

## **Sarasota County Community Corrections Center (CCC)**

Sarasota County has faced an overcrowded jail at least for the past five years. As planning began for expanding detention capacity, the stakeholders, elected officials and community began to look for improvements to the criminal justice system which would result in fewer citizens being incarcerated or becoming victims of crime.

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) was delegated the responsibility to develop future plans for Sarasota County that incorporated these type of improvements. The CJC developed a Criminal Justice Policy Framework to guide the decisions they would face in the future and engaged a national consultant knowledgeable in these issues.

Work Groups of the CJC have conducted site visits of best practices models from around the country in the correctional setting and combined this with their knowledge of the successes of the CART initiative. The Board of County Commissioners has adopted a plan to expand detention capacity for the year 2030 which includes the creation of a 250-bed Community Corrections Center Facility early in the process.

- A CCC is a non-secure facility that reduces chronic criminal behavior that leads to numerous arrests and re-imprisonment by offering residential housing, treatment, case management services and supportive programs for people who are finishing a local jail sentence or are on community supervision.
- The three major components are:
  1. Residential housing for residents participating in substance abuse treatment.
  2. Residents engage in employment and participate in treatment and support services.
  3. Recently released residents and those under community supervision who visit the center to participate in treatment, receive support services and comply with reporting requirements.
- Eligible participants are individuals who have received a county jail sentence of 11 months and 29 days or less. Participants will be screened utilizing a sophisticated assessment tool to identify those persons mostly likely to benefit from the services provided at the CCC.
- The goal is to address risk factors for recidivism and return the offender to the community with a plan for continued improvement. The idea is to transition the offender to the community in a structured manner that holds the offender accountable, while also working toward positive change.
- The CCC environment will be non-secure, given its focus on treatment and rehabilitation. The interior design will support the treatment and rehabilitative goals and staff will be appropriately trained and certified.

- Target Populations include:
  - County jail inmates in the last phase of their sentence who have scored a moderate or high risk of recidivism on the assessment tool.
  - Probationers as a sanction for a violation of supervision
  - Drug Court (or other specialty courts) participants who are non-compliant or in need of additional structure to prevent program failure
  - Discharged jail inmates in need of voluntary, short-term stabilization
- Average length of stay will be three to six months depending on the target population.
- Services to be offered include:
  - Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Mental Health Evaluation and Services
  - Cognitive Skill classes
  - Employment testing and job search assistance
  - GED and literacy classes
  - Life skills: nutrition, parenting, money management, computer, etc.
  - Family Re-unification
  - Mentoring
  - Re-Entry Services including securing proper ID, medical and prescription maintenance, housing, transportation, support groups, etc.
  - Drug Testing and Probation Services
  - Pastoral Counseling and Church Services
- Residential Treatment would be an intensive 90-day treatment program. In the first 30-days, residents will concentrate solely on treatment, after which they begin the job search activities while continuing in treatment while not working.
- Work Programs will include aptitude testing, job search skill training, classroom based vocational skills development, occupational skill development, job referrals and placement, job clubs/support groups, job support (i.e. transportation, appropriate clothing, etc.) and job tracking and support.
- Performance measures will include:
  - 100% of CCC residents will be enrolled in cognitive classes
  - 100% of CCC residents will receive job readiness assistance
  - 100% of CCC residents with moderate or high risk scores and severe addiction will receive intensive treatment
  - 80% will be successfully released from the CCC
  - 75% in CCC residential treatment will successfully complete the in-house component before release
  - 85% will exit with a job or be enrolled in school
  - 75% will exit with sobriety and with a treatment plan
  - 75% will exit with a community support group
  - 100% of CCC inmates will exit with a Re-entry Plan
  - The one-year reconviction rate for inmates who exit the CCC will be 1/3 less than a matched group who exit the jail.

- Estimated Annual Operating Costs:
  - \$2.0 Million / 125 Residents
  - \$2.2 Million / 160 Residents
  - \$3.0 Million / 250 Residents
  
- Benefits to the system and community are:
  - Lower cost alternative to jail
  - Significantly reduce recidivism rate
  - Added flexibility in jail management
  - Increased options for judges
  - Increase Public Safety/Decrease in Crime Victims