

**Anchorage Reentry Coalition
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
7/25/19**

Representatives in attendance from the following organizations/groups: Partners Reentry Center; Alaska Department of Corrections, Anchorage Correctional Complex; Cornerstone Recovery; Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center; Veterans Affairs; Office of Rep. Andy Josephson; Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services, Division of Behavioral Health; Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice; NeighborWorks Alaska; Alaska Criminal Justice Commission; Alaska National Guard, Counterdrug Support Program; Salvation Army, Clitheroe Center; Arctic Recovery/Chris Kyle Patriot's Hospital; Alaska DOLWD, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Office of Rep. Geran Tarr; GEO Group, Cordova Center; Office of Sen. Gray-Jackson; Anchorage Police Department; U.S. Probation; Cook Inlet Tribal Council; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Midtown Job Center; Anchorage Community Mental Health Services; Alaska Department of Corrections, Anchorage Probation; Alaska Native Justice Center; Southcentral Foundation, Native Men's Wellness Program; Food Bank of Alaska; Katalyst Alaska; Christian Health Associates

1. Introductions.

2. Presentation: Barbara Dunham, Alaska Criminal Justice Commission.

Ms. Dunham presented detailed information in regards to the passage of Alaska House Bill 14 and House Bill 49. HB 14 became effective July 20th and was intended to be the "Schneider Fix" which is in response to a recent court case; the bill pertains to sex offense cases. HB 49 is a more comprehensive bill that contains many changes and was intended to be a "repeal and replace" response to the criminal justice reforms enacted under SB 91. HB 49 became effective as of July 9, however, without a budget there remain elements of the bill that are currently unfunded (as of this writing). There are provisions that remain unchanged and include: suspended entry of judgement, decriminalization of minor offenses, PED, victim notification provisions, changes to the Alcohol Safety Action Program, administrative sanctions and incentives, and geriatric parole.

Ms. Dunham touched on numerous provisions that were amended under HB 49, including: disorderly conduct sentence changes, modifications to pretrial release, limited credits for time served while in treatment (365 days), felony sentencing, recommendations for early termination of probation/parole, and reducing in earned compliance credits (10 days for 30 days of compliance). Enactment of HB 49 repealed prior reforms, including: charging and penalties for drug crimes, limits placed on probation terms, sentencing reforms for misdemeanor crimes, and discretionary parole procedure changes.

Finally Ms. Dunham discussed some elements of HB 49 that are new, including: no mandatory parole eligibility for first and second degree murder convictions, discretionary parole eligibility restrictions for certain felonies, sex crime statute changes, changes to other specific crimes (possession of motor vehicle theft tools, aggregate theft, solicitation/production of an indecent picture of a minor, escape laws). There is also a provision within the bill that states that Alaska DOC must coordinate with community reentry coalitions and community providers to develop reentry plans for individuals prior to their release. Ms. Dunham can be contacted to provide further information or clarifications

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(bdunham@ajc.state.ak.us). The PPT presentation can also be obtained by contacting the Coalition Coordinator (jpistotnik@nwalaska.org).

3. Presentation: Mary Patterson and Nancy Gehm, Cornerstone Recovery.

Ms. Patterson and Ms. Gehm presented information about Cornerstone Recovery. Cornerstone Recovery is a new program that offers a variety of out-patient and intensive out-patient SUD treatment services that treats addiction as a disease, and not simply a moral failing. Cornerstone Recovery is rooted in a Christian, faith-based recovery approach, however no patients that are seeking services will be turned away. It utilizes the 12-Step model, is evidenced-based, and delivers treatment based on client needs. Cornerstone Recovery is recognized by ASAP as a qualified provider; the program currently is not accredited nor accepting Medicaid at this time, but is pursuing both. Assessments prior to receiving services typically take 90-120 minutes, and it was stated that it is possible to complete assessments face-to-face with individuals inside a DOC facility or telephonically. All clients will undergo an intake and orientation process prior to treatment. Treatment groups will include, relapse prevention, dealing with cravings, impulse control, communication skills, trauma and grief recovery, goal setting, healthy boundaries, self-care, CBT, and more. Currently, this new program is working one-on-one with clients, but group meetings have not yet begun. At the program builds, it hopes to have 5-6 people per group.

