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Opening of Reentry Pod

Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi and Chief Adult Probation Officer Wendy Still are proud to introduce the Reentry Pod, located at County Jail #2. The Reentry Pod, scheduled to open on February 28, 2013, is a collaborative effort which joins pre and post release programs for offenders to improve public safety, reduce recidivism and provide the necessary continuum of resources for a successful reentry into our communities and the tools to complete community supervision productively.

For months before Public Safety Realignment (AB109) took effect on October 1, 2011, the Adult Probation Department, Sheriff's Department, Court, and city and county partners worked together diligently to safely and successfully implement this truly historic reform that shifted responsibility for many lower-level felony offenders from state to county jurisdiction. San Francisco rapidly and effectively implemented a comprehensive local strategy for implementing these far reaching and unprecedented reforms, which included in-depth community and client input. The Reentry Pod is a key component of San Francisco's Realignment implementation strategy.

The populations to be served by the Reentry Pod are individuals who will be released to the AB109 supervision of the Adult Probation Department upon completion of their custody sentence. These individuals include state prisoners who will be transferred to the Reentry Pod for the remaining months of their prison time before being released to the supervision of the Adult Probation Department under post release community supervision (PRCS), as well as individuals who are sentenced locally to jail and mandatory supervision under what is known as a split sentence (1170 (h) (5) (B) p.c.).

The Adult Probation Department and the Sheriff's Department have worked with community partners to design a rigorous schedule for up to 56 offenders who will be housed in the Reentry Pod. The schedule will engage offenders in individualized and group research-based interventions during their jail sentence, and allow them to continue these interventions in the community during their time on community supervision. These interventions include cognitive behavioral programs, substance abuse treatment, classes for educational credit, parenting classes and restorative justice programs among many other services designed to address offenders' criminogenic risks and needs, and develop an individualized treatment and rehabilitation plan.

Deputy sheriffs will work with deputy probation officers inside the Reentry Pod along with rehabilitation coordinators, educators, service providers, clinicians, case managers, and volunteers to ensure that individuals have established strong connections to community based treatment, benefits, housing, job training, and supportive services prior to release.

Upon release these individuals will continue to access resources at the Adult Probation Department's Community Assessment and Services Center and other public or community based partner sites. Providing this continuum of services pre-release and immediately upon release is expected to substantially improve outcomes for this high-risk, high-need population.

"The changes to the criminal justice system brought by realignment, along with the innovative and authentic partnerships we've established in San Francisco, have provided the city and county with an opportunity to redefine community corrections and reentry to create a system that aligns our Citywide commitment to protecting the community and victims of crime, changing lives, and breaking the inter-generational cycle of crime. The Reentry Pod is a key component of this new system—providing the opportunity for clients of the Adult Probation Department to participate in an individualized continuum of rehabilitative services that they can start in-custody, and continue while under community supervision."

–Chief Adult Probation Officer Wendy Still

"The Reentry Pod was developed in response to prison realignment and is a collaborative effort uniting both pre and post release programs in an effort to reduce the likelihood of offenders committing new crimes after release. We accomplish this together by infusing the principles of restorative justice of family and community while addressing the needs of the incarcerated and preparing them with the tools necessary for a successful reentry into our communities."

-Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi