

REPORT AND COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF THE PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED PEOPLES (PIPs) FORUM

Held in collaboration with the CSOSA/Faith Advisory Council 2005 Reentry Week Events

JANUARY 29th, 2005

“Raising Voices and Celebrating Success”



You've heard about reentry from everyone else...
Now hear from those who have **“BEEN THERE”**



Produced by members of the Association of Previously Incarcerated People
Washington DC

PIPs Forum Report January 2005

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the data collected from participants input attending the historically first Previously Incarcerated People (PIP) coordinated and facilitated reentry forum in the District of Columbia. This report does not attempt to evaluate any specific reentry program. However, it is an initial step in empirically assessing the "Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia's" final report, dated June 12, 2003.

The forum itself served as one in a series of week-long activities scheduled for the Fourth Annual Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA)/Faith-based Initiative "Reentry Week Celebration 2005". The unique purpose of the forum was to facilitate discussion and recommendations by Previously Incarcerated People (PIP) in response to "The Comprehensive Reentry Strategy in the District of Columbia. The event featured the testimony of several successful (PIP) reentrants that have contributed to the reentry movement and provided a venue to recognize their many contributions, successful achievements and visions for an inclusive, PIP driven, comprehensive, effective, culturally competent, and sustained reentry strategy for the District of Columbia. Additionally, the forum fostered a more inclusive role for (PIP) participants throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation of processes affecting them.

The audience and work group participants included DC's Mayor; heads of Local and Federal Criminal Justice Agencies and Institutions; Judges and Court Officials; Local and National Legislators; Heads of the various Faith-based Communities; Non-Profit and Community based Organizations; Service Providers; Family members of Incarcerated and Previously Incarcerated Youth and Adults.

This report serves as a first step in recognizing successful (PIP) citizens as assets and individuals that accorded the opportunity, support and necessary resources are adequately capable of addressing the issues related to incarceration, reentry, transition and corresponding challenges from their own unique perspective. Unlike the typical forums, summits and conferences focused on incarceration and reentry, where non (PIP) individuals plan, coordinate, facilitate and evaluate the processes minimizing the essential and unique perspective from (PIP) members; this historically unique forum in the District of Columbia established a timely paradigm shift reflective of greatly needed inclusiveness of members from (PIP).

The forum demonstrated what can be appropriately labeled under the heading, "Successful Reentrants and Reentry: Supporting Proactive Participation in Reintegration". Current attention to the reentry issue in the District of Columbia, where the only penal/correctional facility (Lorton) was completely shut down and incarcerated individuals were subsequently outsourced to other States across the country, or reintegration of the incarcerated individual from confinement back to the community, has focused primarily on providing limited services to previously incarcerated people. The specific model under which the District of Columbia is centered places the role of the PIP to be the recipient of the services that others (namely, centralized government agencies such as correctional and/or judicial agencies) deem necessary. This model is basically premised on governmental agencies or contracted private agencies organizing an array of services that they believe are essential for the PIP reentrant to not recidivate. Yet, addressed through this forum was the proactive role of the PIP reentrant in the reentry process. This forum altered the existing landscape where PIP reentrants were viewed and responded to as mere recipients of services and reinforced the PIP reentrants sense of accountability and responsibility for actions taken during the reintegration process. This process is an active participant based model, where the PIP reentrant is an integral part of the decision-making process for

examining the risk, needs and community factors that impact ones involvement in the criminal justice system, and then uses their unique experiences and accumulated information to strategically address reentry/transition needs from a boarder perspective. This report highlights the value of the PIP reentrants being proactive participants in the reentry/transition movement.

Background

During the month of November 2004, the CSOSA/Faith Based Initiative's Advisory Council met to provide policy guidance and direction in planning its January, 2005 Re-entry Week Celebration. During the meeting, the Council planned a variety of services and activities to celebrate the fourth Re-entry week, recognize the progress made by the Faith Based groups, and identify the challenges that remain. One of the activities recommended and agreed upon was a PIPs Forum... to be planned and facilitated by members of the previously incarcerated population.

