

Regional Planning Meeting -  
Reentry  
December 12, 2018

**Participants:**

- San Diego:
  - o Andrew Picard, SDWP - Presenter
  - o Brooke Valle, SDWP - Presenter
  - o Kristen Walker, SDWP
- Imperial
  - o Gustavo Andrade, ICWDB - Presenter
  - o Jeffrey Burquist, ICWDB
  - o Francisca German, ICWDB
  - o Allison Duran, ICWDB
  - o Larisa Sergiienko, SBR
  - o Melanie Hitchcock, SBR
- Call in Webinar
  - o Ruth Salcido, EDD
  - o Catherine McLean, KRA
  - o Suzanne Sebring, Palomar College

**Format:**

A slide presentation provided through a webinar and in person both in San Diego and Imperial Counties gave background and an overview of the Workforce Development Boards' activities around reentry throughout the region. (See [Deck](#)). At the conclusion of the slide show, there was a conversation about opportunities for collaboration and gaps. Due to technical difficulties, the recording is not available. The following notes synopsise the conversation.

**Notes:**

There were three main buckets that the conversation addressed as needs for the reentry population: training, employment and wrap-around services.

Training needs include both pre and post release. While incarcerated, the issues most prevalent revolve around space and availability. In Imperial County, trailers are used to increase training capacity. They are located near the facility and the classes are attended by both members of the facility's population and community college students. Discussions have started in San Diego for pre-apprenticeship training for electrician, sheet metal worker, carpenters and welders. A question was asked if completion while incarcerated offered a guaranteed position in an apprenticeship program. This has not yet been addressed. Talks are still in the very preliminary stages. Employment issues post release were also discussed.

Formerly incarcerated individuals experience numerous barriers to employment. Many are related to the need for documentation and access to wrap-around services. Of some considerable discussion were issues regarding obtaining California identification cards on release, including the burden the associated

fee presents, access to transportation and time required. Attendees noted that the cost and lack of timeliness in obtaining the cards are often a factor in the loss of conditional employment opportunities. To address these issues, there was some conversation around partnering with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to streamline the process (could include waivers, expedited processing, etc). Imperial County noted that vouchers for no-fee identification cards are provided by the County which alleviates some of the challenges.

Another issue addressed is the need for greatly increased capacity for the Clean Slate clinic. The clinic is run by volunteers and the work is complex, often requiring 2-5 hours to assist one individual. In San Diego, the clinic is offered once a month in one location for 4 hours. Expanding the capacity to offer it more often in multiple locations would benefit the reentry population. There are up to 60 people monthly requesting services and only about a quarter can be served at the present.

Underlying both education, training and employment challenges were issues related to wrap-around services. Childcare, housing, food security and transportation are all vital services for success. Within this issue, two aspects were discussed: a) the need for funding to provide enough services for the size of the population and b) timing and strong hand-off. Services need to be made available immediately on release with a one-stop or strong hand off, so the clients don't encounter challenges from having to access multiple agencies in different locations and with different and confusing processes to access the services.

The meeting concluded with some comments from the presenters around next steps. Attendees were encouraged to provide additional feedback via the input form located on the SBR website [Community Input Form](#). Additionally, all are welcomed to participate in the public comment period in January. Information will be made available on the website on an ongoing basis. For any questions, individuals may contact Melanie Hitchcock at [MelanieHitchcock@workforce.org](mailto:MelanieHitchcock@workforce.org).