4. Presentation: Josh Sopko, Partners Reentry Center.

Mr. Sopko introduced himself as the new Director of Partners Reentry Center (PRC) and provided an overview of the services that they offer. PRC is a walk-in reentry center that provides an array of services to individuals that have been convicted of an offense (those that have open cases are not eligible for most services). Individuals must submit an application, however, they can be completed prior to release and few are turned away. PRC offers short-term transitional housing services; job preparation and employment assistance; and can offer assistance with obtaining bus passes, clothes, vouchers for work-related items, and identification. Recent statistics show that PRC has been helping with housing an average of about 180 individuals per month, there is an average of about 320-380 individuals that come in to utilize the computer lab for job seeking/employment services per month, and about 45-70 individuals are hired per month with the assistance of PRC into food service, retail, construction industry, and labor positions. PRC offers and makes available moral recognition therapy, sober support group, a weekly support group primarily for individuals that have served +10 year sentences, a weekly support group that is for Alaskan Natives, and a weekly case management meeting on Fridays that providers can come to and interact with attendees and increase connections with other programs. As necessary, PRC refers clients out to other providers in the community and is always seeking to build upon its connections to other services in the community.

PRC does not have exact details about potential budget cuts at this time, however, if funding cuts do occur as proposed PRC could lose up to 60% of its funding. PRC would be compelled to come up with strategies for handling the cuts by potentially limiting service eligibility or shortening the duration of client eligibility.

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5. Coalition Coordinator Updates: Jonathan Pistotnik.

Mr. Pistotnik gave a brief overview of what the reentry simulation entails, and a quick summary of the simulation that took place on June 24th. The simulation aims to raise awareness and knowledge about the complicated nature of reentry. Nearly 90 people were in attendance at the simulation, including more than 50 participants and more than 30 volunteers. Based on the evaluation results, the event was well received. There are already talks about hosting simulations in Fairbanks and Juneau; a definitive date for the next simulation in Anchorage has yet to be determined but may occur sometime in September. There are brief 1-2 page summaries available from the Coalition Coordinator that explain the two reentry simulations that have taken place.

6. General Discussion & Updates.

- *Jonathan Pistotnik (Anchorage Reentry Coalition)* – Judge Stephanie Rhoades was unable to attend the meeting but asked that information about the ONE2ONE Mentoring Program be shared with the meeting attendees. Judge Rhoades has begun a project that matches formerly justice-involved individuals with mentors. She is currently seeking female mentors and mentees for the programs. You may contact Judge Rhoades if you are interested or may have a person that would be interested (Rhodo58@yahoo.com).

- *Chet Adkins (Southcentral Foundation)* – Mr. Adkins shared that he recently visited Spring Creek Correctional Center (SCCC) and was impressed by some of the innovative things that Superintendent Bill Lapinskas is doing there in terms programming and preparing people for reentry. It was stated that many men are obtaining their GED at SCCC; there is hobby shop which is used to produce crafts and give opportunities to the men there; they are putting people in positions to be role models in order to encourage accountability; and there continues to be a restorative justice program. It was stated that they have information that they would like to share with the community [*this will be shared via the Coalition email list after the coalition meeting*]. It was suggested that at a future coalition meeting, a presentation be given from SCCC via Skype.

- *Colette Moring (Arctic Recovery/Chris Kyle Patriot's Hospital)* – Due to changes within the State, the Arctic Recovery program at North Star Behavioral Health is no longer offering acute psychiatric care; the program is only offering in-patient SUD treatment and now all 18 beds are available for patients with Medicaid or private insurance.

- *Jay Stange (NeighborWorks Alaska)* - Mr. Stange stated that he has been closely following the discussions and proceedings relating to both the operating and the capital budget. Mr. Stange has become intimately knowledgeable about the budgets, and grant funding and where the money for programming originates from. He noted that there is money that has been allotted for re-opening the Palmer Correctional Facility and money for Hiland Mountain Prison. He offered himself as a resource to those that may have questions about the budgets or where to go to find answers. His email is jstange@nwalasa.org and can be reached at 677-8490.

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- *Kara Nelson (Katalyst Alaska)* – There are 2 days left [as of this writing] before the deadline to register for the JustLeadership Training on August 17-18 in Anchorage. It is a unique leadership training opportunity that is open to those that have been impacted by incarceration. Ms. Nelson stated the importance of those that have been impacted or have lived experience be advocates for change and reform.

Next Quarterly Coalition Meeting:

October 24th at the NeighborWorks Alaska Office, from 9:30am-11am

**Please Contact the Coalition Coordinator if You Would Like To Make A
Presentation to the Reentry Coalition.**