During the month of December a series of meetings were conducted at several locations in the District of Columbia to have dialogue around the above referenced resounding emphasis on greater inclusiveness of PIP reentrants proactive participation in the processes of reintegration. Initially the sessions were open to any interested individual, but eventually shifted to having the primary role and responsibility for the unanimously agreed upon need to put on a PIP planned, coordinated, facilitated and evaluated forum conducted by PIP participants exclusively. Representatives of CSOSA in attendance at the initial sessions likewise agreed and similarly agreed to support the effort primarily through technical assistance.

Prior to the PIP forum taking place at the newly established, state of the arts Youth Services facility located at 1000 Mt. Olivet Road, NE, Washington, DC, from 8:30 AM until :00 PM, a committed group of successful PIP reentrants of both genders worked tirelessly to effectively plan this historically unique PIP coordinated event.

History

Most historical events take place *at* a certain point in time; however, many of these occurrences are the manifest expression of ideas and actions that have evolved *from* a certain point in time.

This call for "Raising Our Voices" and "Celebrating Our Success" typifies the ripen expression of an evolved idea who's time had come. This call is reflective of a positive evolvement of a once defiant and rebellious spirit uniquely manifested among the incarcerated population of Washington DC. This culture of institutional defiance may well have originated at the same sight, then called "Mt.Olivet Receiving Home" (a first place of incarceration for many of the PIPs at the Forum).

As these defiant and rebellious youth graduated to other DC Department of Corrections institutions such as; Cedar Knoll, National Training School, Lorton Youth Centers and Lorton Reformatory, during the late fifties and early sixties, they were often shipped all over the country. They gained a reputation and showed unparallel defiance to prison and court authorities, throughout the United States. This spirit was symbolized by the slogan "hang tough" being exchanged in passing, as they were moved about and scattered all over this country, to minimize their collective influence throughout the State and Federal Prison Systems.

During this same period, major prisoner's rights decisions were won by DC prisoners, as a result of this spirit. After a guard riot in Lorton, (November 1968), prisoner riots at DC Jail, Youth Center #1 and an aborted uprising, (when the power failed), at the Reformatory, a new visionary prison

administration permitted the rise of a self help movement during the late sixties and early seventies. This was a period of hope and inspiration during which the hereto forth, rebellious spirits evolved, (influenced in part by the Civil Rights Movement), to a state of accepting responsibility for self improvement and outreach to the community.

This period echoed the sentiment expressed in one groups slogan.” Help us to help ourselves”... Many community institutions responded and embraced them, acknowledging the value of their contributions. The Smithsonian Anacostia Neighborhood Museum created a major exhibit highlighting the positive accomplishments of the once “rebellious spirits” who were emerging as a transforming and healing force. These reformed prisoners had reached inside for self-help, and reached outside to help cure the community of ills that they had previously contributed to. They knew that they were the missing element in their homes and communities, and that they must be committed to taking their place in the affairs of their communities and homes.

When the Lorton prison complex was closed at the end of 1999, the DC prison population was scattered again. However, this time, inside the institutions the old cliché of “hang tough” had been replaced by the progressive language and culture of self- improvement; “Programming.” Between the early eighties and up to this day, these self-help reformers have perpetuated the notion of programming, across the land and inside the institutions as their counterparts returned to DC communities achieving unparalleled success in every arena of societal pursuits.

The accomplishments achieved by these torch-bearers of reformation are far too vast to site here. They included, but were not limited to, local and international honors in the fields of education, business, commerce, law, politics, religion, sports, communication, transportation, and technology. Having “been there”, many of them possess a unique skill set and passion that provides them with the disposition to help troubled youth and to positively impact the communities that produce them. This quality of having navigated the course also provides unique qualifications in the process called “Reentry”.

“We share the belief that the individuals who a program or initiative is designed to assist should participate and play an active role throughout its planning, implementation and evaluation.” This is the motivating force that led to the first PIPs “Reentry Forum.” The fact that this historical event was held at the new Youth Service Facility, the site of the old Mt Olivet Receiving Home, and that it was the first community use of the facility, is believed to be a sign of divine intervention.

This Forum Report, like the forum itself is dedicated to all of the beautiful souls who came through these hollowed District of Columbia institutions, and are no longer with us. Even if wrongfully expressed, previously incarcerated people’s defiance to an unjust system that still seeks to marginalize our legitimacy is a source of inspiration.

We honor that courage!

