

2nd Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Meeting Minutes
Reentry Workgroup
April 11, 2011 1-3:30pm
Solem Public Safety Center, Pierre
Multi-Purpose Room

In Attendance: Roger Campbell, DOE, Jeff Bathke, DHS-Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse (representing Gib Sudbeck), Aske Whitebird, Tribal Govt. Relations, Terry Dosch, Council of Mental Health Centers, Laurie Feiler, DOC-Administration, John Fette, DMVA, Shawna Fullerton, DHS-Division of Mental Health, Tiffany Wolfgang, DHS-Division of Mental Health, Carrie Johnson, DSS-Economic Assistance, Ed Ligtenberg, DOC-Board of Pardons and Paroles, Roland Loudenburg, Mt. Plains Evaluation, Lisa Bondy, SD Housing Development Authority (representing Lorraine Polak), Chad Straatmeyer, DOC-Reentry Program Manager, Colleen Winter, DOH, and Robyn Seibel, DOC-Administration.

Absent: Nancy Allard, Unified Judicial System, Grady Kickul, DHS-Vocational Rehabilitation, Marcia Hultman, DOL, and Kevin McLain, DOC-Administration.

Agenda

- Robyn handed out an updated agenda to the Workgroup (WG) members.

Review of Minutes

- The WG reviewed the meeting minutes from 12/06/2010 and no changes were needed.

Council Annual Report

- Laurie discussed the Governor's Reentry 2010 Annual Report that was sent to the Governor March 30, 2011. Copies are available for WG members if they didn't receive one from their Department Secretary.
- Governor Daugaard signed an updated Reentry Council Executive Order.
- When looking at the Recidivism 2003-2009 Adult Inmates chart, you can see a slight decrease in recidivism for calendar year 2009.
- When looking at the Male/Female Parole Revocations by Month chart, you can see the parole revocations have decreased slightly.
- There have been many policy changes since the reentry initiative began which has contributed to the reduction in recidivism. However, to further reduce recidivism we must focus on changing the behaviors of offenders who return to prison. We need to focus on the programming and services that provide the support for offenders.

Strategic Planning Technical Assistance (TA)

- Laurie explained the Second Chance Act (SCA) congress funded Strategic Planning for Prisoner Reentry Technical Assistance (TA) provided by the Center for Effective Public Policy will be to help provide structure and planning that will allow the reentry initiative to be maintained when grant funds run out.

- A strategic planning TA committee was formed and includes institutional and community corrections staff, the local reentry coordinators from Rapid City (RC) and Sioux Falls (SF), and one staff person from both the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and Division of Mental Health.
- The strategic planning committee will be meeting to review a 10 step model that is in the National Institute of Corrections Transition from Prison to Community manual.
- Roland explained over the next few months he will interview WG entities regarding reentry barriers they have dealt with, challenges they have faced, and what works with their reentry efforts. The interview process will form a natural bridge tying in the strategic planning and WG efforts. Roland will contact the appropriate individuals with next steps.

ARP Updates

National Career Readiness Certificate

- At the last meeting Bill Molseed from the Department of Labor (DOL) briefed the group on the National Career Readiness Certificate. It is a statewide initiative which provides a credential to job seekers in the three areas critical to employment: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for information. Please review the 12/6/2010 minutes for other detailed program information
- The program involves an initial assessment in each of three domains followed by knowledge and skill based instruction, which is delivered via computer. Once participants complete their skill development courses, an assessment is completed to determine the assessment level they have earned.
- Once the individual goes through the program they can earn credentials at different certificate levels such as a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum.
- The Department of Corrections (DOC) is working with the DOL to pilot the program with the Women's Prison Computers Applications program and the Welding program at Mike Durfee State prison.
- The DOC and the DOL are currently working on the logistics to provide pretests and post-tests instruction. Issues related to internet access and software needs to be addressed.

Grant Extension and Continuation of Funding

- The DOC applied for a second no cost grant extension with an end date now 3/31/2012. With provisions that were established there will be funding through state fiscal year 2012.
- The federal government has not determined subsequent funding but has indicated if additional funding is provided through there will only be enough for 8 grantees verses the original 15 of the 2009 reentry demonstration grantees.

National Reentry Conference

- Roland and Ed attended Making the Most of Second Chances, a national reentry conference for SCA grantees in Washington, D.C. February 2011 and presented data regarding South Dakota's reentry initiative.

New Rapid City Reentry Coordinator

- Lisa Swallow resigned January 2011 and the City of Rapid City advertised and filled the position. Joseph Castle is the new Local Reentry Coordinator starting April 2011.

