

HAT

HEALING AND TRANSITION PROGRAM

A Faith Based Advocacy Reentry Program

The HAT (Healing and Transition) Program is a community initiative of ConnctCity, Inc. ConnectCity, Inc. is a 501C3 nonprofit organization that exists to connect people in need with resources from the church, government and community organizations providing opportunities for life transformation, community involvement and personal development while improving the their quality of life.

ConnectCity, Inc vision is a community where everyone has an opportunity to succeed. To accomplish this we seek to train and develop leaders from hurting individuals often overlooked. Community collaboration, resource sharing and a commitment to a faith based advocacy model will ensure success, sending them back to their communities to transform their communities.

We want to acknowledge the Annie E Casey Foundation for their work with the Healing Communities model which is an important component within the HAT program. In addition, Harold Dean Trulear, Ph.D, Howard University and Mr. Joe Williams, CAPA (Christian Association for Prison Aftercare) have provided input, encouragement and support throughout the development of this project.

We also want to acknowledge the support from MS. Vicki Lukis, former chair of the Governor's Ex-Offender Task Force.

The Institute for Prison Ministries, the Bill Graham Center, and Wheaton College have been instrumental in delivering the training component to the Advocates within the HAT program. Understanding poverty, motivational mentoring and mentoring ex-offenders have all contributed to the successful implementation of this project.

Healing And Transition Program

A Faith Based Advocacy Approach

A partnership of an enhanced Faith Based Program inside of the jail combined with a mentoring program supported by the Faith Based Organizations and Churches in the community allows for healing and transition to those returning to our communities from jail.

Introduction

Faith Communities can offer a transition and healing place where non-judgment, acceptance, love, caring, forgiveness, reconciliation, redemption and restoration can occur.

The goal of the Healing And Transition (HAT) Program is to transform hearts and minds, create a sense of inclusion thus reducing the stigma and shame associated with incarceration and criminal records, and build networks of support that start in welcoming houses of worship and expand to their community at large.

Basic Design

Elements

1. Faith Based Programming and Mentoring inside the jail.
2. Faith Based Community and Mentoring involvement for Returning Citizens when released following plan created inside jail.
3. Faith Based Collaboration with a shared approach towards serving returning citizens across faith based organizations.

Target Population

Male, presentenced and sentenced inmates with less than 45 days housed in faith based chaplain dorms.

Female, presentenced and sentenced inmates with less than 45 days housed in faith based chaplain dorms.

Assessment Instrument

The HAT program will adopt the Texas Christian University (TCU) Self Rating Intake, the US Government Self Sufficiency Outcome Matrix tool, other research based tools, and Resource Point assessments for measurement of offenders' risks, needs and strengths. Check points will be taken upon entry and exit of the in-cell program, release, and then at the 3 month, 6 month and 12 month intervals.

Transitional Plan

Individual Transitional Plans (ITP) will provide a long-term road map to achieve continuity in the delivery of services and in the sharing of information both over time and between agencies. Each inmate from the target population will be included, although ITP's may vary based on needs and voluntary participation of the inmate.

Tracking

The collection of the inmate's profile data, assessment information and class or service participation is the means by which a seamless integration will take place to manage the HAT program. Designed and housed within Resource Point; the profile, along with several assessments and matrix data, will be used to follow the individual throughout the returning citizen's journey from jail to community and beyond.

Mentoring

The advocacy of the mentors will enable the returning citizen to heal and transition into the community as they face social, educational, emotional and spiritual obstacles to building a new life. Mentoring will be an advocacy team approach utilizing trained and certified volunteers to assist a returning citizen reentering society. All mentors will be held to an accountability structure to insure each person is prepared, equipped and supported in the HAT program. A mentor may participate either inside the jail or upon the release of the returning citizen or both.

Volunteers

All volunteers will be a part of the training and accountability structure to ensure each person is prepared, equipped and supported in this program. Volunteers support the mentors upon the release of the returning citizen.

Data Collection

Resource Point will be used to develop the electronic versions of the data collection forms so the data can be shared within the HAT program and with other program participants as specified in the returning citizen's ITP.

Partnership Model

Healing Communities and the Annie E Casey Foundation will be a vital piece of this Program. The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Healing Communities model encourages communities of faith to minister to members of their own congregations who are affected by crime and the criminal justice system. The Healing Communities model was developed out of the Foundation's recognition that family-strengthening and family economic success efforts are unlikely to succeed without attending to the challenges posed by crime, criminal records, and parent incarceration.

HAT program next steps with Orange County Corrections

The HAT Program is a compilation of several community reentry models. A preliminary Central Florida faith based community has been convened and presented with this program design and the opportunity to serve returning citizens. Summarized below are several of the important next steps to move from design to implementation of the HAT program within OCC/ faith based Chaplain Dorms.

1. Receive full support from Orange County Corrections/Faith Based Programming to move forward and begin training mentors in advocacy and certify volunteers.
2. Confirm participation of all faith chaplaincy involvement.
3. Formalize the process currently in place for transitioning inmates from the faith based dorms into the community.
4. Adapt existing assessment and service models incorporated within the HAT Program to reflect the reform in-cell faith based program where appropriate.
5. Identify potential HAT program mentor and volunteers from the chaplain volunteer base for training and orientation.
6. Identify 30 churches to become *Stations of Hope* for the program
7. Schedule the first training and certification class for mentors and volunteers.