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HB1463

Favorable

Judiciary

Baltimore Community Mediation

House Bill 1463 ensures all inmates, housed at a state correctional facility for longer than one year, have access to Re-Entry mediation, prior to release. Research shows that Re-Entry mediation rebuilds relationships and reduces recidivism by 10% for the first session and 7% for each additional session. <http://re-entriymediation.org/>

Re-entry Mediation Rebuilds Relationships and Reduces Recidivism

Re-entry mediation responds to the well-established need for individuals returning from incarceration to have positive relationships with family and friends in the community. Through Re-Entry mediation, incarcerated individuals have a chance to mediate with family members before release, to address conflicts and collaboratively plan for the transition to the community.

Re-entry Mediation Rebuilds Relationships

Re-entry mediation provides an opportunity for an incarcerated individual to meet, pre-release, with family members or others utilizing the help of non-judgmental mediators. Participants have an open, honest, and often difficult dialogue to prepare for the transition back into the community. By rebuilding relationships between inmates and family or support people in the community, Re-Entry mediation taps into the resources indigenous to the community, strengthens these connections, and allows for collaborative transition planning, involving the inmate and their family members. Since 2008, over 1,600 incarcerated individuals have participated in Re-Entry mediation along with over 2,200 of their family and friends.

Re-entry Mediation Reduces Recidivism

Just one 2-hour mediation session decreases the predicted probability of re-incarceration by 10%. Each additional session decreases the predicted probability by another 7%. This finding holds true when comparing those who mediated to a comparable group that does not participate in Re-Entry mediation and after controlling for other factors that might

affect recidivism. The correlation between Re-Entry mediation and reducing recidivism is proven with rigorous research.¹

Re-entry Mediation Program

The Re-Entry mediation program has been funded by multiple sources to include the Bob Barker Foundation, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO), the annual Run for Re-entry fundraiser, and individual donations.

The Re-Entry mediation model developed in Maryland is now considered a national model, with replication under way in three other states. Community Mediation Maryland built the model in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. The program was developed and evolved through a collaborative process, including those who had experienced incarceration and family members of incarcerated individuals.

¹ Find the full report here:

<http://re-entrymediation.org/index.php/general-information/2014-evaluation-results/>