

Transition Task Force

May 28, 2008

Attendance:

Regis Groff
Germaine Miera (staff)
Christine Adams (staff)
Dean Conder
Greg Mauro
Tracy Garret (CU)
Shelby McKinzey (CU)
Lou Archuleta
Sean McDermott
Louise Boris
Brian Gomez
Mike Biggio
Charlie Smith
Carol Peeples
Bridget Klauber
Kim English
Paul Hermon
Jeanne Smith
Reo Leslie
Regi Huerter

Absent:

Don Quick
Keith Penry

Make Name Tents for next time

Discussion Topics:

Regis → our job is to help the transition process for individuals leaving the corrections system.

Kim → introduction of Paul Herman – from organization that does criminal justice policy consulting work.

Paul → There is a lot of stuff happening around the country in reentry.
If I had one wish it would be that the issue of reentry would never have been created.
We need to effectively help individuals get back into society. We need to give them the tools to do this.

Back timing: Aug. 20 = recommendations to the oversight committee (Short term and long term).

Meeting 2: Need to talk about issues, what data we need and who's doing what.

Outcome of today's meeting) Issues → survival issues & individual issues. (May not get to individual issues, but if possible).

- What are our questions about these issues?
- Data needed in regards to these issues.
- How are we going to get that data?
- Thinking about promising practice (EBP doesn't really exist in this area yet).

Meeting 1: got some issues and ideas out on the table.

- Need to find the happy medium of process and action to get things done.

There are four TF: Probation, Incarceration, Transition (this one), PIS

Separating the issues: Seems like there is some overlap. What makes this TF unique?

- 6 months prior, 6 months post release
- Forces us to focus on preparation for release from incarceration and how we meet their risk and needs once they are released.
- Opportunity to look at gaps in services for these needs and preparation.
- Assessing the factors that are present that will increase or decrease **chance of success**.
 - o Not the same as identifying failure → we're already good at this.
- Put forward programs that work and suggest other best practices.
- Timeliness of how all of this occurs. → of all of the issues

Imminent that there is a certain amount of time being addressed by this group to get everything done (6 mo before and after).

Uniqueness of this TF:

- Also unique because of communication from inside to outside of incarceration.
- Urgency → no more time to "mess with it."
- Theoretically reentry starts at probation and ends at PIS – but we need to worry about what we have.

What are the critical barriers for people when they walk out the prison door?

Survival Needs → everyone needs this to survive

Maybe survival

Support system needs

Maybe support

Reentry navigator (boundary spander)

- **A place to live**
- **Identification**
- Drivers license
- **Job**
- Healthcare (physical and mental)
- **Money**
- Gap in employment
- Education
- Birth certificate

- Transportation
- Mental health/substance abuse/co-occurring disorder
- Food
- Clothing
- Medications (mental and medical)
- Pro-social place to congregate
- Pro-social network
- Acceptable social networks
- Technology skills
- Family support
- Concerned significant other
- Job training
- Tools for job
- Freedom to make choices
- Childcare
- Child custody
- Child support
- Restitution and fees (everyone coming out has some kind of fee)
- Unresolved prior gang activity
- Ongoing CM support
- Insurance
- Applying for benefits
- Constructive leisure activities
- Support in staying away from negative peers
- Emotionally overwhelmed
- Verbal interviewing skills
- Gender based support system (specifically, for women)
- Felony friendly jobs/applications
- Mentors to help bridge gaps (social support)
- Immigration status
- Unresolved warrants (unresolved CJ issues)
- Hygiene items
- Information (GO book)
- Support System (connected to other things listed above)

Not everybody needs everything that's up there.

SURVIVAL NEEDS:

Place to Live

Questions:

- How many people are released with a place to live? Broken down by place they live (shelter, street, comcor, hotel, home)?
 - o Define homeless, define release (people coming out from any status, may want to break down by status)
 - Status by placement
 - o DOC should have (Piton foundation), want by next meeting.
 - o People released from jail → don't have the county data
 - Kim will talk to Regi to double check this. Maybe someone in CO has done this.

- Dean Conder will get El Paso County info to Kim.
 - Want at the point of release
 - Carol Peebles will write a paragraph on the Piton study by next meeting.
- What is the average cost of an apartment in various communities?
 - Louise has Federal HUD info on all areas in CO – from Census data.
- What type of housing is available and where? (statewide)
 - Louise can get Federal FMRs.
 - Felon Friendly – sex offenders have been barred from many areas.
 - Heather Elliot at the Inman Center may have some of this information.
 - Denver Inter-city Parish
 - What is NOT available to felons?
 - Homeless coalition has this info:
 - Charlie Smith will get housing and HUD criteria.
 - HUD only says no to S.O.s and persons who cook meth in a HUD home.

Identification

Questions:

- How many are released without an ID?
 - Drivers license
 - Pilot program exists, but not enough
 - How have other states solved this?
 - Paul will get a list to us on the who and how? (we may have to figure out some of the how).
 - Birth certificate
 - State ID
 - SS card → nationally this is tough
 - Is there data on # released without ID?
 - Lou and Brian will try to get info on this.
 - **ID needs to begin at intake, don't always have 6 months before they leave (Mike Biggio only had one day notice)
- What happens to the ID at county jails?
 - **ID is often destroyed or "lost" while in jail (county, city) – policies probably differ by jail location.
- What is the DOC policy on ID policy?

Get the general policy on these info and then go through same question process for:

Transportation

Money

Food/Clothing

Restitution and fees

Sean, Mike, Carol and Greg will look for this info.

Will go through question/data process between now and next meeting.

Next meeting:

Report back on a place to live, ID, restitution/fees, DOC policy on ID/transportation/clothing/release money.

Go through same process on social support system issues.

Then go through individual needs

Other notes:

Next meeting: the parking lot will be available on 22nd and Champa (across from The Loft). Look for parking around building, but parking lot is available.

We will send out minutes and matrix for DOC to fill in statutes.

Bring flip chart.