

**GETTING OUT BY GOING IN “GOGI”
CURRENT ENGLISH AND SPANISH GOGI PROGRAMS
AT CDCR INSTITUTIONS**

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1:1 PEER MENTOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Peer mentor leadership training involves GOGI staff members who educate selected prisoners to become peer facilitators of GOGI self-help curricula. Available in English and Spanish, this form of GOGI programming is our most successful means of securing long-term program sustainability within CDCR institutions. This success results because prisoners are engaged at a level whereby program success becomes personally meaningful to them.

Established early in the process as an ILTAG group to provide continuity and continuation of programming beyond the grant funding, the PEER MENTOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING program permits the institution to identify 25 prisoners (+ or – as security requires) as potential positive peer models. The selected prisoners meet weekly for 2 hours and engage in 1-2 years of weekly training related to personal skill building and facilitation training.

After grant funding expires, GOGI continues to support this program with donor subsidized materials, discounted materials, significant volunteerism, ample administrative assistance, ongoing supervision of curricula, certificate and chrono creation, training of prisoners and staff, free GOGI DVD media, and training workshops. This no-cost support from GOGI headquarters permits the institution long-term sustainability of GOGI programming. Beyond the grant funding cycle the only cost incurred is the donor-subsidized course books and the self-help sponsor expense.

As with all GOGI programs, when prisoners transfer to other institutions, GOGI provides continuum care, extending their leadership training to their new location where the new CRM permits this to happen.

CDCR institutions currently programming with this model:

- PVSP – A, B, C, D Facility
- KVSP – A, B, C, D Facility
- CCI – D and C Facility
- WSP – A Facility
- COR – Beginning 2016 grant program as of July 2016.

Suggestions for optimizing this program model across all institutions:

- COMPLAINTS - Initial efforts are being made by other CDCR prisons such they attempt to respond to Warden and prisoner request for GOGI programming. CRMs have initiated small efforts at: PBSP, HDSP, DVI, CTF and many others. These programs have no or very little funding which results in frequent prisoner complaints, long wait lists, and complaints from family members, all of which GOGI receives on a regular basis in the form of letters to our headquarters. GOGI receives regular inquiries from prisoners asking why they are being denied the opportunity to study GOGI. This is even more regular since the Board is suggesting the prisoner engage in GOGI studies when they deny parole dates. The above prisons and many more cannot respond to demand and GOGI does not have the donor base to fill the massive request lists.
- INSTITUTION-WIDE PROGRAMMING - It is optimal to establish this form of programming throughout the entire institution on each yard simultaneously as this model works with levels 1-4, including SNY, MENTAL HEALTH, GANG TRANSITION, SHU TRANSITION. It is our experience that coordination with the CRM and self-help sponsors improves with institution-wide programming.
- REDUCTION OF PER PRISONER COST - Programming on all yards rather than on just one yard reduces the per prisoner cost. This is because the cost of programming each prisoner is reduced as the number of prisoners engaged increases. This is due to economies of scale. For example, to print 1 course book costs \$15.00 and \$6.00 for shipping one book. To print 50 books, the cost is reduced to \$7.00 each and \$16.00 for shipping of all 50 books.
- POSITIVE CUSTODY STAFF ENGAGEMENT - We have also found that with GOGI on all yards, the corrections staff becomes positively engaged and the Warden becomes more aware of the overall program objective and invested in its success. It is our experience that support from the yard captains and line staff increases significantly when GOGI is an institution-wide program. Oftentimes captains and other custody staff become willingly engaged in the identification of prospective GOGI participants. Some captains permit specific officers to “oversee” and keep an eye out for GOGI programming to secure its success on their yard.

1:2 GOGI IN-BUILDING SELF HELP

GOGI In-Building Self Help is a program that engages prisoners as they are mentored in their housing units through a series of 12-week self-study and small group study programs facilitated by trained peer mentors. Available in English and Spanish, the GOGI IN-BUILDING SELF HELP program permits GOGI studies to be completed within the housing units without movement of the prisoner to a classroom or chapel for educational purposes. Frequently, custody staff supports small study groups of GOGI students and all students are encouraged to use dayroom time as an optimal time to meet with others engaged in GOGI studies.

