

Reentry News

Bridge to a Better Future

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Office of Reentry Services

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Message from Director of Reentry Services



Javier Aguirre, Director

We are now four weeks into 2015 and this year has become an opportunity for new beginnings and accepting new challenges. I hope 2015 will be another successful year for our County's efforts in reentry services and the Reentry Resource Center (RRC). Our efforts and hard work will allow our clients to become thriving residents of Santa Clara County. Just as our clients come see us searching for a chance to rebuild their life, we too have the opportunity to start all over with a new invigorated approach towards improvement.

Recently, I attended the 4th Annual Conference on Public Safety Realignment Innovations in Public Safety and Justice in Sacramento. The conference's focus, *Transitioning from Triage to Long-Term Sustainability* brought together staff from the Office of the Sheriff, Probation and County Program Administrators statewide to identify what works and what doesn't in reducing recidivism and to highlight different reentry strategies and programs. Karen Fletcher, Deputy Chief Probation Officer and Captain Troy Beliveau, highlighted our efforts to ensure smooth continuity of care from jail into the community. Sean Rooney (Probation Manager), Arcel Blume (Director of Probation Research & Evaluation), Jose Flores (Health Care Manager II) and I provided an interactive presentation on our Therapeutic and Inter-Disciplinary Approaches to Improving Outcomes.

Last week's conference and the Department of Correction's recent Needs Assessment and Facilities Study allowed me to identify efforts that we need to promote, areas that we need to improve, and goals to accomplish in 2015: (1) Promote the County's comprehensive Behavioral Health Treatment services and how individuals access Medi-Cal prior to release to expand their health coverage; (2) Improve our understanding of evidence-based practices by reviewing all the County's reentry programs, both in-custody and in the community, and validate our needs assessment to ensure we are targeting the high risk individuals for services; and (3) Establish a County policy for an integrated transition and discharge process to link in-custody individuals with case management and/or services from the County and community based organizations.

The County's Adult Reentry Strategic Plan and the Community Corrections Partnerships' work plan and objectives highlight the development and implementation of individualized reentry/discharge plans. Additionally, on January 13, 2015 the Board of Supervisors approved the Community Plan to End Homelessness in Santa Clara County stating that no one from Jails and Prisons are discharged to homelessness. Over the next months, Reentry Stakeholders will establish and implement effective and successful transition and discharge planning practices for our clients.

Finally, in early February 2015 the Office of Reentry Services will be releasing the *Community Recidivism Reduction Grant Request for Proposals (RFP)* seeking highly qualified service providers/agencies to provide in-reach substance abuse interventions, education, employment, family reunification and support, and transitional housing services to work with individuals that have a high risk of re-offending. For updates please visit www.sccgov.org/sites/reentry.

I look forward to continue our partnerships and collaborative efforts to build safer communities and strengthen families through successful reintegration and reentry of formerly incarcerated individuals back into Santa Clara County.

Returning Home From State Prison

By Henry Townsend

First and foremost, I must give honor to God. My name is Henry Townsend, I'm a recently released prisoner as a result of the changes in the Three Strikes Law (New Prop. 36). I was released after serving over 10 years on a 25 years to life sentence. I want to thank Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office especially Matt Wilson and Thompson Sharkey for representing me and making my release possible.

The day that I was released, I was transported to the Reentry Resource Center (RRC). The RRC's services helped me to readjust and accumulated back into society. At the Center, I was assisted with transportation, clothing, obtaining a

social security card, ID card and driver's license, Medi-Cal, dental, housing, and many self-help support groups.

There are many people who have worked very hard to help me when I could not help myself. I want to give my thanks and appreciation to Bob Dolci (housing), Elaine Sautler (counseling and case management), Matt Pedregon (health services), Ann Strange (Lit Lab), Rebecca Cardenaz (faith based centers), Shelly Hughes (peer mentor), Manny Ortega (peer mentor), Reilly Johnson (counseling and case management), David Marez (faith based center), Dr. Charles Preston and Elizabeth Chantung (social services).

With the assistance I have received, I have accomplished many things. I have come to know that the Reentry Resource Center is more than a one-stop center, it's a blessing.



Faith Re-Entry Collaborative 3rd Annual Holiday Resource Fair

By Rebecca Cardenaz

Holiday music, the aroma of delicious food and the chatter of community members, and service providers filled the Reentry Resource Center on November 5, 2014 at the Faith Re-Entry Collaborative Resource Fair.

The vision for the Holiday Resource Fair is to bring faith and community partners together to share resources with families in need during the holiday season.

