

**2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Meeting Minutes**  
**Policy Workgroup**  
**September 27, 2010 1-3:30pm**  
**Solem Public Safety Center, Pierre**  
**Multi-Purpose Room**

**In Attendance:** Jeff Bathke, DHS-Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, Terry Dosch, Council of Mental Health, Laurie Feiler, DOC-Administration, John Fette, DMVA, Charles Claussen, DMVA, Amy Iversen-Pollreis, DHS-Division of Mental Health, Sharla Keyser, Sioux Falls Reentry Coordinator, Grady Kickul, DHS-Voc Rehab, Brandon Kucker, DOL (representing Marcia Hultman), Roland Loudenburg, Mt. Plains Evaluation, Lorraine Polak, SD Housing Development Authority, Gib Sudbeck, DHS-Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse, Lisa Swallow, Rapid City Reentry Coordinator, Colleen Winter, DOH, Chad Straatmeyer, Reentry Program Manager, and Robyn Seibel, DOC-Administration.

**Absent:** Nancy Allard, UJS, Roger Campbell, Tribal Govt. Relations, Carrie Johnson, DSS-Economic Assistance, Ed Ligtenberg, DOC-Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Kevin McLain, DOC-Administration.

---

**Review of Minutes / Introduction**

Laurie asked the Workgroup participants to review the meeting minutes from 4/26/2010 and no changes were needed.

There was brief review of the reentry program collaborative structure which includes the Governor's Reentry Council, Reentry Workgroup, Rapid City Reentry Task Force, and Sioux Falls Task Force. The project goals are collaboration, fidelity, and recidivism reduction.

Laurie reviewed [flow chart version date 09/02/2010](#) which shows the flow inmates go through when entering the prison system. The flow chart was not handed out to the Workgroup but was available for viewing.

---

**Reentry Project Status Report**

Chad reviewed [Authorizations by Month and Approvals by Service](#). The Authorizations by Month bar graph shows the overall authorizations that were approved by month and the Approvals by Services pie chart shows the percentage of authorized service types. Many referrals for Startup Housing and Chemical Dependency (CD) services are from the community.

Case managers will become involved with identifying and referring people to the task force. They will be trained to identify high risk inmates before they are released from prison. This will help identify gaps in the inmates release plan and ultimately allow community agencies additional time to respond to the inmate needs. There are 26 case managers system wide and each with a case load of approximately 60 inmates.

On average 170 inmates release to parole or discharge from prison every month. Laurie explained the two types of inmate parole releases, the first is Programmed Release and the second is a Discretionary Parole Release. A programmed release is an initial parole release. The inmate enters the prison system, completes assigned requirements, and is released at their initial parole date provided they are compliant, have an approved release plan and agree to their supervision conditions. Referral packets can be distributed to the local task force 4-6 months before a programmed release because their parole release is predicable. A Discretionary Parole

Release is someone who was out on parole, violated and returned to prison or someone who was non-compliant and wasn't released at their initial parole date. This type of parole requires a decision of the Board of Pardons and Paroles and a decision to grant or deny isn't known until after the Board hearing. Referral packets are distributed to the local task forces 10 days after a decision to parole on a discretionary case. These are some variables as to why it's been difficult to case manage referral packets. There is a good process to get the information out on predictable releases in a prompt manner and the ones that are not predictable will be responded to as soon on as possible.

### Offender Case Load Management

Laurie reviewed the [Offender Case Load Management sheet version date 9/27/2010](#) which shows the flow for inmates that are high, moderate, or low risk. There was the following question and answer discussion among the group regarding the Offender Case Load Management sheet:

Question: Is there a difference in recidivism for those who were a discretionary release as opposed to those who were a programmed release?

Answer: At this time an answer could not be provided, but additional research will be done regarding this question.

Question: How does someone get to the point where they don't need any help (referring to the "No Help" box toward the bottom of the sheet)?

Answer: This is someone who is "high risk" with a stable home, a job waiting for them, CD aftercare has been lined up, they attended the Thinking for a Change (T4C) program when they were in the institution, and service gaps were not identified during their review. But one may argue if someone is still high on the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) additional investigation should be done to determine what help they need in the community.

Question: Do people who enter other communities throughout the State receive more services when they are prison since they will not be going to the Second Chance Act (SCA) grant funded communities?

Answer: While in the institution, inmates will qualify for Adult Reentry Program (ARP) services such as T4C, Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP), Credit Where Credit is Due (CWCD), and intensive case management. Once they enter the community they wouldn't qualify for SCA grant funds but regular division funds would be used.

