



Creativity and Innovation shine at the 2015 In-Prison Conference



Creativity and Innovation took center stage at the 2015 In-Prison Training Conference April 28-29 in Sacramento. More than 100 Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) staff attended, which included Correctional Counselors and Parole Services Associates from all adult institutions.

The theme of the conference was “Creativity...Innovation...Rehabilitation Achieved!” Participants strategized on strengthening rehabilitative efforts throughout the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Attendees engaged in spirited discussions, sharing best practices.

GETTING STARTED

Kelly Medina, In-Prison Programs Chief (A), facilitated the event, briefing field staff on new initiatives and advancements designed to reduce recidivism. She introduced an ensemble of guest speakers who brought in-depth presentations and videos to engage the audience.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS TAKE STAGE

The presentations began with DRP Director Millicent Tidwell’s keynote on DRP’s role in CDCR. “Rehabilitation is just getting started at CDCR!” Director Tidwell

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DRP Deputy Director, Rodger Meier addressing In-Prison Conference participants.

Today I Wore Blue Because I Could

DRP Staffers tour Folsom State Prison (FSP), California State Prison-Sacramento (SAC) & Folsom Women’s Facility (FWF) to see “rehabilitation in action”

“Today I wore blue because I could... picking out my outfit for a typical workday had new meaning the day after my tour of FSP, CSP-SAC and FWF. The blue chambray shirt and denim jeans I chose was to remind myself that I was free. That the opportunities and options I’ve had in my life have allowed me to make the simple choice of being able to decide what I want to wear on a given day. That is what the ‘R’ in CDCR means to me, giving inmates the rehabilitative options and education they need to make better choices for their future,” reflects Richelle Garcia, Outreach Analyst, DRP.

On April 16, 2015, DRP Headquarters staff members experienced

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THIS MONTH IN DRP HISTORY



ARCAID Machine pictured above is the latest model scheduled for release.

Happy 1st Birthday to the ARCAID Machine!

A year ago, the first Automated Rehabilitation Catalog and Information Discovery (ARCAID) machine was unveiled for parolees as an accessible resource kiosk to help them successfully reintegrate into their communities. The kiosks are located in California parole offices and at selected Reentry Hubs within CDCR institutions.

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“Today’s inmate is tomorrow’s neighbor”

— *Ralph Diaz, Deputy Director, Division of Adult Institutions*

Academic Education

Increases inmate reading levels to minimum 9th grade level and achieve a GED or high school diploma. Access to college courses also available.

Arts in Corrections

Programs in theater, dance, music and art instill pro-social behavior, self-esteem and problem solving skills.

CAL-ID Card Program

Assists in obtaining state-issued California identification cards used to secure employment, housing, bank accounts, travel, and more.

Career Technical Education

Prepares inmates for viable vocational career paths upon release by training to industry certification levels.

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment

Provides evidence-based treatment for Substance Abuse, Anger Management, Family Relationships and Criminal Thinking.

Long Term Offender Pilot Program

Provides evidenced-based treatment programming in criminogenic behavior to inmates serving long-term sentences.

Offender Mentor Certification

Trains and certifies long-term inmates as interns to assist as mentors in various substance abuse treatment programs.

Transitions

Provides job readiness skills, including job search, resume, interviewing, financial skills and access to career centers.

Reentry Hubs

Provides relevant training and services to eligible and interested inmates within four years of release.

Step Down Program

Provides alternatives to criminal gang lifestyle to reduce confinement in Security Housing Units (SHU).

Single Level and Multi-Level Substance Abuse Treatment

Promotes positive social behavior and helps inmates develop knowledge and skills necessary to avoid substance use relapse and successfully reintegrate back into the community, through single and multi-level substance abuse treatment programs.



DRP Headquarters staff tour group posed in front of the historic gates of Folsom State Prison.

Learning Firsthand

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rehabilitative programming in action during a full day tour. The tour’s goal was to help them gain insight on their roles at CDCR. The three institutions in close proximity allowed staff the ability to observe programming similarities and contrasts between inmates at different levels of incarceration.

At FSP, staff noticed a difference in demeanor between the inmates on the yard versus those engaged in class. When inmates enter the classroom,

“There is a transformation that takes place as they walk from the yard in through the classroom doors.”

— **Robin Dartis, Vice Principal**

they are considered “students” and according to Vice Principal, Robin Dartis, “they get to remove the mask. There is a transformation that takes place as they walk from the yard in through the classroom doors.” The staff observed

the Career Technical Education (CTE) automotive program, where inmates gain experience working on hybrid cars. This unique training is typically only offered to mechanics at a dealership. This specialized class gives offenders more employment opportunities upon release.

Tour staff learned that rehabilitative programming is possible even under the most secure conditions. At SAC, they observed the inmates during a Step Down Program group session at the Psychiatric Services Unit treatment center. These inmates were confined in their treatment modules as they took part in discussions. Academic teachers were observed making cell-front visits to inmates.

The tour concluded at FWF’s Reentry Hub facility. Inmates were observed in small group discussions, studying, participating in recreational activities and attending class. In one program, inmates were training a puppy to become a service dog, thus showing that therapy can exist in various formats.

“This tour allowed headquarters staff to experience the continuum of care first hand and the complete wrap-around services provided by DRP to each inmate, no matter where they are in their journey,” concluded Richelle Garcia. ■

The right inmate, in the right program, at the right time:

Computer Literacy Learning Centers (CLLC):

Offers computer-based courses provided by certified instructors for basic reading, writing and math.