A summary of the identified issues, weaknesses and strengths, as well as recommendations and proposed next steps surrounding the Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia final report was provided by input from participants through the following workshops:

Previous Incarceration People (PIP) Workshop Descriptions

1.) Prerelease & Institutional Based Strategies

The purpose of this workshop is to address the prerelease & institutional based needs of Federal Bureau of Prisons and Rivers Correctional Facility populations returning to the District of Columbia. Workshop participants will review, discuss and make needs based recommendations related to The Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia, June 12, 2003, Final Report. Participants may note strengths and weaknesses of the “Strategy” or share examples of successful practices. You will be encouraged to recommend short-term action plans as follow-up to this forum.

PIP Facilitators: Wallace “Syed” Kirby & Amin Hassan Muslim

2.) **Transitional & Reintegration Strategies**. The purpose of this workshop is to review, discuss and make needs based recommendations related to The Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia, June 12, 2003, Final Report. Workshop participants may assess the current transitional continuum focusing on critical needs within the following phases of post incarceration:

a.) Immediate transition - from the first day of return thru the first three months.

b.) Reintegration – three months to one year after return.

Participants will be encouraged to recommend action plans as follow-up to this forum.

PIP Facilitators: Rodney Mitchell & Archie Childs

3.) Youth, Women & Family Reunification Strategies

The purpose of this workshop is to review, discuss and make needs based recommendations related to The Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia, June 12, 2003, Final Report. Workshop participants may determine where these uniquely impacted collateral populations qualify for inclusion and, or specialized emphasis throughout the reentry process. Participants may recommend additional strategies, and will be encouraged to recommend short-term action plans as follow-up to this forum.

PIP Facilitators: Tyrone Parker & Reverend Dr. Yvonne Cooper

4.) **Legislation, Advocacy & Research Strategies** The purpose of this workshop is to review, discuss and make needs based recommendations related to The Comprehensive Reentry Strategy for Adults in the District of Columbia, June 12, 2003, Final Report. Workshop participants may note strengths and weaknesses of the “Strategy” and share examples of model legislation, policies and successful research practices. Participants may examine how previously incarcerated people can impact legislation and play an active role throughout its planning, implementation and evaluation. Participants will be encouraged to recommend action plans as follow-up to this forum.

PIP Facilitators: Clifton Johnson & Reverend Willie Anderson

Summarizations of the workshops are provided in the following pages:

PRERELEASE & INSTITUTIONAL BASED STRATEGIES

The input provided by workshop participants reflected recurring issues that were raised within the workshop on Transition and Reintegration in many areas.

Issues Weaknesses:

- ❑ Need for better-coordinated, comprehensive health care process doing every phase of incarceration
- ❑ Lack of coordinated process for assisting PIP's in obtaining essential identification documents
- ❑ Lack of data systems established in half-way houses
- ❑ Lack of meaningful collaboration between public/private, faith-based, community based and correctional agencies
- ❑ Lack of involvement of PIP's within decision-making processes
- ❑ Lack of adequate intake and assessment process that follows an incarcerated individual throughout all phases of incarceration
- ❑ Lack of current and changing existing resource information provided to incarcerated and previously incarcerated individuals
- ❑ Need for expansion of affordable, reliable transportation services to distant correctional facilities
- ❑ Expansion of creative, innovative, culturally competent family reunification programs within correctional settings
- ❑ Establishment of PIP involved Speaker's Bureau
- ❑ Development and establishment of institutionally based Rites-of-Passage initiative with focus on the incarceration experience
- ❑ Lack of a comprehensive, uniquely designed Vocational training model

Strengths:

- ❑ Establishment of a current relationship with the Department of Motor Vehicles and Social Security Administration that makes the process more user friendly and accessible through collaboration

Recommendations:

- ❑ Explore issues surrounding system changes within the criminal justice system itself
- ❑ Establish mechanisms to effectively and consistently disseminate resource information to incarcerated citizens
- ❑ Explore educational and training resources and possibilities for incarcerated citizens
- ❑ Mobilize PIP special interest group to advocate effectively on their own behalf
- ❑ CDC's establish private Community Corrections Centers
- ❑ Family/mentor involvement on re-entry Teams (Case Management)

Next Steps:

