

## CONCEPT PLAN

The following is a preliminary outline of the various resources that may be needed to implement the Score Program and how The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (“GRBF”), The University of Richmond Law School (“U of R”) and the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work (“VCU”) may be able to bring resources to bear to facilitate the Score Program.

The following is a concept plan only. If we are able to reach consensus that some or all of the ideas discussed below may be useful to the Score Program, GRBF, U of R and VCU will seek the approval of their respective governing bodies to begin implementation of the program.

- 1) **Phase I-Information Gathering.** The success of the Score Program will depend, in part, upon the provision of certain social services. While many service providers are operating in the community, coordinated access to those services may be difficult to achieve. We suggest that a doctoral student at VCU undertake a project that would do some or all of the following:
  - i) Conduct a literature review to determine how similar projects are structured and managed;
  - ii) Review the survey conducted by the GRBF to determine whether additional work should be done to involve social service providers with the Score Project;
  - iii) Begin the development of a resource guide; and
  - iv) Search for grant sources to fund the items set forth in Phase II, below.

The funding for Phase I (estimated at \$5,000) would come from a combination of grants from the GRBF, VCU and other community resources.

- 2) **Phase II-Implementation.** The Court will have limited resources and may have to overcome other barriers to implementing the Score Program, without some outside help. This is particularly true, given that a fair number of the potential social service providers to the re-entry community are faith-based. The implementation of our proposal will involve the involvement of an outside social worker with the Score Program. This social worker would be able to become involved with each of the Score cases, as they develop. Armed with the information gathered in Phase I, the social worker would be able to refer each Score case to necessary resources in such areas as housing, substance abuse counseling, health care, etc.

The funding needed for Phase II will be significant and ongoing. Likely, it would include the salary or stipend for a full-time (or nearly full time) social worker. However, the economics of recidivism are undeniable. We believe that community funding will be available for a well-designed project that promises to keep people out of prison.

- 3) **Roll-out.** If the Score Program is successful, there is no reason the program can't be replicated for other courts in the region.