

Reentry from Corrections
System to Community

Going Home to Stay:
Kentucky's Reentry Strategies

**Kentucky
Department of Corrections**

Mission:
To protect the citizens of the Commonwealth and to provide a safe, secure and humane environment for staff and offenders in carrying out the mandates of the legislative and judicial processes; and to provide opportunities for offenders to acquire skills which facilitate non-criminal behavior.

How Does KY Rank?

- ▶ Population of KY = 4,339,367 (2010)
- ▶ One in 100: Behind Bars (2008)
 - Kentucky prison population growth rate of 12%
- ▶ One in 31 (2009)
 - For Kentucky, one in 35 adults is in prison or under supervision

www.pewcenteronthestates.org

Fast Facts

- ▶ Over 4,600 individuals employed by KY DOC
- ▶ ~20,500 offenders incarcerated
 - 13 prisons, 70+ jails, 20+ halfway houses
- ▶ ~42,500 offenders under supervision
 - 30% are parolees
 - 70% are probationers

Incarcerated + Supervision =
1.5% of KY Population

Recidivism Rates

Release Year	Recidivism Rate @ 24 months
2000	28.90%
2001	30.00%
2002	31.70%
2003	35.40%
2004	33.00%
2005	34.00%
2006	35.00%
2007	32.00%
2008	29.50%
2009	30.70%

What is Reentry?

An effort to support offenders as they transition from prison to the community to improve their ability to successfully reintegrate into society without further criminal behavior.

DOC Reentry Tagline

**“A Second Chance
to Make a
First Impression”**



Why Are Reentry Strategies Important?

- ▶ If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you always got.
 - High Recidivism
 - Additional Crimes
 - More Victims
 - High Costs of incarceration / criminal process

Step One

- ▶ Implement the use of a validated risk and needs assessment tool
 - Identify criminogenic needs
 - Determine risk based on the needs
 - Create opportunities that address the needs and reduce the risk

Criminogenic Needs

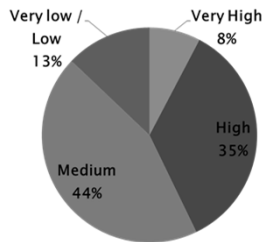
- ▶ Anti-social cognition
- ▶ Anti-social companions
- ▶ Anti-social personality
- ▶ Family / Marital
- ▶ Substance Abuse
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ School
- ▶ Leisure and/or recreation



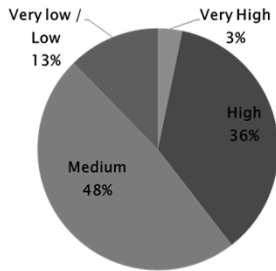
Balanced Approach

- ▶ Risk Management (low risk)
- ▶ Risk Reduction (moderate to high risk)
- ▶ Risk Control (very high risk)

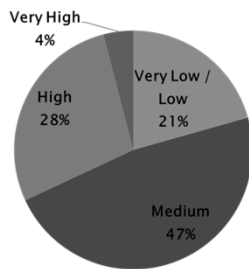
CY 2012 Prison risk levels



CY 2012 Jails and HWH risk levels



CY 2012 P&P risk levels



Reentry is a Philosophy

- › Philosophy - what you think and believe
- › Strategy - how you put the philosophy into practice
- › Tactic - one method that can be used to achieve a narrowly defined goal

Key Stakeholders

- ▶ Criminal courts
- ▶ Corrections
- ▶ Parole Board
- ▶ Mental Health agencies
- ▶ Public health agencies
- ▶ Veteran's Affairs
- ▶ Housing Authorities
- ▶ Employment services
- ▶ Social Service agencies
- ▶ Faith-based agencies
- ▶ Communities / average citizens

Current Reentry Efforts

- ▶ GOAL: Having a greater percentage of offenders successfully reintegrate into communities means a reduction in recidivism and enhanced public safety
- ▶ Kentucky's recidivism rate vs. success rate
 - Success rate is approximately 69.5%

How can a focus on prevention be useful?

- ▶ Identify offender success - with the intention of supporting offenders through effective accountability
- ▶ Specific risk, needs and transition issues must be identified and addressed
- ▶ *Staff need to have the resources available for effective referrals*

Reentry Barriers

- ▶ Limited housing
- ▶ Unemployment
- ▶ Educational needs
- ▶ Mental Health Issues
- ▶ Healthcare needs
- ▶ Financial instability
- ▶ Family concerns
- ▶ Public perceptions
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Identification

Rural vs. Urban Settings

- ▶ Both of these extremes can challenge stakeholders
- ▶ Find respective strengths and use them!