- ❑ Form a PIP lead Union

- ❑ Adapt incarcerated individuals and support them inside
- ❑ Assist in developing re-entry care packages and information packets
- ❑ Improve involvement in the Ex-offender (PIP) Political Action Coalition efforts

TRANSITIONAL AND REINTEGRATION STRATEGIES

Issues Weaknesses

- ❑ Mental health issues are not factored into transitional housing initiatives
- ❑ Weaknesses in the assessment process results in potential technical violations for reentrants
- ❑ Need for understanding the impact of the eradicating homelessness on reentrants
- ❑ Lack of appropriate process to afford de-institutionalization
- ❑ There's a deficit of support systems existing in neighborhoods and within families
- ❑ Need to develop realistic partnerships with CSOSA whereby its Case Management process includes a PIP Re-entry Specialist
- ❑ Many returning citizens have no family support base to return to

Strengths:

- ❑ None identified.

Recommendations:

- ❑ Expand the establishment of transitional housing and supportive services
- ❑ Further explore alternative temporary housing efforts, e.g., through church members, CBO's willing to house reentrants on emergency basis
- ❑ Education and training upon release from prison
- ❑ Greater input in the decision making process related to education and training initiatives
- ❑ Re-establish educational programs in prisons (e.g. College Degrees)
- ❑ Develop resource directory with information on employment and training opportunities
- ❑ Include spiritual components within training and educational initiatives
- ❑ Explore the social/economic factors within neighborhoods and families relating to re-integration
- ❑ Establish a comprehensive process that would engage families in preparing for returning family members

Next Steps

- ❑ Identify funding for more training programs
- ❑ Establish a Special Task Force that could develop a comprehensive housing model
- ❑ Pool resources to develop and establish temporary and long term housing opportunities for re-entrants (Example: DCHA, DHCD, Enterprise Foundation, NCCED, and CBO's)
- ❑ Establish venues to continue PIP lead forums

In conclusion, the findings and issues raised from the historically conducted PIP forum while not new or surprising---does speak directly to the needs, concerns and ideas of the target population in particular with significant input from a large sector of the PIP special interest group. It should be noted that while it is always easy to identify deficiencies and flaws of systems, programs and services---it is

also difficult to ignore that only two (2) strengths were identified during the forum.

This is clear evidence that the people who need it most, feel that the programs, systems, processes and agencies are failing them, their families and neighborhoods miserably relating to all phases of incarceration and reentry.

YOUTH, WOMEN & FAMILY REUNIFICATION

It should be noted that since three (3) categories were lumped together it was a challenge to try and separate them, so consequently there was over lapping. It is recommended that in the future, the Youth Component be separate from the Women and Family Component.

Part I (Youth)

Youth Weaknesses:

1. Lack of coordinated services (for all targeted groups)
2. Lack of communication from parents; parents should be more open-minded; need a better connection with the children
3. Lack of Reunification assistance
4. Lack of proper assessment of youth programs
5. Lack of comprehensive gender-specific services
6. Lack of trust from adults generally; these needs should be cultivated

Youth Strengths:

1. None were identified

Youth Recommendations:

1. Involvement of the whole family; an inclusive effort should be made
2. Need more youth parenting skills made available
3. Need more education in family values and cultural standards
4. Youth need to accept responsibility and be more honest and show commitment
5. Older youth to be role models to younger youth and provide mentoring
6. Need a Leadership Development Program and Peer-to-Peer Partnering
7. Need an Anti-stigmatization Youth Campaign (avoiding negative stereotypes)
8. Need a Youth Summit to explore a pro-active process
9. Develop/create incentives that draw youth together
10. Provide resources, e.g., basics: food, clothes, shelter, etc.
11. Skills Development, e.g., Anger Management, etc.
12. Coordinate wrap-around services which would serve to enhance safety issues
13. Parents to reframe from overdoing punishment
14. Identify existing health services and enhance its capacity to develop effectively designed services to the targeted population (youth) in the areas of mental, physical and emotional health
15. Re-examine/Re-assess current political, social and judicial paradigms centered around punishment as opposed to a realistic focus on adequate rehabilitation: (a) Emphasis would better serve the targeted population if it were focused on empathy, caring and a greater sense of humanity and (b) there need to be a change of the ineffective laws and policies that now exist

16. Need to cross train Professionals with Para-professionals, i.e., experts in the fields related to criminal justice arena and lay residents and re-entrants alike
17. Establish a comprehensive Re-entry Resource Center that would be useful and beneficial in all areas
18. Establish a more effective user-friendly and inclusive process of promotion of community programs and information sharing
19. Need to institute an effective Re-entry model that would outline and apply the concept of “Each One – Reach/Teach One”

Part II (Women/Family)

It should be noted that this portion of the forum was limited since only 15 minutes were afforded to this effort since most of the time was allotted to issues surrounding youths.

