

## **Alternative Ways to Approach the Debriefing Issue:**

### **The Four Questions**

A prisoner who had been urged to debrief at his last parole hearing received a notice from the Board of Prison Hearings offering to advance his next parole date. The Board said they were advancing his next date to give him an opportunity to give them credible information about:

- (1) How he has broken away from the gang;
- (2) What efforts he has taken to not affiliate with the prison gang;
- (3) What he has learned about his mindset when he associated with gangs; and
- (4) What skills and tools he now has to avoid associating or affiliating with negative individuals.

It's hard to guess what the Board expects in response to these questions, or what they will consider "credible" answers. However, prisoners facing parole could view it as an opening to provide something to the Board about gang validation – something other than debriefing. Those who deny associating with gangs or have other reasons for not speaking about gangs or alleged gang members may want to focus their answers to these questions on "negative individuals" rather than gangs.