



Re-Entry Hub (Resource Center)

Claudia Tuck, Community Support Services Director
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Board Direction

Collaboration between Court Services and Community Support Services to identify opportunities to re-allocate funding to reduce recidivism with a focus on prevention.

- Administrative teams have met several times to review current practices and identified new potential programming to determine feasibility for implementation.

Why a Re-entry Hub?

- Moving from a work release format to one that provides services and support to formerly incarcerated persons and those impacted by incarceration including support to family members.
- Refocus services on prevention of re-incarceration.
- Address criminogenic needs and design services that lead to prevention of recidivism.

Community Engagement

- Community Reentry Meetings were held to engage all interested residents in a collaborative planning structure.
 - Members shared reentry experiences and concerns for returning residents to have better opportunities
 - Meeting topics included leadership and decision making, meaningful resources, barriers, environment, trust and humanness
 - Four meetings were held in total to reach consensus on recommendations to bring to the BoCC.

Reentry Community Planning Meeting Participants

- Representatives included:
 - Alachua County Library Staff
 - BOLD Director and Staff
 - Community Springs staff and former fellows
 - County SEEDS, Community Support Services and Court Services Staff
 - Department of Corrections Staff
 - Grace Director
 - Library Partnership Staff
 - Local Pastors (Duncan and Neal)
 - Released Director and Board Member
 - Southern Legal Counsel, Inc.

What is a Re-entry Hub?

- Mission: to assist people returning to their communities lead successful lives by providing low-barrier access to resources that will support re-entry needs.
- Resources: Impacted people; identification of needs; individualize assistance related to housing; transportation; identification related needs; financial empowerment; access to food, clothing and personal care items; peer support and mentoring; advocacy; education; life skill development; and job search.

What is a Re-entry Hub? Cont'd

- Therapeutic Services: Substance use counseling, Cognitive Behavioral Treatment, trauma focused and crisis/emotional support.
- Focus: Personal strengths, support, and the need to set achievable goals.
- Goal: To reduce recidivism by providing critical support and resources that promote community inclusion and assist individuals to live a productive life.

Issues Considered

- Location – Former Work Release site versus general office space in the community.
- Management – Under the auspices of Alachua County Community Support Services versus Request for Proposal
- Decision-making - important to have impacted people involved in all aspects of the reentry hub, separate from the legal system - a place for support and healing, not another means of control.

Additional Service Needs/Issues

- Low-barrier - Services should be accessible without having to jump through hoops (e.g. having to take a class in order to receive assistance).
- Income/jobs – Assists people to connect with sustainable income/employment/training and support services to maintain employment.
- Housing – Need linkages to resources or partnerships to further develop interim housing and support.
- Therapeutic Model – To determine the best practice and evidence based/emerging practices.
- Coverage Area – Carceral impacted Alachua County residents and their family members.

Staff Recommendations

- Approve County Staff to work with stakeholders (who are not connected to potential respondents) to develop the Scope of Work for a Reentry Hub RFP.
- Approve CSS staff to work with OMB to develop a budget for the program.
- Approve CSS staff to work with Purchasing to release an RFP for the operation of a Reentry Hub.
- Approve that if RFP is responsive, authorize CSS staff to develop and monitor the contract.
- Approve that if the RFP is non-responsive, authorize staff to implement a pilot reentry hub in conjunction with input from stakeholders.