

Reentry Solutions

PEOPLE, PROGRAMS AND POLICY

October 19–20, 2016



Agenda

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

8:00 a.m. Registration & Networking Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Opening General Session

Welcome

Melody Winter Head, Regional Manager – Southern California, Community Development
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Lena Robinson, Director, Community Development
First Republic Bank

Deanna Allen, Founder and Executive Director
Abundant Place

Keynote Remarks

Brenda Shockley, Deputy Mayor for Economic Opportunity
Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Scott Kernan, Secretary
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

10:15 a.m. Break

I want every person leaving our custody to have the best chance at building a better and more productive life. CDCR is investing in rehabilitation and has success stories to share, and I look forward to hearing yours. Reentry Solutions allows us all to share information and learn about the good work being done around the state. It also reinforces our reentry network, which is to everyone's benefit.

—Scott Kernan, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

CHOOSE ONE

Systems Coordination to Promote Reentry and Employment: A Discussion about Challenges and Pathways to Success

Securing employment is a critical part of successful reentry for the 10 million people returning from prisons and jail each year. Equipped with limited or deteriorated job skills and faced with policy barriers and employer reluctance to hire, people with criminal records face significant obstacles to finding employment. Historically, recidivism reduction and workforce development advancements have been made on parallel tracks with limited coordination. More recently, public and private sectors are working together to increase employment opportunities.

Through an interactive dialogue, panelists will discuss how various systems and agencies are collaborating to increase employment opportunities through workforce investment boards, corrections and reentry agencies, employers, and policymakers, and how you can partner in the effort to reduce recidivism and improve employment outcomes for people returning home.

moderator **Stephanie Akhter**, Reentry and Employment Project Manager, Council of State Governments Justice Center

panelists **Meghan Medlin**, Employment Services Manager, Taller San Jose Hope Builders

Vivienne Lee, Vice-President of Strategic Partnerships, Roberts Enterprise Development Fund (REDF)

Heather Birdsall, Director, Smart Justice and Business Education Coalitions, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce

Reducing Recidivism: A Community Coming Together

The mission of helping our previously incarcerated men and women rehabilitate and return to their communities starts with all of us. Together communities across California are creating networks made of public, community and faith-based organizations that along with community leaders and programs like Day Reporting Centers produce strong support systems for former offenders increasing public safety and reducing recidivism.

This session will give an overview of community-based organizations that have developed successful collaborative models to provide a supportive transition; and will focus on how community-based programs manage and fund the programs that enable men and women under community-based supervision be successful.

moderator **Dr. Edward Latessa, PhD**, Director and Professor of the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati

panelists **Andrea Mitchel**, Director of Research and Development, Cal State San Bernardino, Reentry Initiative

Steven Kim, Co-Founder, Project Kinship

Raymond Tillman, Consultant, Cal State San Bernardino, Reentry Initiative

10:30 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (continued)

Prevention, Intervention, and Reentry Approaches for Vulnerable Youth Populations Impacted by the Criminal Justice System

The cost of incarceration has taken a toll on our country which now has policy makers seeking cost effective and efficient approaches that have become known as "Community-Based Alternatives." Some of these methodologies have been developed and are currently being researched and examined for efficacy with already promising results.

This panel presentation will explore Community-Based Alternatives who serve youth safely in the community instead of incarcerating them in juvenile detention camp and prison facilities.

moderator **Robert A. Hernandez**, Senior Lecturer of Social Work, University of Southern California

panelists **Elizabeth Lopez**, Regional Program Coordinator, Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction & Youth Development

Kim McGill, Executive Director, Youth Justice Coalition

Edwin Rivas, Community Counselor, Coalition for Engaged Education C-HOPE Program

Veiongo Naufahu, Case Manager Supervisor, Soledad Enrichment Action Inc.

