Press Release

Subject: Yolo County Day Reporting Center offers services to help Clients make Successful Transition in Life

Contact: Mark Persons, Public Information, 530.406.5172

Date: January 13, 2014

Many former offenders struggle to find success because the transition to life after incarceration is difficult. There are many challenges: lack of job training, lack of a high school diploma or equivalent, and the absence of valuable life skills.

The Yolo DRC program is a collaborative effort between the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), the Yolo County Sheriff’s Office, the Yolo County Probation Department, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The Yolo DRC opened in January 2013. It provides vocational training and life skills programs designed to teach former inmates and offenders the skills needed to find and keep a job. Clients also have access to educational programs, drug and alcohol treatment, and parenting and anger management classes. The services are offered, at no cost to the client, at the Cameron Training Center building which is adjacent to the Yolo County Jail.

The program provides comprehensive, evidence-based services to men and women on probation, parole, or releasing from the Yolo County Jail. The overarching goal is to reduce recidivism through effective community integration. This is done by addressing the causes of re-offending behavior, thereby strengthening individuals and families, and improving public safety as a whole. Clients are referred by the Sheriff, Probation Department, or Parole Office to participate in the program.

Partner agencies offer services such as GED Preparation, 52-week Batterer's intervention, and Substance Abuse classes. Additionally, these
partners assist clients with benefits eligibility, child support, veterans outreach, and other public resources.

Since beginning services in January 2013, the DRC program has served a total of 334 clients (289 male, 45 female). This includes 115 In Custody Clients and 94 clients on Electronic Monitoring (Out of Custody program). 111 of these clients were on probation and 35 on parole.

The annual cost to incarcerate 14.5 inmates would fund the DRC for one year. $120.00 per day x 365 days x 14.5 inmates = 635,000. The DRC has served 334.

The DRC has provided 18,628 direct service hours to clients (time of direct instruction) to date. 28 clients have achieved Alumni status, and 12 have received a status of 'completion', meaning they have completed their core classes and then became employed or other life circumstances prevented them from continuing in the program. 3 clients have received their GED as a result of participating in the DRC.

While on the program, participants are often involved assisting with Yolo County cleanups, cleaning roadways, mowing grass at county facilities, working at the Yolo County Animal Shelter, and assisting at senior centers. The volunteer work saves Yolo County and other organizations thousands of dollars each year.

Clients have attended workshops in the areas of Library 101 (learning how to use the library system), Record Expunge, Veteran’s Services, child support, SSI benefits, vocational training, construction and landscaping. 18 clients have been referred for training at the Northern California Construction Training vocational training program.

The Yolo County Sheriff’s Office-Animal Services Section has started a vocational training program using clients from the DRC to perform duties that were previously performed by inmates. This program is providing necessary training for clients, fulfilling a need a need for the animal shelter and reducing contraband into the jail by no longer using inmates.

The Department of Employment and Social Services (DESS) Child Support Division has held monthly workshops and had contact with over 250 clients who have participated in the DRC. Many of those clients never had contact with their office and never paid their support. As a result of these contacts, their office has been able to compromise, modify, and set up payments that would have never been received. Thanks to their efforts, and often the support of the other parent, in 8 months they have collected, modified, waived or compromised over $100,000 dollars in uncollected child support. Additionally, those who have gone through the program are now contacting their office to initiate payment because of employment or income changes.
The DESS currently has an eligibility worker assigned to the DRC 4 hours per week and has done eligibility screening on 307 clients, with 44 qualifying for CalFresh (food stamps) and 72 receiving medical benefits.

“All of us have a common goal and that is to help as many people who choose to be successful”, said Sheriff Ed Prieto.

In partnership with the Yolo County Library/Yolo Reads program, the DRC is actively recruiting volunteers for the Family literacy project to work with clients in improving their literacy skills. Interested volunteers should contact Elizabeth Gray of the Yolo County Library at (530) 666-8084.

For more information contact:

Ed Prieto, Yolo County Sheriff, (530) 668-5280

Brent Cardall, Yolo County Chief Probation Officer, (530) 406-5320

Maggi Schubert, Yolo Day Reporting Center, (530) 406-5130 or (916) 207-3441

Tim Herrera, SCOE Communications Director, (916) 228-2713 or (916) 952-7621