



Community Corrections Center

2.5.13

What is a Community Corrections Center? A Community Corrections Center (CCC), also known as a re-entry center, helps offenders transition successfully from custody back into the community as productive citizens. To that end, the CCC offers comprehensive programming to address the offender's needs, i.e. cognitive behavioral therapy, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health evaluation and treatment, education and job training, life skills training, etc. A CCC also offers programs like work release, community service, and electronic home monitoring which allow offenders to be in the community practicing the social skills they will need upon release. Offenders who are employed are able to begin to pay fines and make restitution to victims. The CCC is instrumental in securing affordable clean and sober community housing which is critical to the offender's successful transition, as is connecting the person with community resources so there is not a rapid drop-off in services. A CCC would cost one third less to build than a jail and have operating costs that are about half that of a jail. Bennett Report, Chap. 4, p. 34.

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office completed a report in 2013 that identifies the problems associated with reentry and makes compelling recommendations, noting:

"It is *not* the mission of the criminal justice system to impose lifelong disabilities upon people who have been convicted of a crime, served their time, and paid restitution and other legal financial obligations. State, county, and city governments should do more to affirmatively assist people with reentry, and financially support successful existing programs and nonprofit effort to provide vocational training, housing and education."

What are Spokane City and County Doing Now? Spokane County operates Geiger Corrections Facility, which is currently part custody and part CCC. Geiger's capacity is 616, but current staffing limits capacity to 250-260. Geiger is custodial in that it takes overflow inmates from the Spokane County Jail. Historically, Geiger had CCC programming for offenders but budget cuts in 2009 eliminated or crippled much of the programming. Beginning in 2011, that programming has begun to be rebuilt. Geiger offers programming provided by staff, contracted providers and community volunteers. It also has programs for community service, work crew and work release. It does not have an electronic home monitoring program or day reporting program. Quarterly newsletters on the website describe Geiger's activities and commitment to evidence-based programming.

<http://www.spokanecounty.org/sheriff/content.aspx?c=2889> (9.1.12)

How Can Spokane City and County Improve? The Spokane County Consultant, David Bennett, recommended in 2008 that the County begin to operate Geiger as a CCC. Such a facility could reduce pressure on the jail, provide a lower cost alternative to incarceration and reduce recidivism by providing programming to address the offenders' needs. He also recommended the design of a new facility that would function as a true CCC.

The current programming at Geiger requires additional support so that it can provide the required services for all of the eligible offenders. In addition to expansion of current programs, electronic home monitoring and day reporting programs should be developed. Services for offenders who are being supervised in the community can also be offered on site at a Spokane CCC.

On its website Spokane County describes its desire for:

"a permanent home for the innovative and sustainable Community Corrections Center which equips offenders with the necessary life skills to help them become productive citizens and avoid returning to jail. This successful and proactive program reduces recidivism through drug & alcohol treatment, high school education, Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT), parenting and life skills education, and work search programs. Offenders become more productive citizens by learning necessary life changing skills."

<http://www.spokanecounty.org/jep/content.aspx?c=2700>

Links for More Information:

Center for Court Innovations, <http://www.courtinnovation.org/>

Sources of Information:

"A Better Corrections System," Spokane County>Sheriff>Division>Detention Services Project, <http://www.spokanecounty.org/jep/content.aspx?c=2700> (8.23.12)

David Bennett and Donna Lattin, "Spokane County Corrections Needs Assessment Master Plan Draft," February 14, 2008, Chap. 4, pp. 28 - 35, [http://www.spokanecounty.org/data/countysheriff/jep/Needs%20Assessment%20\(5Mb\).pdf](http://www.spokanecounty.org/data/countysheriff/jep/Needs%20Assessment%20(5Mb).pdf) (9.1.12)

Spokane County Sheriff, Detention Services, Community Corrections, <http://www.spokanecounty.org/sheriff/content.aspx?c=2889> (9.1.12)

Douglas Marlowe, J.D., Ph.D., "Best Practices In Drug Courts and Reentry Courts," September 12, 2012, presentation to Federal STEP Reentry Court, Spokane, WA.

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, " Investing for No Return: Recommendations to Reform Washington's System Of Reentry To Improve Outcomes For Men And Women Released From The State's Prisons, To Reduce Crime And To Enhance Public Safety," PAO Reentry Summit Final Report 2013, <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Prosecutor/reports.aspx>, (1.31.13)

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