

Latino Integration: Living In A New Land

A COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS MODEL



CONTACT PERSON AND PRESENTER

Carol Pulido
Probation Officer
703-228-0124

Manuel Vicens
Senior Probation Officer
703-228-0123

Arlington Community Corrections Unit
Arlington County Government

Objectives

- ▶ Living in a New Land (LIANL) how it help newcomers understand and adjust to life in their new community
- ▶ How newcomers get into this program?
- ▶ Program components
- ▶ We want to disseminate and heighten knowledge of LIANL

What you need to know

Objectives

- ▶ Living In A New Land - a practical approach
- ▶ Was modeled after Eagle County Colorado's "How to Live in America."
- ▶ What we offer- counseling and general orientation
- ▶ Designed for Spanish Speaking individuals who have recently arrived in the United States. It can be adapted to any culture
- ▶ Addresses the challenges these individuals encounter in the new land
- ▶ What do we teach and how we do it?

Barriers and Obstacles

- ▶ language
- ▶ Immigration Status
- ▶ lack of knowledge of the customs, social expectations and local laws
- ▶ Emotional Trauma
- ▶ Victimization

It is your choice

Cultural do's and don'ts

- ▶ respect people in general
- ▶ do not try to bribe a cop
- ▶ never use intimidation or violence to settle a score
- ▶ get involved in your community
- ▶ learn the name of your child's teacher
- ▶ learn to communicate effectively (Spanish, English, etc.)

Consequences and Legal Ramifications of Certain Behaviors

- ▶ Arrests for misdemeanor offenses - General District Court
- ▶ Supervised Probation and Special Conditions: good or bad?
- ▶ Court Order: if not now, when?

Program Components

- ▶ Expectations and decision to acquire new skills - “work with us”
- ▶ Repeat offense - “no más!”
- ▶ Let’s do it differently

The mission

Program Components: The Eight Sessions

1. Behavior and problem solving - what just happened? Why were you arrested? What were you thinking? What lead to this?
(drinking, fighting, arguing, bad decision from bad advice, mistake, take ownership)
2. Effective Communication and Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault - what is acceptable, not acceptable? Issues of control?
(intimidation, my way or no way, I am the man of the house)

3. General views of laws of the land - you got arrested, now what? do you know your rights, responsibilities and obligations?

(probation, courts, community)

4. Cultural Awareness - how do you communicate with the police? do you trust those in positions authority? are you ready to learn a new language?

(you don't have to quit eating arroz con habichuelas!)

5. Gangs - is this what you really want? your family, are you serious?

(penitentiary, face immigration authorities, death)

6. Drugs and Alcohol I - what can happen at home, at work?

(lack of effort or capacity to hold a job)

7. Drugs and Alcohol II - do you know? is your family at risk?

(think about the consequences of losing your freedom, your family)

8. Planning and Goals - are you ready to do it on your own? what can you do? where can you find the help and/or resources?

(you have to be ready to learn, change is difficult but that's ok)

Last But Not Least

- ▶ Referrals and brochures
- ▶ State Courts, Department of Corrections (probation and parole), Department of Criminal Justice Services (local community corrections) Juvenile and Domestic Relations (JDR) Court Service Units
- ▶ Community Corrections Unit
- ▶ Question and answer period

Thank you and mil Gracias

**“You can never make the same mistake twice
because
the second time you make it,
it’s not a mistake,
it’s a choice”**

Steven Denn



**YOU ASK THE QUESTION - WE WILL TRY
TO ANSWER**