

Santa Cruz County Parole Reentry Steering Committee:  
Findings and Recommendations

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Report submitted to the Intergovernmental Partnership Grant Program, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Prepared by Angela Irvine, Ph.D.

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## Introduction

The Santa Cruz County Parole Reentry Steering Committee assessed the needs of parolees from February to October 2007. The Steering Committee finds that Santa Cruz County parolees have vast housing, employment, and health needs. At the same time, there are very few services targeted specifically at parolees.

There are currently approximately 440 adults on active parole in Santa Cruz County. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation provided data on the full population of parolees in Santa Cruz. According to this data:

- 25% of parolees are returning to the community after serving time for a violent offence,
- 9% are returning after serving time for a sexual offence,
- 27% are returning after serving time for a property offence,
- 32% are returning after serving time for a drug offence,
- 2% are returning after serving time for a weapon charge, and
- 5% are returning for other reasons.

Parolees represent a range of racial and ethnic identities.

- 48% of parolees are white,
- 41% are Latino,
- 9% are African American, and
- 2% have another ethnic or racial identity.

Parolees also represent a range of ages.

- There are no parolees under the age of 20,
- 34% are between the age of 20 and 29,
- 34% are between the age of 30 and 39,
- 22% are between the age of 40 and 49, and
- 10% are 50 years old or older.

Most parolees are men.

- 92% of parolees are men, while
- 8% are women.

There are an additional 660 inmates in state prison who will eventually return to Santa Cruz County. They represent a similar range of ethnic and racial identity, age, and gender. Current inmates, however, are more likely to be incarcerated for violent offences compared with active parolees.

As the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) faces judicial pressure to reduce prison overcrowding, increasing numbers of inmates are

being granted parole. Unfortunately, the number of parolees being released is increasing at a time when reentry support services are experiencing funding cutbacks. For example, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) just cut the only parolee job development position in the county.

Amid cutbacks, parolees are in dire need of services. Focus groups found that Santa Cruz County parolees struggle to find housing and employment when they first leave prison. Some parolees eventually patch together a place to live and a job with help from family and friends, but these solutions are often stressful or otherwise difficult to sustain.

**Mike was just released from prison. His grandmother has provided a couch to crash on, but she lives in a development that only allows residents over the age of 55. Mike could be asked to leave at any time. He is also having an exceedingly difficult time finding a job. In pre-release planning while still in prison, Mike was told he could get help finding a job at CareerWorks or the EDD office. However, once he went to the CareerWorks office on East Beach in Watsonville, a staff person told him that he is not eligible for services. Mike next went to the EDD office to talk to Charlie, the man known to help parolees find work. Charlie, however, has recently been laid off. Charlie's messages are not being returned. Mike doesn't know where to go next.**

**Isabel is originally from Santa Cruz County, but was assigned to parole in Santa Clara County, where she committed her crime. She has found housing in Santa Clara, but no job. She currently commutes from Santa Clara to Watsonville to work with her father. She feels supported by her father but feels that the commute is really long and only worth it because it is the only job she can find.**

**Tom is originally from southern California. While his family is very supportive, they live in Los Angeles. He is required to live in Santa Cruz until the completion of his parole because this is where he was charged with his crime. Since leaving prison, a friend has allowed Tom to live in a trailer on the lumber yard where Tom works. This arrangement is probably not legal, since the yard is not zoned as a residential area. The friend is also letting Tom pick up some work hours at the lumber yard, though this job is not full time.**

This report provides a summary of the needs assessment data as well as a proposal for developing a Santa Cruz parole reentry program. The report is organized around the following sections:

- a history of the Santa Cruz Parole Reentry Steering Committee,
- a summary of local parolee needs,
- the services currently provided,
- the existing barriers to provision of parolee services, and
- recommendations for extending services locally.

