

Why Plan for Reentry?

Presentation by reentry coalition partners from Lancaster County RMO

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PCCD 2016 Reentry Workshop – State College, PA
September 27, 2016

“Ensuring successful re-entry means both safer communities and the improved use of tax dollars. But realizing better outcomes for people released from prison and jail requires efforts that address their myriad needs.”

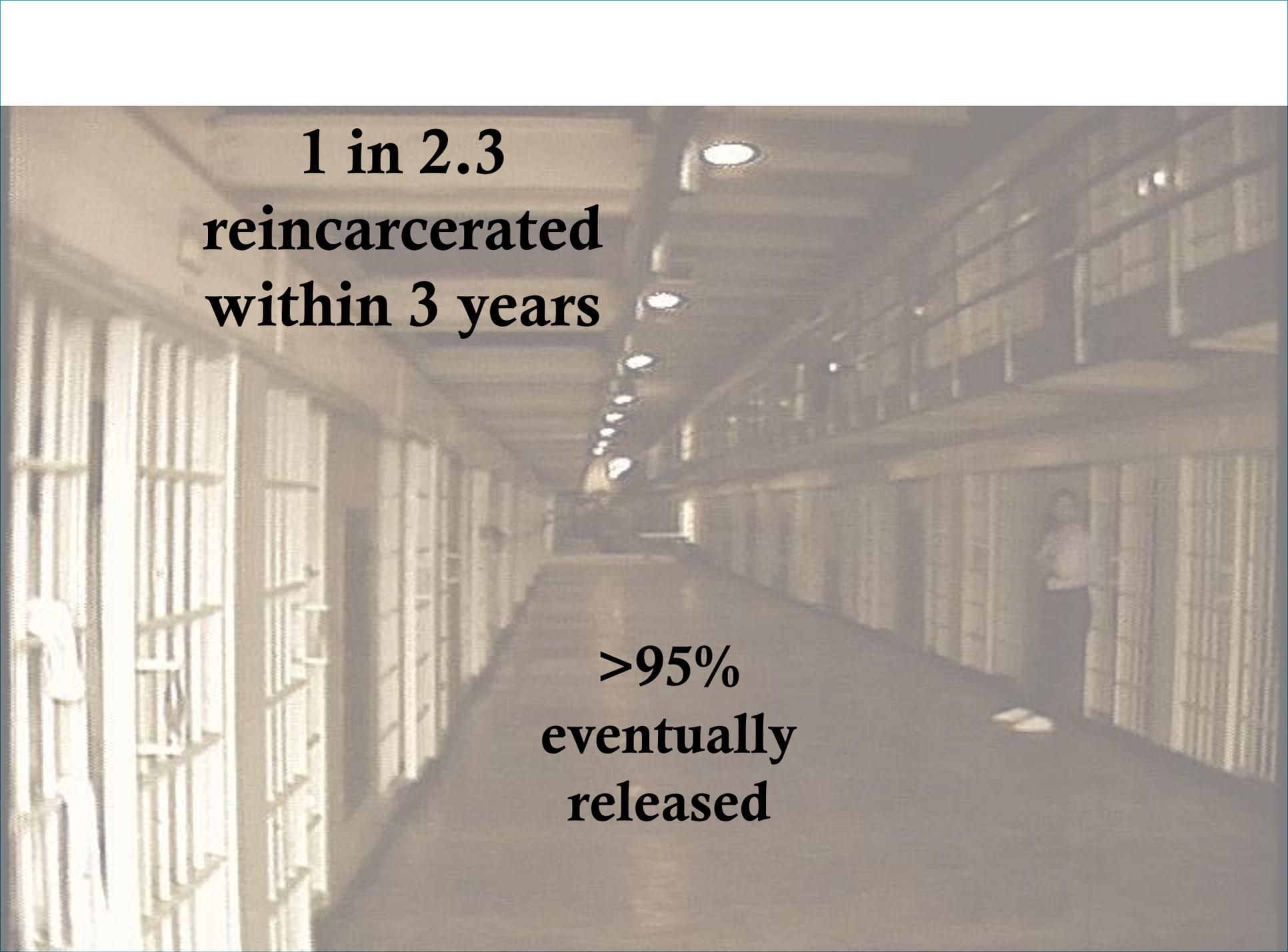
Report of the Re-Entry Policy Council: Charting the Safe and Successful Return of Prisoners to the Community