Urban Settings

- ▶ Urban: resource rich with structured programs



Rural Settings

- ▶ Rural: Few structured programs
- ▶ Family and community support may be strong



Step Two

- ▶ Effective case management plan
 - Develop a plan with the offender to address criminogenic needs and reentry barriers
 - Plan should provide achievable goals and action steps
 - Timelines should be reviewed regularly
 - As goals are accomplished, case management plan shall be updated

What does the research say?

- ▶ Evidence Based vs. Promising Practices
 - EBP: specific and defined outcomes through formal research (reductions in recidivism, increased employment, improved behavior)
 - Promising Practices: general agreement among experienced professionals that these strategies are important and beneficial (PORTAL program)

What does our data say?

- ▶ If we release 18,000 offenders in 2013, and we have a 1% reduction in the recidivism rate, we'll save \$678,000 + in incarceration costs in just one year.
- ▶ Link between Treatment and Recidivism
 - Criminal Sanction -.07
 - Inappropriate Treatment -.06
 - Appropriate Treatment .30

What doesn't work?

- ▶ Punishment, sanctions or incarceration
- ▶ Scared straight type programs
- ▶ Physical Challenge programs
- ▶ Boot camp type programs
- ▶ Shaming programs

What does work?

- ▶ Programs that:
 - Focus on criminogenic needs
 - Match right offender to the right program
 - Use a cognitive behavioral approach
 - Use positive reinforcements
 - Seek right levels of dosage/intensity
 - Have built-in quality assurance

Next steps...

- ▶ How can I equip myself with more resources?
 - Where can I go?
 - What can I do?
 - Who can I contact?
 - When can I accomplish this given my current workload?

Available Resources

- ▶ Reentry Hotline (1st in the nation)
 - 1-877-INMATE-4 or 1-877-466283-4
- ▶ Reentry Branch at DOC
- ▶ Reentry Councils
- ▶ Family Engagement Sessions
- ▶ The Tool Box newsletters

Family Engagement Sessions

- ▶ The Department of Corrections has developed “Family Engagement Sessions” to educate families about the corrections system.
- ▶ Facilitated by DOC staff and local agencies involved in providing services in the community.
- ▶ Designed to answer the basic questions a family member may have about the process of incarceration, release and supervision after release.

Family Engagement Sessions

- ▶ How long do these last?
 - For individuals that have a newly incarcerated loved one, the session will discuss issues related to initial incarceration, parole board hearings and program availability and will last for one hour.
 - For individuals that have a loved one nearing release, the session is considered to be the "Reentry" session and will last for one hour. The Reentry session will focus on offender needs as they prepare for release and transition back into the community. It reviews the responsibilities of families that serve as home placements while the offender is on supervision. It is designed for families with a loved one that is within a year of possible release.

Family Engagement Sessions

- ▶ Intended to answer all the families' questions so it will reduce the number of calls to the prisons.
- ▶ Held quarterly in partnership with each of the reentry councils (so 11 held throughout the state each quarter).
- ▶ First and only state in the nation with this model of engaging families at both entry to the system and exit from the system.
- ▶ Schedule available at www.corrections.ky.gov/reentry/pages/familyengagementsessions.aspx

Reentry Councils

- ▶ Western KY Reentry Council – Paducah
- ▶ Northern KY Reentry Team – Covington
- ▶ Northeast KY Reentry Council – Maysville
- ▶ Green River Reentry Council – Owensboro
- ▶ Southeast KY Reentry Council – London / Somerset
- ▶ Southern KY Reentry Council – Bowling Green
- ▶ Central KY Reentry Council – Elizabethtown
- ▶ Eastern KY Reentry Council – Pikeville
- ▶ FIVCO Reentry Council – Ashland
- ▶ Louisville Metro Reentry Task Force – Louisville
- ▶ Bluegrass Reentry Council – Lexington

Governor's Reentry Task Force

- ▶ Created in 2009
- ▶ Designed to bring state agencies together to develop ways to partner to improve reentry
- ▶ Key Legislative Recommendations relate to:
 - Housing
 - Treatment
 - Employment
 - Other Needs

Governor's Reentry Task Force

- ▶ Housing
 - Remove housing barriers to enable offenders to access affordable housing options, halfway house facilities and other supportive placements.
 - Create tax incentives for those who provide housing to ex-offenders to encourage increased access to affordable housing
 - Provide additional funding to support and expand the Homeless Pilot Prevention Program.

Governor's Reentry Task Force

- ▶ Treatment
 - Reinvest savings in future fiscal years for treatment services.
 - Mandate that community substance abuse treatment services be included in Medicaid (Public) benefits as the medical bill is implemented.
 - Create an intensive case management system for justice involved persons with mental illness.
 - Ensure adequate community treatment services.
 - Review child support obligations (including the criminal process of) during incarceration and post-incarceration treatment.

