

“Promoting Equity in Health Services: The Power of Community Based Solutions”

June 28, 2011 Santa Clara, California

TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

Meeting Mental Health
Challenges in Today’s
Economic Environment -
Modeling Faith-Based and
Community-Based
Approaches With Focus on
Services for Individuals
Coming Out of the Judicial
System



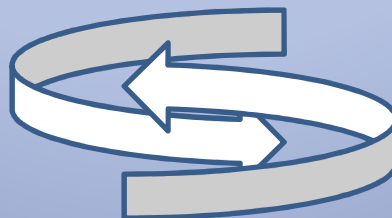
Presented by:

Ethnic and Cultural Communities Advisory Committee (ECCAC)
Filipino Component

Pastor Johnny Lapenias and Sarah Gonzalez



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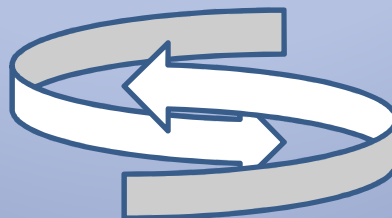
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- The Supreme Court has ruled that California prison overcrowding is unconstitutional, and forced the state to release some 30,000 inmates in the next three years.
- There are about 146,000 inmates right now incarcerated in California prisons that were meant for just 80,000 - many are mentally ill
- Justice Anthony Kennedy ruled that overcrowding led to severe violations of inmates' basic rights and led to a well-documented history of "needless suffering and death." Overcrowding and poor health care drove prisoners with mental illness to commit suicide
- Overcrowding costs State taxpayers half a billion dollars annually



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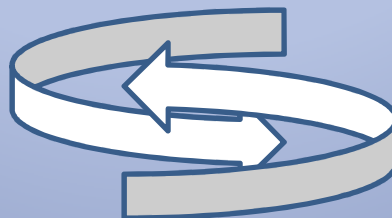
- 30,000/3 years
- 10,000/yr.
- 800/mo.
- 200/wk.

\$48,000 = avg. annual cost of supporting an inmate

\$26,000 = cost for community mental health programs



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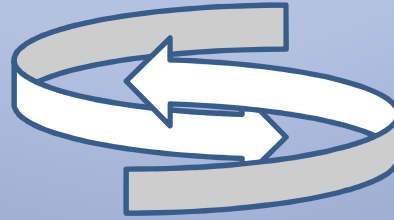


Positive effects of court ruling:

- meaningful parole and sentencing reforms and alternatives to incarceration especially for low-level, non-violent offenders (counties that used 3-strike law the most didn't actually see any improvement, or impact, on crime levels.)
- save state taxpayers half a billion dollars annually
- it would lead to the implementation of truly rehabilitative programs that lower recidivism rates and create safer communities



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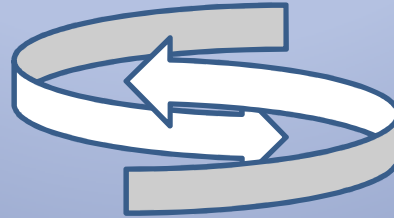


Impact of incarceration

- Many will be suffering from mental health issues, such as PTSD, depression, anti-social disorders
- The impact of incarceration on families is a form of family crises, loss and demoralization and victimization of children
- Social disinvestment in prisoners' families and communities - loss of income of the imprisoned parent, legal fees associated with criminal defense, costs associated with maintaining contact during imprisonment



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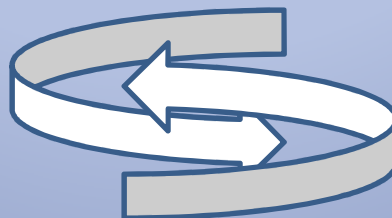


Current climate -

- Homeless shelters and half-way homes are being forced to close because of lack of financial support.
- Jobless rate is at its highest.
- Social services agencies are being eliminated.
- SSI funding has been reduced
- There is no specific social services in place for incarceration-related mental-health disorders - yet



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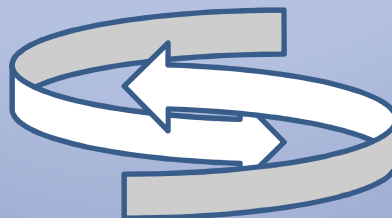


Challenges facing newly released inmates:

- Developed mild to severe mental illness in prison
- Stigma of incarceration
- Lack of transitional services
- Lack of effective support programs
- High recidivism



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ECCAC: Ethnic and Cultural Community Advisory Committee

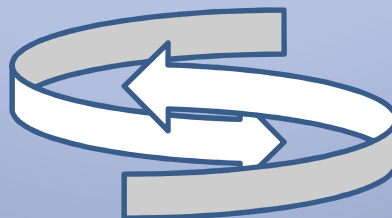
- Family engagement and outreach
- Prevention and Early Intervention services
- Culture competent services

PACT: Parole Action Community Team

- Collaborative program between law enforcement and community-based organizations (CBOs), including faith-based organizations (FBOs), providing support system for newly released inmates (NCCM, Victory Outreach, AA, NA, CET, SJ Library, etc.)