## History of the Santa Cruz Parole Reentry Steering Committee

The Santa Cruz Parole Reentry Steering Committee was formed to assess and address the needs of parolees returning to our community from state prison. This effort has been funded by an Intergovernmental Partnership Grant from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to the Santa Cruz County Alcohol and Drug Program (ADP). This grant has been overseen by a Management Committee that includes the following members:

- Bill Manov, Director, ADP
- Chris Johnson-Lyons, Executive Director, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County (CAB)
- David True, Project Director, Community Restoration Program (CRP), CAB
- Elyane Calubaquib, Project Coordinator, CRP, CAB
- Susan Greene, Project Director, GEMMA, CAB
- Karen Delaney, Executive Director, Santa Cruz Volunteer Center and Friends Outside
- Heidi Canales, Project Director, Friends Outside
- Ray Plamondon, Executive Director, Sobriety Works
- James Russell, Parole Agent, CDCR
- David Vasquez, parolee
- Ismael Quintero, parolee
- Angela Irvine, Principal Researcher, Ceres Policy Research

In turn, the Management Committee has worked with the following Steering Committee members:

- Jim Howes, Santa Cruz Police Department
- Jose Hurtado, Barrios Unidos and former federal parolee
- Jasmine Najera, Santa Cruz Health Services Agency
- Lynn Harrison, Santa Cruz County Alcohol and Drug Program
- Erik Shapiro, Housing Manager, Santa Cruz Planning Department
- Craig Wilson, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office
- Lobo, former state parolee
- Ryan Coonerty, Santa Cruz City Council Member
- Kelly Pretzer, Representative for Santa Cruz City Council member Ryan Coonerty
- Justin W. Gies, state parolee
- Eric Gies, father of a state parolee
- Will O'Sullivan, Community Recovery Services, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center
- Kristen Chambers, GEMMA
- Carol Rocha, CAB/Calworks
- Valeria Erdogan, Santa Cruz Health Service Agency Clinics

- Charles Miksicek, Santa Cruz Office, California Employment Development Department
- Anita Coley, Parole Agent, CDCR
- Scott MacDonald, Santa Cruz County Probation Department
- Pam Rogers-Wyman, Santa Cruz County Mental Health
- Kathy Zwart, Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board
- Paul Demarest, Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board
- David Sweet, CAB
- Abdul Razzak, Co-facilitator Santa Cruz Parole and Community Team (PACT) meetings
- Nakeida Arrington, Janus and former parolee
- Paul Brindel, Shelter Project, CAB
- Loyanne Flinn, Monterey County Workforce Investment Board
- Robert Rojas, Janus and former parolee
- Mia Della Rosa , Janus and former parolee
- Jorge Sanchez, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center
- Tony Farrell, Janus
- Maria Rodriguez, Survivors Healing Center
- Amy Christey, Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office

The Management Committee met once each month to plan Steering Committee meetings. The Steering Committee met once per month to provide guidance on data collection, review data collected, assess program gaps in the county, and make recommendations for addressing those gaps.

## Parolee Needs

### Reentry Best Practices

The Reentry Council, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Public/Private Ventures have all conducted extensive research in the area of parole reentry. They have found that parolees reentering their communities need integrated programs that simultaneously address:

- housing and basic needs (clothing, food);
- financial support (benefits, training, education, employment); and
- health services (mental health, substance abuse treatment, physical health).

These integrated services should provide mentors who have previously been in prison. These services should also systematically and cautiously work to reunite parolees with their families (assessments must be conducted to determine whether parolees wish to be reunited with their families).

### Research Design

Ceres Policy Research was hired to collect and analyze data on parolee needs. The assessment was designed taking parole reentry best practices into account. Special

attention was paid to the three primary needs areas identified by the Reentry Council, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Public/Private Ventures.

In order to assess parolee needs in each of the three policy areas as well as where gaps in services exist within our county, Ceres designed a mixed-method needs study that consisted of surveys and focus group data.

The survey was two pages long and asked parolees about personal information (e.g. age, gender, ethnic identity), housing needs, basic needs (e.g. food, clothes), job needs, health needs, and the history of incarceration for each respondent. The survey took approximately 10-15 minutes for parolees to complete. English and Spanish versions were available to respondents.

