Roundtable Discussions

Strategies for:

- Challenging status crimes
- Fundamentally changing the approach of the trial courts toward homelessness and poverty
- Educating decision makers and the public about the futility of our public policy on punishment
- Tackling the problems of poverty and homelessness by addressing their underlying causes
Criminalization of Youth (p.1 of 3)

- Education should be relevant to our communities (racially and ethnically)
- Develop & promote a Youth Bill of Rights
  - State youth
  - State activism: avenues for youths to express themselves; be true to yourself and your culture
- Racial Justice Report Card
- disproportional Minority Confinement Goals
  - Education, economics, juvenile sjustice, family system
- School funding by need as defined by student
- student involvement in hiring
- standardized Achievement test need to broaden range between failure & success
- Peer advocacy
- Don’t stereotype
- Better nutrition
Criminalization of Youth (p.2 of 3)

- Experiential education (music, etc.)
- Education Incentives (bus passes, cash?, gift cards)
- Radio and TV, more media aplying youth voices
- Police ourselves in order to promote positive images
- youth activities to open a dialogue promoting
- Empowerment strategies
Criminalization of Youth (p.3 of 3)

- Solution: In short, the people need to be retrained of what we were stripped of –
  - programs for children instead of incarceration –e.g. no juvenile lockups, no group homes that are interest in profit only.
  - Mandatory educational centers for juvenile offenders –special needs for special circumstances –not contribute to re-offenses
  - go to the communities for teachers, it is the community's responsibility to teach our children
  - More enforcement for our kids when the police targets them
  - Can’t get money from the terminator?
  - Communities can start a “Build a Nation” foundation where the “hood” puts money into our betterment? I
Housing Strategies (p.1 of 2)

- Mobility – need to coordinate between service providers across counties (need to confront problem that housing providers are limited by rules & restrictions of a single county. Sometimes being able to connect a client to services in a sister county would help.)
- Push for private housing subsidies that comes without federal strings attached
  - Safe housing options for immigrants, people with criminal records, etc.
  - This can come from pressuring city board of supervisors to set aside $ from city general fund
- Moving tenants towards ownership
  - Collaborative ownership options, sweat-equity
  - See Homefullness Project (brochure in POOR Mag. Table)
Housing Strategies (p.2 of 2)

• Lobbying
  – We cannot presume to be content with the meager amount of $ currently put toward affordable & public housing

• Tenant Rights
  – Addressing the challenge that tenant rights often in conflict with one another
    • Look to build tenant-run leadership strategies within building; also tenant housing workshops
  – Connect economic development, housing development, and community development
    • E.g. programs for employers to hire local work-force

• SF, conduct surveys to evaluate # of empty units in public housing
  – Pressure housing authority to allow tenants to fill those units, possibly through sweat equity & making their own repairs
Criminalization of Elders

• “SENIOR POWER”
• Tell your story!
Criminalization of Vets (p1 of 2)

- Educate yourselves about the costs of wars – 3 trillion dollars could be providing for the human rights of housing, education, etc.
Criminalization of Vets (p2 of 2)

• Educate yourselves about vets and their need for legal representation and the vets Bill of Rights
• Visit Swords to Plowshares website to learn more:
  www.stp-sf.org
Criminalization of Women and Families

- Collaborative share & bigger collaboration making connections to build consensus on this issue.

- Sex workers
- Young women
- Researchers/Academy
- CBOs
- Faith community
- Schools
- Mothers who have children in juvenile justice system
- Legislators/Policymakers
- Media – all types
- Public defenders
- Public agencies
- Advocacy groups
- SuperBabyMamas on welfare
- Economic Justice
- Reproductive Rights groups
Resources

• POOR Magazine:  www.poormagazine.org
• Healthcare for the Homeless:  (510) 533-4663
• Center for Young Women’s Development:  
  (415) 703-8800
• Lifetime:  (510) 352-5160
  www.geds-to-phds.org
Criminalization of People with Disabilities and Addiction (p1 of 2)

• Hold mayors, supervisors, etc. to deliver services that clients want – not just politically preferred
• Macro issues – politics, economics, power issues
  – Where is our money going?
  – Stop the war!
  – Can we ever change the micro issue without macro political changes?
• Coalition building
• Police training – but limited value because bigger problem is lack of housing
• Better rehabilitation in prisons
Criminalization of People with Disabilities and Addiction (p2 of 2)

- Develop comprehensive employment strategy
- Provide legal defense at initial point of contact with the criminal justice system
- Publicize incarceration as the more expensive consequence of not promoting rehabilitation
- People power – politicians and media come from people!
- Community control
- Improve public education
Litigation to Eliminate Status Crimes

• Create your own bureau of info and statistics for CA on homelessness so we can share information on #’s of disabled, lack of housing, cost & criminalization

• Coalition building between advocates for the homeless, disabled, youth services, prison abolitionist

• proposals that hit cities in the pocketbook like requiring disability & mental health facilities in jail.
Homeless Courts

- Advocate for outreach before arrest or citation to offer services/housing.
- Encourage criminal justice partners to advocate and inform the public and government about inability of criminal justice system to address homeless status crimes and advocate for more housing/services.
Media Strategies

• Criminalization of poverty as a media strategy connecting the global & local poverty dots in the media
• A journalist investigation on eugenist movement
• Expand our notions of what media is – “talking to people” – graffiti, hip hop, poetry, story telling
• WRFG.ORG
• The Bayview newspaper, Street Sheet, Street Spirit, POOR Magazine/POORNews Network as required reading for J-school at UCB
• Town Hall Meeting on Bayview Resistance
• Politicizing/educating media professionals on issues of poverty, racism, etc.
• Credited internships at POOR Magazine, the SF Bayview, and Street Sheet