Women/Family Weaknesses

1. None were identified

Women/Family Strengths

1. None were identified

Women/Family Recommendations

Establish a unique, comprehensive reintegration model designed exclusively for women and would be inclusive of the following recommendations, but not limited to them.

1. Family focused and more expansive transitional housing
2. A holistic wrap-around prevention/intervention approach
3. Reassess the impact of sending women so far from home when incarcerated, especially since it has made a detrimental impact on families and reunification services
4. Enhance and expand use of teleconferencing and establish means for greater accessibility between incarcerated women and their families and more mail communication
5. Create/develop and effectively maintain reentry/transition resource guides for PIP (Women)
6. Establish/Develop a comprehensive process that would connect specific programs, services and resources to incarcerated women that would serve to enable them to develop a viable transition plan prior to community release
7. Establish a better coordinated and comprehensive networking process that would include support groups, writing exchanges, sending packages, mentoring and advocacy
8. Expand on programs, services and resources to children of incarcerated parents
9. Establish a mechanism that shares information with parents/women who are incarcerated to they can be reasonably apprised of issues surrounding their children

Part III (Next Steps)

This portion was put in place and includes the *Next Steps* for Youth, Women and Family Reunification.

Youth, Women and Family Next Steps

1. Establish a mechanism to connect DHS Social Workers and School Counselors; they aren't sharing information and thereby causing confusion for all concerned
2. Establish a more comprehensive, coordinated process for inter-agency communication and involvement, reflective of the needs of the special interest groups, devoid of personal, political and agency-centered interests
3. Create a strategic process for engaging challenged, disadvantaged youth (Identify appropriate youth focused entities for establishing the mechanism)
4. Explore options and possibilities of transitional housing for reentrants and identify uniquely designed models that would remove the barriers currently existing that hinders such a process
5. Explore family values/traditions in the programmatic design of services and develop culturally relevant programs and services
6. Expand on existing substance abuse programs and services to include a greater family focus
7. Strategically develop outreach efforts reflective of the neighborhood dynamics and greater inclusiveness of residents
8. Better utilization of successful PIPs (Previously Incarcerated Persons)
9. Establish PIP Family Support Groups with emphasis on youth with incarcerated parents

LEGISLATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

This workshop focused primarily on areas related to probationary public housing, arrearages of child support, tax credits for housing, kinship/foster care payments and sentence reduction. Zoning board limitation issues were raised during the dialogue but tabled.

Issues Weaknesses:

- Lack of education about policies
- Need for collaborative effort of stakeholders
- Lack of collaboration of tenants to address public housing safety needs
- Understanding Child Support Federal Laws
- Re-entrants and families need more education about child support issues and laws
- Need consistent, easy accessible services
- CSOSA needs to expand and improve its educational process surrounding child support issues
- Review and re-assessment of current child support legislation, policies and laws needed
- More information needed about tax credits for housing and what currently exists
- Current system is not inclusive. It lacks real collaboration.
- Need to design/develop a re-entry specific component

Strengths:

- Efforts established to facilitate the reunification of families

Recommendations:

- Craft lobbying activities with DCHA Commissioners to use greater and more flexible discretion in enforcing the federal policies barring re-entrants entry)
- Review LAC (Legal Action Center) publication on public housing policies)
- Establish a mechanism to effectively inform incarcerated individuals on issues related to child support

- ❑ Develop a strategy to address victim's needs
- ❑ Include cultural competence
- ❑ Join current efforts being doing collaboratively around re-entry
- ❑ Include accountability for people not doing their jobs/or what is needed (Improve performance standards)
- ❑ Explore what the Department of Employment Services is currently doing in relationship to tax credits expansions
- ❑ Learn more about Work Opportunity Tax Credits
- ❑ Promote Federal Bonding program
- ❑ Explore federal hiring practices and what other businesses are doing to employ reentrants