### Medical Needs Once Released

Inmates were originally being released from prison with a supply of medicine and a prescription refill for their specific medical need. A decision was made to change the policy so now a prescription refill is called into a Kmart location near them and a refill will be available for a 14 day supply on a case by case basis. These individuals need to be identified ahead of time so they can find a way to pay for their continuing medication needs through other existing programs.

### Assistance for Mentally Ill Sex Offenders

The Workgroup agreed with the suggestion to put together a customized program for case management services for the mentally ill sex offenders who are utilizing SCA grant funds. In addition, there was a suggestion to think about creating a support program for individuals who

need help being reminded to eat meals, take a bath, attend appointments, and take medications. Would this be something the Face It program could offer to do through their recovery support activities? Could they train staff to work with mentally ill sex offender individuals on an on-going basis and provide time for that day to day support? Terry suggested it would be best to have a meeting with people who work in this area to further discuss this need.

---

## Local Task Force Information

### Sioux Falls Task Force

Sharla reviewed the following highlights regarding the Sioux Falls (SF) Reentry Task Force.

- The SF Reentry Task Force has two subcommittees. The first is called Transitional Coaches who meet on a monthly basis to keep updated on the day to day activities of the task force. The coaches involved with the task force are trained at the SF Reentry Center. The second subcommittee is the Case Review Team and they meet monthly as well. After reviewing offender referral packets they decide whether or not an in person meeting is required. The Case Review Team consists of staff from non-profit organizations, the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Labor (DOL), St. Francis House, and Glory House.
- The Reentry Center will be open to the public on Monday's 9am-8pm and Tuesday – Friday 9am-5pm and visitors can conduct job searches online and fill out job applications. The Reentry Center is in the process of identifying businesses willing to hire ex-felons.
- The Reentry Center will work with Community Transition Program (CTP) offenders assigned to the Reentry Center who will also be required to check in with staff, conduct job and housing searches, and be paired with a coach if interested. They will also be required to report back to the Reentry Center at the end of the day before going back to Unit C (minimum unit). If they are not involved with any of the mentioned activities, their help will be requested at the thrift store which is in the same building as the Reentry Center.
- Sharla passed around the [Transition Coaching brochure](#) to the Workgroup which is used to recruit coaches for the Reentry Center. The coaches come from a variety of community areas.
- The Reentry Center is currently in the process of recruiting volunteers.

### Rapid City Task Force

Lisa reviewed the [Rapid City Offender Reentry Program PowerPoint Presentation](#) and the following highlights regarding the Rapid City (RC) Reentry Task Force.

- There are two task force subcommittees in the RC Task Force. The first is a Mentoring Subcommittee and the second is the Strategic Planning Subcommittee.
- There are approximately 50 clients in the program, 30 are SCA referrals, and 20 were "self referrals" (non-SCA grant funded participants).
- SCA funds have been utilized to enter people into housing and some funds were used to purchase bikes for individuals who needed help to get to work. People have shown a lot of gratitude from receiving help because it is allowing them to better themselves and move forward with their lives.

- The task force meets once a month and focuses on awareness, outreach, and creating collaborations throughout the community.
- Lisa explained she continues her outreach to the community and has publicly spoken about the Adult Reentry Program at several churches.
- There will be a full day of training for the mentors on October 2, 2010 and licensed facilitators volunteered to conduct the mentoring training. The group of licensed facilitators are chemical dependency counselors.
- The mentoring training will be recorded so new mentors who come on board will be able to review the recorded training.
- The mentoring subcommittee is working on a 5 year strategic plan for the mentoring program within the community itself. The goal for this program is to help the "self referrals" who don't have a mentor provided to them through the SCA grant and to build a program that can be sustained and supported long term throughout the community once the grant funds are expended.
- The RC task force is working with NEW Property Management in RC to address the property management scarcity for ex-felons looking for housing. The task force has discussed providing incentives to the property management businesses such as a mandatory condition the released inmate receives case management and a mentor while living on the property. Also, the task force discussed providing a "loss reserve" to property management in addition to the security deposit.
- Lisa is working with Goodwill Industries in RC a program called Youth Build for ages 16-24 which is a work program where youth are provided education for GED's and learn about skill building. It could take 4-6 months to get this sort of programming off the ground but there is a possibility of partnering with a construction industry to provide work, where they would be onsite to train them how to use tools, how to measure, and how to build. Part of the program is that they stay in school so there would be classes available on site. Texas has been using this program for approximately 5 years and has reported significant recidivism for their population. Lisa is collaborating with Texas to gather information that would help initiate this type of program in South Dakota.
- It was discussed that ex-offenders are asking questions that Lisa is unable to answer due to lack of availability when they call or she is not sure where to refer them for answers. A mentor or transitional coach won't be able to answer some of their questions since they don't know the systems. She suggested it would be helpful if there was a phone number they could call that would be a central point for answers.
- There is a lack of transitional facility beds for women in RC and there are 95 women on parole in the Pennington County area. There are five beds at the Community Alternatives of the Black Hills (CABH) but they are a private contractor who usually contract with the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), five beds are for work release and CTP, eight beds at the City County Alcohol & Drug (meth program only), and some beds at Full Circle if they have children with them. Women are transitioning to other relatives which can be a burden on the family. The faith based organization [Passages Women's Transitional Living](#) is trying to start a transitional home for eight women but this is in the very beginning stages.
- The funding process for housing takes 2-3 weeks to get approved by the city. The approval process goes through the finance committee and the council signs the official approval. Landlords are frustrated at the length of time that it takes to receive their funds.

