

THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION

OHIO HOUSE FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

HEARINGS ON HOUSE BILL 59, FY 2014-15 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Columbus, OH February 27, 2013

TESTIMONY OF GARY C. MOHR, DIRECTOR



Introduction

Vision

“Reduce Crime in Ohio”

Mission

“Reduce Recidivism Among
Those We Touch”

Introduction



- Ohio recidivism rate is at a record low 28.7%.
- National recidivism rate is approximately 43%.

Introduction



- Prior to HB 86 Felony 4/5 offenders represented 48% of DRC Admissions.
- For the first 11 months after passage of HB 86, the same category of offenses were reduced to 40% of admissions.
- Our current inmate population stands at 49,924 and has been below 50,000 since January 2012.
- Population projections indicate a slight increase to a level of 50,337 by July 2015.
- We are hopeful that full implementation of back end sentencing reforms under HB 86, such as 80% court release recommendation for judicial release will assist in management of the prison population and recidivism.

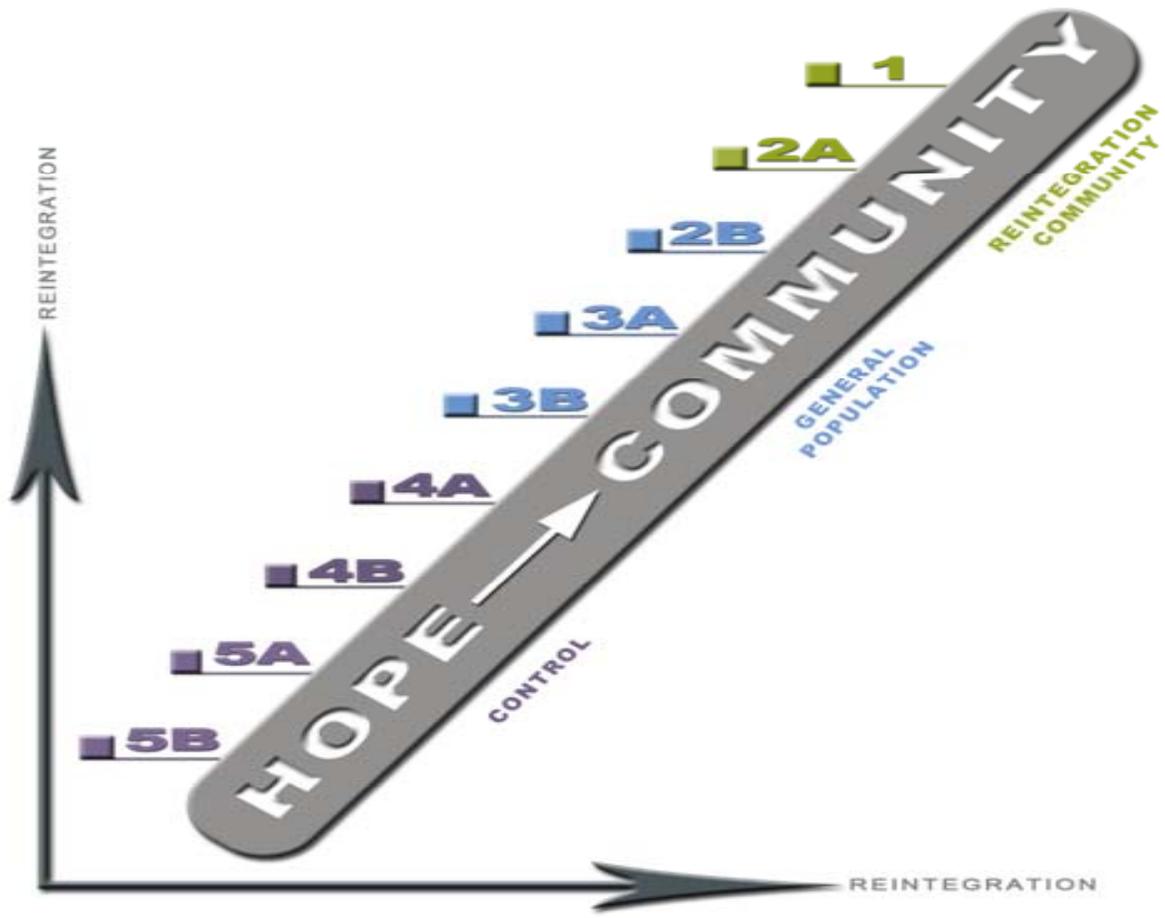
Introduction



- In order to address the projected increase in the prison population, DRC will increase funding by \$8.6 million (6%) in fiscal year 2014 and an additional \$3.9 million (8.5%) in fiscal year 2015 to community programs.
- This funding will allow halfway houses, community-based correctional facilities, prison diversion programs, and jail diversion programs, greater capacity to divert offenders into less expensive, more appropriate settings where they will have access to services tailored to their needs.