Surveys were collected in multiple locations including the county jail, Friends Outside (a non-profit that serves probationers and parolees), the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center (a community-based counseling center), Parole and Community Team (PACT) meetings, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation parole office located in Capitola. There were survey administrators available the PACT meetings and the parole office, the two locations where the majority of surveys were collected, to answer questions.

Surveys were analyzed using a statistical software package called SPSS. Ceres used descriptive software tests to understand who responded to the survey. Ceres used analysis of variance tests to determine whether particular subgroups of parolees have needs that are different than others. Findings from these tests were considered “statistically significant” if we were more than 95% sure that the subgroups were different. We report only statistically significant results below.

After surveys were collected, Ceres conducted three two-hour focus groups to prioritize program needs from the perspective of parolees. One focus group was held in north county for men. One focus group was held in north county for women. A third focus group was held in south county for men. Over 200 parolees were invited to attend over the phone, using contact information from the parole office. Parolees were offered a \$50 cash card for attending. Three men attended the first group. Eight women attended the second group. Three men and one woman attended the third group. A bilingual, bicultural focus group facilitator was present at each of the focus groups. There were not any respondents who needed translation services.

Ceres summarized their notes from each of the three focus groups and then conducted content analysis of the summaries. Content analysis involved the identification of common words or themes used by parolees. This process allowed Ceres to document participants’ views of parolee services, enabling a more objective assessment.

## Survey Respondents

191 surveys were collected (from the total of 440 men and women currently on parole in Santa Cruz County). 9% of the surveys were collected in county jail; 10% of the surveys were collected at service providers; 31% were collected at PACT meetings; and 50% were collected at the Capitola parole office. We describe the characteristics of the survey respondents below.<sup>1</sup>

These parolees have a range of incarceration histories.

- On average, each respondent has been convicted of 5 crimes, been in county jail 6 times, and has been in state prison 4 times.
- Respondents have been incarcerated an average of 2.5 years and have been out an average of 7 months.
- 61% of respondents are returning to the community for new offenses. 39% of respondents are returning to the community after being in prison for parole violations.
- 20% of parolees are returning to the community after being in prison for a violent offense; 6% are returning to the community after being in prison for a sex offense; 11% are returning to the community after being in prison for a property crime; and 54% are returning to the community after being in prison for a drug-related offense.

The respondents also vary across age, gender, ethnic/racial identity, education, number of children, and history of abuse.

- On average, our respondents were 37 years old, though they range in age from 19 to 78 years old.
- 16% of respondents are under the age of 25.
- 86% of our respondents were men, 14% were women (this compares with the population of parolees, which is 90% men and 10% women).
- 53% of our respondents were white; 30% were Latino (this compares with the population of parolees where 43% are white and 39% Latino).
- 1% of our respondents have a sixth grade education; 13% have an eight grade education; 59% have a GED or high school diploma; 23% of respondents have some college education.
- 25% of men and 65% of women disclosed past sexual or physical abuse.

The findings from the parolee surveys are summarized below.

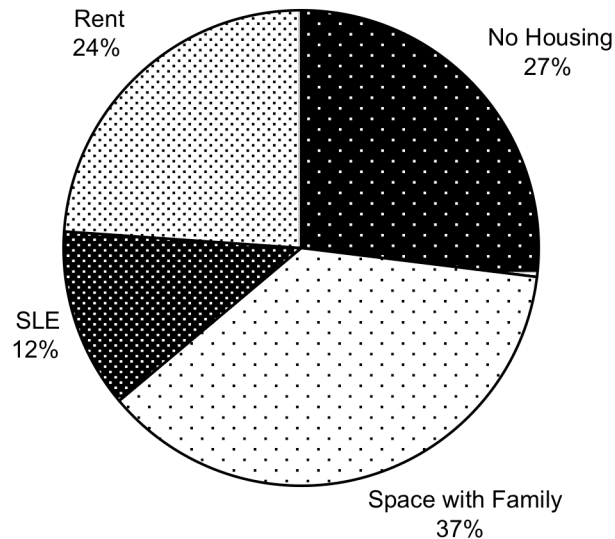
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<sup>1</sup> *This demographic data differs from the data presented on page one because this data describes the survey respondents rather than the entire parole population.*



### Findings Related to Housing and Basic Needs

Given the cost of housing in Santa Cruz County and the small number of low-income housing units, finding a place to live presents a particular challenge to parolees returning to the community.



