



Office of Reentry Services

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Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) for Men

By Pat Cibert, Teresa Priestley and Neelam Wadhvani



Fathers singing the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" with the children

3. There are many systemic barriers to father involvement.
4. Supports are needed to help both mothers and fathers develop skills necessary to co-parent.
5. Young men need help to transition from being a biological father to a committed parent.
6. The behaviors of young parents are influenced by beliefs and practices within their own family culture.
7. Interventions with fathers do work and leads to desired outcomes.

Research shows that fathers make "unique and irreplaceable contributions to the development of their children." Yet 24 million children in America live apart from their fathers.

The National Center on Fathers and Families has identified seven "core findings":

1. Fathers do care, but demonstrate that care in unconventional ways.
2. Father presence in the family matters.

In response to these findings, Chief Hirokawa along with Judge Jacqueline Arroyo launched the Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) Program for men on July 1, 2013. The Men's Program essentially follows the same curriculum and guidelines that has made the Women's Program successful for over 15 years.

-Con't on page 2

\$1 Million Awarded to Community for Adult Reentry Services

By Buu Thai

In August, the County Executive's Office awarded \$1 million in Public Safety Realignment funding to five community-based organizations to expand adult reentry services at the Reentry Resource Center.

Contracts were awarded to Milpitas Adult Education, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, InnVision Shelter Network, and Community Solutions. Services will include education, employment, family engagement/

reunification, and health and well-being.

The focus is to reduce recidivism by providing a comprehensive scope of services to individuals who are high-risk of reoffending.

Judge Held Outreach Court at the Reentry Resource Center

By Maureen O'Malley-Moore

On July 2nd, while folks were preparing for their 4th of July celebrations, a celebration of another sort was taking place at the Reentry Resource Center. Judge Manley, well known for his work in Mental Health Court, Drug Court, Homeless Court, and Veterans Court, held Outreach Court for the first time at the RRC.

He met with 20 people who were pre-screened to ensure that their cases were viable for his consideration: lowering fines/fees, giving community service in lieu of fines, and waiving DMV fees so that driver's licenses could be reinstated. Any observer

can feel the tension in the waiting room. Clients anxiously awaited their appointment with the Judge; after all, the outcome of this encounter can be life-changing.

A number of the individuals received their driver's licenses after years of immobility. Others were offered the opportunity to serve the community in lieu of hefty fines that can seem insurmountable when you have no job or income. One of the young men shared with re-entry center staff that he looks forward to serving in his community. Serving in the com-

munity is certainly a meaningful and attainable means to rectify wrongdoing.

"We have heard nothing but positive feedback about the re-entry outreach court" says one of the staff members of the center. Everyone from the deputies, clients, staff, case managers and even Judge Manley himself expressed delight about this valuable program.

Parents and Children Together (P.A.C.T.) for Men (Con't)

"Fathers and children played with jump ropes, hula hoops, crawled through tunnels..."

Classes started on July 2nd, and father's learned the program's essential elements—teamwork, family meetings and age appropriate play. This first visit was held on July 23rd, fathers and children played with jump ropes, hula hoops, crawled through tunnels, read books and participated

in activities. The staff was touched by the father's ability and willingness to reach out and reconnect with their children.

The PACT Program originally started as a pilot program for women in November 1997. The program, a combination of parenting classes

and contact visits, offers a curriculum that centers on the special needs of incarcerated parents.

Community Resource: Mobile Medical Van

Beginning September 4th, the Reentry Resource Center will provide medical services in partnership with the Valley Homeless Health Care Program. The Mobile Medical Unit will be at the Reentry Resource Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. Services are open to reentry individuals. For more information, please contact Multi-Agency Program (MAP) at (408) 535-4259.



Valley Homeless Health Care Program Van

Custody Mental Health Wellness Program

By Bruch Nicholls, Suicide Prevention Coordinator



“We didn’t even know we needed to hear this! Thank you for coming...”

The Mental Health Wellness classes developed out of a need to respond to the inordinate stress that inmates were experiencing in the jails due to the increased census which adversely affected their living environment and sense of safety and well-being. Custody Mental Health Services Department was concerned and needed to do something immediate and impactful. So we developed a presentation on depression and took it to the inmates in their housing units.

The presentation focused on topic of depression, suicide, and coping with life in jail. Initially, I was met with curious mistrust. It was unheard of for staff to randomly go into inmate housing units and sets up a board and gives a class. Inmates generally are highly resistant to the whole topic of mental health and depression and suicide is no easy sell. Inmates often think that mental health is for “crazy” people and they are not one of “them.”

I made the classes highly interactive and talked about the signs and symptoms of depression and suicide. We discussed about all the things inmates can do to cope when going through hard times. We talked about what gave them hope to keep moving forward. I tried to be really positive and made it abundantly clear that the Custody Mental Health Services Department is here for them and wants to support them in getting through their jail experience.

Since the classes started in August 2012, I have given about 100 presentation to approximately 3500 inmates. The inmates’ responses to the classes are as varied as the number of inmates. I got a lot of complaints about the conditions in the jail. And many people are glad I came to talk to them. I remember one inmate protesting strongly about having to go to the class and at the end he said, “We didn’t even know we needed to hear this! Thank you for coming, When are you

coming back?” I realized over time that I was in a unique position. I was talking to lots of inmates and had the opportunity to hear their concerns about living in jail and what their experience were. It was hard to hear all the complaints, but I found that I was in a position to advocate for the needs of inmates.

As I look back over the classes that I have done, I think it has been useful on several levels. The content of the classes is useful for inmates to hear and talk

about. People don’t talk about depression and suicide much and yet a lot of people deal with it. These classes have been instrumental in alleviating anxiety and provided the mechanisms needed to seek assistance.



Calendar of Events - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

Sept. 12th
 Reentry Network Meeting
 Reentry Resource Center—Auditorium
 3-4:30pm

Sept. 16th
 Expungement Services begins
 Reentry Resource Center

Sept. 24th
 Outreach Court
 Reentry Resource Center
 4-6pm

Oct. 9th
 Transformation Art from Within
 Hall of Justice, 190 W. Hedding St.
 6-7:30pm

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We're on the Web

www.sccgov.org/sites/reentry

Donation Wish List

The Re-Entry Resource Center is seeking donation for our clients. Do you have gently used clothes you wish to donate? We are in need of the following items:

Reentry Toiletry Kit Supplies

- Men and Women Deodorant
- Shaving Supplies
- New packages of men underwear
- New Men and Women Socks
- Bifocal Reading Glasses
- Mouthwash
- Ear Swabs
- Bar of Soaps
- New Hair Brushes and Combs

Men's Coats

Men's Clothing

Clothes Rack

Large Rubber Storage Bins with Lids

To make a donation, please contact Lorena Madrid at (408) 535-4236.

