

## **Working Effectively with Parole & Probations Services (aka Community Corrections)**

### Opening Statement

Parole and Probation is the part of the Correctional System that handles the post prison process of receiving a past offender back into society and more specifically the community.

This is typically done through the County Sheriff Department of Corrections. Each jurisdiction is different and programs and processes in correction differ widely. These processes have developed over time. In an institution there are ways of doing business that may be deep in history and personalities.

It is our place to work effectively with those in authority and to understand how the system that you are involved in is working. There is a statement "It is better to understand than to be understood". It is our job to understand how we can work with Parole and Probation and be of service to these public servants.

Working Effectively with any organization requires respect and mutual understanding. Adversarial approaches do not work within Professional and Institutional Facilities.

Parole and Probation Services are Supervisory by function. The life of a Probation Officer is filled with "client" meetings, dealing with difficult people, stressed out people, frustrated people and people avoiding taking responsibility.

WE have a unique role to support at a community level the work of Parole and Probations Services.

There are many ways by working with Parole and Probations and their "Adults Supervised in the Community" that we can help the work of our County Corrections. We are not the authority is our role, we are a community support and resource working with Corrections.

- I. Understanding the Role of Parole and Probation; What is the difference
  - a. **Probation** and **parole** are both alternatives to incarceration. However, **probation** occurs prior to and often instead of jail or prison time, while **parole** is an early release from prison. In both **probation** and **parole**, the adult is supervised and expected to follow certain rules and guidelines.
  - b. Seek to Understand if Your Parole and Probations department have any Reentry Initiatives
  - c. What are your Community Support Services or Volunteer Initiatives.
  - d. Make Appropriate Introductions and help bridge the gap with these Authorities
  - e. Be Receptive, Considerate and Cordial.
- II. The typical P&P Departments are extensions of the Sherriff's Department and the people working are Correctional Officers.
  - a. Mental Health has a part
  - b. Resource sourcing may be a part
  - c. Monitoring and Mentoring
    - a. Gang Task Force
    - b. Sexual Offender Registry
- III. What Role do we have with Parole and Probation
  - a. Subsidy for Transitional Housing
  - b. Help with the Transition from Incarceration to Release and working with the "Client"

- c. Mentoring
- d. Education or Programs fulfillment services
  - i. Anger Management
  - ii. A&D or Celebrate Recovery
  - iii. Financial Training
  - iv. Family Life Training
- e. Qualified Chaperone for Sexual Offenders
- IV. Establishing a Transitional Support Team or Services
  - a. Sponsor a Home
  - b. Sponsor someone with one on one or group meetings
  - c. Become a resource for reentry
- V. Transitional Houses have a part of meeting the needs in the community for safe and reliable housing and support Parole and Probations task of adequate housing.
  - a. Know that you are establishing a “Christ Based” house
  - b. Security is a priority for the Adult in Supervision
  - c. Church attendance is mandatory
  - d. U/A’s are a requirement for a Clean and Sober house
    - i. Parole and Probation may have resources or instruction with this.
  - e. Know who the other resources in your community for housing
    - i. ASK if you don’t know and interview as you study what exist
- VI. Job Resources
  - a. Job and employment services are a big step in integration
  - b. There will be employers in your area that are “felon friendly”
    - i. You get to know these by asking your community and business leaders
    - ii. Ask and Ask, There will be people that are key to your community in these areas.
    - iii. Know your public officials;
      - 1. State, County and Local