The needs assessment found that

- 27% of parolees are homeless (either having “no” housing, or living in a homeless shelter);
- 37% of parolees reported that they have been offered a temporary place to sleep with friends or family members;
- 12% of parolees live in sober living environments (SLE’s); and
- 24% rent houses or apartments.

In most housing markets, staying with friends and SLE’s would be considered transitional housing. As such, 76% of parolees are either homeless or living in transitional housing.

Additionally, 65% of parolees have at least one basic need other than housing (transportation, food, clothes). Specifically,

- 60% need clothing
- 58% need help finding transportation

- 54% need food
- 45% need help finding support services
- 44% need a phone; and
- 34% need an ID

Ceres Policy Research conducted a statistical analysis of the survey results to determine whether there were particular subgroups of parolees with higher levels of housing and basic needs. Ceres looked at different ages, genders, race/ethnic identities, children, education, abuse history, number of times in prison, length of time in prison, and length of time out of prison.<sup>2</sup>

Ceres found that parolees who had returned to prison (either due to a parole violation or a new offence) were more likely to be homeless. 17% of those who have been to state prison once report being homeless, while 31% of parolees who have been to state prison at least twice report being homeless.

Parolees who had returned to prison were also more likely to have basic needs. Parolees who have been in state prison at least twice are more likely to have basic needs (74%) compared with those who have been in state prison only once (60%).

### **Findings Related to Education, Training, and Employment**

Parolees also face the challenge of finding employment, particularly if they do not have adequate housing.

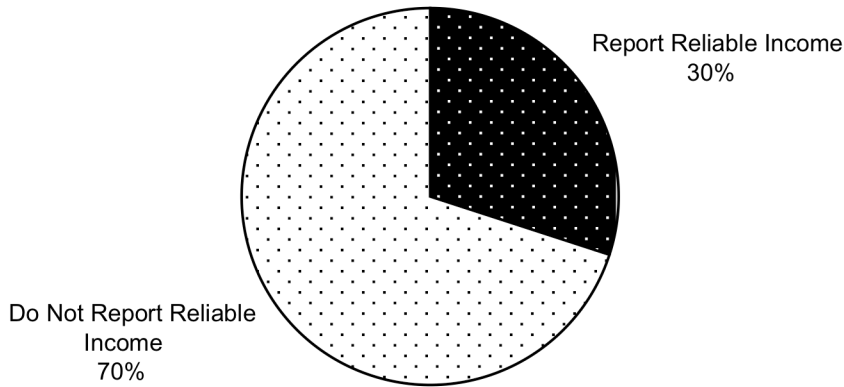
According to the needs assessment, 49% of parolees report being employed. Yet, a number of the respondents who reported employment were self-employed and reported no income. As such, 70% of parolees report no reliable income.

Ceres Policy Research conducted a statistical analysis of the survey results to determine whether there were particular subgroups of parolees with higher levels of employment needs. Ceres looked at different ages, genders, race/ethnic identities, children, education, abuse history, number of times in prison, length of time in prison, and length of time out of prison.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See Irvine, Angela. 2007. *The Santa Cruz Parolee Reentry Plan: Preliminary Report to the Board of Supervisors*. Report submitted to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Ceres ran analysis of variance tests to determine whether age, gender, race/ethnicity, parenthood, education, abuse history, offense, time in prison, time out of prison, and the number of times sent to state prison shaped housing needs. Only statistically significant results are presented.

