



American Probation and Parole Association

Community corrections agencies are active participants in the reentry of offenders to the community. Many offenders have extensive criminal backgrounds and a history of gang involvement. With more individuals under correctional supervision than any other western nation,<sup>5</sup> probation and parole's involvement in PSN is imperative. About five million Americans are under probation and parole supervision. With prisons and jails exceeding capacity and budget woes imminent, community supervision, given the necessary level of support, represents a realistic, cost-effective, alternative to imprisonment.

In 2004, the American Probation and Parole Association partnered with the Bureau of Justice Assistance to provide training and technical assistance to community corrections agencies involved in the PSN Initiative (2007-GP-CX-K012, 2008-DD-BX-K337, 2009-GP-BX-K045). APPA encourages interested parties to contact us or visit our website to learn more about what technical assistance and training we can provide.

#### References

- 1 National Gang Intelligence Center (2009). *National Gang Threat Assessment* (Product No. 2009-M0335-001). Washington, D.C.
- 2 Worrall, J. L., & Gaines, L. K. (2006). The effect of police-probation partnerships on juvenile arrests. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 34(6), 579-589.
- 3 Braga, A. A., Piehl, A. M., & Hureau, D. (2009). Controlling violent offenders released to the community: An evaluation of the Boston reentry initiative. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 46(4), 411-436.
- 4 Andrews, D. A., Bonta, J., & Hoge, R. D. (1990). Classification for effective rehabilitation: Rediscovering psychology. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 17(1), 19-52.
- 5 Lipsey, M. W., & Cullen, F. T. (2007). The effectiveness of correctional rehabilitation: A review of systematic reviews. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 3, 297-320.

The American Probation and Parole Association is an international association composed of members from the United States, Canada and other countries actively involved with probation, parole and community-based corrections, in both adult and juvenile sectors. All levels of government including local, state/provincial, legislative, executive, judicial, and federal agencies are counted among its constituents. By taking the initiative, APPA has grown to become the voice for thousands of probation and parole practitioners including line staff, supervisors and administrators. Educators, volunteers and concerned citizens with an interest in criminal and juvenile justice are also among APPA's members. APPA will continue to effectively provide services to its constituents. The association represents a strong, unified voice for the field of community corrections.

Community Corrections  
and Reentry in

# GANG INTERVENTION

PROJECT  
**SAFE**  
NEIGHBORHOODS

AMERICAN PROBATION  
AND PAROLE ASSOCIATION

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# PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

## ANTI-GANG INITIATIVE

- Street gangs are involved in a wide spectrum of illegal activities including drug trafficking, illegal firearms trafficking, and turf violence.<sup>1</sup>
- There are an estimated one million gang members and over 20,000 gangs in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>
- 58 percent of state and local law enforcement report gang activity as a problem within their jurisdiction.<sup>1</sup>
- Criminal gangs represent up to 80 percent of crime in many inner-city neighborhoods.<sup>1</sup>
- Evidence suggest gangs are migrating from urban locations to suburban and rural locations to expand illegal drug markets.<sup>1</sup>

The PSN Anti-Gang Initiative provides training to officers that have direct contact with gangs.

## Community Corrections and Multi-agency Collaboration

Street gangs represent a multi-faceted problem facing many U.S. inner-city neighborhoods, PSN advocates for a multi-faceted solution by incorporating a multi-agency collaboration in the prevention, suppression, intervention, and reentry of gang-involved individuals. Following are two examples of how community corrections has assisted in interagency collaborations.

### San Bernardino Nightlight

Involving a police-probation partnership, the San Bernardino's Operation Nightlight provided enhanced supervision to juvenile probationers. Officers made surprise visits to probationers homes, jobs, and schools during untraditional hours. Each team consisted of one police officer and one probation officer. Together, they made initial visits to the probationer's home to discuss the conditions of their probation and search the premises for drugs, weapons, and gang-related paraphernalia. The increased coordination between law enforcement and probation allowed police officers to respond quicker to probationers sited on the street violating conditions of their release or engaged in suspicious activity.<sup>2</sup>

### Boston Reentry Initiative

Targeting the highest risk offenders, the BRI developed individualized plans to reintegrate the offender into society upon release from the local jail. Beginning reintegration planning and services while offenders were incarcerated, the offender was given additional support from a designated mentor, assisted by caseworkers, to continue services beyond release. BRI utilized services focusing on the criminogenic needs of the offender. These services included substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, educational and training needs, housing, and employment. BRI was an interagency collaboration involving law enforcement, social services, faith-based organizations, and community corrections.<sup>3</sup>

## Reentry

The majority of incarcerated offenders will be released to the community. Effective offender reintegration is instrumental to maintaining public safety. Community Corrections relies on three principles of classification for effective rehabilitation.<sup>4</sup>

### Risk

The greater the risk, the more intensive the service and treatment provided. Higher risk offenders require more intensive treatment and supervision whereas lower risk offenders may require little treatment and minimal supervision.

### Responsivity

The method in which the treatment and services are provided will be most effective when matched to the learning style and ability of the offender.

### Needs

The services provided must match the needs of the offender. Offenders should not be lumped into programs on the basis of availability or a one-size fits all mentality. Drug abuse treatment, for example, should be applicable to the offender's specific addiction.