



## News for the week of Nov. 16, 2015

### PAROLED 'LIFERS' TALK ABOUT CHALLENGES OF REINTEGRATION WITH GOV. BROWN

In a surprise visit, Governor Jerry Brown met with more than 75 former life-term inmates at the Vernon Central/LATTC WorkSource Center this week for a discussion on how the state and other



agencies can better help them reintegrate into society. Brown and parole boards in recent years have greatly increased the number of men and women being paroled from life sentences. Brown heard about a support group for so-called "Lifers" who meet at the WorkSource Center to help each other as they rejoin families and communities after decades in prison. Brown visited the WorkSource Center Nov. 18 to hear first hand about the challenges they are facing. Some participants said they are required to

enroll in months of support-group therapy before they can begin working, even if they've been in support groups for years while in prison. Others commented about barriers to getting driver's licenses and other identifying information. "I just want to get to work," said one man, explaining difficulties with the Department of Motor Vehicles. "We can talk to the DMV," the governor said, smiling and turning to state staff also in the room. "They work for me." Several in the crowd thanked Brown for their release, some with tears in their eyes. "My mom passed Sunday," said one man, recently paroled after 22 years behind bars. "You gave me the ability to spend a month and half with her." The Vernon Central WorkSource Center, operated by EWDD contractors CRCD, is working closely with Department of Corrections officials to help former inmates receive job training and find employment. Carlos

Vasquez, the center's program director, told the audience they had come to the right place to chart a new course. "You're the driver," Vasquez said. "You tell us where you want to go."

**Hire LA's Youth hits participation target:** Officials in EWDD's Workforce Division announced this week that 11,644 youth took part in the 2015 Hire LA's Youth summer jobs program. That number exceeds the 11,000 target set by Mayor Eric Garcetti earlier this year and is well above the roughly 10,000 youth ages 14 to 24 who took part in the 2014 summer session. Each year, the City and County of Los Angeles, joined by community partners, contribute funding to offer six weeks of subsidized work to youth in communities with high levels of unemployment. Hires are made in both the public and private sectors, and youths report that the experience helps them not only earn cash but learn how to manage money, keep a schedule and form work relationships that will benefit their career. The program is administered by EWDD. "I am thrilled that we hit our target and even exceeded it by several hundred young people," said Jan Perry, EWDD's General Manager. "In the coming year we hope to engage the private sector on placements at an even higher level. Summer jobs are the best way to provide mentoring and skill development to our young people."

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