

From: Javier Leon
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2024 11:25 AM
To: BSCC Public Comment <publiccomment@bscc.ca.gov>
Subject: "Los Padrinos Noncompliance"

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Javier Leon, I am a Credible Messenger/Mentor with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition. I have been working with youth incarcerated in Barry J. Nidorf (BJN) for the past 18 months. I facilitate self-help groups and mentor the youth at BJN. I was part of and witnessed the transformation of BJN and I believe that if we (Credible Messengers) are allowed to enter Los Padrinos, with a collaborative effort with probation we will accomplish the same positive changes as BJN.

A Credible Messenger with lived experience plays a crucial role in youth intervention and rehabilitation. Our personal journey of overcoming similar challenges-whether it be involvement in gangs, incarceration, or other struggles-makes us uniquely equipped to connect with at-risk youth in ways that traditional professionals often cannot. We serve as a living example of positive transformation, offering guidance, support and mentorship, through our authentic understanding, we build trust, inspire hope, and provide relatable solutions that resonate deeply with the youth we mentor, helping them envision and work toward a better future.

I also believe that eligible youth de-carceration is a vital step toward breaking the cycle of incarceration and providing young people with opportunities for rehabilitation and growth. By releasing youth who qualify for community-based alternatives to incarceration, we can focus on addressing the root causes of their behavior- such as trauma, lack of education, or limited access to resources. Post-release support, including mentorship, education, mental health services, and employment opportunities, is essential to ensuring these youth have the tools and guidance they need to reintegrate successfully, make positive choices, and reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

So, I am writing to ask you to please give us (Credible Messengers) an opportunity to work with the youth incarcerated in Los Padrinos and also a chance to collaborate with probation staff there to accomplish what we accomplished at BJN.

Respectfully,

Jaiver Leon



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Pronouns: he/him/his

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