12:15 p.m. General Session and Lunch

Benediction

Donna Kafer, Chaplain
Arizona State Senate

Address

Congressman Tony Cárdenas
California Representative for the 29th District

Keynote

Edward Latessa, PhD, Director and Professor, School of Criminal Justice
University of Cincinnati

Lunch is generously sponsored by



My goal as a legislator is to help us get to a day in which we'll welcome those who have paid their dues for mistakes made back into our society. My goal is to encourage our nation to promote justice and understanding so that we can heal those who need help and help those who ask our forgiveness. I am honored to be part of this conference on Reentry Solutions and hope that we can work together, as legislators, educators, non-profit organizations, and community leaders, to build a more solutions-oriented approach to reentry, instead of doubling down on the mistakes of the past.

— **Congressman Tony Cárdenas, California Representative for the 29th District**

1:45 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

CHOOSE ONE

Success Starts Pre-Release: Building Bridges to Successful Reentry

Successful reentry relies on more than just helping former offenders find meaningful employment. Success also requires changing behaviors, attitudes and beliefs, addressing cognitive behavior modifications, providing mentoring, offering transferable education and vocational opportunities pre-release and linking to post-release opportunities. Strong collaborations across diverse criminal justice agencies, state and federal agencies, community-based organizations and educational institutions are fundamental in supporting these men and women not returning to prison or jail.

This workshop identifies key components needed to establish innovative partnerships that are building bridges from inside prisons and jails to the community. Join us in examining the challenges facing reentry and the successful solutions leading to greater success for those coming home.

moderator **Rusty Bechtold**, Administrator, California Prison Industry Authority

panelists **Sharon Owsley**, Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice

Rebecca Silbert, Senior Vice President, Opportunity and Justice Division, The Opportunity Institute

Sam Lewis, Senior Members Services Coordinator, Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Why Gender Matters: Addressing Gender-Responsive and Trauma-Informed Approaches to Reentry for Justice-Involved Women

The reentry challenges faced by justice-involved women such as lack of transitional and/or permanent housing, family reunification, employment, lack of residential drug/alcohol programs, and access to health and mental health care have been documented. A growing body of research indicates that the most effective way to assist women who are reentering their communities from prison or jail is through an approach that is gender-responsive and trauma-informed. These approaches begin with a clear understanding of the lived experiences of justice-involved women.

The audience will gain an understanding of the gendered reentry challenges faced by justice-involved women; gender-responsive/trauma-informed practices that can be replicated; and, promising approaches and programs that can lead to positive outcomes for women and their families.

moderator **Dr. Barbara Bloom**, Professor of Criminal Justice at Sonoma State University, and Co-Director, Center for Gender and Justice

panelists **Patty Ayala, MSW**, Case Manager, Women's Reentry Achievement Program (WRAP), Solano County Sheriff's Department

Vanessa Perez, Associate Director, Time for Change Foundation

Dr. Edwina Perez-Santiago, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Reach Fellowship International

We need to incorporate that age-old concept of redemption into the work that we do in the criminal justice system in California.

—Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California

1:45 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (continued)

Beyond Recidivism: Evaluation and Metrics of Reentry Success

Reentry success is often measured by one data point: lower recidivism. Keeping people out of incarceration is a blunt measurement that does not provide valuable insight into the quality of life that a person is experiencing in the community. Reentry success should also take into consideration qualitative metrics such as how well someone is prepared for reentry, is he working, is she reunited with her children, are they stably housed, receiving health care, etc. These data points more accurately reflect whether the programmatic investments being made both in custody and post release are the best ones and where tweaks may be needed.

This session will present different methodologies for using data to evaluate success and analyze the cost-benefit of current programs and policies.

moderator **Melody Winter Head**, Regional Manager – Southern California, Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

panelists **Neola Crosby**, Reentry Coordinator, Alameda County Probation Department
Sonja Tonnesen, Deputy Director of Program Innovations & Strategic Partnerships, Root and Rebound
Tara Anderson, Policy and Grants Manager, San Francisco District Attorney
Jessica Mueller, Senior Project Specialist, Core Connection – Interface Children & Family Services

3:15 p.m. Break

3:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

CHOOSE ONE

Transitional to Permanent: Breaking Through Housing Barriers

This session will focus on innovative solutions and promising practices for successfully housing men and women returning from incarceration, and explore how to overcome barriers and increase access to housing in our communities. Given the additional barriers the previously incarcerated face, access to housing is essential for long-term success and recidivism reduction.

