

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS

PO Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



January 14, 2019

Pat Hardy, Co-Founder
Alternatives to Violence Project California Prison and Community Workshops
PO Box 3294
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Dear Ms. Hardy:

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) operating within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) adult institutions has been a shining star among the Department's rehabilitative programs. This program is beneficial to inmates with a history of violence, and those who have participated in the monthly workshops have received valuable knowledge in resolving conflicts without resorting to coercion or violence.

In partnership with the AVP, these positive attributes have been experienced by numerous inmates as part of CDCR's commitment to rehabilitation. By encouraging inmates to take on the role of program facilitators, this program provides inmates with a chance to practice leadership skills and to work within a group. This program allows inmates to earn additional time off their sentence, and further incentivizes inmates to participate in their rehabilitation and successful return to society. Participating institutions have received positive feedback from the inmate population, and as AVP continues to inspire positive change, it also fosters constructive relationships between volunteers and institution staff.

Overall, Wardens and staff are actively involved in the rehabilitation process and have observed positive improvements within their institutions. Specifically, Ironwood State Prison reported a decrease in incidents and inmate conflict. Staff and Self-Help Sponsors noted the program provides inmates with personal insight and reflection on their own behaviors. Comparably, High Desert State Prison reported a decrease in Rules Violation Reports on Facility A. Personnel work collaboratively with volunteers to ensure AVP runs smoothly and timely, and managers and supervisors regularly attend the AVP graduations on all facilities.

CDCR is supportive of the rehabilitative efforts of the AVP, and recommends this program be considered for implementation by correctional agencies nationally. CDCR is open to dialogue with other correctional agencies to discuss these experiences and positive

outcomes. The Riverside County Sheriff's Department recently visited a CDCR institution to observe the program and meet with workshop facilitators and, in January 2019, a legislative visit is planned.

If you have any questions, please contact Crystal LeSieur, Community Partnerships Manager, Office of Policy Standardization, Division of Adult Institutions, at (916) 324-5487.

Sincerely,



JEFF MACOMBER
Director (A)
Division of Adult Institutions

cc: Sandra Alfaro
Ralph Jackson
Mark Tillotson
Crystal LeSieur