



On Saturday, January 22, 2004, representatives of the National Religious Affairs Association (NRAA) of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) provided the first of a series of training and technical assistance to the Texas Offender Reentry Initiative (T.O.R.I.), a reentry mentoring program of the Potter's House (T.D. Jakes Ministries) of Dallas, Texas. Training was conducted by Rev. Warren H. Dolphus, President and Chief Operating Officer of NRAA, and Ms. Addie Richburg, National Training and Administration Director. A total of 28 adult mentor candidates participated.

Summary of Program

By published design, the T.O.R.I. mentorship program will pair a mentor with a same-sex, non-violent offender who is currently on parole. Mentors will be trained by NRAA, as subcontracted by the National Crime Prevention Council, to work with the mentee on a one-on-one basis to problem solve and cope with the obstacles they will face during their transition.

The T.O.R.I. program will provide each client with a case manager and job advocate who will be working to provide the client with all the resources needed for a successful reentry into societal life. The case manager will be in close contact with the parole officer to track the progress of the client.

The mentor role will be to inspire and encourage the client to stay on the path to victory, a role which will require a relationship and availability with and to the client as someone they can reach out for help as needed.

Eligibility criteria for T.O.R.I. mentors include:

- Must be a member of the Potter's House
- Must not be on parole
- Must be willing to submit to drug screening, if requested
- Have no pending charges
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must undergo a background check

Evaluation of Training

Attendees were asked to evaluate the quality of the training. Scores were recorded in ascending order with one (1) serving as lowest, and five (5) serving is the highest possible rating.

| Participant Evaluations of Presenters | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Questions | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | How would you rate the presentation by the facilitators? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 22 |
| 2. | Based upon the stated objectives, please rate the effectiveness of the session. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| 3. | How appropriate were the materials you received during this session? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| 4. | How effective was the session in providing information you did not know? | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 |

Additional Comments:

- A step in the right direction
- This was an excellent training
- I wish we could have had more time because the dialogue during each session was very interesting and informative. Truly enjoyed it and learned a lot.
- You all were very effective in everything and had awesome information for us.
- I think the program will prove very successful once implemented with integrity as does the Potter's Hosue and all kinks are worked out, if there be any. I believe this to be a very positive effort on the part of the Potter's House as was the church at Philadelphia in Revelations. They came to the church or Quakers who started the prison system and now the church has the answers for reentry back in society. Wow!
- I feel this was one of the most informative classes I have attended in the last year. I recommend it to others and both instructors were of the highest professional image. Thanks
- Good stuff
- Both Rev. Dolphus and Ms. Richburg were captivating and well informed. They gave clear and concise illustrations of all the materials.
- Excellent!! Much needed in the field of criminal justice
- Would like to see them train others to do the training as well.
- Well done.
- Well done job; entertaining and informative; Instructors were knowledgeable of the subject. Thanks for your commitment.
- I found the entire day to be informative, challenging, and enjoyable. Thank you.
- Great job!
- Even though I thought at first that 8:30a 5:00p was too long to be in class, now, I feel it wasn't enough. Thanks for the class and all the info.
- Our facilitators did an AWESOME job in presenting the material. It was very apparent that they have a
 passion and gift for what they do and are involved in. I was blessed, encouraged, and enlightened from the
 presentation. I appreciate how they pulled the participants into the presentation. A job well done!! I
 appreciate Addie being transparent in sharing her testimony.