<sup>3</sup> See Irvine, Angela. 2007. *The Santa Cruz Parolee Reentry Plan: Preliminary Report to the Board of Supervisors*. Report submitted to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Ceres ran analysis of variance tests to determine whether age, gender, race/ethnicity, parenthood, education, abuse history, offense, time in prison, time out of prison, and the number of times sent to state prison shaped housing needs. Only statistically significant results are presented.



Ceres found that parolees who had been out of prison less than 30 days are less likely to have reliable income (19%) compared with those who have been out one year (41%) and those who have been out two years (65%).

Ceres also found that Latino parolees (16%) are less likely to have reliable income compared with other parolees (34%)

In order to get the job that they want, parolees reported the following needs:

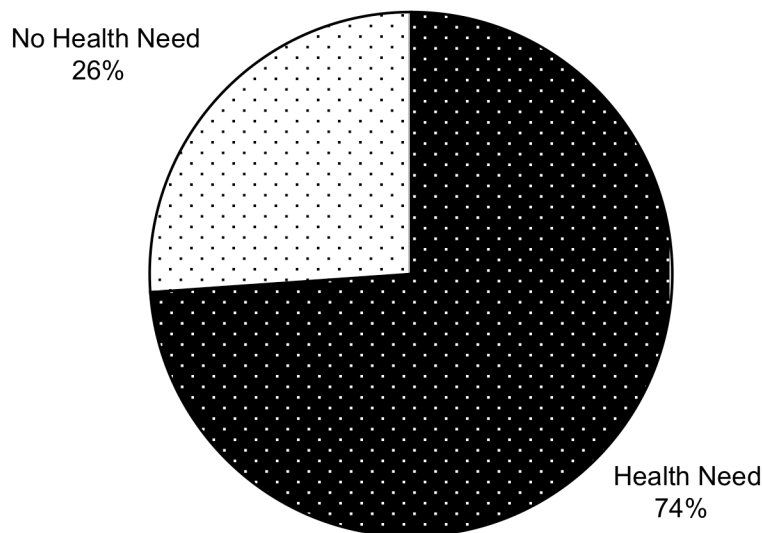
- 55% need help finding job openings
- 51% need training
- 27% need college classes
- 24% need help developing a new resume
- 15% need GED classes
- 6% need literacy classes

### Findings Related to Health

In addition to housing and employment, 74% of parolees need some form of health care.

Parolees reported the following specific health needs:

- 73% need a dentist
- 63% need medical insurance
- 53% need a doctor
- 23% need a counselor
- 23% need a support group
- 22% need medication
- 18% need substance abuse treatment (54% of the sample was returning to the community following a drug-related offense)



Ceres Policy Research conducted a statistical analysis of the survey results to determine whether there were particular subgroups of parolees with higher levels of health needs. Ceres looked at different ages, genders, race/ethnic identities, children, education, abuse history, number of times in prison, length of time in prison, and length of time out of prison.<sup>4</sup> There are two subgroups that are more likely to have health needs.

Parolees who have been out of prison two years (59%) are less likely to have health needs compared with parolees who have been out of prison one year (84%) and those who have been out of prison less than three months (76%).

Parolees who have been abused are also more likely to have health needs. Parolees who disclosed a history of sexual or physical abuse (82%) are more likely to have health needs than parolees who don't disclose a history of sexual or physical abuse (70%). Among parolees, women are more likely to report abuse.

- 25% of men report a history of abuse, compared with 65% of women.
- 12% of men report sexual abuse compared with 35% of women.
- 27% of men report physical abuse compared with 61% of women.

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<sup>4</sup> See Irvine, Angela. 2007. *The Santa Cruz Parolee Reentry Plan: Preliminary Report to the Board of Supervisors. Report submitted to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Ceres ran analysis of variance tests to determine whether age, gender, race/ethnicity, parenthood, education, abuse history, offense, time in prison, time out of prison, and the number of times sent to state prison shaped housing needs. Only statistically significant results are presented.*

While parolees with a history of abuse were more likely to report having any type of health need, they were significantly more likely to report needing counseling, support groups, medical insurance, and medication.

