

THE COLLABORATIVE ON REENTRY 2009 Action Agenda

Charge:

The Collaborative on Reentry will address the complex issues raised by the large numbers of men and women leaving state prison and county jails each year and returning to local communities, as well as the unacceptably high recidivism rates. Members of the Collaborative will use their expertise, judgment, and insight to advance policy and systems change in the state. Specifically, the members will be asked to participate in workgroups to plan upcoming meetings and to attend four additional collaborative meetings this year designed to:

- Determine the current status of reentry efforts – both policies and practices;
- Collect data and best practices about offender reentry;
- Examine ways to leverage new dollars, and pool existing resources and funding streams to reduce incarceration and promote lower recidivism rates for returning offenders;
- Enhance the existing recommendations and develop new policies and practices that could serve as a reentry plan for the Second Chance Act; and
- Design focused advocacy efforts to implement recommendations.

Illinois Second Chance Act Plan:

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has announced its schedule for issuing Requests for Proposals under the Second Chance Act. RFPs for both State and Local Reentry Demonstration Grants and Mentoring Grants to Non-Profit Organizations are currently scheduled to be issued in March 2009 and submitted by May 2009. A workgroup (representing state, city, and county, advocates, victims, etc.) has been convened in an effort to outline the elements of an Illinois Second Chance Act plan. This ad-hoc group will work to develop the components of the grant application to be shared with the Collaborative and submitted to the federal government.

The Collaborative Workgroups:

Workgroups have been established to design and plan the four quarterly meetings for the Collaborative, specifically around the issue areas that were discussed at the Joint Reconvening of the Mayoral Policy Caucus and Governor's Commission on Reentry on December 1, 2008. We have invited volunteers to participate in the planning and structure of each meeting, dependent on their areas of interest and expertise. Workgroups participants will meet with Metropolis staff in between the actual events, examine relative research for packet materials, select speakers, design breakout sessions, and create an agenda for the event.

The issue areas that evolved from the December 1st meeting are as follows:

- **Strategic Corrections: Alternatives to Incarceration/No Entry:**
Establishing a common, effective assessment instrument and a continuum of community-based (programming of) services to provide appropriate offenders with effective alternatives to incarceration to provide monitoring while addressing issues which deter criminal behavior.
- **Employment and Education:**
Create comprehensive strategies focused on employment options that are linked to an evolving workforce, which would include education and skills training for prisoners and formerly incarcerated individuals in areas such as green jobs, technology, etc.
- **Housing:**
Develop initiatives to remove barriers to housing by increasing supportive housing options and addressing policies and procedures that prevent individuals from accessing subsidized housing.

- **Juvenile Reentry:**
Create policies and programs within the juvenile justice system that utilize a positive youth development approach, incorporate balanced and restorative justice practices in juvenile rehabilitation, and provide comprehensive community support services during the aftercare process for juveniles returning to the community.

For each session, the goal of the Collaborative is to engage the group in analyzing the current policies and programs and make recommendations about systems change by examining the following variables as they apply to each of the four issue areas:

- Systems coordination and collaboration;
- Data information and sharing;
- Engaging the community in public awareness;
- Funding streams;
- Program administration / implementation;
- Legal issues;
- Service delivery; and
- Sustainability of initiatives / capacity building.

The Collaborative Will Produce Three Products:

1. Each of the four topic areas will produce a set of 3-5 specific actionable implementation plans. These will include:
 - The specific actions to be taken to implement recommendations;
 - The name of the people/entities responsible for taking those actions;
 - The approximate costs and where resources will come from; and
 - The time table for action.
2. A matrix of the existing available services for that issue area (samples have been provided)
3. A set of recommendations of a more general nature that include new issues, such as Juvenile Reentry, that have emerged from this process, which were not included in either the *Inside Out* or the *Restoring Hope* reports.

Meeting Dates:

The Collaborative will meet four times during a one year period. All sessions will be hosted at the Federal Reserve Bank, 230 South LaSalle Street, 3rd floor.

Session 1: Strategic Corrections: Alternatives to Incarceration/No Entry
March 25, 2009

Session 2: Employment and Education
June 15, 2009 (**Please note this date has been changed from June 24 to June 15*)

Session 3: Housing
September 30, 2009

Session 4: Juvenile Reentry
December 16, 2009