



### Office of Reentry Services

## Reentry Resource Center Opens in South County

By Javier Aguirre, Director of Reentry Services



We are now open for business on Tuesdays in South County! In April 2015, the County opened Reentry Resource Center hours in San Martin on Tuesdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Public Safety Realignment (AB 109) reentry clients. This is a 6-month pilot program that will run from April to October 2015. The South County Reentry Resource Center (SCRRC) is located at the Sig Sanchez County Government Center at 80 Highland Avenue, San Martin, CA 95046. To be eligible for ser-

services, clients must live in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, or San Martin and be under county supervision through AB 109).

Below is a brief description of the services offered at the SCRRC targeting AB109 reentry clients residing in South County:

- Mental Health and Substance Abuse screening and assessments by a Behavioral Health clinician;
- Medi-Cal and CalFresh application support provided by Social Services Agency's eligibility worker;
- Primary health and psychiatric services provided by Ambulatory Care's Reentry Mobile Clinic;
- Peer support services and linkages to health-related programs provided by Community Solutions and the County's Faith Based Reentry Collaborative; and
- Probation support to link and refer clients to community-based services.

In response to multiple discussions with city and public safety stakeholders in South County (Gilroy, San Martin, and Morgan Hill) in regards to the high arrest and conviction rates for AB 109 individuals residing living in these cities, the idea of having the Reentry Resource Center hold office hours in San Martin was born. Preliminary analysis shows that 273 of the total 4,450 AB 109 individuals (October 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014), reside in South of which 202 were arrested and 157 were convicted. Currently over 350 AB 109 individuals reside in South County. While many of these clients accessed services from the Reentry Resource Center in San Jose, many more are unable to access services due to limited transportation options and most of the substance abuse and mental health treatment slots are located in San Jose area.

For the 6-month pilot program, the Office of Reentry Services is leveraging existing county partners and contracted services to support this effort. For more information, please contact SCRRC in San Martin on Tuesdays at (408) 201-0690 or [scrrc@ceo.sccgov.org](mailto:scrrc@ceo.sccgov.org) or contact the Reentry Resource Center in San Jose at (408) 535-4299.

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## A Letter From Paul Pierce

You asked me how I liked it at this motel and I gave you an off the cuff smart answer. True, compared to the other motels I've stayed in it falls short. You did not ask if I appreciate it. YOU HAVE NOT IDEA how much I do. Compared to the ground under the tree, the pavement, the sidewalk or even the jail cookie sheets, it is lap of luxury. Showers twice a day, a T.V. that works most of the time, an honest to goodness mattress, a microwave, a mini refrigerator. I'm in homeless heaven. I do so very much appreciate it.

Friday I got my GA cash, bought a bus pass and splurged a bit at Safeway. My free phone is on order (2 week delivery), Social Security told me that my first check will be coming in only ten days. I am a happy man. I'm still a bit worried about what comes next, my social security coming right on the motel deadline and my phone after that. But I recall the words of an old George Beverly Shea's song:

*"many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand  
But I know who holds tomorrow  
And I know who holds my hand."*

In addition my hand has been placed in the care and guidance of those at the Reentry Center who have been here and who care enough to help.

I wish there was some way I could show you just how very much I appreciate all your help, not just the motel, which is indeed a big, big, big deal, but the hand holding along the way. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

## Reentry Team Visits San Quentin

By Reilly Johnson, Rehabilitation Counselor



April 23rd fell on a Thursday, the sun filled the sky and reflected across the tranquil waters of the Bay just South of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Santa Clara County's fledging program collaboration with California

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) warranted that a few lucky staffers have the opportunity to tour a Bay Area landmark, San Quentin State Prison (SQ).

For the last 163 years, SQ has served as home for many of the most notorious inmates in the State of California. With just under 4,000 inmates, over 700 who are on condemned row, SQ has been a main fixture in the Department of Corrections for years. Offering more inmate programs than any other institution in the state, SQ is the most sought after facility for inmates who are working to make changes in their lives. The rehabilitation available at the prison makes it an appropriate location for staff from the Reentry Resource Center to visit in hopes of a better understanding of what

takes place in the lives of the clients we serve while they are behind bars.

From the gate, there was a distinct difference to the atmosphere in the facility had...the feeling of a small community. There were industry facilities with inmates making everything from mattresses to lounge chairs, a bustling rec yard and inmates lined up for commissary like any local grocery. Seeing the high standards being met by the programs on site, it was easy to see the RRC and SQ share common goal which is improving the odds of those who are the most impacted by the criminal justice.