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Report-of-the-Reentry-Council.pdf>

“Without access to food, clothing, shelter, transportation, personal identification, and other key necessities, former inmates may see no other option than to return to illegal activities in order to meet their needs. Thus, corrections agencies must prepare exiting prisoners for this period and work hand-in-hand with community service providers and agencies to ensure that prisoners receive needed resources and guidance after release. These efforts may make the difference between recidivism and successful transition to the community.”

- Release Planning For Successful Reentry: A Guide for Corrections, Service Providers, and Community Groups, by Nancy G. La Vigne, Elizabeth Davies, Tobi Palmer, Robin Halberstadt

http://www.urban.org/research/publication/release-planning-successful-reentry/view/full_report

A long, dimly lit prison hallway with barred windows on the left and a person standing in the distance on the right. The hallway is long and narrow, with a series of circular lights on the ceiling. The walls are lined with barred windows, and the floor is dark. A person is standing in the distance on the right side of the hallway.

**1 in 2.3
reincarcerated
within 3 years**

**>95%
eventually
released**

Complex history & issues of prisoners . . .

- ▶ Mental health: at least 50% have MH issues (1);
SMI 2–4 times higher among inmates than genl pop
- ▶ Addiction: 75% have substance abuse history (2)
- ▶ Low education: 20–30% have cognitive disabilities (3);
40% lack HS diploma or GED (2)
- ▶ Poverty:
 - ~ 40% of all crimes directly attributable to poverty (4)
 - 80% of incarcerated individuals are low-income (4)
 - 66% of jail inmates had incomes below poverty line (4)

(1) <http://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/criminal-justice/mentally-ill-offenders-u-s-criminal-justice-system>

(2) <https://csgjusticecenter.org/nrrc/facts-and-trends/>

(3) <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/dpji1112.pdf>

(4) <http://whopaysreport.org/who-pays-full-report/>

Complex history & issues of prisoners . . .

Trauma history

- ▶ “Although prevalence estimates vary, there is consensus that high percentages of justice-involved women and men have experienced serious trauma throughout their lifetime. The reverberating effects of traumatic experiences can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services, often resulting in an increased risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.”
- ▶ “Based on these statistics, it is safe to assume that everyone who comes into contact with the justice system has a history of trauma, so criminal justice professionals should take 'universal precautions'.”
 - SAMHSA GAINS Center - "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses"

Lead to complex needs and barriers upon release . . .

- ▶ Housing issues (homelessness, cost, shortage, landlords, NIMBY, Section 8, Walsh Act)
- ▶ Addiction (cost, insurance, access to treatment)
- ▶ Mental health (meds, cost, insur, provider shortage)
- ▶ Family (strained relationships, anger/resentment, contact restrictions, DV, new dynamics)
- ▶ Unemployment (lack of ID, education, skills, work experience, role models, transportation)
- ▶ Financial stresses (bad credit, “un-banked”, bail, court fines & fees, supervision/monitoring fees, restitution, jail room & board, collections fees & interest, cost of required programs/treatment, lure of “easy money”)

Collateral Consequences

Federal laws, state laws, local ordinances & agency policies that restrict:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Employment, occupational licenses
- ▶ Family/parental rights
- ▶ Access to government benefits
- ▶ Long term CJ supervision and restrictions
- ▶ Education, student loans
- ▶ Voting rights
- ▶ Registration requirements (sex offenders)

