

Reentry Council

City & County of San Francisco

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Latino/Hispanic Community Rooms A & B
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Members in Attendance: Public Defender Jeff Adachi (co-chair), Russ Giuntini (co-chair and alternate for District Attorney Harris), Sheriff Michael Hennessey (co-chair), Nicolas King (co-chair), Steve Arcelona (alternate for Trent Rhorer), ShaMauda Bishop, Mary Campbell, Glenn Eagleson, Barbara Garcia, Matthew Goughnour, Chief Yador Harrell, Gerald Miller, the Hon. Mary Morgan, Lt. Rick Parry (alternate for Chief George Gascón), Chief William Siffermann, Chief Wendy Still, Eddy Zheng.

Members Not in Attendance: Joaquin Diaz de Leon, Duriel Gilmore. [Seat 1 Vacant].

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Public Defender Jeff Adachi, who welcomed everyone to today's meeting. He introduced the Co-Chairs, and noted that he would be facilitating the meeting. Roll call established that a quorum was present. PD Adachi provided a brief overview of the day's agenda.

II. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2010.

After a period of review, and no public comment, PD Adachi entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 26, 2010. Chief Siffermann moved to adopt the minutes, and Sheriff Hennessey seconded. The motion to adopt minutes passed by unanimous vote.

III. Report from Staff about Progress of Subcommittees, Development of Annual Report, Update of *Getting Out & Staying Out* Guide, Reentry Month 2010, and Update on New Funding Received to Implement Reentry Initiatives.

Reentry Council staff Jessica Flintoft provided a brief update on each of the five subcommittees, which meet at least bimonthly and have been supported by Subcommittee chairpersons and Reentry Council staff. 86 people are now working as members across the 5 subcommittees. Standing agenda items for each subcommittee includes development of the annual report, funding opportunities, legislative or policy updates, and subcommittee member presentations. Jessica provided overview of annual report, and described the three prongs of the information gathering process: bibliography and literature review, 139 responses to program surveys, and six focus groups of affected individuals. All of these have been broadly informed and supported by many community partners. A framework of programs and needs for each of the five subject areas is included in Council materials, and have been developed and reviewed by the subcommittees.

The *Getting Out & Staying Out* resource guide is being updated with returns from the program surveys, and will be printed this spring. Staff will be contacting departments for funding to

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support the printing of the updated Guide. Over 10,000 bound guides have been distributed to date, and many more PDF guides have been downloaded.

Jessica mentioned possibility of producing a small-scale event in the fall about reentry, as has been done in past years. Further, there was no new funding received for new reentry initiatives reported since last Reentry Council meeting.

Jeff Adachi asked how the efforts described would inform the work of the Council, and what staff needed. Jessica Flintoft explained that the three sources of information would be used as draft content for the annual report.

Karen Roye asked if the focus groups and surveys would be administered in languages other than English. Jessica explained that there was not sufficient demand for focus groups in other languages, but that a future focus group would be conducted in Spanish. Surveys were in English because they went to organizations that are operated by English-speaking staff.

Eddy Zheng noted that there is are language barriers and cultural differences among many incarcerated individuals, and asked that future efforts be sure to take these considerations into account.

Jeff Adachi asked about the cost of printing the resource guides. Jessica Flintoft estimated approximately \$50,000 for 10,000 guides, and noted that in the past, funding has come from multiple agencies.

Glenn Eagleson asked if the Resource Guide could be given to providers electronically or on a CD to save printing costs.

Karen Roye suggested having a conversation about budget, so that representatives of agencies can discuss possibly putting together funding for the guides.

Barbara Garcia offered to work with Jessica on private foundation requests, and mentioned working with Dr. Toni Rucker.

Jeff Adachi asked for public comment on this item. There was none.

IV. Reports from Subcommittee Chairpersons.

Community Justice & Alternatives to Incarceration, *Richard Jimenez*

Richard Jimenez gave a brief update on the work of the subcommittee, including its discussions on diversion and collaborative courts, sentencing and early release alternatives, in-custody & out-of-custody programming, and probation and parole. He described the legislative research into possible changes to the state Vehicle Code, the implementation of Non-Revocable Parole (NRP), and efforts to track service utilization by individuals who are on NRP.

