



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee

MINUTES

OF

ADULT RE-ENTRY STRATEGIES

WORKGROUP

February 29, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Intervention & Rehabilitation

Sub-Committee

Adult Re-entry Strategies Workgroup

February 29, 2008

10:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee, Adult Re-entry Strategies Workgroup taken on Friday, February 29, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 825 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 10:13 a.m.

Adult Re-Entry Strategies Workgroup

Kevin Gay, Chair
Michael Hallet, Member
Wyllie Hodges, Member
Gordon Bass, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

Kevin Gay, Chair
Michael Hallet, Member
Wyllie Hodges, Member
Gordon Bass, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

Sharon Kirkland, Member

STAFF:

Ginny Walthour

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathy Sheddan, JREC Re-entry Coordinator

PROCEEDINGS

February 29, 2008

Intervention & Rehabilitation Sub-Committee

Adult Re-entry Strategies Workgroup 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Kevin Gay called the meeting to order at approximately 10:14 a.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss adult re-entry issues impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey.

Chairman Gay began the meeting in reviewing the documents Kathy Shedan handed out at the last committee meeting. These documents contain statistics and data from the JREC center. This will help this sub-committee begin reviewing current programs that help ex-offenders in the city.

In looking at current re-entry programs, we must include state and federal offenders that will be released. Approximately 300-800 could be released from federal prison this year, 2,000 from the state prisons to add to the 49,000 offenders that will be released locally.

The question is if we need to have separate re-entry portals for the local, state and federal releases? There is a need to have separate treatment models that should be included in the portal. Also, we can not mix violent and non-violent in the same treatment model - some programs can help both but there is a need for separate listing of services.

An important factor is to track recidivism rates for these offenders to gather data and determine success of programs. Gordon Bass said he has two crime analysts dedicated to capture the data. Ms. Shedan said that JREC has seen over 2,000 clients but they have not been fully processed - meaning she has some tracking data on the service providers that she can provide to committee. This will best help the committee determine where resources are best needed at the JREC. The specialized services/treatments (i.e.

housing, transportation, etc.) are the most effective in helping ex-offenders reintegrate within the community. For instance, six people living in a halfway home costs about \$160K per year. Need to determine resources to help these specific needs.

The creation of the re-entry portal is a good place to start but then committee must go in depth on programs and services offered. The committee has to justify funding requests. Both Ms. Shedan and Kevin Gay will provide data and statistics they have on current programs to help aid the committee.

There needs be consistent programs for both types of offenders (violent and non-violent) so all re-entry organizations can have it and distribute as early as possible - preferably before offenders are released. This information will help sell the possibility of hiring ex-offenders to potential employers.

Next Steps:

Evaluate all current programs offered to ex-offenders to determine success, duplication of services, etc.

Look to Operation New Hope as a good model for job placement, especially the training/services they provide. Look to provide training services while offenders are still incarcerated or have classes at night for higher participation.

Start developing seamless portal of entry.

Chairman Gay reminded the committee that these ideas would be presented at the next committee meeting on Monday, March 3, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. at the Ed Ball Bldg, 8th Floor, in Room 825. Chairman Daniels adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:14 a.m.

Adjournment. The meeting ended at 11:14 a.m.