3 Tier Prison System and Violence Reduction

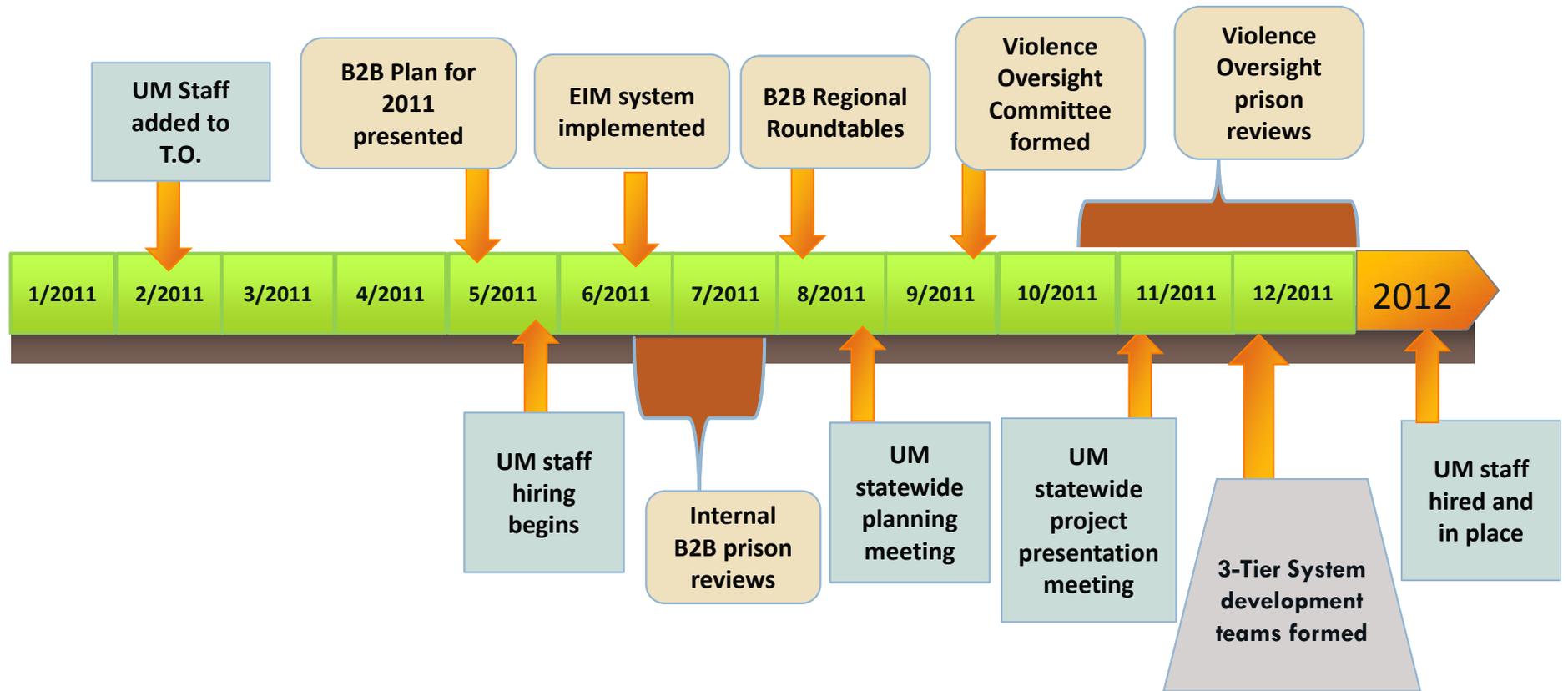
The 3-Tier System: Reducing Violence and Recidivism