Current programming for this model:

PVSP – A, B, C, D yards
KVSP – A, B, C, D yards
COR – just beginning 2016 grant program
NKSP – A facility just beginning 2016 grant

Suggestions for optimizing this program model across all institutions:

- PROGRAM LARGE NUMBERS - Supplies permitting, up to 500 prisoners can be simultaneously programming on each yard with the help of 25 prisoner-leaders. This is the most cost-effective form of GOGI programming and is operating in English and Spanish.
- REDUCED STAFFING - This model reduces staff costs by eliminating the need for ducets or direct supervision. The completed work of these students is presented to the GOGI case manager and/or self-help sponsor by the peer educator.
- CUSTODY BENEFITS - Custody staff frequently supports and appreciates this form of programming due to the benefits to safety and security such the reduction in prisoner movement. Many custody staff members have stated that prisoners engaged in GOGI studies are more compliant and that housing units that support GOGI studies are more enjoyable atmospheres in which to work.
- LEADERSHIP SUPPORT - It is optimal to include the PEER MENTOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING program outlined above in 1:1 with GOGI IN-BUILDING SELF HELP program to provide the much-needed peer support. However, there are instances where IN-BUILDING SELF HELP does not include peer mentoring. In these cases, access to SOMS data is critical and a self-help sponsor has proven to be the easiest form of access to SOMS updates. As stated above, this model is most successful when the PEER MENTORS are permitted to supervise the housing unit study. Each week when they assemble at their ILTAG meetings, they deliver to GOGI representatives or self-help sponsors the completed work of their mentees for processing by GOGI.

1:3 SHU/ADSEG AND RECEPTION – IN-CELL GOGI STUDY

IN-CELL GOGI STUDY is specifically designed for prisoners who may be resistant or unable to program with others. In this highly successful model, the self-study courses offered to the IN-CELL GOGI STUDY students are 30-45 days in length, thereby permitting prisoners to program and earn a chrono/certificate during short housing stays. The programs require daily reading and writing of concepts clearly outlined in GOGI texts and the GOGI study workbooks. This program does not require group study or any movement out of the cell for completion. GOGI provides CONTINUUM CARE to students upon their relocation, permitting the relocated student to complete their workbooks regardless of their new housing.

Current programming for this model:

PBSP - SHU

CCI - SHU

WSP – Reception

NKSP – Reception just beginning 2016 grant

COR – SHU just beginning 2016 grant

Suggestions for optimizing this program model across all institutions:

- It would be helpful to request that all CRM's across the CDCR understand the importance of assisting in processing chronos and educational materials for relocated prisoners.

1:4 GOGI SUBJECT-SPECIFIC STUDY

With GOGI SUBJECT-SPECIFIC STUDY prisoners are provided with self-help text and composition books. The students are assigned a specific workbook (such as the 6-week ANGER MANAGEMENT or 12-week RELEASE PREP courses) and complete the daily assignments during the week. They independently complete their studies in their housing units on their own time and may join other students in GOGI groups when available to review. This model is ideal for transitioning populations due to its flexibility and short duration.

Either weekly or bi-monthly (facility decision) the students are assembled to hold a GOGI group study to review the workbooks and the materials therein. During these meetings the concepts are studied in small groups of 5-12 prisoners. At the end of the 6-week course, the prisoners earn a chrono/certificate for their participation.

Current programming for this model:

PVSP – A, B, C, D yards

WSP - Reception

Suggestions for optimizing this program model across all institutions:

- GOGI is in final development phase of additional specific courses for: PARENTING, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DISABILITIES – mental, physical or learning, PINK BOOK - gender specific to female prisoners, STEPPING UP for gang drop, VETERANS, HOSPICE and MEDICAL, LGBTQ, and other specific populations currently in need of specific educational opportunities.
- This program model consistently results in requests from the prisoners for an expansion of GOGI programming to include weekly group meetings. It is advisable to know of this inevitable demand before choosing this form of programming. The prisoners will want weekly group meetings, they will want leadership training, and they will want continuation of their studies.

1:5 GOGI EDUCATION MEDIA

GOGI offers FREE GOGI EDUCATION MEDIA DVDs to ANY CDCR prison that has formalized ILTAG GOGI programming and is using current GOGI materials. The videos produced by GOGI's media department are available for broadcast to the entire population, offering all prisoners learning opportunities with GOGI.

Current programming for this model: Limited programming: PVSP – A, B, C, D yards
 Limited programming: KVSP – A, B, C, D yards
 Limited programming: PBSP - SHU housing

Optimizing this programming:

- RECRUITING TOOL - GOGI Educational Media is our strongest recruitment tool and helps to sustain the positive social interactions of GOGI students and former students. We would hope in the future to unify CDCR efforts with GOGI Media and strongly encourage the media specialist to play materials that are cleared and approved by the warden.
- IN-CELL VIDEO LEARNING - To further build out this model, GOGI is prepared to provide workbooks to any prisoner wishing to engage in self-study while watching the GOGI TV DVDs. In this model, an ILTAG or some other self-help sponsor must be identified early on for SOMS access and inter-facility distribution and collection of self-study materials.
- NEED FOR COLLABORATION WITH MEDIA SPECIALISTS - While we have provided several hours of DVDs free of charge with full licensing permission to a significant number of CDCR prisons and multiple sets of materials, we have not had significant success in engaging the media specialists in consistently airing the educational materials even when Warden and CRM approval are granted.