

October 24, 2011

Mr. Mike Lawlor
Undersecretary for Criminal Justice Policy and Planning
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Undersecretary Lawlor,

As representatives of Connecticut's Reentry Roundtable Collaborative (CRRC), we are writing to you today to present a proposal for the creation of a statewide "Needs and Gaps" analysis. This instrument would serve to identify the criminal justice resources needed as well as the results that our current services provide to the ex-offender population in the five city areas we serve.

The CRRC represents groups of providers and others who meet monthly in Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and Windham. We have a thorough understanding of the needs and numbers of inmates returning to our communities. Many of our reentry roundtable members operate halfway houses, AIC's, and a number of other services funded by the state Department of Correction, Court Support Services Division, and other departments, including federal probation.

The CRRC seeks to create an annual reporting template that provides meaningful and comparable information about the current services provided to the ex-offender population and also compares that information to needs in our communities. We often struggle to find all available resources, determine who is eligible for which services, and make sure our consumers are aware of and can access all needed programs and opportunities.

Creating a statewide directory of services would allow us to collectively compare and target services to meet the greatest need. It would also allow us to maximize the use of funded resources, which ultimately would reduce crime, save money through the effective use of services, and improve public confidence in our system. Understanding the quantity and quality of available services will help us all better measure the impact of money already allocated for these services.

We are proposing an initial four-pronged process:

- Work with OPM to create a Needs and Gaps template for community reentry. (HUD's Continuum of Care Needs Analysis is an excellent example.) This template will be completed each year by listing available services (i.e., DOC and CSSD-funded community services) against identified need (i.e., the number of parolees, federal and state probationers living in that community, etc.)

- Request that **the state** create a comprehensive multi-agency directory of services that it funds for former offenders to populate the Needs and Gaps Analysis template. Your assistance in helping us identify the various departments and programs that provide services to former offenders will be invaluable.
- Meet with DOC and CSSD quarterly to determine the data that is available about their clients can easily be collected and used to populate the Needs and Gaps analysis.
- We would request a time to speak at the next CJPAC meeting to explain our proposal in more detail to the agencies that could be involved.

CRRC's goal is to create a replicable and useful document that serves as an annual planning tool and resource guide. We have access to many community providers through the reentry roundtables and will bring these connections and knowledge to the process. We believe that the state's participation will help in identifying state funded services and show that these services are responding to a clear need in our communities.

Thank you for your assistance in this project.

Sincerely,

Connecticut Reentry Roundtable Collaborative
Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and Windham
www.ctreentry.org