



PA Parolee Clearinghouse

Reentrant Advocates: Creating Alliances for a Better Tomorrow

Our Goal

- Reduce the rate of recidivism
 - Getting to know each client on a personal level
 - Researching to determine potential resources
 - Making contact with each client on a continual basis

Obtaining Clients

- Receive lists of recent Reentrants from PA Board of Probation and Parole
- State agencies and community organizations provide contact information for Reentrants, as well as their family members, who may be in need of assistance
- Inmate Presentations
- “Word of Mouth”
- Department of Corrections “Hard To Place” List

Results May Vary

- Assistance is not always needed at the time of contact
 - Family Support
 - Advocating for themselves
- Can you hear me now?
 - Phone attempts are unsuccessful but letters produce a response
 - Even with multiple contact attempts, we are unable to reach some clients

Results May Vary

○ Annual/Seasonal

- We provide reminders to help clients re-apply for certain programs that are available seasonally or annually

○ **Constant Contact**

- We recognize that some clients, who have been incarcerated for many years, don't always have the knowledge or resources to navigate today's technology
- Many do not have a solid support system and are encouraged by a friendly voice that is willing to listen

Types of Assistance

○ Food

- SNAP
- Produce to People, Senior Box Program, Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program
- Meals-On-Wheels
- Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens

○ Medical and Prescription

- PACE/PACENET, Low-Income Subsidy, Medical Assistance
- PA Patient Assistance Program
- Sliding Scale Clinics
- Donated Dental Services

Types of Assistance

- Housing
 - BCC Referral Unit
 - Apartment/Home listings
 - Class for home ownership
 - Homeless Assistance Program
- Furniture/Home Goods/Clothing
 - Salvation Army, Goodwill
 - Catholic Charities
 - Who's Your Brother
 - New Diggs/Mission Central

Types of Assistance

○ Energy/Utilities

- LIHEAP
- Weatherization
- Energy Suppliers' Customer Assistance Programs
- Budget Plan Options

○ Employment

- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- PA Career Link
- Indeed.com
- List of employers and temp agencies

Types of Assistance

- Transportation
 - Local Bus Pass Programs for Seniors/Disabled
 - LIFT Programs
 - Medical Assistance Transportation Program
- Veteran's
 - Veterans Administration/Services
 - Soldiers On, PA Wounded Warrior, Veterans Miracle Center
- Legal Aid
 - Senior Law Center
 - PA Health Law Project
 - MidPenn Legal Service

The Numbers Speak Volumes

- Total Files = 2567
 - Ever Assisted = 2000
 - * Pre-Release = 12
 - * Reentrants = 1808
 - * Family/Other = 46
 - * Re-Incarcerated = 134 (7% Rate of Recidivism)
 - No Contact Information Available = 522
 - Nursing Home/Deceased = 39
 - New Files, Pending Initial Contact Attempt = 6
- Total Calls in 2018 = 4658

Obstacles

- Complications within the system prohibit the completion of all possible pre-release steps
- Penalties from utilities, Medicare or Social Security accrued while incarcerated
 - Overpayment
 - Late/No enrollment
 - Late/No payment
- Inaccurate/Incomplete contact information reported upon release
- Lack of follow-through by Reentrants and/or family members

Obstacles

- Lack of resources per county
- Inability to receive Social Security while at a Community Corrections Center (CCC)
- Communication limitations between agencies
- Expectations related to release requirements
- Certain offenses or convictions

Contact Information

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