Judge Mary Morgan asked about efforts to divert people from state prison. Richard Jimenez said that San Francisco sends fewer people to state prison than do many jurisdictions, and suggested that it was because of San Francisco's collaborative courts, progressive courts, and strong Department of Public Health and Public Defender. Chief Still noted her agenda item on SB 678, which would address some of group's concerns. Gerald Miller asked about the Los Angeles Reentry Council, and Richard explained the differences between the approaches, noting generally that San Francisco is more centralized.

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Self-Sufficiency of Currently & Formerly Incarcerated People, *Mark Thomas*

Mark Thomas updated the Council on the subcommittee's discussions on the education, employment, and income supports sections of the report. He noted the need to identify informal education processes, and briefed the Council on Krystal Koop's report to the subcommittee after her first meeting as the Council's representative to the WiCAC.

Welfare & Safety of Families, Victims, & Communities, *Elizabeth Brett*

Elizabeth Brett provided an overview of the subcommittee's discussion about services available to incarcerated individuals' families, victims & survivors, and communities. She mentioned that the subcommittee's focus is on improving the collaboration among the many groups that already work on these issues, including Police Department, Department of Public Health, Human Services, and community and faith-based agencies to better support reentering individuals. Jeff Adachi referred to the page 35 of the meeting materials, and confirmed that Council members could contact Elizabeth Brett to suggest additions to the list of services.

Civil Rights & Civic Engagement of Formerly Incarcerated People, *Randy Stortroen*

Randy Stortroen noted the subcommittee's concerns around access to the vote for reentering individuals, the subcommittee's focus on collateral consequences, and *Padilla v. Kentucky*. He stated that attorneys were members of the subcommittee, and that they would be working on issues related to collateral consequences.

Health & Wellbeing of Currently & Formerly Incarcerated People, *Shira Shavit*

Shira Shavit updated the Council about the subcommittee's discussion of the need for emergency shelter right after release; dental services (both in-patient and out-patient); trauma-related medical services; and well being related issues. In particular, Shira noted the challenges related to finding services and housing for sex offenders, especially because of *Jessica's Law*, and the difficulty that providers have in applying for and obtaining exemptions on behalf of sex offenders with medical needs with regard to housing.

Sherriff Hennessey asked where the authority to grant the housing exemption sits. Shira said the application is to Parole, but noted the unclear appeals process.

Gerald Miller noted the lack of sympathy for 290 registrants in the community, and asked how the subcommittee would deal with that. Shira explained that the subcommittee simply deals with issues around easing reentry for individuals returning from jails and prisons, regardless of their crime, and said that services like health care and housing should not be determined by individuals' crimes.

Chief Still asked Parole's Matthew Goughnour if parole had the ability to grant exemption. He said that those decisions go up to CDCR. Chief Still said she would work on this, noting that it also has public safety implications.

Lt. Rick Parry noted the problem of "clustering" or "warehousing" of sex offenders in San Francisco.

Jeff Adachi asked for public comment.

Public Comment:

Ramin Naderi discussed the issue of housing sex offenders, as well as the need for educating the public, and thanked Agent Farnsworth for his efforts.

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V. Consideration of Support for AB1900 Pregnant Inmates and Wards—Least Restrictive Restraints.

Shira Shavit provided a brief update on the need for the legislation, overview of legislation, and the proposed draft letter requesting the support of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor in advocating for passage of AB 1900.

Mary Campbell asked about the current allowances for shackling women. Shira acknowledged that in practice it probably varies around the state.

Chief Siffermann voiced his deep support for passage of AB1900 due to Juvenile Probation Department's support for young, pregnant incarcerated women in juvenile justice center.

Chief Still cited her past experience in women's prisons and programming, and voiced her strong support for AB 1900.

Barbara Garcia offered a motion to approve the draft letter for the Board of Supervisors. Chief Siffermann seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 11:13am.

VI. Council Member Milestones & Reflections on Discharging from Parole.

Jeff Adachi noted that Council members Eddy Zheng and Mary Campbell are no longer parole, and invited each to speak about their experiences. He acknowledged the success of Eddy and Mary for overcoming challenges of incarceration, parole, and reentry. He invited them to speak about their experiences on parole, and how it could be improved for others.

