

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council (Inmate Reintegration Committee)

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2005

Annex First Floor Conference Room

Ann Arbor, MI

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Levin Bergman (Inmate Reintegration Committee Chair), Scott Patton (CJCC Staff), Ruth Shabazz (Shelter Association of Washtenaw County), Ruby Smith (ETCS Community Programs), Deb Pippins (Supervisor Project Outreach, CSTS), Kirk Filsinger (Jail Commander), Rick Visel (Director, Correctional Services), Diane Davidson (Director of Development/Finance, Washtenaw Housing Alliance), Mike Echlin (22nd Circuit Court Probations Agent), Penny Ryder (American Friends Service Committee), Julie Chaffee (Director, Community Corrections); Duayne Gardner (POWER); Denese Brown (POWER); Delphia Simpson (Public Defender Manager), Gary Greenfield (Corrections Lieutenant)

Convened: 12:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Scott Patton noted two minor changes which were favorably received. Moved by Mike Echlin, supported by Ruby Smith; motion passed unanimously.

II. POWER Presentation

Denese Brown, Executive Director of POWER, shared documents regarding a grant opportunity for which POWER applied jointly with Salvation Army. She gave an overview of the grant initiative for which only faith-based organizations were eligible. The grant, through the US Department of Labor, would offer services to convicted offenders and the services would be designed to match the individuals with community resources to ensure that they do not re-offend. The Request for Proposal (RFP) clearly identified what services would be required and what services would be paid for. The grant was designed to create a seamless process to match inmates with services with a focus on delayed developmental individuals. Michigan Abilities Partners (MAP) would serve the delayed development portion. In the grant, they set aside \$96,000 for subsidized employment for structured time and revenue available at the front end including job coaching.

Barbara Levin Bergman inquired if MAP has experience in literacy training. She wanted to understand if all clients would be taken – agreement is that it would include 33% based on an assessment to decide who would go to which agency. She encouraged the development of parameters around the assessment, including job coaching for two years, which would include Michigan Works and POWER.

Ruth Shabazz identified an issue related with housing that would need to be further defined. She also inquired about housing vouchers. Denese Brown identified that there would be additional Section VIII housing vouchers that would be available beginning the next fiscal year. She clarified that these would be new vouchers, not combined with other vouchers.

Scott Patton commended Denese Brown on the model shared in the grant application. He inquired about the development of the outcome targets identified in the model. Denese Brown responded that the outcome targets are based on national outcomes based on Workforce

Criminal Justice Collaborative Council (Inmate Reintegration Committee)

Investment Act and reality and indicated that the projected start-up time would be January 2006, although that is a best guess estimate.

Julie Chaffee clarified that the individuals who would qualify for the services and would be those who committed non-violent offenses. In Michigan, the majority of those who would qualify are jail-bound, due to sentencing guidelines. In other states, many of these individuals may be prison-bound.

Denese Brown identified that inmates would be assigned a mentor before they are released and the mentors would be guided by specific policies. Case managers would shepherd inmates through all of the various services. Each inmate who qualifies would get an individual development plan and the mentor would be a personal coach to help the inmates.

Barbara Levin Bergman expressed concern over the religious element included in the grant. Denese Brown clarified that none of the services are attached to faith and that the religious choice is that of the individual. Part of the policies would ensure that these concerns are addressed.

Diane Davidson complemented POWER on the logic model. She encouraged collaboration with the Housing Alliance to help ensure that adequate housing needs are met, as the supply for affordable housing and temporary housing has improved but remains a scarce commodity.

Deb Pippins asked about mental health services. Denese Brown responded that the grant does not pay for mental health services but that the intention is that POWER would be able to assist individuals who do qualify for CSTS to be matched with those services. The group acknowledged that a gap still exists between those who qualify for CSTS and those who need some degree of mental health services.

Scott Patton inquired about the toolkit concept that is identified in the grant application. Denese Brown responded that the toolkit concept is conceptual and will be based on the same concept as an individual development plan. Scott Patton noted that the concept is also consistent with the State's Transition Accountability Plan identified in their Prisoner Reentry Initiative.

Penny Ryder asked about the timeline of case management and whether inmates would be assessed prior to release from jail. Julie Chaffee identified that there can be alignment with proposed pretrial services for eligibility – prior to an individual's arraignment, magistrates have requested an assessment that included the same data elements under discussion. This information could also be used to assist POWER with an initial qualification assessment. Denese Brown also indicated that the intention is for services to be matched prior to release.

Barbara Levin Bergman encouraged POWER to call Congressional offices to inform them of the grant and seek their support. She also updated the group on Assertive Community Treatment Team, which the Board of Commissioners is now considering, as well as a Probation Residential Center.

III. General Discussion/ Next Steps

Issue was tabled until next meeting.

Adjourned: 1:50 p.m.

Next Inmate Reintegration Committee meeting will be on 9/07/05, **12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, at Annex First Floor Conference Room.