator for the Sioux Falls/Minnehaha County area.

Grant Extension

The grant period was extended for six months and has a new project end date of 3/31/2011.

Expenditures Update

Laurie explained there is funding in the community for chemical dependency and mental health services such as additional treatment and aftercare services, mental health services for non-Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI), and case management for both mental health and chemical dependency. The Department of Corrections (DOC) will continue using the existing process with Parole Transition Coordinators through the Department of Human Services (DHS) when second chance individuals with alcohol and drug and mental health issues need services. The request for services will go to the Transition Coordinators who will refer and set up the appointment for services with the specific provider. The [Process to Request & Authorize Second Chance Act Grant Funding](#) and the [Disbursement Authorization Request](#) form which covers the approval process for use of second chance grant funds was handed out to the Workgroup and it was explained the form and information can be shared with staff who are involved with the reentry program. In addition, contracts for providers for chemical dependency and mental health services in Sioux Falls and Rapid City are in progress.

There was brief discussion about the availability of funds for a mentorship program, housing, employability, and flexible funds for local community services. Also, possible uses for the flexible funds which are also viewed as "gaps" in community were mentioned such as help paying for eye exams, co-pays, and blood pressure medicine. Additional work has to be done to determine the best way to structure contracting for those funds.

Round table discussion on statutory, legal and policy hurdles, and barriers to reentry & status updates on supporting the reentry process.

DSS – Laurie explained when an inmate receives a confirmed release date, the application process and phone interview for benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can be conducted. Then the information packet for services will be at the parole agent's office when the offender is released.

Terry Dosch Council of Mental Health/Substance Abuse – The discussion involved the importance of a transitional effort that connects the offender to community services prior to release as a way to provide a seamless transition into the community.

Also, opportunity to complete Treatment Needs Assessments (TNA) while offenders are still incarcerated is critical. TNA offers a full drug history and diagnosis which could point out mental health issues and it identifies stages of change, types of treatment support, medical, family, and educational services that may be needed. Some offenders may have medical needs that restrict locations to obtain health care and support needs.

Finally, the need for established resources for sex offenders in the community is a challenge that mental health staff often face. How can they engage these individuals in programming and what is the best delivery site? Mental health centers serve people with severe mental or emotional illness and there is concern with mixing populations for service delivery and client safety. Is there a way to integrate services for both populations and what should the service location be? Is there a need to develop a parallel community based program that ensures clients are separated?

Brandon Kucker representing Marcia Hultman DOL – There are some programs inmates are eligible for once they leave prison such as the Worker Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) which gives employers a tax break for hiring an ex-offender. There are classes the offender could be signed up for before release from prison such as resume writing, soft skills programs for employment, interviewing techniques, and the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program.

Colleen Winter DOH – The DOH has programs such as HIV/STD testing, family planning program, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), All Women Count (chronic disease screening), Bright Start Home Visiting Program for first time moms that have a variety of risk factors (social, emotional, health) which is only offered in the Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Pine Ridge reservation areas, which can be offered to released offenders. These programs are available to the public regardless of felony history. How can the released offenders learn about these programs? What kind of case planning is done to accommodate released offenders? How do we identify and make sure they have access to this care? Additional work needs to be done with the DOH to better understand the process for on going care in the community.

Grady Kickul DHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Voc Rehab's primary responsibility is to work with people who have significant disabilities in preparation for entering the work force. In November 2004 a policy was adopted that allows Voc Rehab to accept an application of an incarcerated individual up to 30 days before a confirmed release date. Voc Rehab works with the Department of Corrections Transition Case Managers gathering diagnostic information for a rehabilitation counselor who will then have all necessary documentation ready when the offender is released.

Shawna Fullerton representing Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, DHS Division of Mental Health – Should additional diagnostic or assessment testing be done once the offender is referred to the community mental health center?

John Fette Military & Veteran Affairs – It is important to find out if a veteran offender is receiving a pension or disability check within 3-4 weeks of entering prison. This allows veteran workers time to file paperwork with the VA to stop those payment disbursements. Then a month or two before the offender is released paperwork can be filed with the VA to continue benefit payments. It is important the offender reports to the VA that they are in prison so the payments stop. John suggested establishing a relationship with the local county Veteran Service Officers and mentioned the Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) and Healthcare for Reentry Veterans (HCRV).

Jeff Bathke representing Gib Sudbeck, DHS – One issue that needs to be addressed is the TNA barrier which was discussed above with the Council of Mental Health/Substance Abuse. Second, a phone conference will take place to address questions the community agencies have regarding their role in the second chance initiative. Finally, additional work is being done to address Native American programming.

Target Populations

Roland explained the focus of recent data collection has been on high risk target groups using a Level of Service Inventory Revised (LSI-R) score of 30 or above and age 30 or below. Offenders in the high risk category, Community Transition Program (CTP), or Suspended Sentence (SS) category will receive support services in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The next step with the data collection will be to analyze the identified individuals who received programming in the institution.

Laurie asked the Workgroup to review the PowerPoint presentation titled [Reentry Policy Workgroup](#) dated April 21, 2010, which identifies key terms when referring to the Adult Reentry Program and Target Population.

Work of the Rapid City and Sioux Falls Task Force

The Rapid City Task Force has conducted several client assessment meetings and three additional people will be assessed on May 5th. The Task Force has met a few times with the mentoring committee and the subcommittee is setting up policies and procedures for the program plan and another committee will be set up for mentoring training and recruitment.

The Sioux Falls Task Force is divided into a case management and mentoring subgroup. The groups have evaluated some cases and have learned to become involved earlier in the process. Additional work is being done with the mentoring component which is being called Transition Coaching.

Evidence Based Practices

Ed Lightenberg reviewed the PowerPoint presentation titled [Evidence Based Practices](#) and dated April 21, 2010.

Next Meeting

Tentatively set for August 2010 in the DOC Multipurpose Room of the Solem Public Safety Center.

Robyn Seibel, Corrections Specialist 06/14/2010