



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
REPORT TO THE 2009 LEGISLATURE

HRS 367D-008
GENDER RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY BASED
PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Department of Public Safety
Corrections Program Services Division
December 2008

INTRODUCTION

The Hawaii State Legislature appropriated funds for gender responsive community based programs for female offenders under the auspices of the Department of Public Safety. The program design must meet the needs of the female offenders to include but not limited to substance abuse treatment, life skills, employment training and placement, parenting and a transitional support system as they re-integrate back into the community.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Hawaii State Legislature with information regarding the status of the appropriated funds.

INTENSIVE RE ENTRY PROGRAM

EXPENDITURES

The Governor approved the Department of Public Safety's request to release the \$175,000 on October 13, 2006. A Request for Information (RFI) was posted on the State Procurement Office (SPO) website on December 1, 2006. An informational meeting was held on Friday, December 15, 2006.

The Contract for services between WorkNet, Inc. and the Department of Public Safety was executed on June 28, 2007. The notice to proceed was issued on July 31, 2007, for the contract period starting August 1, 2007 and ending July 31, 2008, with one twelve month option to extend, subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory performance and prior written mutual agreement.

On June 1, 2008 the Contract for services between WorkNet and the Department of Public Safety was extended for one year (August 1, 2008 through July 31, 2009) in the amount of \$50,000.00 appropriated by the State Legislature through Act 213 (2007), Sec. 103(2).

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

To establish an intensive re-entry program for high-risk women offenders as determined by the Level of Service Inventory. The women receive intensive services based on the high-risk areas in order to assist in transitioning them into employment and pro-social lifestyles in the community.

MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY MEASURES

Number of cases reviewed:	114
Number of Intakes	85
Number of Placements by Phase	85
Number of sessions conducted (2 or 3 Hrs)	497

Number of Drops/Suspensions	8
Number of Job Placements	4
Number of Participants Enrolled in College/ Training	3
Number receiving Special Services	77

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Percent Retained:	91
Percent Advanced by Phase	N/A
Percent completed by Phase	N/A
Percent hired	100
Percent receiving special services	34
Job retention one year	N/A
Percent in new jobs	N/A
Percent special needs placements	73

In addition to the reported outcomes listed above there are other significant program milestones that should be noted. Of 72 enrollees, 25 were released between the starting and ending dates for this performance period. Two of these individuals have been returned to custody during this period. That translates to an **8% recidivism** rate for this first performance year.

It should be noted that of the 25 inmates released, only 4 were immediately available for job placement. 21 of these clients are taking prescribed medication and 15 are also under mental health treatment of some kind. We have learned that 100% of the returnees and most at-risk clients are mental health diagnosed individuals. We need continued funding for this critical needs sub-population.

The "token economy" structure within the program allows participants to earn credits to redeem for identified needs. One benchmark of the success of this approach is the increase in response rate for contact with released inmates from the program. Before the token economy, inmates would show up for community appointments at 28% of prison enrollment. Now the response rate is 84%. These clients have been a persistent and reliable cohort in their aftercare participation.