

NEW VISION

Introduction

Debra Boyd

Inmate Services

Debra Boyd

Case Management & Mentorship

Regina Price

Job Placement

Suzanne McSpadden

Performance Outcome

Ruth Fullerton

Inmate Services

One of New Vision's objectives is to build relationships with ladies prior to their release if possible. Several ways we accomplish this:

- **The Legal Brief Program** – provides regulation undergarments to indigent inmates.
- **Pen Pal Program** – builds relationship with the incarcerated woman through regular correspondence with a trained pen pal.
- **Gift Program** – is designed to meet children's hearts of the female offender/ex-offender. Touch the child, you touch the mom! New Vision provides gifts and other necessities to children for Easter, Birthdays, Back to School, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. **Special Note:** This Christmas, we will sponsor the children -- approximately 200 – of all those housed in the female pod at Rappahannock Regional Jail and females who make a request from Fluvanna and Goochland.
- **Life Enrichment Class** – a small group setting that provides time to deal with self-esteem, family, and dependency issues.
- **Inspirational Studies & Church Services** – are designed to meet the spiritual needs of women who desire to develop this aspect of themselves.

Case Management

New Vision Case Management currently consists of the C.A.R.E. Program (*Compassionate Advocates Representing Ex-Offenders*) and a Resource Center.

Resource Client

- Benevolence (funds for emergency needs)
- Identification Assistance (state birth certificate)
- Employment Assistance (resumes, employer resources)
- Clothing (New Vision Clothing Closet)

CARE Client (3-6 months)

- All of the above resources
- Case Manager and Individual Action Plan
- Mentoring (assigned a female mentor)
- Job Placement Assistance
- Financial Counseling (budgeting)
- Housing assistance (rental deposits, furniture)

Case Management is built on the cornerstone of building strong, healthy relationships and facilitates through:

An accountability environment that encourages:

- Mutual respect and open communication between client, case manager and mentor
- A cooperative spirit and teamwork
- Respect for diversity and inclusiveness
- Personal growth and celebration of accomplishments

Personal responsibility of the client based on:

- Integrity and ethics
- Accountability for results
- Clear goals and empowerment

Mentorship

Mentoring is the cornerstone of our program. When you look at ex-offender statistics in Virginia, the need for mentoring becomes critical because there is a high rate of recidivism. We believe that mentoring is an indispensable tool in the work of helping female ex-offenders become contributing members of society.

Working in conjunction with the case manager, mentors work one-on-one with clients to help them:

- Become mature and responsible adults
- Face difficult situations upon reentry
- Reach their potential in life and become an asset to their family and community
- Be accountable to their Action Plan

Action Plans address issues such as:

- Housing
- Job Placement
- Alcohol/Drug recovery
- Probation/Court requirements
- Building healthy relationships
- Spiritual growth

New Vision mentors are chosen based on their varied backgrounds and understanding of mentoring through **past experiences, biblical studies, counseling, leadership skills, and healed helpers** (ex-offenders/ex-addicts whose lives have been transformed and they are now helping others). All mentors go through a rigorous screening process and are required to attend a mandatory training session.

Job Placement

New Vision's Job Resource Program is designed to establish job resources for female ex-offenders. Finding and retaining stable and meaningful employment is critical for women who desire to reenter society successfully. Our program is a unique and comprehensive approach to increasing opportunities for women seeking a better way to live -- offering them real pathways to success and restoration – a key component in the fight against recidivism.

We accomplish this through:

- **Tools** – Creating a test module to determine job aptitude in order to match a client's talents and skills with employer needs. Goal setting helps build the ex-offender by attaining realistic short and long-term goals.
- **Accountability** – In-depth follow-up and job counseling provided for ex-offenders admitted to the New Vision C.A.R.E. Program. On-site job evaluations performed by the job placement specialist, employee, and employer.
- **Networking** – Initiating and expanding relationships with local area businesses (including temporary agencies) for the purpose of encouraging employers to hire ex-offenders. It is important to target a cross-section of employers to provide a broader base to draw from, thus widening the scope of opportunities.
- **Resources** – Coordinating with area contacts, including social service organizations, to provide testing and opportunities for participants with learning, mental and/or physical disabilities.
- **Statistics** – Developing a database of employee and employer statistics.
- **Education** – Setting educational goals including GED completion, selecting and applying to an institute of higher learning, financial aid and grant monies available to those genuinely interested in continuing education.

Performance Outcome

Measuring performance outcome is a vital aspect in the day-to-day management of the New Vision Program. We accomplish this through keeping records in a database designed specifically to track the progress of our clients and the services we provide to them. As we track these individual services/statistics, our overall goal is to show retention and sustainability at year-end. Year-to-date, New Vision has served clients as follows:

Services/Assistance Provided to Clients	Number of Clients Served
Pen Pals	30
School supplies for children	24 clients, 60 children
Birthday gifts for children	33 clients, 50 children
Clothing	39
Food	20
Job Search/Placement	20
Temporary Housing	11
Benevolence	24
Medical Bills	3
Camp scholarships for children	5

In 2004, the recidivism rate at RRJ was 83%. In 2006 (year-to-date), the recidivism rate of New Vision clients is 2%. New Vision currently tracks recidivism through RRJ and probation and parole.