## Current Services for Parolees

### **Housing/Basic Needs**

Housing provides a particular challenge for parolees returning to Santa Cruz. Unlike large, urban areas, Santa Cruz has limited public housing units managed by the local housing authority. Rather, the bulk of public housing is provided through Section 8 vouchers.

At the same time, Santa Cruz experiences one of the largest gaps between the median family income and the cost of housing in California. As a result, the demand for Section 8 vouchers far exceeds the availability. The waiting list for Section 8 vouchers ranges from 2-6 years.

Within this context, there are very few housing programs designed specifically for parolees. Parole agents provide housing subsidies for sex offenders. Additionally, there is one very small pilot project designed for parolees. Between November 2007 and January 2008, seven parolees will be given a \$500 loan for first month rent in an SLE. These loans will be repaid once parolees secure employment and can afford to pay the money back.

There are also a few programs that provide scattered resources to meet the basic needs of parolees. Friends Outside provides support for probationers and parolees. Given limited resources, Friends Outside is often limited in what they can provide to parolees. They can help develop resumes, provide a bus pass, and help parolees secure General Assistance funds and identification cards. Additionally, some of the local churches provide one-time donations that can help parolees pay for first month rent or clothing.

While residential drug abuse programs and sober living environments (SLE's) provide services to the general public, Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center, Janus, Sobriety Works, and New Life conduct outreach to parolees and provide critical transitional housing. Unfortunately, there are few beds available at any one time and parolees must pay for these services themselves.

### **Education and Employment**

There are no longer any programs designed specifically to meet the training, education, or employment needs of parolees. The California Employment Development Department (EDD) previously funded a position to provide job placement services for parolees. They have eliminated this position, however, creating a large local gap in services.

There are a few programs that are for the general public but have made the effort to conduct outreach to parolees:

The Digital Bridge Academy provides support services to non-traditional students entering Cabrillo Community College. This program encourages parolees to apply. They conduct monthly outreach to parolees at the monthly Parole and Community Team (PACT) meetings. Representatives from the Cabrillo Community College financial aid office also attend the monthly PACT meetings to provide information about eligibility to parolees. However, few parolees have enrolled at Cabrillo.

The Community Restoration Project at the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County provides job training and placement services for adult probationers and parolees. State Mentally Ill Offender and Crime Reduction funding has allowed the Community Restoration Project to serve large numbers of probationers. Without other funding sources, CRP can only serve a handful of parolees.

Additionally, parolees are eligible for Workforce Investment Act services through CareerWorks. However, parolees must navigate the complicated application procedures without assistance. Misunderstandings among parolees and agency staff members about program eligibility have limited participation in the WIA program.

### **Health**

There are no programs designed specifically to meet the health needs of parolees. However, there are programs for the general public that serve parolees.

Parolees may access physical health services through the county public health clinics. Depending on the health needs of parolees, there are several funding sources that pay for services. However, all services must be approved by the Homeless Persons Health Project (HPHP). Approval can take a significant amount of time and often requires insurance through Medical or MediCruz.

Additionally, some parolees are eligible for County Alcohol and Drug treatment programs. The Primeros Pasos, CalWORKS, Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement, and Dependency Drug Court programs all serve parolees who have custody of children. The Serial Inebriate Program serves parolees who have five or more arrests for public intoxication in the last six months. Proposition 36 and Drug Court serve parolees who have been convicted of non-violent, non-sales drug crimes and have no recent history of violence. In addition, parolees may also access county alcohol and drug treatment programs that are available to the general public, though there are often long waiting lists for these services. Overall, current county-funded alcohol and drug treatment services are nowhere near adequate to meet the need.

