



THE PRISONER AND PAROLE PROGRAM

of the

GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

1614 Wilshire Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90017

Phone: (213) 482-3062

The Gay Community Services Center is a state certificated social welfare agency currently providing a developing range of counseling, housing, medical, crisis intervention, social and other human services which are ideally suited to assist gay people who have found themselves in trouble with the law. Specialized programs directed toward both juvenile and adult probationers are also underway with a focus on preventing repeated or more serious offenses. Our agency is active in providing housing, jobs, and supportive services to newly released prisoners. Through our Prisoner Program, a direct outreach is underway to inform prisoners and prison officials of the professional and paraprofessional resources and services of our agency which can be effectively utilized in securing the earliest possible release of gay prisoners.

Preparing for Release: Every effort is made throughout the project to involve the prisoner at the earliest possible time in both the planning and evaluation of his/her program. Contact is established between the prisoner, the prison staff, the parole board, and the local parole office by the professional worker assigned to each individual case through our agency. Long before the projected date of release, the prisoner is encouraged to prepare a resume of past vocational and educational experience; to begin thinking through his/her housing needs; and, when desired, to make use of our agency in re-establishing ties with positive family and community influences.

Providing a Positive Home Environment: Our agency has gained an in-depth experience in this critical area of concern through its highly successful Liberation House program. In our first year of operation, these supportive environments will have provided food and shelter for over 400 men and women. Each Liberation House is staffed by trained personnel who work under the supervision of the agency. Each individual resident contributes \$2.00 per day toward financing the house and is responsible for assisting in both meal preparation and the collective maintenance of the house. The agency is also prepared to assist those individuals who may wish to explore other living alternatives.

Securing Gainful Employment: A full-time employment placement service is operated with the agency's Job Recruitment and Placement Program. The agency has established a substantial listing of employers who are and have been particularly sensitive to the needs and unique resources of the gay employee who may also have had a record of criminal offense.

Continuing Education and Training: Where warranted, the newly released parolee is encouraged to participate in those educational assistance and vocational training programs which are locally available through cooperating public agencies and educational institutions.

Providing a Unique Self-Development Program: Central to all agency programs is the process of individual growth through self-actualization. A full-time staff of trained and experienced professionals and paraprofessionals is available to the parolee before release as a member of his/her planning team and upon release to assist the individual in re-establishing a more positive affirmation of self. A wide variety of individual counseling and growth group programs are currently in operation. All these counseling programs are specifically directed toward meeting the needs of gay individuals living in, or returning to, a heterosexually oriented society.

Community Involvement: The agency staff working within the Prisoner and Parole Program are encouraged to provide the maximum opportunity for the parolee to become involved with his/her community. Those programs operated directly by the agency or through other gay community resources, such as the Metropolitan Community Church, go a long way toward providing the gay individual with the opportunity to establish a meaningful and productive life among real and enduring lovers, friends, and associates.

Professional and Paraprofessional Staff Development: Since its inception, this agency has been extensively involved in a wide spectrum of professional staff development projects. Through its innovative Gay Awareness Workshops, the staff of the agency have shared their unique experience of working with gay sisters and brothers in an accepting and non-judgmental atmosphere. Our Prisoner and Parole Program extends the availability of our expertise in this vital area of human interaction to the professional and paraprofessional working in the fields of law enforcement and crime prevention. The staff of our Self-Development Program is prepared to assist you in developing a Gay Awareness program tailored to meet the special needs of your agency.