Score Card

- The DOC is in the process of creating a score card which will be used to track programs and services such as extended detainment (considered a service) and other key pieces of information that will help evaluate the reentry initiative progress.

The South Dakota Prisoner Reentry Initiative Document

- Laurie explained the SD Prisoner Reentry Initiative document (public document) was updated April 2011 and is a reference tool explaining the reentry initiative.

Recidivism and Evaluation Update on Adult Reentry Program and Second Chance Act Program

- Roland discussed a PowerPoint presentation titled Second Chance Act Grantee Conference.

Group Questions and Discussions

Question: Shawna asked if there are evidence based practices which show that the need/high risk areas (identified on slide 8) have been successful.

Answer: Roland said that Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT), Thinking for a Change, putting individuals into solid effective substance abuse programs, Job Search Assistance Program, and Credit Where Credit is Due are being implemented and utilized to address high risk inmates with mental health, chemical dependency, employment, and criminal thinking risks. These types of programs have been shown to make a difference in recidivism.

Question: Lisa asked if the Attitudes and Orientation program is administered before individuals are released from prison.

Answer: Ed said yes and statistics show it's the length of the programs that predict a reduction in recidivism. The DOC has worked to increase time spent in MRT, a cognitive behavior program that addresses attitudes and orientation, and aftercare chemical dependency programs.

Question: Lisa asked if the homeless are at higher risk for recidivism.

Answer: Roland explained if they have a high score on the Level of Service Inventory Revised for the subscale "Accommodations" (which is their living situation) that would mean they are at higher risk for recidivism. However, when inmates are released from prison they must have a plan of release that includes appropriate accommodations.

The following are some points of discussion regarding inmates released to shelters:

- Lisa told the WG that she is the Statewide Homeless Coordinator for the South Dakota Housing for the Homeless Consortium, and they are trying to figure out how to reduce the shelter capacity which is at an all time high. How can we help shelters help offenders before they are released, so they're not released somewhere that is over capacity?

- Ed said the DOC works hard to find housing for a releasing offender and some cases are more difficult than others, but shelters are a last resort.
- Lisa explained a web based program used in their homeless shelters called the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is used to track the flow of services, gaps, family history, and medical history on the homeless. She suggested a component could be added to HMIS for offenders released to shelters to help track their recidivism rate.

Question: Shawna asked if the DOC is doing anything different for the Native American population releasing to reservations that area has a lack of housing.

Answer: Roland explained since the target group is SF and RC it has caused some challenges for the Native Americans that want to release to the reservation. If they qualify under the Adult Reentry Program (ARP) they receive prerelease services and those releasing to the SF and RC target areas receive referrals to appropriate services. We are working to determine if there are enough culturally appropriate services in those two communities and if not determine a way to enhance those services. Jeff said that offenders releasing to SF were going to the Glory House because they had a Native American specific program, but they don't have a counselor there as of last week and he doesn't know if that position has been filled.

- Roland mentioned as of December 2010, 1200 people have qualified for ARP. Of the 1200 people who qualified, 850 were released to the SF and RC target areas. Every month approximately 100 offenders qualify (6 months before their projected release) for institutional case management and preparation programming.

Resource Manual

- Robyn explained to the group when the SCA initiative began, procedures and resource lists were collected from state agencies and presented to the DOC as part of the reentry work being done.
- The resource manual will be supplied to DOC staff (case managers, transition case managers, parole, and community staff) working with transitioning offenders. The way the resource manual will be supplied to the staff has not yet been determined. The manual contents and process to supply the document will request each agencies approval.
- Carrie and Tiffany said the information that will be in the resource manual are very specific processes between their department staff and DOC staff and is not a public process because it is for a particular group of individuals. Therefore, they feel it would be best not to supply the manual information on the DOC website but to keep it as an internal document.
- Tiffany suggested asking DOC staff what their questions are regarding the transitioning inmate processes to help compile the manual and provide feedback that way.
- Terry questioned how beneficial the resource manual will be if it's generated using central information. He's familiar with the difference between SF and RC from a behavioral health care point of view enough to know that the information almost has to be localized if it is going to be beneficial. Since this isn't a statewide program, state used protocol wouldn't be that useful.
- Others in the WG agreed information should be specific to each location (meaning target areas RC and SF).

Agency Point of Contact

- The group discussed and agreed the importance of having a single point of contact sheet that can be checked and updated. Robyn will contact those that she needs a point of contact from.

Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting date has not yet been established.

Robyn Seibel, Corrections Specialist 4/28/2011