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October 16, 2018

Establishing a Jail-Based Job Center at Century Regional Detention Facility

People released from prison often face daunting obstacles as they seek to reintegrate into their communities. These obstacles can lead to high rates of recidivism. This is particularly true for women, who face additional barriers such as primary or single parenting responsibilities, transportation issues, and safe and affordable housing, all of which can make it even more difficult to secure stable employment and financial independence. Additionally, many, if not most, are survivors of physical and sexual abuse, and, like their male counterparts, come disproportionately from communities of color.

Over the years, the Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD) have demonstrated their commitment to expanding opportunities for rehabilitation to the men and women in the County's jails in order to facilitate their reintegration into their communities. Currently, numerous community based organizations and other entities offer rehabilitation and educational opportunities to those housed in Los Angeles County jails.

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In addition to improving services geared toward rehabilitation inside the jails, the Board has also demonstrated its commitment to reducing recidivism by directing resources to help formerly incarcerated people access services such as housing subsidies, mental health services, and substance abuse treatment, much of it coordinated through the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR).

One key factor to reducing recidivism among men and women exiting the justice system is securing employment soon after being released. It is well established that incarcerated people who receive general education and vocational training are significantly less likely to return to prison after release and are more likely to find employment than peers who do not receive such opportunities. This is particularly true for women. Research consistently shows that incarcerated women respond especially well to rehabilitation and re-entry efforts.

Currently, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), in collaboration with LASD, is operating a Jail-Based Job Center at Pitchess Detention Center to provide a continuum of pre-release and post-release workforce development services to men transitioning from jail to the community. Similar services do not currently exist for women in County Jails, yet are equally necessary. Informal surveys of incarcerated women show a great deal of interest and motivation for job training, and linkage to employment after release. However, research shows that they have more difficulty finding employment than men upon reentry. In recognition of these challenges, the Sheriff and WDACs have indicated a willingness to design and implement Jail-Based Job services to women at Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF).

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), in partnership with the Sheriff, to collaborate with the Probation Department, the Department of Health Services, the Office of Diversion and Reentry, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Public Social Services, and the Chief Executive Officer to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a Jail Based Job Center (JBJC) at the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) and report back to the Board within 90 days with findings. The report back should include, at a minimum:
 - a. A referral directory of all resources the County can provide to the women at CRDF, both while they are incarcerated, and after release from County jail. The directory should include referral pathways for: workforce development services, housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, mental health services, social services and other wrap-around services provided by the County to support the reentry population, and specifically women who are justice-involved.
 - b. A proposal for a comprehensive, trauma-informed and gender responsive workforce development program that prepares inmates before their release from incarceration to succeed in the workforce, and that connects women to career pathway employment after release. The proposal should be informed by best practices and lessons learned from establishing the JBJC at Pitchess Detention Center.

- c. A proposed curricula and tailored services for specific career pathways in growth industries in the region, that includes but is not limited to; women in the building and construction trades, women in the culinary arts, and women in technology.
 - d. Identified stakeholders and a proposal for a high road partnership model to place the reentry population into vacant and available jobs upon completion of training.
 - e. Proposed metrics to evaluate the outcomes of the program.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to report back within 90 days on the County resources available to support the JBJC and, in collaboration with the Center for Strategic Partnerships, identify external funding opportunities, including private partnerships, grant opportunities and philanthropic funding, to support the proposed JBJC model and report back to the Board in writing.
 3. Direct WDACS, in partnership with the Sheriff, and other relevant County Departments, to report back to the Board in 180 days with a proposal for transitioning and implementing a Jail Based Job Center model at Mira Loma Detention Center, currently planned for 2022. Such a proposal should include an assessment of educational and job training entities, both in the Antelope Valley and elsewhere, that can provide access to job training and employment after incarceration.