Next Steps

- ❑ Need to find ready allies
- ❑ Determine who has the responsibility for developing the collaboration mechanism consisting of but not limited to CBO's and government agencies (Example: Maryland Justice Coalition)
- ❑ Review the Omnibus Re-entry legislation
- ❑ Connect with groups working on re-entry issues (Example: Justice Policy Institute, National CURE, and FAMM)

Appendix 1

PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE (PIP) FORUM

SUMMARIZATION OF WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS

A total of 73 workshop evaluations were provided from approximately 150 participants in the PIP Forum. Unanimously, all respondents found the forum useful and valuable. Demographic PIP data revealed that 28 (38.3%) respondents were ex-offenders/PIP, 43 (59%) were not PIP's and 2 (2.7%) did not specify. Forty (55%) of respondents had attended similar workshops/forums, while 33 (45%) had never attended a reentry forum. It should be noted, that participants floated in and out of workshops, therefore, workshops evaluations do not accurately reflect the numbers of participants in each session.

<u>WORKSHOPS</u>	<u>EVALUATIONS</u>
YOUTH, WOMEN & FAMILY REUNIFICATION STRATEGIES	21
LEGISLATION, ADVOCACY & RESEARCH STRATEGIES	8
PRERELEASE & INSTITUTIONAL BASED STRATEGIES	17
TRANSITIONAL & REINTEGRATION STRATEGIES	17
NOT SPECIFIED	10
TOTAL EVALUATIONS	73

The following is a summarization of written feedback received from the 4 essay questions on the lower portion of the evaluation instrument.

WHAT DID YOU FIND MOST USEFUL?

- Having PIP's as Facilitators
- Dialogue/Testimony/hearing directly from PIP's regarding their previous history and transformation
- Information that noted available community resources for reentrants
- Being able to meet other ex-offenders and explore future options
- Exchange of information
- Housing and Transitional issues
- Information on the pre-release process (or lack of) for PIP's
- The opportunity to discuss the issues

WHAT COULD HAVE MADE IT BETTER?

- Forum & workshops should have been longer (stated on 34% of evaluation) *
- Larger Facility/Location.

- ❑ Getting the word out to the larger PIP community and service organizations
- ❑ More inclusively of PIP's
- ❑ Having objective facilitators who have no stake involved in the issues
- ❑ Participation of more people who have been incarcerated
- ❑ More re-entry information to hand out to attendees
- ❑ Pass out legislation that affects discussion
- ❑ Taking out the ego's

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE FORUMS & WORKSHOPS

- ❑ Longer Forum and Longer Workshops*
- ❑ Workshops Lead by Youth
- ❑ More Policy/Politicians/Correctional Facilities/Service Organizations/Community-based and PIP involvement
- ❑ More workshops and more space
- ❑ Individual breakout rooms
- ❑ Workshops on Substance Abuse, Faith and Spirituality, Employment, etc.
- ❑ Strategic Planning for Women and Youth Workshops
- ❑ Understanding Mental Health Workshop

OTHER COMMENTS

- ❑ Create a Resource Directory/Guide*
- ❑ Discuss race specific concerns on incarceration
- ❑ Provide List of workshop/forum participants
- ❑ Please have follow up*
- ❑ More resources and focus on Youth needed*
- ❑ Have up to date re-entry information available
- ❑ Develop programs at CSOSA specifically for women*

*Recurring feedback

**PIPs ONLY - COMBINED SURVEY ANALYSIS, ASSUMPTIONS
PRESENTED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
JAN 4 & 29TH, 2005**

Priorities indicated based on subjects surveyed by 34 PIPs active in DC reentry efforts:

1. YOUTH CRISIS
2. HOUSING
3. GETTING REENTRY INFO INTO INSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO RELEASE
4. IMMEDIATE TRANSITION NEEDS ONCE RELEASED
5. BUSINESS / JOBS DEVELOPMENT
6. AFFECTING LEGISLATION, POLICY AND APPROPRIATIONS
7. GETTING SURVEY INSTRUMENTS CIRCULATED IN PRISONS
8. HOW PEOPLE VIEW PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE
9. PRISON INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Write in recommendations for other important issues:

FAMILY REUNIFICATION – 7
SUBSTANCE ABUSE – 5
EDUCATION – 5
MENTORING – 2
PERSONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH – 2
LOBBYING – 2
CULTURAL PROGRAMS - 2
FAMILY PLANNING –1
COLLEGE GRANT INFO – 1
AFTERCARE –1
CHANGING MINDS OF EVERYONE – 1

WORKSHOPS 1 & 2 - 1
VENDING LAWS RELEASED – 1

APPROXIMATELY 65% OF THOSE SURVEYED INDICATED THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM AN INSTITUTION OVER ONE YEAR AGO.