We have exceeded our expectations for the event. Over 20 faith

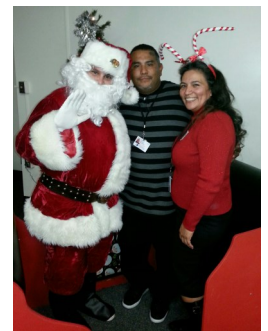
organizations, community organizations, and government agencies came together to share a broad range of resources and services with each other and clients.

Some of the organizations in attendance included Goodwill, Work2Future, Center for Training and Careers, and many more.

In addition to learning about services and resources, clients and their families had opportunities to receive raffle prizes donated generously by various members of the faith communities.

Overall, the holiday resource fair created a sense of community—a friendly and welcoming environment where clients and their families enjoyed some holiday cheers. Many children were happy to take pictures with Santa on his sleigh!

Families expressed their thanks and gratitude for the event.



Bay Area Legal Aid—Making a Difference in a Client's Life

Client came to the Reentry Resource Center seeking help getting his driver's license restored due to having a child support hold on his license. Before client was incarcerated, he had been making child support payments of \$500 per month. Client explained that although he had recently been able to get part-time job, he could not afford child support payments of \$500 per month. Bay Area Legal Aid was able to assist the client to obtain a modification on his child support order reducing his payment to only \$298 per month. With his new job, he can make these greatly reduced child support payments. Now that client is able to meet his child support obligations, the Department of Child Support Services released the hold on his driver's license.

In the next steps of legal representation, Bay Area Legal Aid will be assisting the client with a fine that is still on his record. Once this is completed, client will be able to recover his driver's license and be able to further improve his income and stability.



Parolee Program

- 535 Referrals (9 verified as Prop. 47)
- 146 Active Clients (1 verified as Prop. 47)
 - 22 clients received emergency housing assistance
 - 20 clients were awarded a 2-year special needs housing assistance; 5 clients are housed
 - 15 clients received one-time special needs housing assistance; 1 client was housed
 - 16 cases were closed successfully



Parole Reentry Program

By Melanie M Jimenez

Happy New Year from the Parolee Program at the Reentry Resource Center (RRC)! The Program is happy to announce that we are fully staffed and operational. We have assembled a great team that is extremely dedicated to serving their clients. I would like to introduce to you and welcome to the RRC:

- **Healthcare Program Manager II:** Edith Sona
- **Rehabilitation Counselors:** Susan Caporale, Juan Hernandez, Reilly Johnson, and Laurie Palomo
- **Peer Support Workers:** Ryan Forward and Hussain Rahim
- **Health Services Representative:** Benjamin Calhoun

We are the newest partner to join the RRC, and we hit the ground running. From July to December 2014, the program received 318 referrals from parole agents and began case management with 141 clients that have been recently released from prison. A team consists of a Rehabilitation Counselor and Peer Mentor develop a service plan with a client and assist them in reintegrating back to our community for six to nine months. They assess clients to identify their greatest needs and navigate a path to reintegration. Each team can provide assistance with services such as education, housing, employment, substance abuse treatment, anger management and family wellness. Through our partnership with Contra Costa County Office of Education, we can also connect clients to the Computer Literacy Lab at the RRC where clients can get help with attaining their GED or registering for college in addition to gaining hands on computer and employment skills.

We are thankful for the support we have received from community-based organizations and the Faith Reentry Collaborative who stepped up during the holidays and winter months to provide donations of clothing and food to our clients. A special thank to Tzu Chi Foundation and Agent Jon Simon as they have provided tremendous support to our clients and provided 16 jackets and sleeping bags!

Please feel free to come visit us. For more information, call us at (408) 535-4000.

ADULT REENTRY DATA—What’s in a Number?

Demographic Profile of AB109 Public Safety Realignment (Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2014)

- Total Unduplicated AB109 Clients = 4, 250
- Total Duplicated AB109 Clients = 4,774
- 85% are male; 50% Hispanics; 26% White; and 13% Black
- AB109 Average Age: 38; youngest is 19, oldest 76
- 79.5% High Risk; 47% Felony Offenses and 53% Misdemeanor Offense

Expungement Services (Sept. 16, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2014)

Total Referrals: 1,245

Discretionary Relief: Petitions are filed with the court when clients are not entitled to mandatory relief. Petitions Filed—583; Granted—357; Denial—14; Pending—212

Mandatory Relief: Applications/petitions are submitted to Probation Department Petitions Filed—235; Granted—163; Denials—24; Pending—39



Calendar of Events JANUARY—MARCH 2015

JANUARY 2015

1/28 at 2pm
Reentry Network Governance Meeting

FEBRUARY 2015

2/17 at 11am
Disclosure of Criminal History on Housing and Employment Applications Workshop

2/24 at 11am
Relapse Prevention Workshop

MARCH 2015

3/24 at 11am
Child Custody & Visitation Workshop

3/24 at 2pm
Money Management & Credit Workshop

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We're on the Web

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.