

**TO: Chairman and Members**

**DATE: September 12, 2013**

**SUBJECT: Presentation by Dr. Edward Latessa on  
“What Works and What Doesn't in Reducing Recidivism”**

**AGENDA ITEM: A**

**RESOURCE PERSON: Oscar E. Villegas**

**ACTION:  
INFORMATION: X**

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**Issue:** The Board of State and Community Corrections' (BSCC) enabling legislation and the Board's recently adopted strategic plan both place heavy emphasis on promoting evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies. The purpose of this agenda item is to introduce Edward J. Latessa, Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, an expert on evidence-based programs, and allow him to share some of the work he is doing in California and what works and what doesn't in reducing recidivism.

**Background:** One of the primary areas of responsibility for the BSCC is to promote evidence-based programs, practices, and strategies. This responsibility is clearly identified in the BSCC's enabling legislation and in other recent legislation governing BSCC's shift towards a more effective local community corrections programs and services. Promoting evidence-based practices and providing technical assistance to local providers is also identified as a priority in the Board's strategic plan – goal number two. During the Board's recent strategic planning discussions the Board has indicated interest in receiving presentations during the Board meetings to hear from the practitioners and their experiences on what works, what doesn't and what is needed. As a result, staff is taking this opportunity to bring Dr. Latessa to the Board to provide an overview of the work he is doing in California and how evidence-based practices, when implemented correctly, can appreciably reduce the recidivism rate for offenders.

The Corrections Planning and Programs Division, which administers BSCC's grant programs is currently working with Dr. Latessa to explore ways to not only address the requirements of AB 526 (Ch. 850, Statutes of 2012), but to implement a plan to sustain our efforts to promote evidence-based programs, provide technical assistance, and develop and maintain a resource “clearinghouse.”

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**Recommendation/Action Needed:** Staff is requesting approval of Dr. Latessa's presentation and receiving any feedback.

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