Since this is a contract process further discussion will need to take place regarding this topic.

- There are non-qualifying high risk ex-offenders that do not meet the SCA criteria but are in need of case management in order to access local housing funds. Volunteers of America (VOA) has put a hold on distributing housing funds because a documentation process needs to be addressed before additional funds are distributed. The Western South Dakota Community Action Program (WSDCAP) is a private, non-profit anti-poverty corporation is out of stimulus money right now but will start providing funds again in October 2010. Both VOA and WSDCAP are the two organizations that provide security deposits and the first months rent. Human Services will provide some financial support based on a sliding scale.
- Some ex-offenders have their identification's tied up because of child support. Can there be a grace period or lower payment until they are established with a job and/or housing? Laurie suggested there be further discussion and collaboration with the Department of Social Services (DSS) on this topic.
- Lisa briefly explained that some people with Traumatic Brain Injury–Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (TBI-PTSD) are less likely to be addressed once they are in the community. Could this be addressed before they are released from prison? Some people are not identified with this sort of injury until they violate their parole and are referred to the task force. The task force may ask questions about their history and trauma only to discover they may have TBI-PTSD.
- Many adult re-entry clients were youth that have a history in and out of correctional facilities. They lack life skills to live on own or have never lived in their own apartment. Would it be possible to collaborate with VOA in RC for the Ready2Rent program which teaches people how to keep lease agreements and manage their money?

---

## Program Evaluation

Roland reviewed the [2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act Summary PowerPoint presentation](#) and explained the Department of Corrections (DOC) submitted the first required reporting period data for the SCA grant program for January – June 2010.

- ◆ Over 50% of male and female Native American's are part of the SCA population.
- ◆ A large amount of people fell into the Substance Abuse category which was expected because data that was compiled in the beginning stages of the grant application showed approximately 80% of people who return to prison have a chemical dependency diagnosis.
- ◆ 322 individuals received a risk assessment out of 406. It is expected that this number will be higher once the case management process is put into place. The 322 people had an LSI-R update or a community risk assessment completed during the reporting period.
- ◆ The DOC is in the process of a management information systems change and with that a database specifically designed to track ARP/SCA individuals was created. The database will allow all ARP participants to be tracked.
- ◆ Roland explained the DOC is looking at a standardized assessment that will measure the progress and impact of the cognitive based thinking curriculums throughout the program.

---

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

There was very brief discussion about referrals for Native Americans. Currently there are two programs for Native Americans, one is at the Glory House and the other is at Southern Hills. There is hope that once the referrals to the task forces start this will increase.

Sharla would like a list of places out there that she can refer people to. Gib and Jeff suggested she connect Jodi Merritt at the Department of Human Services.

John quickly reviewed information about the [homeless veteran shelters in South Dakota](#). He talked about a nine bed facility for homeless veterans in Sioux Falls and passed out a sheet that lists all the homeless veteran shelters in South Dakota and some information about the new [Belle Fourche veteran shelter](#) that is opening for women only.

Laurie asked all group members to call Chad Straatmeyer or her if they have a gap, service, or need they would like to discuss before the next meeting.

---

Next Meeting

- ✓ The next meeting will be set for December 6, 2010.

---

Robyn Seibel, Corrections Specialist, Revised on 12/3/2010