This panel will address the policy, services, capacity, advocacy, and lived experience viewpoint on how we effectively house and support these men and women. Learn from this diverse panel of experts on how we can find ways to reduce systemic barriers and increase access to housing.

moderator **Doug Bond**, Chief Operating Officer, California, Amity Foundation

panelists **Sharon Rapport**, Associate Director, California Policy, Corporation for Supportive Housing
John Bauters, Director of Government Relations, Californians for Safety and Justice
Corrin Buchanan, Diversion and Reentry Housing Director, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Felipe Balanzar

3:30 p.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (continued)

Restoring a Community by Faith: The Faith Community's Role in Reentry

The faith community can play a vital role in the strength and success of previously incarcerated individuals. The message of hope and redemption demonstrated in the faith community greatly aligns with what is necessary for restoring each individual and family. From those who've relied upon their faith while incarcerated to those standing on faith upon release - it takes mentors walking alongside during the journey of transformation and transition.

Focusing on healing, rather than punishment and repayment, the faith community offers resources and support with little to no funding while relying upon the passion and commitment of volunteers. In this workshop, you will hear from compassionate and determined faith leaders who have offered transformational services through the decades.

moderator **Pastor Nati Alvarado**, Senior Pastor, The Life Center

panelists **Fred LaPuzza**, Director, Office of Restorative Justice/Detention Ministry, Catholic Diocese of Orange
Michael Conner, Executive Director, Dream Center Discipleship Inc., Los Angeles
Jon Lowry, Reentry Director of Transformational Programs, Serving California
Deanna Allen, Founder and Executive Director, Abundant Place
Mario Razo

Changing the Landscape of Health for Returning Individuals

The Affordable Care Act spotlights the greater scrutiny and emphasis on the physical and behavioral health of inmates and previously incarceration individuals. Those returning to the communities often have long-term physical and behavioral health issues which can negatively impact their successful reentry. Through the 1115 Waiver Renewal, called Medi-Cal 2020, California is working to improve the quality of care and access of the health care system.

This session will present information on the needs of inmates and current services provided through in-custody programs and services provided by local county departments for those returning, and a model post-custody health center. Information on the current and future programs provided under the Medi-Cal 2020/1115 Waiver, including the new regulations on Drug Medi-Cal will be presented.

moderator **Kathryn P. Jett**, Senior Policy Consultant, California Forward

panelists **Marlies Perez**, Division Chief, Substance Use Disorder Compliance Division,
Department of Health Care Services
Karen Dalton, Director, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Custody Services Division,
Specialized Programs
Maxwell Ohikhuare, MD, Health Officer, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health
Stephanie Welch MSW Executive Officer, Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)
Kevin Shannon, MD, Director of Family Medicine, SAC (Social Action Community) Health System
Daniel Silva, President, Self-Alliance and Recovery

5:15 p.m. Networking Reception

Thursday, October 20, 2016

7:00 a.m. Networking Breakfast

8:00 a.m. General Session

Welcome

Melody Winter Head, Regional Manager – Southern California, Community Development
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Deanna Allen, Founder and Executive Director
Abundant Place

Remarks

Hector Verdugo, Associate Executive Director
Homeboy Industries

Keynote

Roderick Q. Hickman, President, Roderick Q Hickman and Associates
Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (Retired)

9:00 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions

CHOOSE ONE

Getting Back to Work: Overcoming Employment Barriers

Employment is critical to establishing a productive life and is at the root of dignity and self-sufficiency. However, individuals trying to reenter the workforce often face challenges that can limit their options for work, or worse, make finding a job feel impossible. Identifying successful strategies in overcoming employment barriers such as obtaining basic documents, vocational certification, legal, housing, transportation, child care, and more – paired with, resources and educating employers and the community through advocacy lead – to success in workforce readiness and sustainable employment.

