

# Creating a Healing Community



SERVICE ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT, LLC

# Origins of the Healing Communities Model

- Impact of incarceration and reentry on children, *youth, families* and impoverished communities
- Record incarceration rates
- Law Enforcement solutions to social challenges
- BUT: Profound resources within communities of faith

# The Healing Communities Vision

- Engaging congregations/communities in healing and restoration by *treating the prison/jail in the same manner as the hospital*
- Supporting *their own members*: individuals and their families affected by crime, incarceration and prisoner reentry



# Healing Communities Build on Unique Strengths

Acceptance

Relationship Building

Love

Personal Accountability

Mercy

Forgiveness

Reconciliation

Redemption

Restoration



# “Healing Communities,” “Stations of Hope,” “Returning Citizens,” “Youth Justice”

- New language
- New thinking
- New paradigms



# Healing Communities

## Strengthening individuals, families and communities

Through:

- Creating a sense of welcome and inclusion
- Reducing stigma and shame
- Fostering the transformation of hearts, minds & communities
- Facilitating acceptance of responsibility for actions and behavior
- Building networks of support



# Reach out to:



- The accused
- The family of the defendant / prisoner
- The crime victim
- The family of the crime victim
- Returning Youth and their families
- The community affected by crime

# The *Timing* of Your Engagement

**Whenever help is needed:**

- At the time of arrest
- During the trial
- At sentencing
- While in detention
- Getting ready for reentry
- Throughout reintegration





# What Healing Communities do **NOT** require

- Setting up a program
- Setting up a nonprofit
- Getting funding



A Healing Community is *more* than a reentry or a prison ministry program

# Healing Communities: A Framework with Flexibility

- Healing Communities offer: Social Supports and Pro-social Skills
- Then partner with professionals in the community who can help with:
  - Jobs
  - Housing
  - Education/Employment
  - Healthcare
  - Mental Health services
  - Addictions counseling/treatment



Open your doors . . .  
And open your hearts

# Things individuals can do

- Create formal and informal networks of support
- Learn about the criminal justice system and youth justice and incarceration
- Identify partners, e.g., other churches, DOC, NFPs, Youth and Family Services
- Identify resources, e.g., education, entrepreneurship





# Expand the healing to the community: Public Policy Advocacy

- Support alternative sentencing
- Addressing conditions of confinement
- Stopping gun violence
- Improving rehabilitation in facilities
- Developing reentry strategies and solutions
- Supporting educational initiatives (actuarial tables)
- Address juvenile confinement in adult facilities



Next Steps?



How do we get  
started?