

Region VII Pilot Project Proposal

Sponsored by Representative JoAn Wood

Director of the Department of Corrections, Vaughn Killeen was in attendance of this meeting as well as a partnership of key elected officials, Judges, State and County corrections, law enforcement, and treatment specialists in Region VII have met, and wish to propose the following:

Our partnership is interested in designing a cost-efficient and reproducible model that includes a balanced approach of substance abuse and mental health treatment for community members who enter our criminal justice system on a felony charge/conviction. We wish to offer the best possible opportunity for a life-changing transition to a non-criminal, alcohol and drug-free life. We desire to build a community system of care that has accountability, addresses community protection needs and a system that fosters competency development for the treatment providers.

A major component of our desired pilot project will be to demonstrate that using a variety of levels of incarceration in a Multi-County Jail facility, near a supportive family, and a continuum of appropriate treatment and supervision, will create new life opportunities for our community members, create a safer community to live in, and ultimately reduce the overall cost of incarceration and treatment for the Idaho Department of Corrections.

Our project model will focus on assisting communities within Region VII to build a continuum of care including, but not limited to, Prevention/Education, Early Intervention/Diversion, Assessment/Case Management, Treatment, Recovery/Maintenance and Crisis Intervention.

Proposed Project Model Focus Area's (non-inclusive):

1. Reduce referrals to the state prison system from Region VII.
2. Develop and implement more effective ways to reduce recidivism.
3. Implement a more effective State and County partnership with a focus on State Corrections and County Probation. Private partnerships will be sought after and encouraged including doctors and businesses in the multi county area.
4. Integrate treatment philosophy for both substance abuse and mental health disorder treatment.
5. Include the offender's family in treatment, as appropriate, to ensure successful transition.

Identified Key Components of our project model:

- Judges need increased **local** sanction options with **treatment** and accountability attached. Our pilot project model will include:
 - For offenders on state probation, a continuum of "retained jurisdiction options", with state funding, will be proposed that allows a District Judge to incrementally "step up" or "step down" a chemically dependent or mentally ill offender for different lengths of incarceration and/or supervision, through varying levels of regional housing, including

secure jail facilities with treatment, staff secure facilities, group housing, intensive outpatient, and so on.

- A proposal to increase all existing housing programs. Unmet housing needs are a critical component to current system failure. People leaving prison or our County jails need adequate housing in the community if we are to expect successful transition. Probation Officers and treatment providers need housing available to provide immediate diversion from jail or hospitalization, as appropriate. Our project will focus on increasing the community's capacity to provide crisis housing beds with immediate access available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - Enhanced community supervision with additional probation staff (i.e. State and County probation officers/housing staff/paraprofessionals). This will accomplish the much needed increase in necessary monitoring and accountability. While supervision is necessary to assure compliance, we also seek to catch those under supervision "doing things right!", and to deliver appropriate recognition for success.
 - Work to expand our Drug Court capacity to include pre-sentence diversion and pre-adjudication. This provides our Judges additional tools to address recidivism issues.
- Design sanction options to support the maintenance of those who have or could have local ***jobs***.
 - Bonneville County is currently in the active design phase of a new and expanded Work Release Facility, and limited expansion of their hard-wall secure Jail. As part of a model project, a cooperative State-County agreement to include some level of expanded jail capacity and incorporate treatment facilities within the secure jail and the Work Release Center would ensure a substantial increase in access to mental health and substance abuse treatment. With such an opportunity at hand now, the timely approval of a pilot project will ensure that an increased number of offenders will be enrolled in the Work Release program with treatment available at night. Work Release Center beds cost half that of a hard-wall Jail bed rental (\$40 vs. \$20 per day).
 - Increased access to Vocational Rehabilitation, [Eastern Idaho Technical College, University Place](#) and continuing education opportunities will be vital to the success of our pilot project. Probationers need the opportunity to become productive, successful and self-sufficient community members.
 - Development of an ***integrated treatment philosophy model*** for those with Mental Health and Substance abuse problems.
 - Appropriate, integrated services for those in need will support their recovery and improved overall health, and can ameliorate the effects their disorders have on their family, friends and society at large. Helping offenders stay in treatment, find housing and jobs, and develop better social skills and judgment, will likely begin to substantially diminish some of the most sinister and costly societal problems: crime, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and more.