APPROXIMATELY HALF OF THOSE SURVEYED WERE CURRENTLY “ON PAPER” HALF WERE NO LONGER “ON PAPER”

66% WERE OLDER THAN 35 YEARS OF AGE

Note: In observing several of the persons surveyed, many started out marking (5) as their choice, then scratched it out and chose (1) indicating that they initially misunderstood the instructions.

One person surveyed marked (5), strongly disagreed, on practically every category. Although, it is assumed that this person actually meant to mark (1), their survey choices were not changed. This marginally affected the results of the total survey analysis.

The survey validates the issues responded to as selected by a group of 22 PIPs and prioritizes the categories as indicated above.

**NON PIP SURVEY ANALYSIS, ASSUMPTIONS
PRESENTED FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
JAN 29, 2005**

Priorities indicated based on subjects surveyed by 31 participants:

1. HOUSING
2. YOUTH CRISIS
3. GETTING REENTRY INFO INTO INSTITUTIONS
4. IMMEDIATE TRANSITION NEEDS ONCE RELEASED
5. AFFECTING LEGISLATION, POLICY AND APPROPRIATIONS
6. BUSINESS / JOBS DEVELOPMENT
7. GETTING SURVEY INSTRUMENTS CIRCULATED IN PRISONS
8. PRISON INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT
9. HOW PEOPLE VIEW PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE

V/S PIP OPINIONS

10. YOUTH CRISIS
11. IMMEDIATE TRANSITION NEEDS ONCE RELEASED
12. HOUSING
13. GETTING REENTRY INFO INTO INSTITUTIONS
14. BUSINESS / JOBS DEVELOPMENT
15. AFFECTING LEGISLATION, POLICY AND APPROPRIATIONS
16. GETTING SURVEY INSTRUMENTS CIRCULATED IN PRISONS
17. HOW PEOPLE VIEW PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED PEOPLE
18. PRISON INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Write in recommendations for other important issues:

EDUCATION 6
FAMILY PLANNING 6
PERSONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH 6
FAMILY REUNIFICATION 4
SPIRITUALITY 4
SUBSTANCE ABUSE 3
LOBBYING 2
MENTORING 2
TRAINING 1
PRISON CONDITIONS 1

FAMILY REUNIFICATION – 4
SUBSTANCE ABUSE – 3
EDUCATION – 3
MENTORING – 2
PERSONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH – 2
FAMILY PLANNING – 1

COLLEGE GRANT INFO – 1
AFTERCARE – 1
CHANGING MINDS OF EVERYONE – 1
LOBBYING – 1
WORKSHOPS 1 & 2 - 1
VENDING LAWS RELEASED – 1