This workshop will address the promising practices that are helping justice-involved individuals, gain marketable skills and remove barriers standing in the way of getting back to work, staying employed, and establishing a career.

moderator **Tim Rainey**, Executive Director, California Workforce Development Board

panelists **Joseph Paul**, Vocational Services Administrator, Jericho Vocational Services Center,
SHIELDS for Families

Michael Graff-Weisner, Vice President, Programs & Government Relations, Chrysalis

Adrian Vasquez, Intake Specialist and Job Developer, Anti-Recidivism Coalition

9:00 a.m. Concurrent Breakout Sessions (continued)

Creating Resilient Community Conditions that Support Reentry

Community development is a direct compliment to the work of reentry because it seeks to improve conditions in low-income communities and increase opportunities for disadvantaged populations. For example, community development organizations are responsible for the financing, construction or renovation of facilities such as affordable housing, clinics and retail space. Community development organizations may also help families manage financial resources and build credit that could be used to repay court debts or capitalize a business.

This session will highlight how community development organizations can be important partners for reentry and describe how AB109 dollars can be invested to help build community capacity to serve more people.

moderator **Lena Robinson**, Director Community Development, First Republic Bank

panelists **Brian Maddox**, Chief Production Officer, Clearinghouse CDFI

Shawn Riggins, Director, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission's Local Conservation Corps

Christopher Ferreira, Senior Community Lending Consultant, Federal Home Loan Bank San Francisco

Maeve Elise Brown, Executive Director, Housing and Economic Rights Advocates

Sometimes Forgotten, Often Not Heard: Bringing the Needs of Children and Families into Reentry Programs and Practices

In response to growing interest, new and important information is emerging about the effects of parental incarceration and reentry on children and the importance of maintaining family bonds during incarceration and community reentry. Yet there is still a major gap in criminal justice and reentry programs and policies that are tailored to meet or even consider the needs of children.

This session will provide a review of the latest information and research and an overview of two innovative programs that help to strengthen family bonds and reduce the stigma and shame for families or youth with an incarcerated parent. Speakers will include community stakeholders and service providers along with voice of youth in this important dialogue.

moderator **Katie Kramer**, Chief Executive Officer, Corrections, Communities and Families, The Bridging Group

panelists **Celina Ruiz**, Case Manager, Friends Outside Los Angeles

Carol F. Burton LMSW, Chief Executive Officer and Criminal Justice Consultant,
JEWELED Legacy Group

Amy Friedman, Executive Director, Pain Of the Prison System (POPS) the Club

Youth Participant, Pain Of the Prison System (POPS) the Club

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. General Session

Moving in a New Direction for Reentry and Criminal Justice: Rethinking the Framework for Delivery of Reentry Services

This plenary will be an opportunity to discuss recent changes, accomplishments, and challenges as we continue progress toward restoration as the best solution to reduce recidivism. The emphasis will be on new directions in systems change of critical policy issues that stand as significant barriers or success to reentry and how accomplishing long term sustainability is critical to moving from realignment to reintegration.

We will hear directly from policy makers and practitioners across disciplines who are experiencing, examining, and influencing reentry solutions from our state prisons, county jails and on a local community level. Providing knowledge on what is being done and furthering the discussion on what needs to be done to forge progress toward solutions to reduce recidivism.

moderator **Mark Hake**, Chief Probation Officer, Riverside County Probation Department

panelists **Jay Virbel**, Director, Division of Rehabilitative Programs, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

Linda Penner, Chair, Board of State Community Corrections

Troy Vaughn, Executive Director and Chair, Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership

Jim Mayer, President and Chief Executive Officer, California Forward

12:15 p.m. Closing Remarks

12:30 p.m. Adjourn

In order for a criminal justice system to fulfill its goals of protecting the public, reducing recidivism, and changing lives, re-entry into our communities must be a priority. Our success depends on innovation, collaboration, and a commitment to provide life changing opportunities to those re-entering our communities.

—Mark Hake, Chief of Probation, Riverside County