American Bar Assn Collateral Consequences database:

<http://www.abacollateralconsequences.org/>

Collateral Consequences

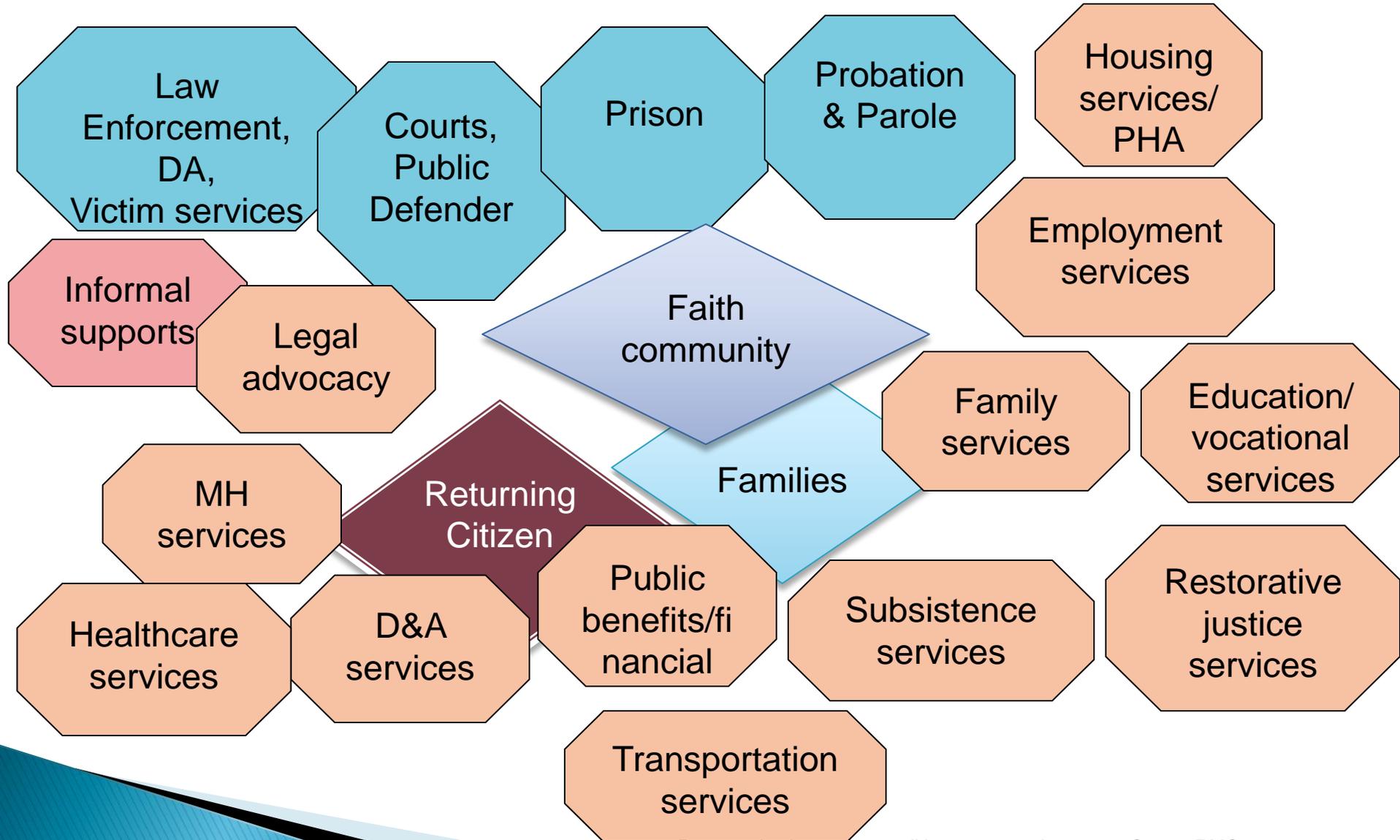
For example, Pennsylvania has:

- ▶ 24 laws limiting housing options
- ▶ 22 laws limiting governmental benefits
- ▶ 679 laws limiting employment & occupational certification & licensing

SOME OF THESE RESTRICTIONS ARE PERMANENT, continuing even after:

- ▶ Sentence completed
- ▶ Probation/parole completed
- ▶ Fines, costs, restitution paid

Reentry without broad-based collaboration between county CJ stakeholders and community service providers



Importance of Broad-Based Collaboration

- ▶ Returning citizens have multiple, complex needs
- ▶ Returning citizens face numerous barriers and collateral consequences
- ▶ Criminal justice system places multiple, complex, sometimes conflicting demands on Returning Citizens
- ▶ The government criminal justice stakeholders need the non-profit human services providers to help address myriad needs of Returning Citizens
- ▶ The service providers need to coordinate, communicate to eliminate silos of disconnected & hard-to-access services

- ▶ High “failure rate” for Returning Citizens if needs are not addressed → threatens community safety
- ▶ No single agency can address every need of a Returning Citizen

Benefits of Broad-based Collaboration

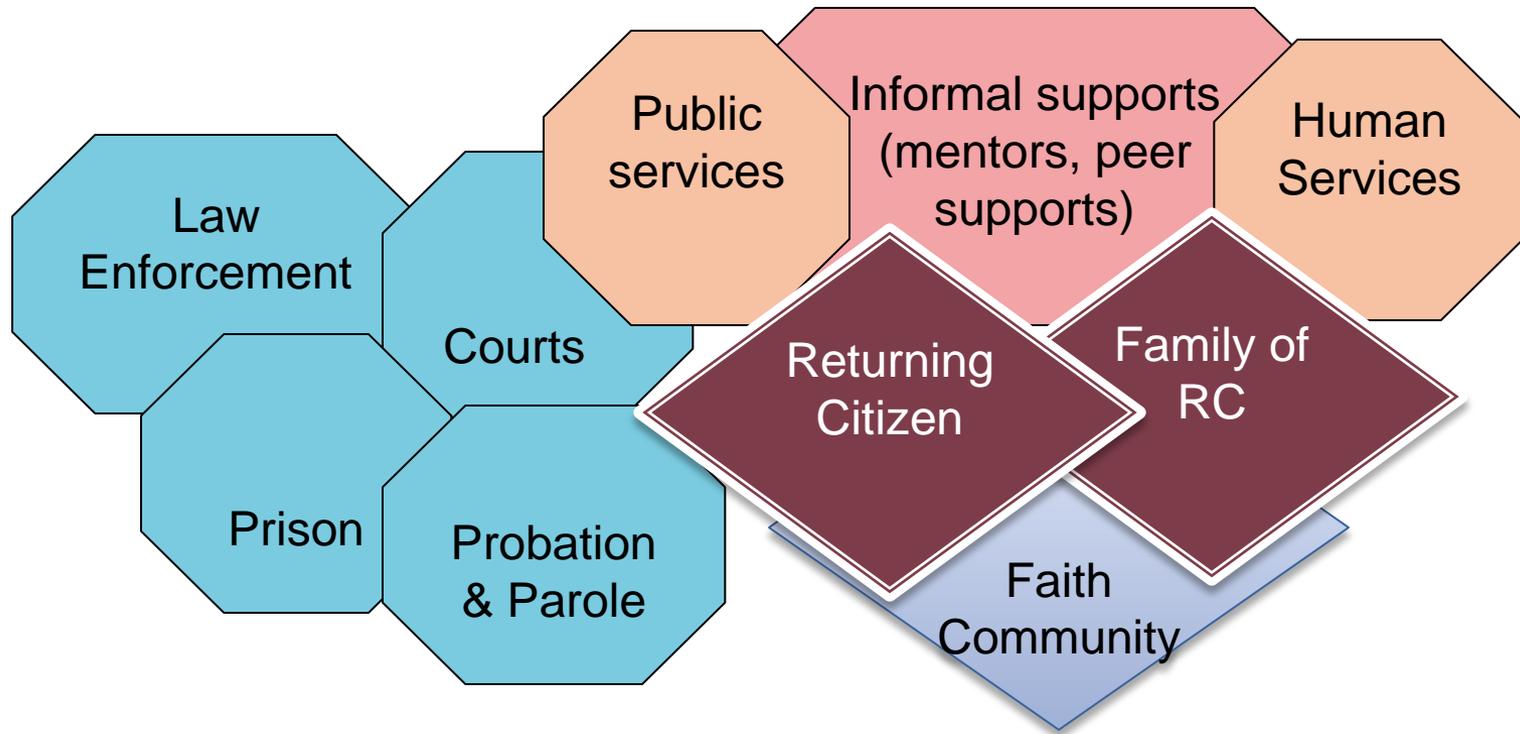
- Leverage resources and knowledge of multiple coalition members/entities
- Each entity has unique role to play, works to their strengths
- Coordinate services, holistic approach
- Address gaps, reduce duplication – more efficient use of limited resources
- Identify areas for advocacy & systems/policy changes
- Ultimately:
 - Help stop the “cycle”
 - Safer, healthier communities
 - Restored lives & families
 - Resources available for other community needs