Governor's Reentry Task Force

- ▶ Employment
 - Create simplified process with reduced cost for expungement of felony and misdemeanor offenses as allowed by law.
 - Remove/modify permanent employment restrictions based solely on felon status upon reentry.
 - Promote federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit that provides a tax credit for employers that hire ex-offenders.
 - Create a state Work Opportunity Tax Credit mirroring the federal tax credit specifically for ex-offenders.
 - Create and fund prerelease and community-based life skills training for returning offenders to be provided by volunteers.

Governor's Reentry Task Force

- ▶ Other needs
 - Provide automatic restoration of voting rights for ex-felons.
 - Expand Department of Public Advocacy's Social Worker Program.
 - Eliminate loss of public assistance and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

Impact of 2011 Legislation

- ▶ Significant changes in sentencing
- ▶ Expands Home Incarceration Program
- ▶ Implements Mandatory Reentry Supervision
- ▶ Requires use of validated risk and need assessment tool and case management plan
- ▶ Requires additional staff training

Mandatory Reentry Supervision

- ▶ Mandatory Reentry Supervision
 - Inmates not granted discretionary parole
 - Release prior to minimum expiration date.
 - Ineligible Inmates:
 - Capital Offense, Class A Felony
 - Maximum or Close Security Classification
 - Sentence of 2 years or less
 - Post Incarceration Supervision Sex Offenders
 - 7-8 months or less left to serve after sentencing or return

Effective January 1, 2012
Revisions effective June 25, 2013

Mandatory Reentry Supervision

- ▶ Offenders that are eligible for Mandatory Reentry Supervision will be treated as parolees upon release
 - Will require home placements
 - Will have some conditions of supervision

Which hat to wear?

Problem solver
Instructor
Motivator
Advocate



Source of information
Liaison
Role model
Change agent

Gender Specific effort

- Northern Kentucky Female Reentry Project
 - How did we begin?
 - Why female offenders only?
 - Where does money come from for such a project???

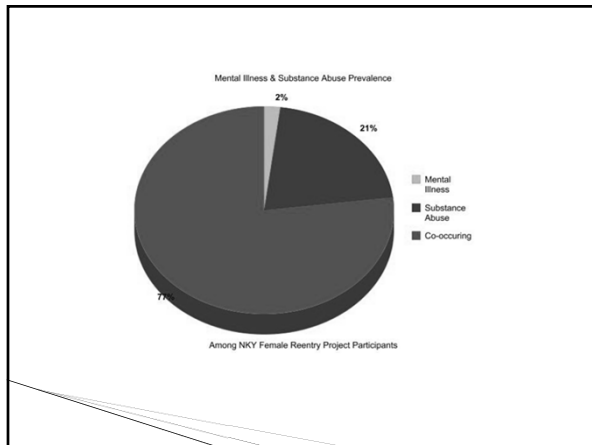
Case Management Services “Behind the Walls”

- ✓ Provide individualized support for emotional and practical issues faced by felony offenders preparing to re-enter the community.
- ✓ Develop a *Reentry Plan For Success* with inmate, assisting her with goal setting and necessary steps to reach goals. This includes plans for housing, employment, education, treatment, maintaining sobriety, utilizing community resources, etc.
- ✓ Case Managers communicate with inmate’s family and/or support network prior to release when necessary to maintain continuity of care and support.

- ✓ Assessments to determine risks, needs, and strengths of offender
- ✓ Continued communication with inmate
 - Visits, mail, phone
 - Send cards for holidays, upcoming Parole Hearings, notes of encouragement, etc.
- ✓ Communication with DOC staff
 - Assist in Reentry Planning
 - Arrange transportation to home community
 - Make housing arrangements
- ✓ Seeking Safety at KCIW
 - Therapy group to help women attain safety from trauma/PTSD & substance abuse

Case Management Services “On the Outside”

- ✓ Intensive Case Management for each Reentry participant
- ✓ Coordinate housing when needed
- ✓ Provide clothing, toiletries, agenda, etc.
- ✓ Direct referrals for treatment
- ✓ Provide payment for many Tx appts
- ✓ Employment & education assistance
- ✓ Communicate with Parole Officers
- ✓ Emergency support services & resources in community
- ✓ Access to Case Manager 24 hours per day



What Outcomes Do We Measure?

- Clients Linked to Treatment Post Release
- Improved Mental Health Status
- Improved Quality of Life
- Reduced Recidivism
- Cost Savings

Reentry Branch challenges

- › Lack of consistent process for reentry in local jail facilities (assessment, case planning and programming)
- › Lack of resources in smaller communities (limited service providers)
- › Lack of employment service providers (training courses to employment placement)

Questions???

