

## **Reentry Committee Report – June 26, 2007**

### Priorities/Focus Areas:

The committee has met regularly in the last few months and began enthusiastically brainstorming the issues and problems facing inmates upon their release related to their reentry into the community. The initial list continues to be refined and the group is working to further refine the issues.

The group has also refined its own definition of what reentry means to the committee. It is in the first box of the attached flowchart.

The reentry committee is also very concerned with improving central system coordination. This may include the development of centralized resource tools to be used by both service providers and those in need of services. Creating helpful resources for use in Mayors' Courts has been discussed as well.

### Next Steps:

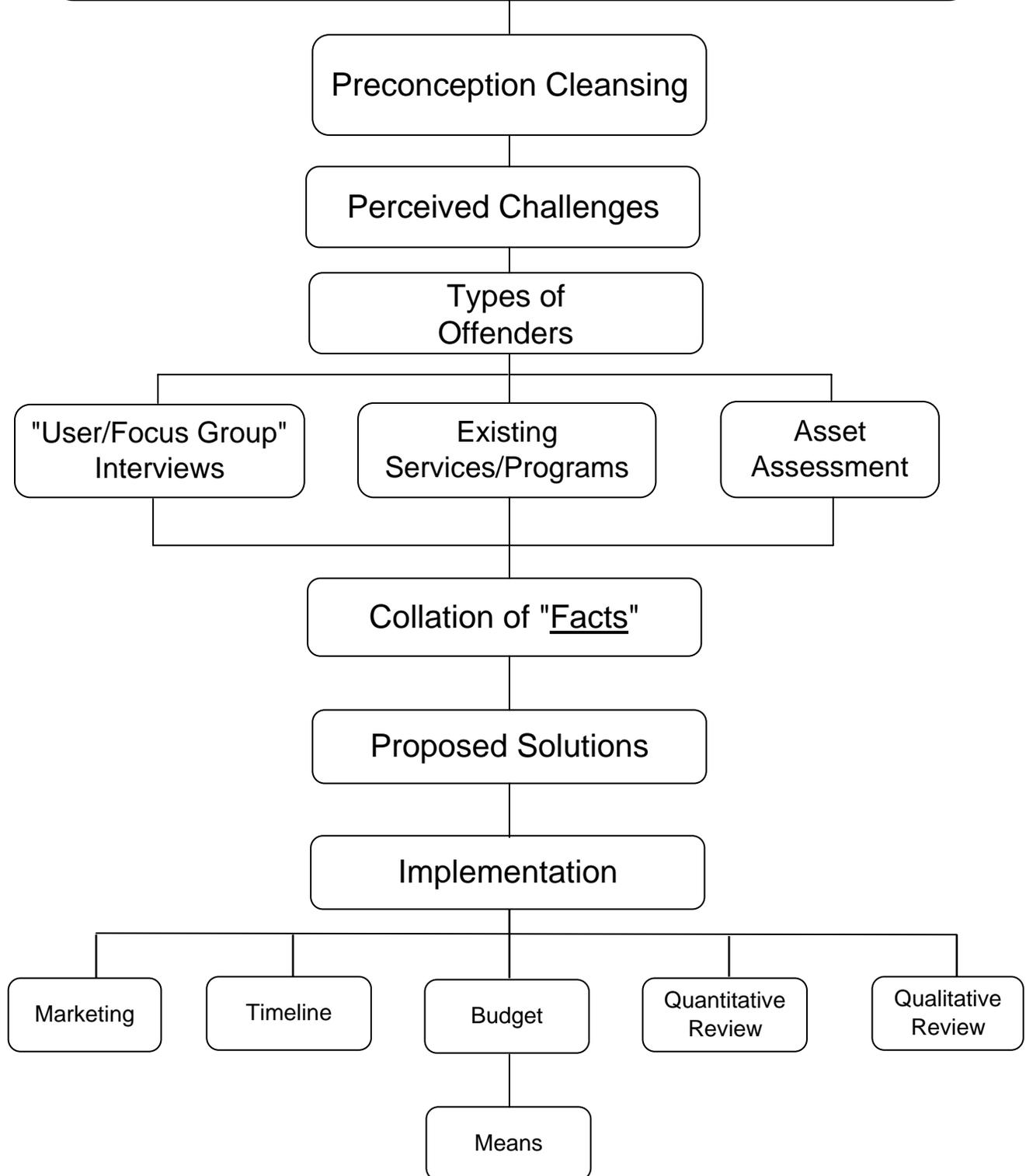
As can be seen from the flowchart attachment, the newly-created definition leads the chart and the group's next steps follow. They include conducting interviews and focus groups with specific populations of former inmates, as well as various community stakeholder groups. Once the committee has a full picture of the range of services needed by former inmates and how they match with the services that are available in the community, we will begin to develop solutions for filling the voids. The group hopes to find solutions to as many items on the attached list of 'Issues' as possible.

The group would like to find ways to fill gaps in the system to better communicate to service providers as well as the recipients of services related to what's available and how best to access it.

# Reentry Definition and Flowchart

(as of June 2007)

Reentry is ... a process beginning at the time of the offense (arrest), giving someone an opportunity to come back into society through the removal of barriers and the generation of hope, trust and individual empowerment to do something differently.



## Perceived Issues with Reentry

1. Hopelessness - Assumption of Rearrest
  - a. knowing what they need but not how to get it  
~ needs to be up-to-date
  - b. umbrella issue
  - c. lack of self-worth/self-esteem  
Sol'n: listening (support grps/mentors) > part of central coord
2. Impacts on Housing
3. Impacts on Family Units
4. Access to Public Assistance and Documentation
5. Cost of re-entry
  - a. to offender – emotional
  - b. to system & community – financial & political
6. Child Support Issues
7. Employment Issues
8. MH & SA Issues - Continuity of Care
  - a. medications
9. Central Coordination - System Improvements
  - a. Fragmentation  
~ regular updates
  - b. intercommunication
  - c. different audiences for the same information
  - d. competition
  - e. step-down gaps
  - f. education  
~ of the public
  - g. media campaign
  - h. web-based system
  - i. possible use of 211 (mention of Montg Cnty Job Center)
  - j. right level of detail (hours of operation, etc.)
10. Educational Issues
  - a. lifeskills (checking accounts, shopping, bill payments, etc.)
  - b. job, study, & computer skills
  - c. literacy