Parolees are also eligible for residential drug treatment at Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center, Janus, Sobriety Works, and New Life, as well as outpatient and day treatment services. Unfortunately, there are few beds available at any one time and parolees must pay for these services themselves if they do not qualify for any county funding sources.

## Existing Barriers to the Provision of Reentry Services

With scattered services and limited sources of funding, parolees experience difficulties finding housing, employment and health care. The Santa Cruz Parole Reentry Steering Committee would like to extend services, but faces three major barriers.

First, the general public has negative opinions of parolees. Santa Cruz County needs leadership to shape legislative agendas and funding decisions that will bring improved programs to parolees returning to our community.

Secondly, few community-based organizations or county agencies have the expertise or organizational capacity to serve parolees due to inconsistent sources of funding for parole reentry programs over time.

Finally, Santa Cruz County agencies and community-based organizations have historically failed to coordinate services for parolees. With limited resources, organizations have provided services to parolees in isolation from one another. The Santa Cruz Parolee Reentry Steering Committee has laid the foundation for cross-organization collaboration. Continued commitment to the coalition is needed to secure the funding for extended services.

## Extending Reentry Services

As indicated above, there is a broad array of unmet needs for parolees returning to Santa Cruz County. The Santa Cruz Parole Reentry Steering Committee has developed a list of recommended services to address the most pressing needs of parolees. This list contains the least expensive options to serve the maximum number of parolees. This proposal would allow Santa Cruz County to begin the process of extending housing, employment, and health services for local parolees. Given additional resources, more intensive services such as long-term residential drug treatment or the creation of a drug detoxification center could be developed.

### **Housing/Basic Needs**

Top priorities for the extension of housing and basic needs services include creating an SLE that has all beds reserved for parolees and a case manager who links parolees to existing support services. Discretionary funds would allow the case manager to provide loans for rent and basic needs such as clothing and

transportation. Table 1 provides a preliminary budget for the creation of an SLE reserved for parolees and hiring a case manager.

**Table 1: Budget for Parolee Housing and Basic Needs Services**

	Required Funding
Rent guarantee fund to ensure SLE maintains 80% occupancy	\$5,000
Case Manager (provided by a designated community-based organization)	\$75,000
Discretionary Funds (distributed by a designated community-based organization)	\$48,000
Indirect Costs (for a designated community-based organization)	\$12,300
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,300</b>

Sobriety Works, a community-based organization based in Santa Cruz County, has provided an estimate for the creation of an SLE with all beds reserved for parolees. They would provide the initial funding to furnish and secure a lease on a house. This one-time cost is estimated at \$25,000 which will be provided as an in-kind match for any grant that is secured by the Parole Reentry Steering Committee. In order to guarantee that the house stays at 80% capacity and therefore maintain financial viability and sustainability, the Parole Reentry Steering Committee will secure \$5,000 of grant funds to pay for empty beds during periods where there is a reduced demand for SLE housing.

For \$75,000, a designated community-based organization could provide a case manager with a \$56,000 salary plus benefits. This case manager will serve 48 parolees each year. Each parolee will receive case management services for 3-6 months.<sup>5</sup> This will lead to a case load that will vary from 12-15 parolees at any time.

For \$48,000, a designated community-based organization could provide 48 parolees with \$1000 loans for first month rent at an SLE or free-market apartment as well as money for clothing and transportation.

Any program would also need to pay a designated community-based organization money to cover indirect costs. A program consisting of a case manager and discretionary funds would need \$12,300 to cover indirect costs.

<sup>5</sup> *Case management for the first three months after release supports best practices identified in the parole reentry literature.*



### Education and Employment

In order to extend education and employment services, the Parole Reentry Steering Committee would like to create dedicated job development and placement services for parolees. Table 2 provides a preliminary budget for these services.