Broad-based collaboration: Who should be at the table?

To maximize Returning Citizens' chances for success, need:

- ▶ **Returning Citizens and families**
- ▶ **Government criminal justice stakeholders:**
 - Prison/jail staff (“reentry begins at reception”)
 - Probation/parole officers
 - Courts, Law enforcement, DA, Public Defenders, Victims’ Services
- ▶ **Community-based non-profit sector/service providers:**
 - Housing
 - Drug & Alcohol treatment
 - Mental health services
 - Healthcare
 - Education/employment
 - Legal advocacy
 - Family services
 - Transportation
- ▶ **Faith Community**
 - Subsistence services (food, clothes, other “basics”)
 - Informal supports (mentors, volunteers)

Collaborative Approach to Reentry Ultimate Vision



Collaborative Approach to Reentry

Ultimate Goals: Improving Reentry Outcomes

- ✓ Reduce prison/jail population
- ✓ Reduce recidivism
- ✓ Improve community safety
- ✓ Save taxpayer dollars/More effective use of funds
- ✓ People get treatment, education, employment and other help they need so they can live productive lives and remain crime-free

Beyond Recidivism . . .

Improving Reentry Outcomes

What specific outcomes might you want to monitor/track?

- Connected to services before release (MH, D&A treatment)
- Attended scheduled appointments
- Completed required assessments (MH eval, D&A eval, etc)
- Compliance with mandated treatment
- Completed job skills/other trainings
- Placed in employment
- Placed in permanent housing
- Compliance with fines & costs
- Compliance with child support
- Reincarceration/recidivism (need clear definition)
 - New charges?
 - PV?

Improving Reentry Outcomes: Best Practices: Prison

- ▶ “Reentry begins at reception”
 - Provide resource info & encouragement to start planning for release at point of jail intake
 - Lancaster RMO: “Roadmap to Successful Reentry”
 - Reentry planning assistance inside the jail through jail staff, community agencies, volunteers
 - Lancaster RMO: “Brief Reentry Planning”
 - Life skills/soft skills/resource educ classes inside the jail
 - Lancaster RMO: Reentry Life Skills course
 - Medical assistance applications completed before release
 - Help securing identification before release
 - Follow-up appointments scheduled before release (especially for mental health)

