

M I C H A E L C A R R I N G T O N

January 1, 2013

Members of the Board
State Board of Community Corrections
600 Bercut Drive
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Board Members:

In follow up to my remarks at the September and November meetings of the Board, it was suggested that I provide more details about the reforms that I developed for the State of California and how those reforms can translate into improvements for our state's criminal justice system. For your reference, I am enclosing a copy of my bio, a reference to my reforms from the Rehabilitation Strike Team, and a copy of a narrative I prepared for the Council of State Governments which outlines, in general terms, the basic premise of my reforms. This material is being provided as background information for the agenda item in January to discuss policy and program reforms that have been the subject of recent discussions by members of the Board.

Under the provisions of S.B. 92 and A.B. 109, the SBCC has a significant responsibility in terms of developing statewide policy, managing various revenue streams, and helping to effectively implement prisoner realignment. All of these important tasks are made more difficult because of the current fiscal crisis that, unfortunately, will probably be with us for the next few years. While these circumstances present challenges, they also can provide an opportunity to rethink how we do things and to look for ways to maximize external resources that heretofore have not been sufficiently utilized.

In terms of criminal justice policy, certainly one major item that must be addressed is the issue of recidivism that, in California, has been historically far too high. Recidivism is important because it impacts public safety, it significantly impacts costs, and it definitely will impact the eventual outcome of prisoner realignment. With the enactment of A.B. 109, Governor Brown has charted a new direction and all of us want, and need, to do everything we can to help insure success. With our current fiscal circumstances, success may be more difficult to obtain without a reprioritization of how we expend limited available funds and it will also be dependent upon the recruitment of private resources to help fill the gaps.

As reflected in my reforms, the best way to lower recidivism is to address the "core causes" that drive the offender population and that also contribute to maintaining recidivistic tendencies. It is the failure to sufficiently address core causes that is responsible for our current statistics and our outcomes will not substantially improve unless and until we come to grips with the real nature of

the problem. Most traditional government programs, by their nature, do not have the ability to properly assess or treat core cause issues that stem from what I call an offender's "Negative Impact History" (NIH). What is needed is the development of public/private partnerships with community-based, and especially faith-based, groups that specialize in what I call "transformative programming" designed to address core causes. Sheriff Baca addressed this important need specifically at the last meeting of the Board.

Given the need to improve outcomes within CDCR and within prisoner realignment operations at the local level, we need to develop a statewide plan that will impact both in-custody and post-release efforts. Perhaps such a plan could be called the California Criminal Justice Improvement Plan (CCJIP). With this letter, I hope to give the Board a glimpse of what such a plan might look like along with a roadmap of how to achieve implementation.

Initial Action Steps

Step 1: Determine, as a matter of policy, that the Board will place an increased emphasis upon identifying and treating the core causes of offender behavior and upon identifying and instituting transformative programming operations.

Step 2: Determine, as a matter of policy, that increased efforts must be made to develop a statewide, collaborative, multi-faceted public/private partnership with community-based (CBOs) and faith-based (FBOs) organizations for the purpose of identifying, developing, and bringing to bear the private resources that these entities can provide in the furtherance of Board and state agency programs and goals.

Step 3: Decide to reevaluate current funding parameters to determine if resources can be redirected into efforts that can bring improved program outcomes.

Step 4: In accord with the S.B. 92 mandate for the Board to seek input from criminal justice subject matter experts, identify and solicit the help of such experts that have a good understanding and perspective of California's criminal justice history and needs, that understand the reform policies and principles outlined above, and that have the professional and experiential ability to integrate the various stakeholders into a cohesive operational plan.

CCJIP Components

The CCJIP should address the following major needs that actually apply to both CDCR and local realignment operations:

- The recruiting and briefing of key CBO and FBO leaders and organizations that can be of support to the Board and to the CCJIP.
- The recruiting and briefing of key individuals and organizations in the business, private foundation, entertainment, and sports worlds that can provide various forms of support for the CCJIP.
- The provision of trained volunteers to assist in the areas of assessment and case management plan development, of in-custody and post-release mentoring, of substance abuse treatment, of family healing and reunification, and of long-term aftercare.
- The creation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity to serve as a repository of privately donated funds that will be generated to supplement CCJIP/Board operations.
- The briefing of local government officials and organizations about implementing reforms at the local level along with the provision of technical assistance in the creation of local plans.
- An expansion of the Black/Brown Summit process which began in 2008 to address criminal justice matters involving California's minority communities and related DMC issues.
- The provision of advice to the State Legislature on the need for policy reforms and the need to reevaluate funding priorities.

To achieve the full impact of the benefits of the plans outlined above would require a ramp-up time of approximately three to four years for full implementation on a statewide basis.

I am looking forward to the discussions in January and I will be happy to share more details of this proposal with the Board. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time either by email (mcarrin102@aol.com) or by phone at (703) 819-8874.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL CARRINGTON

Attachments