

GOVERNOR'S RE-ENTRY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 21, 2007
SALEM CONFERENCE CENTER

INAUGURAL MEETING MINUTES

Attending:

Council Members: Governor Ted Kulongoski, Todd Anderson, Stephen Atchison, Ron Chase, Bob Jester, Thomas McClellan, Michael McShane, Victor Merced, Jerry Moore, Joe O'Leary, Steven Powers, Camille Preus, Mark Royal, Ross Shepard, Senator Vicki Walker, Laurie Warner, Max Williams, Jim Willis, Clyde Saiki for Bruce Goldberg, Mattie Day for Representative Cameron

Steering Committee Members: Martin Burrows, Val Conley, Nancy Cozine, Phil Lemman, Pegge McGuire, Ginger Martin, Nancy Sellers, Scott Taylor

Governor Kulongoski: Welcome and Charge to the Council

The Governor cited safety, justice and hope as reasons for forming the group. The Governor wants Oregon to be on the cutting edge of identifying solutions that reduce recidivism and at the same time make our communities safer by turning offenders into productive and law-abiding citizens. Increasing the number of successful transitions from prison to the community involves both public and private agencies. Today, we do not have a collaborative and well-coordinated approach. The Council will remove barriers to successful re-entry and increase collaboration and coordination between state and local agencies that contribute to this success.

Why Improve Prison to Community Re-Entry in Oregon?

Max Williams, Director of the Department of Corrections, reviewed information on the public safety and economic impacts of re-entry and recidivism, shared a profile of the inmate population, and reviewed the current status of re-entry preparation and challenges.

Models for Success

Ginger Martin, Assistant Director, Department of Corrections reviewed examples of cross-agency collaboration within Oregon.

- Oregon Department of Human Services: Smart Start: health, hygiene, and family planning packets; Oregon Trail Card, prequalification process for federal benefits
- ODVA: Veteran's Re-entry Initiative

- DMV: Efficient identification processes
- OHCS: Transitional housing with programming for offenders

Role of the Council and the Re-Entry Steering Committee

Joseph O’Leary, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Ted Kulongoski reviewed the vision, goals and tasks for the Re-entry Council and the Re-entry Steering Committee.

1. Tasks of Council

- Create a common vision for transition and reentry
- Coordinate at the executive level of reentry initiatives across the state
- Establishing regular and continuing communication among stakeholders
- Remove or minimize barriers that impede successful transition and re-integration
- Create an implementation plan for improvements in policy and practice
- Monitor progress on that plan
- Establish and monitor state-level performance goals

2. Tasks of the Steering Committee

- Develop a clear understanding of current policies and practices relating to case planning, transition planning and preparation, information sharing, continuum of services following release, social services in the community, housing and employment
- Conduct a thorough review of existing policies and practices that need to be corrected and making specific recommendations for system improvement for consideration by the Council
- Prioritize recommendations
- Identify strategies to improve reentry
- Implement changes
- Establish implementation groups to work on the operational aspects of system reform, the procedures and practices that will require change in the many agencies involved in the reentry process.

Creating a Twelve Month Plan

Re-entry Council Members engaged in discussion about next steps and agreed on the following:

The Council will meet quarterly, will establish priorities.

The Steering Committee will meet monthly, carry out the work on the priorities. Ginger Martin will chair. Members will be deputy level staff in the member agencies. Ross Shepard, Ron Chase, and Mark Royal will serve on both Council and Steering

Committee. Sub-committees will allow for participation from many other interested parties.

The members discussed the dual focus of public safety and preventing future crime victims and a focus on the individual offender becoming successful, contributing to society.

Copies of the minutes from Council and Steering Committees will be distributed to both groups.

Recommendations from the 2007 Re-entry Conference will be distributed.

The Council will start with some “low-hanging fruit”—improvements that can be made now and don’t require additional funding. In this way, the success and credibility of the Council can be established before the Council seeks funding.

There is a need to share data between agencies. A subcommittee on data and research could be established to develop a way to do this better.

Other points made in discussion;

The federal government is also a partner in this state effort

There was a hope that the Council will also address juvenile justice and transition and the high recidivism rates of the local control population

County commissioner should be engaged since counties provide mental health and addictions treatment programs

The Council may want to consider holding meetings around the state once the work is under way.

We should look at what works now as a guide improving the system: drug courts, mental health courts, multi-disciplinary approaches.