

Subcommittee on Community Justice & Alternatives to Incarceration

Reentry Council of the City & County of San Francisco

MINUTES

Monday, February 8, 2010
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room, 3rd Floor
Public Defender's Office
555 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Members Present: Linda Connelly, Kathleen Connolly Lacey, Pastor Gerald Criswell (arrived after Agenda II and before Agenda V.), Armel B. Farnsworth, Nicholas Gregoratos, Cynthia Gusman, Anthony Jenkins, Richard Jimenez, Lisa Lightman, Ramona Massey, Richard Rendon, Maria Richard, Leland Rubin, Chief Siffermann, Laura Thomas, Jami Tillotson, Chief Al Waters

Members Absent: Michael Bien, Amarita King, Ramin Naderi, Martin Molina, Sr., Hon. Mary Morgan, Gwendolyn Strain

Others in Attendance: Julie Setele, Sydney Fisher, Joanne Warwick, Bob Coleman, Rick Parry, Lauren Smiley, Katy Miller, Jeaneane Young, Michael Klinger

Meeting called to order at 1:15 p.m., once quorum was reached.

I. Introductions and Review of Agenda.

Chair Richard Jimenez asked for introductions of members and public around the table, and briefly reviewed the agenda.

II. Review and Adopt Minutes of December 14, 2010.

Lisa Lightman moved to adopt the minutes, Nicholas Gregoratos seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 1:19 p.m.

III. Brief Overview of Subcommittee Meeting Ground Rules & Protocols.

Richard Jimenez reviewed the posted ground rules.

IV. Review and discuss updated timeline for development of the assessment of programs and needs: literature review, surveys of programs, and focus groups of individuals.

Katy Miller updated the subcommittee as follows: a focus group for victims of crimes had been conducted, the literature review is underway, and information about the remaining focus groups and surveys would be forthcoming. She said that the goal of these efforts is to have draft sections of the final report ready in time for the March subcommittee meeting. In response to a question, she said that anyone with suggestions for people to participate in focus groups or with other information should contact Reentry Council Staff Jessica Flintoft, directly.

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V. Consideration of Proposed Amendment to CA Vehicle Code 41500

Nicholas Gregoratos discussed his efforts around this proposed amendment to expand VC 41500 to cover anyone sentenced to a county jail or alternative for a period of six or more consecutive months, as well as to add a new Vehicle Code section to allow persons who have been incarcerated for 90 or more days in any consecutive 12-month period to have all vehicle code infractions (non-felony, non-misdemeanor) dismissed. He said that the language has been given to Assemblymember Ammiano's office, where it is under consideration. In the meantime, he hoped to attract organizational support for the change. He already had the support of the Public Defender and Sheriff.

Anthony Jenkins asked about including Federal offenders. Nick said that 41500.5 might already be written broadly enough to include Federal offenders, and offered to add language to the other part of the proposal.

Linda Connelly moved to bring this proposed legislation to the full Reentry Council for that body's official support. Anthony Jenkins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 1:31 p.m.

Rick Parry, representing the SFPD, provided a law enforcement perspective, which led to a suggestion for a change in language in the proposal, which Nick noted.

VI. Consideration of Local Impact of and Response to Implementation of SB X3 18, including Non-Revocable Parole and Change in Credits.

Richard Jimenez asked Armel Farnsworth to answer the group's questions about the change, and non-revocable parole's impact on eligibility for CDCR services. Armel said NRP individuals may be eligible for services, but that accessing those services would likely necessitate the involvement of a parole agent. Armel gave a brief explanation of the potential local impacts of NRP (he said about 400 individuals in San Francisco would be eligible), and said that with the city's drug and mental health courts, this additional influx might effectively be handled by those courts, if they were expanded.

Linda Connelly asked whether the assessment being done inside of CDCR facilities to identify people for NRP eligibility could be shared, so that outside experts could flag individuals who may need services despite their eligibility.

Richard said that the subcommittee might think about ways to deal with this.

Laura Thomas recommended a focus group of NRP individuals to help determine service needs for that group.

Linda Connelly asked whether Second Chance money could be used for this community. Richard explained the mentoring aspect of the funding.

Armel noted that it is likely that, of the 400 NRPs in SF, a high percentage will be women. Katy Miller said that the Second Chance-funded program, geared toward women, will not differentiate between women who are services-eligible and those who are not, so the funding should be able to reach that NRP community. Armel offered to try to identify NRP individuals as they are released.

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VII. Update on any other relevant legislation or policy.

None was offered.

VIII. Overview of Design of Proposed Parolee Reentry Court.

Lisa Lightman referred to meeting materials in discussing the CalEMA grant, and explained that two community meetings and an internal meeting have already demonstrated a will to proceed with a Reentry Court, despite very little funding.

Armel recommended a few individuals' names at CDCR to Lisa Lightman.

Kathleen Connolly Lacey asked about creating a Reentry piece to the two existing collaborative courts.

Chief Siffermann and Chief Waters discussed the value of treating the creation of specialty courts as well-integrated dockets, not to be treated as separate programs and expenses. Lisa said she would like in the long term to see the terminology around specialty courts replaced as the courts become part of the standard structures.

Armel asked about possibility of mandating program participation in order to collect GA money, some of which could fund services.

Laura Thomas cited program capacity limits, and said that because local service programs function with long wait-lists now, such a change would mandate that individuals participate in programs that literally cannot take them.

Richard suggested making a recommendation to the full RC re: a collaborative court.

IX. Update on any other relevant funding opportunities.

Richard mentioned the new Second Chance grant for non-profits, and said that Jessica Flintoft had suggested that groups collaborate on this pitch, since several separate groups' applications from San Francisco last year were not funded individually. Katy recommended that people interested in more information contact Jessica, who led an information session on this RFP last week.

X. Public comment on items not listed on the agenda.

Laura Thomas mentioned the Michelle Alexander discussion and book signing for *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, at the Ella Baker Center on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at 6:00pm.

XI. Adjournment.

Chief Waters moved to adjourn, Nick Gregoratos seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.