

STREET CRIME FORUM - JUNE 23, 2004

SESSION 1 – DISCUSSION GROUP B

- 1. MEANINGLESS OF PROBATION ORDERS – MANDATED TREATMENT (BECAUSE OF LACK OF FOLLOW-UP/TREATMENT/SERVICES IN COMMUNITY)**
- 2. CRIME ADDICTION → CULTURE OF CIMR: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**
- 3. WOMEN OFFENDERS. REINTEGRATION TO SOCIETY, LACK OF RESOURCES AND TREATMENT HALFWAY HOUSES**

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CLARIFY TOPICS

- Crime additions – root of problem, treatment drug addiction as secondary to anti-social behaviours
- Approach is seen as moral issue if treatment for crime addiction then possibility to not reoffend
- Approach on an addiction level will include community support programs
- Revolving door for clients to start out being anti-social
- Prevention without stigmatization
- Grieve lifestyle – return to familiarity

PROBATION TOPIC

- no feedback to the courts (outcomes)
- resources
- targeting right people for right probation
- focus on factors
- focus on high risk offenders
- different perceptions
- offender reintegration
- barriers to treatment
- children of offenders
- creating a full cycle of addiction

SOLUTIONS

- 1-800 # for emergency treatment:
 - children
 - support
 - four pillars
- When ready for help/treatment – need it now – before sink down again

“treatment on demand” – intervention: “meet them where they are at”

- Crystal meth → in shelters – unmanageable – no one to help them
- Lose them if no treatment – when requested

Q: Financial concerns – costs → solutions vs. continued cycle

- Half way houses
- Need integration between social services – they need to be able to direct clients to resources (“case management”)
- VISU – intensive supervision → open house – for support
- Need more liaison between services, courts, etc.
- Recidivism – the reason is because of lack of support, community support
 - Track successful offenders
 - Bring in offenders who made changes
 - Give them options → to get out of their community (underworld)
 - Offenders feel like outsiders; lack of social skills and life skills, they need to break down self-imposed “walls”
- Provincial prison: short term sentences – no treatment/changes before they are released
- Re: social skills
 - Need peer support – to help function in community
 - Case management when released jail and influence them while in jail to prepare for release
 - To have meaningful intervention while in jail
 - Legal did tariff – reduced – people who need most help, i.e. meth addicts – are not getting help from defence counsel (i.e. to find services in community – emotionally burned-out Bar – when defence counsel are expected to be creative in Court for offenders)
- Comments about probation officers re complaints from defence bar about lack of services – probation officers are able to provide more
- Comments – despair among criminal justice system participants – lawyers, police, probation officers – “futility”, lack of success
- Probation – we have a program for every offender
 - Q: what about residential treatment?
 - A: if they had asked us before making Order, we could have told them what is available (or not)
- Drug Court – at present approximately 50 offenders
- Want to help – frustration – “compassion fatigue”
- Offenders with multiple problems – housing, treatment, etc.
- Treatment orders ins probation – need services to back up
 - Need to be taken/driven to recovery house
- Review of probation orders by judge – legal problems, also expertise – in treatment, defence – few kind words from Judge – very significant.
 - Problem – judge as parent/support vs. “hammer” if breach – dual roles in conflict – judges need to recuse selves
- E.g. Washington State – impaired – treatment – charge gets dropped if offender takes treatment
 - Compare to BC Drug Court