

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HOLLY J. MITCHELL
AND JANICE HAHN

April 20, 2021

Sustaining DOORS Programs and Services

Right before the COVID-19 pandemic, each year, over 600,000 people were [released](#) from federal or state prison nationwide. Los Angeles County (County) has one of the largest populations in the country with justice system involvement, with over 100,000 people (prior to the pandemic) returning home from prison or jail, or on probation or parole supervision annually. People with justice involvement face many [challenges](#) to successful reentry into their communities, including poor mental and physical health, lack of housing, and low education and employment. Nationally, individuals who have been incarcerated have unemployment rates [five times](#) higher than those without contact with the justice system. Up to [75 percent](#) of individuals released from prison or jail are unemployed after one year.

In addition, people with justice involvement face many sanctions and restrictions that limit access to activities and services. Those living in the County, for example, face [500 distinct restrictions](#) on occupational, professional and business licensing or participation, education, housing, public benefits and property rights. One result of these challenges is fairly high rates of recidivism. In California, data evidences that about half of those released from custody are arrested and convicted of a subsequent crime within three years of release. It is critical for individuals to be able to access the programs and

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services they need to reintegrate successfully into their communities and rebuild their lives.

Thanks in part to a growing recognition of the human and economic costs of mass incarceration – and no credible evidence that it enhances public safety – state and local governments, including the County have been pursuing innovative reentry [solutions](#). Developing Opportunities and Offering Reentry Solutions ([DOORS](#)) is a community reentry center designed to provide an array of comprehensive supportive services under one roof. Over 3,000 people on active adult supervision report monthly to the Reentry Opportunity Center (ROC) where DOORS is housed. The DOORS model is intended to make services accessible -- based in and provided by the community that best understands how to meet the needs of individuals in reentry. The ROC is designed to be welcoming, culturally responsive and cognizant of the trauma resulting from involvement with the justice system. Similar to the Neighborhood Opportunity Network [Centers](#) in New York, DOORS includes a network of community-based organizations, County agencies, local businesses and community residents focused on connecting people on probation, their families and members of the surrounding neighborhoods to services and resources. The goal is to help clients stabilize and succeed upon reentry, helping to make communities stronger and safer.

DOORS is strategically located in the Exposition Park community, within walking distance from the Metro E Line [stations](#). It is also in one of the poorest areas of the County, with [32 percent](#) of Exposition Park's residents living below the poverty line. Most people are referred to DOORS by a Probation Officer. Since the ROC opened on July 1, 2019, Probation Officers have referred over 1,200 adults on felony probation to [services](#). DOORS is also open to the family members of persons on probation as well as members of the community.

To ensure the success of ROC's clients and enable long-term program and service planning, it is critical that the County identify a source of ongoing funding. The celebration of April 26, 2021 – April 30, 2021 as Reentry [Week](#) in the County affords an opportunity to meaningfully recognize the critical role of reentry services in reforming the criminal justice system, making the public safer, and enhancing community well-being.

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While DOORS is a meaningful program providing critical reentry services, it is part of the array of “care first” [services](#) provided by the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR). As ODR is primarily funded with one-time funding, the Chief Executive Office has previously been tasked with providing recommendations to secure the long-term sustainability of ODR’s work for existing clients and address the impending “fiscal cliff” ODR faces when current one-time funds are fully expended, which is expected to materialize in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Proclaim the week of April 26, 2021 - April 30, 2021 as Reentry Week throughout Los Angeles County.
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to ensure funding recommendations provided in their forthcoming report back regarding the ODR fiscal cliff, also addresses the sustainability of current programs and services at DOORS in FY 2022-23 and beyond.

(JM/CAS)