- Access to needed medications to address both medical issues and psychiatric illness will be a component of the project model. **We will ask for grants from pharmaceuticals under a Doctor's supervision.**
- All agencies working with offenders must use a standardized assessment and evaluation process. We support implementing the "Minkoff Model", which is a comprehensive, continuous, integrated system of care model. It is based on implementing principles of successful treatment intervention that are derived from available research, and incorporated into an integrated treatment philosophy that utilizes a common language that makes sense from the perspective of both mental health and substance disorder treatment specialists.
- ***Families must*** have the opportunity to be involved in Treatment.
 - Our project will study and identify the underlying family issues of those that are receiving treatment, and address those issues with evidenced based treatment and programs that have proven effectiveness. We believe that implanting family treatment into our project model will yield significant positive results for the offender, and potentially curtail current and future criminal activity of family members.

We anticipate, and will encourage the project model to include, calling for a local oversight group that will assist in designing the proposed outcomes and reporting schedule for the project. In collaboration with the oversight group, we will request in the project model proposal the authority to make needed adjustments throughout the project's development and implementation to ensure success.

In the process of designing a successful, reproducible model, we will ask for assistance in removing some of the current barriers that make working together as State, County and private partners a challenge.

Our proposal will include a statement on financial management and reporting. Our initial proposal may include a request to make Bonneville County the agency of record for financial reporting and administration. Bonneville County has the ability to create a separate and auditable budget within its regular budget system that will successfully track and report expenses and revenue. We will ask for statistics from one or more State agencies to help us develop an appropriate success measurement system. We will include a statement on an anticipated reporting system on outcomes and successes in treatment. As in the financial model, we will ask for statistics from one or more State agencies to help us develop an appropriate success measurement tool.

A critical component to the success of our pilot project will be an immediate priority to hiring and retaining mental health counselors, and strengthening the skills they will need to address substance abuse and criminology. We will want to enter into treatment contracts, on a local level, that provide financial incentives to hire and retain highly skilled counselors and clinical supervision/program administrators.

In summary: We recognize that the ultimate goal of a model project will be to create an alternative to building more prisons. Within this goal, we see opportunity to break the vicious cycle of crime, violence and incarceration, and to restore order to so many families who have fallen victim to a family member's actions. To that end, we will look to include both corporate and education partners for guidance, support, and success in our planning and implementation.

We have presented the Focus Areas and Identified Key Components to the community and statewide partners listed below. They have offered their support.

Name	Representing
JoAn Wood	State Representative
Tom Loertscher	State Representative
Mack Shirley	State Representative
Janice McGeachin	State Representative
Judge Brent Moss	Judge
Judge Jon Shindurling	Judge
Judge Linda Cook	Judge
Judge Greg Anderson	Judge
Judge Mark Riddoch	Judge
Director Vaughn Killeen	Director of Department of Corrections
Administrator Kevin Kempf	Administrator of Community Corrections
Terry Kirkham	Region VII Director of Corrections
Burt Butler	Region VII Trial Court Administrator
Dane Watkins	Bonneville County Prosecutor
Lee Staker	Bonneville County Commissioner
Roger Christensen	Bonneville County Commissioner
Dave Radford	Bonneville County Commissioner
Val Gardner	Director of County Probation
Kipp Dana	Drug Court Administrator
Eric Olson	Mental Health Court Coordinator
Bud Langerak	Bonneville County Sheriff's Office
Lt. Brain Covert	Bonneville County Jail
Brenda Price	DHW Community Resource Developer
Tracey Sessions	DHW Regional Director Region VII
Nick Arambarri	DHW Regional Director Region VI
Melissa Bean	DHW Behavioral Health Pro. Manager
Michele Osmond	DHW Crisis Team Clinical Supervisor
Rick Palmer	DHW Clinical Supervisor
Lt. Troy Killpack	Bonneville County Jail
Brian Mecham	Bonneville County Jail
Jack Gaskill	SA Treatment Provider

This proposal will be presented at our next meeting in October or November to the other elected officials from the 8 counties around Bonneville for inclusion. We will communicate with treatment providers, local physicians and other agencies having an interest in this model.