A Collective Impact model to building connections with community groups

Areas of activity that are essential to moving Reentry work forward collectively:

- The importance of including people who have been most directly affected by the current criminal justice systems in both the planning and implementation of new effective systems.
- Integration of activities across sectors.
- Coordination of activities across sectors and in key areas in which activity needs to occur (Pre-release Preparation, Rehabilitation and Recovery, Mental Health, Healthcare, Housing, Family support, Mentorship/Self-Actualization, Transportation, and Employment).
- The importance of developing a robust database that is shared across sectors.
- The importance of identifying some "quick wins" to develop into projects that people can begin to work on together—both to build trusting relationships and to establish and maintain momentum, endeavor, and a sense of accomplishment. We heard too often, from people most impacted, that there is a lot of talk and that action is essential.
- The importance of including a preventive approach to incarceration along with an overall re-entry strategy.

Inclusion and Engagement of Stakeholders
Staff convene ongoing gatherings of program/service providers and people most affected by current systems; together they will work on quick wins for the near term, as well as an overall strategy to identify and select indicators of progress in each of the key areas identified.

Integration of Activities
It is essential that the work of criminal justice stakeholders be integrated with the work of a community-based advisory group. It is most effective when dealing with large scale social issues to have alignment and integration of efforts rather than operating in silos.

Coordination of Activities across Programs and Sectors
Staff will convene working groups including program staff and those most negatively affected by our current systems to develop action plans, identify priorities for action and ways to coordinate activities that make progress in each of the eleven key areas.

Data Base
One of the most important activities of staff will be identifying and organizing the already available data so that they can be shared across sectors and among working groups so that stakeholders can make informed decisions about priorities and identify key indicators of progress that can be used across programs.

Quick Win: Mentorship Program
In the short term, we can make progress on a mentoring program. Seek for grants to support paying for a coordinator and stipends for community mentors. Staff will support working groups to identify and prioritize additional quick wins to work on.

A Preventive Approach
While the focus is re-entry, we are also aware that prevention is one of the keys for addressing problems caused by poverty, the achievement gap in school, and inadequate job preparation of youth.Staff will be expected stay fully aware of and connected to the other collective impact efforts underway in the community to address these other problems and to be prepared to integrate the activities related to re-entry with those other activities where it makes sense.