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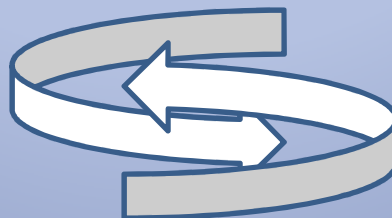
ECCAC and PACT working together

- ECCAC community advocates provide support services for transitioning individuals with mental health issues, in the areas of parole/probation
- PACT weekly meetings on:
 - Regiment Correctional Program (RCP)
 - Early Release Program (ERP)
 - Daily Reporting Program (DRP)
 - Parole Outpatient Clinic (POC)

Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs)



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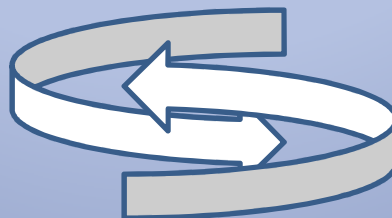


Searching for successful models in dealing with the current problems of incarceration (drug addiction, juvenile crime, domestic violence and gang-related activities), government has recognized the group with a centuries-old tradition of caring for the poor, the disadvantaged, and the troubled sectors of our society—and one that has done so with a great deal of proficiency.

That group is the faith community.



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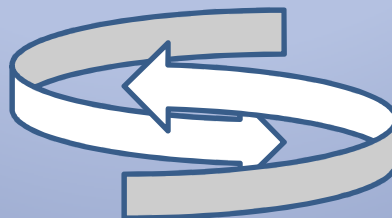


Faithbased organizations have the following characteristics.

- Are open to all comers.
- Have the same zip codes as the people they serve.
- Are flexible (no two individuals are the same and no one “treatment model” is best).
- Contain an element of reciprocity, if they are truly effective.
- Include clear behavioral guidelines, and discipline plays an important part.
- Fulfill the role of a parent.
- Are committed to the long haul.
- Are available.
- Involve an element of immersion in an environment of care and mutual support with a community of individuals who are trying to accomplish like changes.
- Are united in a “brotherhood” or duty of service.



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Goal of Faith-based Approach

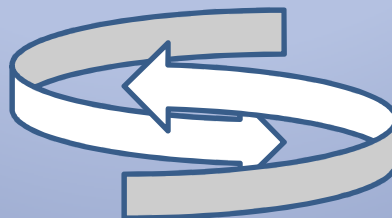
- **Promote physical and emotional well being by providing a structured, non-judgmental and safe environment in a home setting through a program that includes Bible study ; to heal the individual in a holistic way; to prevent recidivism and delinquency**

Inmates who were most active in Bible studies were significantly less likely to be rearrested during the follow-up period.

(Survey published in Justice Quarterly)



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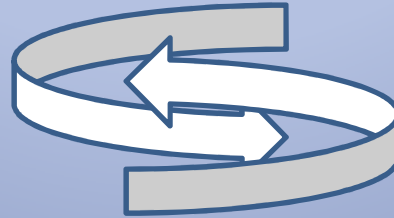


How goals are met -

- Providing a 'home' – not just housing (i.e., home cooking, playtime)
- Bible study program
- Structured activities, social outings
- Personal hygiene
- Encourage self-help and accessing support services
- Encourage professional help as appropriate
- Encourage family reunification



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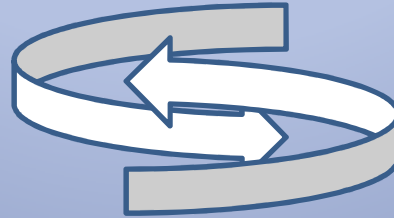


From a community policing or community justice perspective, faith-based organizations (FBOs) offer a key neighborhood institution with which to translate abstract ideas of partnership and community building into reality.

While criminologists and sociologists think in terms of “religiosity,” the faith-based groups think in terms of “mission.”



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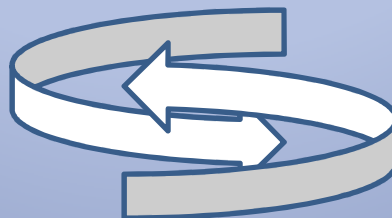
Specific benefits from using FBOs that operate from a sense of mission:

- A willingness to “go the second mile,” to do *more than might be* expected.
- A presence in the community. Unlike people who simply go into a neighborhood to perform a specific service, or, even worse, expect people from the neighborhood to go outside the community to their facility, churches and other religious groups are located right in the neighborhoods.
- An awareness that others can change. People of faith have seen their own lives change as a result of their beliefs, and they believe that others can be transformed as well.

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Specific benefits from using FBOs *continued*

- A sense of security. People involved in criminal or delinquent activity have often come from dysfunctional families where the only thing they can count on is the fact that there is nothing and no one they can count on.
- People often find “family” within the congregations—people with whom they can relate, and people who truly care about them.
- A deeper level of commitment. Unlike a job which they are doing just to get paid, people involved in faith-based programs, whether paid or voluntary, are usually doing the work “for God.” This motivation keeps them working against obstacles, and continuing even in spite of failure on the part of those with whom they are working.

Presentation Timeline

- 7 min Sarah – introduction of topic, overview, general stats
 - 7 min Pastor Johnny – PACT process, actual release procedures for parolees
 - 10 min Testimonial – newly released inmate
 - 10 min Testimonial – successful transition
 - 11 min Q&A
- 45 min