Day Reporting Centers (DRC) and Community-Based Coalition (CBC):

Addresses parolees' needs through assessment and placement in classes and support services. One stop shop for education, life skills, financial and employment training, substance abuse and counseling. Some transitional housing available.

Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program (FOTEP):

Provides gender-responsive residential treatment services for women and their children.

Parolee Service Centers (PSC):

Provides group and family reunification, life skills and employment skills in a residential program.

Residential Multi-Service Centers (RMSC):

Helps at-risk parolees transition back into the community with housing, substance abuse treatment and independent living skills.

Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP):

Provides comprehensive residential and outpatient programs and services supporting parolees needs for housing, substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral intervention, employment, education, family relations and community referrals.

Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Program (STAR):

Provides substance abuse treatment education by certified instructors in select parole offices.

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said as she outlined the progression of DRP's historical accomplishments.

Guest speakers included:

- **Scott Kernan** - Undersecretary of Operations, CDCR
- **Dan Stone** - Director, Division of Adult Parole Operations
- **Kathleen Allison** - Deputy Director, Division of Adult Institutions, Facility Support
- **William Muniz** - Warden, Salinas Valley State Prison
- **Dr. Brant Choate** - Superintendent, Office of Correctional Education
- **Robert Downs** - Associate Director, DRP, Office of Program Accountability and Support (OPAS)
- **Bob Oates** - Correctional Counselor II, DRP

Program presentations included:

- Cal-ID Card Program
- Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP)
- Step Down Program (SDP)
- Long Term Offender Pilot Program (LTOPP)
- Automated Rehabilitation Catalog and Information Discovery Machine (ARCAID)
- Automated Reentry Management System (ARMS)
- Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP)

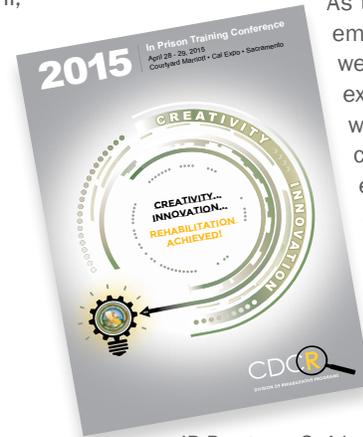
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The creativity and innovation theme was chosen to share ideas and collaborate. Strategies included program enrollment and building relationships throughout the institutions with both custody staff and program providers.

The conference was also designed to break down communication barriers. Participant feedback revealed that many felt that the doors of communication were now open due to this approach.

Three awards were given for contributions to the new Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP): Correctional Counselor III Carlos Ramirez (California Institution for Men); Jay Poffek (California Rehabilitation Center), and Ismael Alomari, (Wasco State Prison).

As the building emptied, attendees were overheard exclaiming "This was the best CDCR conference I ever attended..." and "We should do this every year!"



IP Program Guide and Poster

Making "Magic" Happen in the Institution



Salinas Valley State Prison Warden William Muniz's presentation during the In-Prison Training Conference described the contrast of custody vs. rehabilitation. Muniz used a metaphor to describe **Custody** mentality being similar to the physiological stress response experienced in the fight or flight survival mode. During moments of extreme stress, much like what occurs biologically, the prison system reallocates all resources to



the sole purpose of surviving the moment. In contrast, the **Rehabilitation** mentality is described as creative and innovative — where the "magic occurs within the institution." Inmates have testified that the magic created within rehabilitative groups cannot occur elsewhere inside a typical correctional environment. Warden Muniz stressed that the balance between the two realms of custody and rehabilitation has to happen. "If the magic of rehabilitation happens across the yard, then we minimize the possibility for danger when those inmates parole into our cities and our communities."

Photos from around DRP



1. Nikita Singh and Ashlee Hedgecock from CAL-ID Card Program proudly showing off In-Prison conference materials. **2.** Outreach Analyst, Ryan Blanc from OPAS working on the new LTOPP video. **3.** Cindy Kawahata and David Alvarez, Jr. from Fiscal Services reviewing year-end spreadsheets. **4.** Brandy Buenafe and Dyana Feldmeyer from Office of Correctional Education (OCE) reviewing their new trade show booth for the upcoming American Librarian Association (ALA) conference. **5.** Bryan Yong from Performance Evaluation, Data and Fidelity (PEDF) takes the new ARCAID Machine for a test drive. **6.** Elvira Diaz from Community and Reentry Services (CRS) and Rachelle Riley from OCE prepare for the May 14, 2015 Director’s Stakeholder Advisory Group (DSAG) meeting. **7.** Correctional Counselor III Pete Cerrillo facilitating a Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP) two-day workshop at Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF). **8.** DSAG meeting in progress.

REHABILITATIVE ADVANCEMENTS

ARCAID Machines

Automated Rehabilitation Catalog and Information Discovery Machines enable offenders to find community-based rehabilitative programs and resources via self-serve information kiosks in parole offices (and coming soon to Reentry Hubs).



ARMS

The Automated Reentry Management System enhances case management for CDCR and contracted program providers, streamlining data collection while improving measurement of program performance and offender progress.



eReaders

Helps offenders achieve milestone credits with increased access to college curriculum textbooks. Tablets, pre-loaded with Voluntary Education Program (VEP) textbooks, are provided to inmates enrolled in VEP college courses.



Law Library Touch Screen Technology

Provides Administrative Segregation Unit inmates with electronic touch-screen access to the Gilmore Law Collection as mandated by Casey v. Lewis court case. This also reduces time and costs required to escort high security inmates to the library.



Internet Protocol Television Integration

Supports adult education on multiple-channel television networks for inmates, using more efficient technology and increased opportunities for milestone credit achievement.



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