

FRONTLINE SERVICES

Correction and Rehabilitation of Penitent Offenders

Objective: To effect the rehabilitation and reintegration of probationers, parolees, pardonees, and first-time minor drug offenders as productive, law-abiding and socially responsible members of the community through

1. well-planned supervision programs for probationers, parolees, pardonees, and first-time minor drug offenders which are aligned to national program thrusts of the government, such as, the Sariling-Sikap, Jail Decongestion, etc.
2. establishment of innovative and financially and technically feasible projects for the moral, spiritual and economic upliftment of probationers, parolees, pardonees, and first-time minor drug offenders utilizing available community resources.

Scope and Beneficiaries: All offenders granted probation, parole, pardon and suspended sentence.

The Administration has adopted a harmonized and integrated treatment program for these clients to effect their rehabilitation. This harmonized and integrated program involves (1) The Therapeutic Community Modality (2) The Restorative Justice Principles and Concepts and (3) the Use of Volunteer Probation Aides (VPAs).

The Therapeutic Community Modality is a self-help social learning treatment model used for clients with problems of drug abuse and other behavioral problems such as alcoholism, stealing, and other anti-social tendencies. As a treatment model, it includes four (4) categories, namely, behavior management, intellectual/spiritual aspect, emotional and social aspects, and vocational/survival aspects.

In this regard, the Therapeutic Community Modality provides a well-defined structure for a synchronized and focused implementation of the various intervention strategies/activities undertaken by the Agency such as:

1. Individual and group counseling

This activity intends to assist the clients in trying to sort out their problems, identify solutions, reconcile conflicts and help resolve them. This could be done either by individual or group interaction with the officers of the Agency.

2. Moral, Spiritual, Values Formation

Seminars, lectures or trainings offered or arranged by the Agency comprise these rehabilitation activities. Active NGOs, schools, civic and religious organizations are tapped to facilitate the activities.

3. Work or Job Placement/Referral

Categorized as an informal program wherein a client is referred for work or job placement through the officer's own personal effort, contact or information.

4. Vocational/Livelihood and Skills Training

The program includes the setting up of seminars and skills training classes like food preservation and processing, candle making, novelty items and handicrafts making, etc., to help the clients earn extra income. Likewise, vocational and technical trade classes are availed of such as refrigeration, automotive mechanic, radio/television and electronics repairs, tailoring, dressmaking, basic computer training, etc. through coordination with local barangays, parish centers, schools and civic organizations.

5. Health, Mental and Medical Services

To address some of the basic needs of clients and their families, medical missions are organized to provide various forms of medical and health services including physical examination and treatment, free medicines and vitamins, dental examination and treatment, drug dependency test and laboratory examination.

Psychological testing and evaluation as well as psychiatric treatment are likewise provided for by the Agency's Clinical Services Division and if not possible by reason of distance, referrals are made to other government accredited institutions.

6. Literacy and Education

In coordination with LGU programs, adult education classes are availed of to help clients learn basic writing, reading and arithmetic. Likewise, literacy teach-ins during any sessions conducted for clients become part of the module. This is particularly intended for clients who are "no read, no write" to help them become functionally literate.

Likewise, linkages with educational Foundation, other GOs and NGOs are regularly done for free school supplies, bags and uniform for client's children and relatives.

7. Community Service

This program refers to the services in the community rendered by clients for the benefit of society. It includes tree planting, beautification drives, cleaning and greening of surroundings, maintenance of public parks and places, garbage collection, blood donation and similar socio-civic activities.

8. Client Self-Help Organization

This program takes the form of cooperatives and client associations wherein the clients form cooperatives and associations as an economic group to venture on small-scale projects. Similarly, client associations serve another purpose by providing some structure to the lives of clients where they re-learn the basics of working within a group with hierarchy, authority and responsibility much like in the bigger society.

9. Payment of Civil Liability

The payment of civil liability or indemnification to victims of offenders are pursued despite the economic status of clients. Payment of obligations to the victims instills in the minds of the clients their responsibility and the consequences of the harm they inflicted to others.

10. Environment and Ecology

To instill awareness and concern in preserving ecological balance and environmental health, seminars/lectures are conducted wherein clients participate. These seminars/lectures tackle anti-smoke belching campaign, organic farming, waste management, segregation and disposal and proper care of the environment.

11. Sports and Physical Fitness

Activities that provide physical exertion like sports, games and group play are conducted to enhance the physical well being of clients. Friendly competition of clients from the various offices of the sectors, together with the officers, provide an enjoyable and healthful respite.

The success of the Therapeutic Community treatment model is also anchored on the implementation of restorative justice. To highlight the principles of restorative justice, offenders are recognized to indemnify victims and render community services to facilitate the healing of the broken relationship caused by offending the concerned parties. Mediation and conferencing are also utilized in special cases to mend and/or restore clients' relationship with their victim and the community.

Considering that it is in the community that the rehabilitation of clients takes place, the utilization of therapeutic community treatment model coupled with the principles of restorative justice would be further energized with the recruitment, training and deployment of Volunteer Probation Aides (VPAs). The VPA program is a strategy to generate maximum participation of the citizens in the community-based program of probation and parole. Through the VPAs, the substance of restorative justice is pursued with deeper meaning since the VPAs are residents of the same community where the clients they supervise reside. Thus, it is practicable for the volunteers to solicit support for clients' needs and assist the field officers in supervising the probationers, parolees, and pardonees.

The Therapeutic Community treatment modality, Restorative Justice paradigm and deployment of VPAs integrated into one rehabilitation program have yielded tremendous outcome in the rehabilitation and reformation of probationers, parolees, pardonees, and first-time minor drug offenders.

Furthermore, the Agency believes that the client's family is a major part or support in the rehabilitation process, thus the Administration adopts the Integrated Allied Social Services program to address the needs of the children and other minor dependent of the clients. Under the said program, interventions relative to the growth and development of the minor dependents are done to help them become productive, law abiding and effective individuals.