Mary Campbell spoke about the emotional support she received from her parole agent; the needless drug testing she underwent despite not ever having had a substance abuse problem; and the inflexibility of a system that did not reward her for having had a clean prior record, good behavior and good parole reports. She cited a deep need for therapy and mental health treatment for female prisoners and parolees, and to connect women with mentors once released.

Eddy Zheng spoke briefly about his experience of 21 years of incarceration, acknowledging the benefits of education programs in prison and alternative to violence programs. He entered system when he was 16 years old, and education saved his life. He regularly speaks about the need for cultural competency in criminal justice, particularly noting the increased Asian and Pacific Islander population in California prisons. He acknowledged that many people put their faith in him when he was granted parole, and therefore he works to justify that confidence and to help others. He suggested that former lifers may not need the same level of parole resources because they have often already demonstrated change in process of earning their release. He noted that he was regularly drug tested despite not having a substance abuse issue, but that his parole agent was supportive.

VII. Update on Second Chance Act Adult & Juvenile Demonstration Projects.

Dr. Toni Rucker provided a brief update on the Adult Demonstration Project, called With Open Arms: A San Francisco Initiative for Women. Dr. Rucker explained the need for gender responsive support for women involved in the criminal justice system. After one week, it has received seven referrals, with four assessments already underway. She explained assessment tools, services available, and partners working on collaborative project. Karen Roye said she would like for Child Support Services to participate as part of the referral tree. Toni Rucker said

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that the evaluation component of the project would help to confirm the innovative and leading nature of this work.

Chief Siffermann provided a brief update on the Juvenile Demonstration Project in the Juvenile Probation Department. The focus is on reentry, on youth emerging from out-of-home placements, including Log Cabin Ranch. It established a team of social workers from Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, the Public Defender's Office, and a juvenile probation officer. The team meets regularly even while the youths are in the facility, and then supervises the release. He said this program is looking to potentially expand from only Public Defender referrals to include referrals from conflict attorneys. Evaluative tools are in development.

Jeff Adachi asked for questions and public comment on this item. There was none.

VIII. Overview of San Francisco's Implementation of SB678.

Chief Still discussed significance and promise of SB 678, and outline of implementation plan. Chief Still will meet with co-chairs and Judge's oversight committee to consider ways forward to implement SB678 locally.

Jeff Adachi asked whether it would make sense to establish the SB678 oversight committee as a subcommittee of the Reentry Council, or if it should be a standalone group that might provide updates to the Council. Chief Still recommended that a standalone group would be most effective to implement SB678.

Karen Roye offered Department of Child Support Services as a member of this prospective reporting committee.

Jeff Adachi asked for questions. There were none.

IX. Reentry Council Member Visits to Pre-release Programs in Prisons.

Eddy Zheng will be working with Reentry Council staff to set up a series of prison visits, with a focus on the various pre-release programs available. Visits are being planned for San Quentin State Prison, Valley State, Dublin, and Solano prisons. He plans to include sensitivity training beforehand, and staff will work with individuals ahead of time to ensure that visits are conducted appropriately.

Lt. Rick Parry expressed Chief Gascón's interest in implementing a program to visit NRP population before release, and to provide some local law enforcement contact in lieu of the parole services.

X. U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services Defendant/Offender Workforce Development Conference 2011.

Chief Yador Harrell provided an update on the upcoming national conference in 2011 and asked the Reentry Council for suggestions of keynote speakers and personal or success stories. Jeff Adachi confirmed with Chief Harrell that the conference would be open to the public. There were no additional questions.

XI. Council members' comments, questions, and requests for future agenda items.

Glenn Eagleson asked to have some data on probationers and parolees in San Francisco for the next meeting.

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Sherriff Hennessey mentioned that the Sheriff's Department was sponsoring an upcoming Jobs Fair on May 11th.

XII. Public comment on any item listed above, or on other business of the Reentry Council.

Ellison Horne, founder of Celebrating Solutions, presented Sheriff Hennessey and Tommy Escarcega with certificates as "Solutioneers" for their efforts to promote access to the vote for county jail inmates.

Terry Anders asked the Council to consider action on a construction employment-related issue in the Bayview.

Nadia Babella, San Francisco Human Rights Commission, asked for interest in expansion of San Francisco's "Ban the Box" policy.

Hannah Eberhart, from Centerforce's Life Project, spoke and distributed materials.

XIII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08pm.