



REEL Recovery Film Festival Hosted at SF County Jail



Bruce Lee Livingston, Executive Director of Alcohol Justice, Nicole Boxer, Academy Award winning documentarian, and Sheriff Mirkarimi at opening night of REEL Recovery Film Festival at CJ#2.

Underscoring the department's commitment to addressing the high numbers of San Francisco incarcerated men and women who struggle with substance misuse, the SFSD, in cooperation with San Rafael-based Alcohol Justice, hosted a first time, special edition of the REEL Recovery Film Festival at San Francisco jails.

"Instead of addiction being treated as a crime, it instead needs to be treated as a public health priority, combined with a recovery system available to all people, long before jail becomes the first resort," said Sheriff Mirkarimi. Nationally, about 70% of those incarcerated have a substance abuse problem.

The special in-jail festival, which screened two films exploring addiction and recovery, launched on Monday, September 14, with a showing of Oscar-nominated documentarian Nicole Boxer's film "How I Got Over," at the women's jail at County Jail #2. Ms. Boxer (daughter of Senator Barbara Boxer) attended the screening. Tio Hardiman's autobiographical "The Death of an Addict: The Tio Hardiman Story (2010)," screened Wednesday, September 16, at County Jail #5. Both films were shown to county jail inmates and their substance abuse treatment providers.

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department addresses the crisis of drug and alcohol, use among San Francisco's incarcerated population by providing robust in-custody substance abuse treatment in partnership with community non-profits like HealthRIGHT 360.

Alcohol Justice's REEL Recovery Film Festival features films that highlight alcohol and drug addiction and recovery.