



# DOING THE MOST GOOD

William Booth, *Founder*  
Shaw Clifton, *General*

Commissioner David Jeffrey, *Territorial Commander*  
Lieutenant Colonel Vern Jewett, *Divisional Commander*  
Majors Tom & Julie Loudon, *Corps Officers*

January 16, 2013

Representative Matt Caldwell  
Chair of Lee County Legislative Delegation  
15191 Homestead Road, Building A  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

## Re: Community Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

Dear Representative Caldwell,

The Salvation Army understands that there may again be funding shortfalls that may affect the Community Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Programs. During these hard times, our beds have been substantially reduced over the past four years. We feel that retention of the current beds must be retained and we are asking for consideration to increase funding to save taxpayers' dollars while ensuring public safety and reducing recidivism.

A significantly large portion of people involved with the legal system today are there due to behaviors necessary to support their drug addiction. Larceny, fraud, prostitution, possession of drugs, possession of weapons, dealing in drugs, grand theft, assault/battery, burglary, home invasion, property damage, domestic violence, child abuse and child neglect are but a few of these behaviors. Our Program allows offenders to receive much needed substance abuse treatment, as well as life skills, relapse prevention, and develop a self sufficient lifestyle during six months of residential treatment. Offenders are then provided a six month aftercare program. *This is the only program of this length of service available in Lee County.*

**Our program has a proven track record of high outcomes (66% successful completion rate average over the past 5 years) that reduces recidivism (the latest DOC recidivism rate for Ft. Myers Salvation Army's Non Secure Substance Abuse Treatment Program is 13% for successful completers) and the cost of the program is less than half the cost of incarceration in the prison system.**

The potential savings of increasing just 11 beds to our program is \$275,630 annually vs. incarceration in prison. If you consider increasing all 20 programs by 11 beds throughout the state, the annual savings to the taxpayers increases to \$5,512,600.

We are all facing extremely difficult times with the local and state budget processes, but moving in the direction of increasing DOC substance abuse services will save Florida taxpayers more today and much



*"...For service is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need." -General Evangeline Booth*



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more tomorrow. Years of Florida Department of Corrections research indicates that DOC supported treatment is more effective at reducing recidivism than prison alone and costs less. In essence, both public safety and fiscal responsibility data supports substance abuse treatment for offenders.

The Florida Department of Corrections has data that provides the evidence of recidivism dropping tremendously when offenders who suffer from drug/alcohol addiction receive the proper treatment. When an offender receives necessary treatment—public safety is increased. When an offender receives necessary treatment—the offender rejoins society as a productive member of society. When an offender receives necessary treatment—the offender is able to provide proper care and parenting for their families, especially children who are after all, Florida's future.

Please, it's time to consider increasing bed capacities and funding levels for the Department of Corrections Non-Secure Substance Abuse Programs. The program works and saves valuable State resources.

Sincerely



Meg M. Geltner  
Senior Director for Program Services & Resource Development

Enclosures



## COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

### FACT: Substance Abuse Programs WORK!

➤ They are **COST EFFECTIVE** AND **REDUCE CRIME!**

- 'Offenders that complete substance abuse treatment are significantly less likely (44%) to be recommitted to prison, than offenders that need treatment but do not receive it'.<sup>1</sup>
- At least **21,545 Felony Arrests** would be **PREVENTED** per year – 'if all drug-involved offenders received treatment'.<sup>2</sup>
- Department Contracted Substance Abuse Programs; **SAVE THE STATE MONEY!**
  1. **SAVES ~\$105 Million Dollars** by diverting 1,800 offenders from prison<sup>3</sup>; in return for the current ~\$30 Million Dollars funding for contracted community substance abuse services, and
  2. **SAVES ~\$570 Million Dollars** in 'Societal Benefits/Returns'<sup>4</sup>; plus potentially,
  3. **SAVES ~\$98 Million Dollars** in 'Prison Construction' due to this decrease of 1,800 offenders recidivating to prison<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Recommited to prison for any reason (3-yr follow-up) with a 44% relative percentage difference (4.2 actual percentage points) between the groups, & assuming current slots/ beds and outcome rates remain the same per Bureau of Research and Data Analysis. 'Impact of Elimination of all in-prison & community corrections substance abuse treatment', report prepared by the Florida Department of Corrections, Bureau of Research and Data Analysis, dated 7/20/07.

<sup>2</sup> Journal of Experimental Criminology (2005) 1:159-189 publication titled, "Predicting the Effect of Substance Abuse Treatment on Probationer Recidivism" by P Lattimore, University of South Carolina and the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, C. Krebs, W. Koetse, C. Lindquist, and A. Cowell, RTI International, Springer 2005, I: 159-189.

<sup>3</sup> Calculations based on the average time-served of 32 months (2.67 years) for all releases during the last 12 years, the 85% law, and the projected annual cost to house an inmate from FY 2007-10 (i.e. overall savings = \$105M-\$30M).

<sup>4</sup> Societal Cost Benefits/Return for every dollar spent on substance abuse treatment from, Steve Aos, Marna Miller, and Elizabeth Drake. (2006). *Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Future Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, Page 9, Exhibit 4.

<sup>5</sup> Assuming current estimated \$98 M avg. construction cost for a 2,000 bed Prison; per Bureaus of Facility Services and Administration, Budget, and Analysis 'Estimated Cost for Prison & Supervision CJEC Projections, 2007 Session', revised Feb. 2007. Note: Construction only preliminary estimates that may vary based on many factors, including size and type of facility.

**If Correctional Substance Abuse Programs are eliminated, it is possible that no less than 1500 new inmates may enter the prison system. The chart below compares Incarceration Versus The Salvation Army's Substance Abuse Program for 1500 inmates.**