Improving Reentry Outcomes: Best Practices: MH, D&A Needs

Special populations' reentry needs

- People with significant mental health needs
 - Forensic case manager with BH/DS
 - Review team inside the jail: BH/DS, PrimeCare, LCP
- People who need to go directly from jail to inpatient D&A
 - MA applications completed while in jail
 - PCPC completed
 - Community agency helps schedule treatment bed
 - “Door to door”
 - Follow-up connections to resources back in the community

Improving Reentry Outcomes: Best Practices: Probation/Parole

- ▶ Reentry Resource Center/Reentry Coalition office @ Lancaster Co Adult Probation & Parole
 - Immediate reentry needs: food, clothing, toiletries, bus passes, grocery gift cards & resource referrals
 - Brief Reentry Planning service
 - Bi-weekly “orientation” for new parolees to D&A services and reentry services thru the RMO
 - ARD clients: fulfill some community service hours by donating items RMO clients need
- ▶ Peer-led Successful Returning Citizens Mentoring Support Group
 - PO’s award certificates monthly

LANCASTER COUNTY ADULT PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS ALTERNATIVE

Lancaster County Adult Probation and Parole Services has authorized that 15 hours of your mandated community service hours may be completed by donating items that will help people in need in our community. There are three selections available for those who wish to utilize this option. Any remaining community service hours must be completed at an authorized community service site.

All these items must be brand new in their original wrappers with the tags attached.

1. Any of the following items:
 - a. 3 adult blankets or
 - b. 4 baby blankets and 2 packs of diapers or
 - c. 2 bath towels, 2 wash cloths and 2 containers of laundry detergent

2. Choose any 15 items from one of the male or female options and place them in a re-usable tote.

<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Body wash or bar of soap▪ Shampoo▪ Conditioner▪ Shaving razors▪ Comb▪ Brush▪ Toothbrush▪ Toothbrush holder or cap▪ Toothpaste▪ Deodorant▪ Body lotion▪ Lip balm▪ Pocket pack of Kleenex▪ Pair of warm socks▪ Small package of tampons▪ Small package of sanitary pads▪ Washcloth▪ Towel▪ Small bottle of hand sanitizer▪ Emery Board▪ Fingernail clippers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Body wash or bar of soap▪ Shampoo▪ Conditioner▪ Shaving razors▪ Shaving cream▪ Comb▪ Brush▪ Toothbrush▪ Toothbrush holder or cap▪ Toothpaste▪ Deodorant▪ Body lotion▪ Lip balm▪ Pocket pack of Kleenex▪ Pair of warm socks▪ Washcloth▪ Towel▪ Small bottle of hand sanitizer▪ Emery board▪ Fingernail clippers

Any donated articles should be dropped off at the Adult Probation Office reception area with this document during regular business hours, so you can receive this community service credit.

3. Drop off 25 canned goods at your local food bank.
You must ask for a receipt stating how many food items were received, and email or mail this receipt to your probation officer.

Improving Reentry Outcomes: Best Practices: Systems/Policy Change

- ▶ Advocacy for systems & policy changes
 - Fines & costs grace period
 - PV review panel
 - Alternative sentencing to Day Reporting Center at CareerLink

How to Use your Reentry Plan

- ▶ Advisory/Executive Committee for the coalition to get/keep things moving forward
 - Broad representation: returning citizen, jail, parole, D&A, MH, educ/employment, housing, court/DA/PD/victims, other
- ▶ Low cost start-up options
 - Resource directory/Roadmap to Successful Reentry@intake
 - Donations of toiletries, bus passes, grocery gift cards (from ARD clients to fulfill community service? Partner churches?)
 - Reentry “resource center” @ Parole office – brochures, fliers from community agencies; orientation/info sessions about their programs/services
 - Office space for reentry coalition @ Parole office or the jail
 - Peer-led Successful Returning Citizens group

What are YOUR . . .
Questions . . .
Ideas . . .

for improving reentry in
the Commonwealth and
in your community?



Lancaster County RMO

Contact us!

RMO website:

<http://lancastercountyreentry.org/>

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