**Table 2: Employment Services**

	Required Funding
Bi-lingual, bi-cultural job developer (hired by a designated community-based organization)	\$75,000
Stipends for Parolee Mentors (\$100 per month for six months. Mentors will be provided for 48 parolees.)	\$28,800
Indirect Costs (for a designated community-based organization)	\$10,380
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,180</b>

For \$75,000, a designated community-based organization could provide a job development and placement specialist with a \$56,000 salary plus benefits. This job development and placement specialist could serve 48 parolees each year. Each parolee would receive services for 3-6 months. This would lead to a case load that would vary from 12-15 parolees at any time. This job development specialist would be bi-lingual and bi-cultural. Since Latino parolees are facing even greater difficulties finding employment, special effort would have to be made to find work for this sub-population.

The Parole Reentry Steering Committee also proposes the development of a mentor program for parolees. The reentry literature recommends that parolees have access to mentors who have been in prison. Stipends of \$100 per month could be provided for up to 48 mentors to work with 48 active parolees, for a total cost of \$28,800 ( $\$100 \times 48 \times 6$ ).

A 10% indirect cost rate would add \$10,380 to the cost of an education and employment program.

### Health

The case manager listed in the housing and basic needs section would also be able to link parolees to existing health services. Given the high number of parolees who have experienced physical and sexual abuse, the Parole Reentry Steering Committee would like to create dedicated support groups for parolee abuse survivors. Table 3 (see page 17) provides a preliminary budget for abuse survivor support groups.

**Table 3: Health Services**

	Required Funding
Abuse survivor support groups. Two groups for men and one group for women each year.	\$15,000
Indirect Costs	\$1,500
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,500</b>

The Survivors Healing Center, a community-based organization based in Santa Cruz that serves survivors of childhood sexual abuse, could provide two support groups for male parolees and one support group for female parolees for \$15,000. These services would serve ten men each year and five women. Additionally, Survivors Healing Center would receive \$1,500 for indirect costs.

**Funding Expanded Services**

The Parole Reentry Steering Committee will seek additional grants to pay for proposed services. At the same time, the coalition will work with the county to advocate for local county funding.

The cost of these services would be offset by small reductions in recidivism. Data from the Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Office shows that

- parolees stay an average of 28 days in county jail each time they enter the door, and that
- the cost per bed per day is \$110, or an average of \$3080 per offense/revocation.

Additional data indicates that

- 70% of parolees return to prison, and that
- each Santa Cruz parolee returns to prison three times.

Given these numbers, we would expect 34 parolees to return to prison an average of three times. If this program can reduce the average number of returns to prison/jail for participating parolees from three to two, we save the county \$103,488 for each cohort. (34 parolees x \$3080 = \$103,488). Additional savings would accumulate if parolees were even more successful, or if improvements in well-being led parolees to use fewer public resources such as the county health clinics or General Assistance.

# Parole Reentry Steering Committee Advocacy Agenda

While working to fund a parolee reentry program, the Parolee Reentry Steering Committee aims to influence policy at the state and county level.

Members of the Parolee Reentry Steering Committee will work at with state legislators to:

- increase housing funds for parolees who are not sex-offenders. The CDCR currently prioritizes housing funds for sex-offenders, leaving most parolees without any source of support.
- increase funds for comprehensive, community-based programs that assist with community re-entry and reduce recidivism in the parolee population. One example would be the restoration of Intergovernmental Partnership Grants from the CDCR.
- dedicate state employment, housing, and substance abuse treatment resources for the parolee population.

While often viewed as a state issue, parolees impact local systems including law enforcement, county jail, the child welfare system, homeless services, mental health services, health services, alcohol and substance abuse treatment services, and social services. Because of this, the Parolee Reentry Steering Committee will work locally to:

- expand the Parolee Planning Steering Committee to create a Reentry Round Table. This expanded forum would allow government and community agencies to coordinate services, data gathering, resource development, legislative advocacy, and program development for parolees.
- improve the dissemination of information about program availability and eligibility to parolees. The focus groups uncovered much misinformation about program eligibility. Information sheets will be developed for dissemination at PACT meetings to help parolees access existing services.
- collect and analyze local data about the impact of parolees on local services. Many local agencies do not currently document which clients are currently on parole.