3 WERE IN BETWEEN 18 & 34 YEARS OF AGE
23 WERE OLDER THAN 34

Previously Incarcerated Peoples Forum



Over 200 Gather for the historic PIP Forum



Sidney Davis (PIP) greets
USPC Deputy Commissioner
Cranston Mitchell



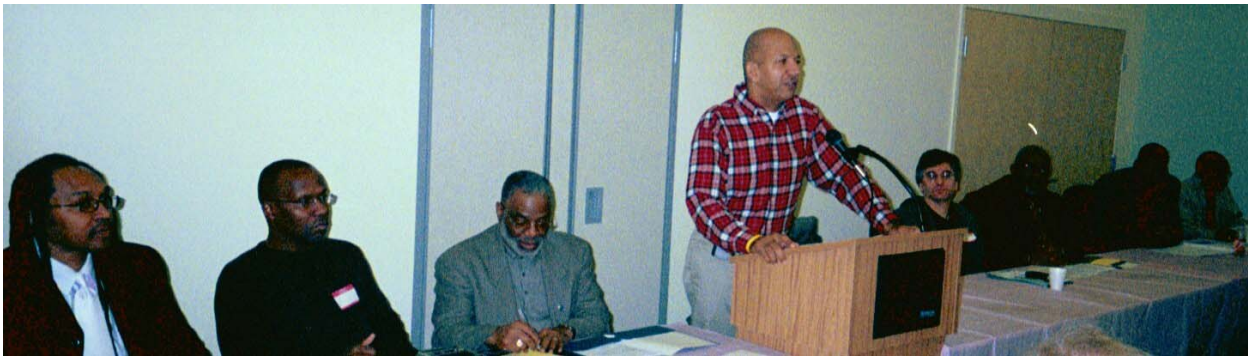
Willie Anderson (PIP) greets
CSOSA Deputy Director
Adrienne Poteat



Forum participants were eager to hear for
the previously incarcerated population



Attorney Rodney Mitchell (PIP) addresses
issues of Reentry to a packed audience



Mayor Anthony Williams greets PIP forum participants



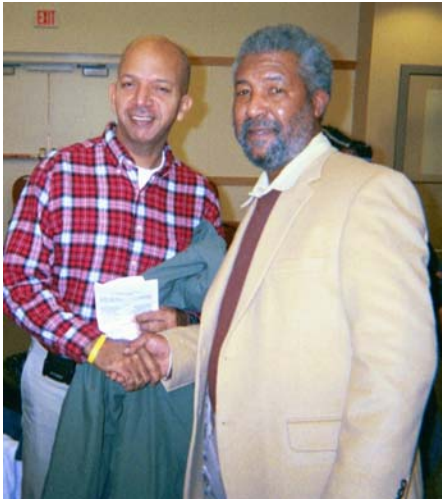
Vincent Schiraldi
Youth Rehabilitation Services Director



Vincent Schiraldi and Mayor Williams



Clifton Johnson (PIP) speaks on legislative and policy issues



Clifton Johnson greets the Mayor



PIP Forum committee (Left to right): (Standing) Maurice Roberts, Clifton Johnson, Mark Abdul Wali Timberlake, P. Chase El, Rodney Mitchell, Archie Childs, Abubakr Muhammad Karim, (Seated) Tyrone Parker, Yvonne Cooper, Yango Sawyer El, Ty Gray El, Wallace Sayyid Kirby, Amin Hassan Muslim, Darnell Bradford El



Darnell Bradford El, Yvonne Cooper, Tyrone Parker, Ty Gray El, Wallace Sayyid Kirby



PIP Committee Chair Minister Darnell Bradford El

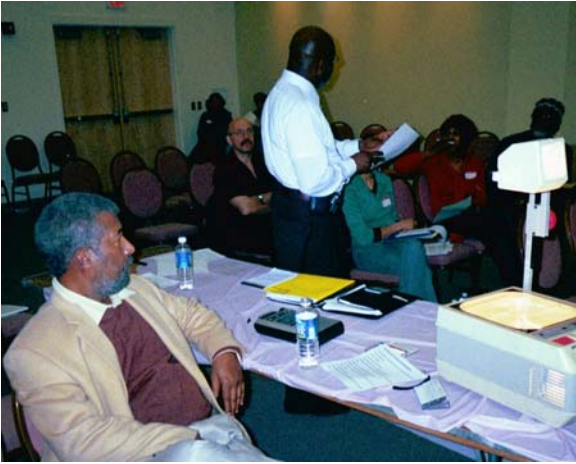


Rev Donald Isaac, Exec Dir of ERCPCP and Isaac Fullwood, USPC Commissioner are greeted by Minister W. Blakey Bey



Mayor Wms departs the forum held at the new modern YRS facility on Mt Olive Rd.

PIP Forum Workshops in session



Clifton Johnson and Willie Anderson facilitate Legislative Issues Workshop



Archie Childs and Rodney Mitchell facilitate the Transition and Reintegration Workshop



Tyrone Parker and Yvonne Cooper facilitate stimulating workshop on Youth, Women and Family Reunification



Wallace Sayyid Kirby and Amin Hassan Muslim facilitate Prerelease & Institutional Workshop while Al-Malik Farrakhan participates in dialogue and Thomas Woodson records notes.