Of course there were constant reminders that we were touring an infamous prison. The racial boundaries that separate the rec yard are fairly clear even among inmates who are programming and making the most to change their situation, some of prisons politics are simply unavoidable. Seeing inmates for segregated housing units spending their yard time in cages, one can't help but realize that rehabilitation only comes to those who have the opportunity to participate. With waiting lists that are 5+ years long in order to participate in programs, one hope that these inmates find support when they are released.

## HealthRIGHT 360—Making a Difference in a Client's Life

We had our first successful discharge. The client originally referred for anxiety and issues around maintaining sobriety. As sessions progressed, she was able to handle her anxiety across domains and encountering substance bothered her less and less. Now, she feels able to manage her stress and expressed optimism that she will be able to cope in the future. Clinician is currently working on connecting this client to our alumni services and identifying how client can benefit and grow as well as give back by becoming a mentor to other clients in the program.

## One Breath at a Time

By Shelley Swan, Executive Director of Carry the Vision



**How much difference can one conscious breath make?** Clients who begin the Restore Life Skills training program naturally have questions about how practices like meditation and breathing exercised can reduce stress and make a difference in their lives. Restore is designed to provide practical and transferable tools for stress reduction where participants learn and engage in a dialog process, meditation and relaxation techniques, breathing exercises, concentration practices for enhanced focus and productivity, and personal tools to enhance overall well-being.

As a program of Carry the Vision, we are committed to overcoming violence by the power of non-violence and to realize the potential of our human family to build a world that supports the well-being of all. The Restore Program is a way to work directly with individuals to realize this vision and create positive change and a new way of living. The benefits of meditation and breathing exercises extend to even the most difficult environments that many people live in today. By learning to consciously connect with our breath, we can demonstrate a greater capacity to make positive decisions, respond rather than react, become ready to learn and concentrate, and managing strong emotions in stressful situations.

Clients who attend this program have the opportunity to experience directly the positive effects of the practices learned and report feeling an overall sense of inner calmness and freedom. With the pressures of meeting the daily demands of their program, to the challenges of reintegrating back into the community, and for most staying sober, the tools learned provide a chance for them to reboot and recharge. One conscious breath and the practice of calming the mind has the potential to change the course of an individual's future by learning to simply *pause*. One breath can turn the tide in a person's life and the lives around them.

Carry the Vision has been fortunate to witness the incredible heart and commitment the staff at the Reentry Resource Center makes everyday for the people and community they serve. Their commitment to Restore comes from the place of deep caring that supports the well-being of all.

### Client testimonies...

- *I feel that meditation is a good way to deal with everyday living so I can deal with life's terms and not be so stressed out.*
- *When I look at my life it feels so fast all the time, so when I slow it down with meditation I find myself and my thoughts at peace.*
- *Meditation helps me to shift through fears, hesitations, and over thinking. It helps me to remove the clutter and the feelings of overwhelm.*

## ADULT REENTRY DATA—What's in a Number?

### Reentry Mobile Medical Clinic Data (Sept. 4, 2013 to Dec. 3, 2014)

Total Unduplicated Patients = 655

- 77% of the patients are male
- 40% of the patients on AB109 Public Safety Realignment Classification
- Of the 262 AB109 patients, 31% are at moderate or high risk level to re-offend based on the CAIS Risk Assessment
- 9% of the patients were re-arrested after their initial service appointment

### Medi-Cal Enrollment

The Board of Supervisors approved the implementation of Assembly Bill 720 to initiate the Medi-Cal application/enrollment with eligible inmates 30 days prior to their release from Main Jail and Elmwood.

From March 1, 2014 to March 30, 2015, the total application processed were 1,652.

- 1,339 Applications Approved
- 94 Applications Cancelled
- 62 Applications Denied
- 57 Applications Discontinued



## Calendar of Events JUNE—AUGUST 2015

### JUNE 2015

6/24 at 2pm  
Reentry Network Governance Meeting  
Reentry Resource Center

### JULY 2015

### AUGUST 2015

8/4 at 5pm  
National Night Out  
Reentry Resource Center

8/20 at 9am  
Community Correction Partnership Meeting  
Adult Probation, 2314 N. First St., San Jose

## Office of Reentry Services

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We're on the Web

[www.sccgov.org/sites/reentry](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/reentry)

## Donation Wish List—Men's Clothes Wanted!



The Re-Entry Resource Center is seeking clothes donation for our male clients. Do you have gently used clothes you wish to donate? We are in need of the following items:

### Reentry Toiletry Kit Supplies

- Men Deodorant
- Shaving Supplies
- New packages of men underwear
- New Men Socks
- Bifocal Reading Glasses
- Mouthwash
- Ear Swabs
- Bar of Soaps
- New Hair Brushes and Combs

Men's Coats

Men's Clothing

Clothes Rack

Large Rubber Storage Bins with Lids

To make a donation, please contact Lorena Madrid at (408) 535-4236.