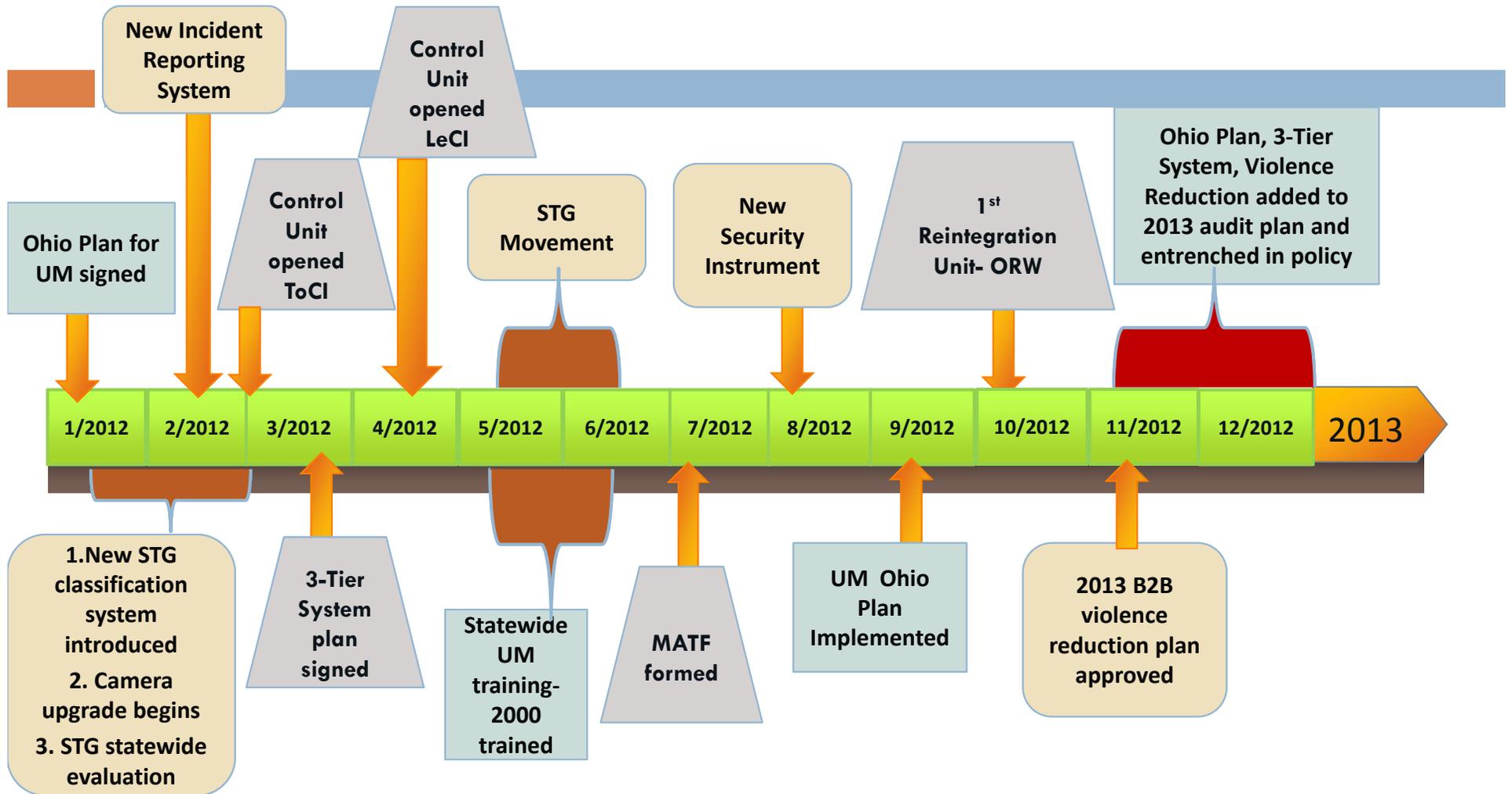
Reintegration Unit –Ohio Reformatory for Women



Violence Reduction and Reform Timeline-2011



Violence Reduction and Reform Timeline-2012



3 Tier Prison System and Violence Reduction

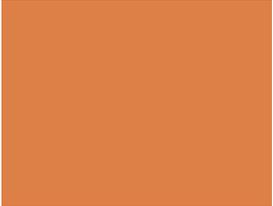


- Calendar 2012 was the first full year of our violence reduction reforms being in place, and the data reflects that we are headed in the right direction.
- We have seen a 7.2 percent reduction in total violent rule infractions, and the number of disturbances involving four or more inmates as defined by the American Correctional Association, have also decreased.
- We have experienced a decline in disturbances in 2012, particularly in level 1 and 2 open compounds.

3 Tier Prison System and Violence Reduction



- Assault and harassment rule infraction rates increased in 2012, largely due to putting disruptive inmates in the more controlled settings within the 3-tier system.
- These levels of assault and harassment continue to be one of our primary concerns. Serious inmate on staff assaults, remain too high.
- This underlines the need for additional measures, one of which will be a recommendation in the very near future for legislation to increase potential prison terms for these offenders.



FY 2014-15 Request Flat-funded agency programs

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- Overall, the Department's General Revenue fund budget request is \$1.49 billion in FY 2014, and \$1.48 billion in FY 2015. The agency's request represents little change from the Department's projected FY 2013 expenditures of \$1.48 billion.
- Excluding debt payments and community corrections, the General Revenue Fund budget for operations will decrease below the FY 2006 appropriation after falling for five of the last six years.
- DRC currently has just over 11,800 employees. This is the lowest staffing level for the Department since FY 1995, despite the inmate population increasing from approximately 42,000 in FY95 to nearly 50,000 today.

FY 2014-15 Request Flat-funded agency programs

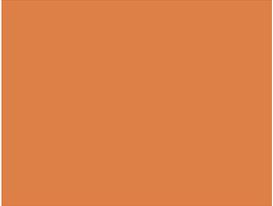


- As you can see in the Blue Book, the total number of state employees decreased by 2,003 from July, 2011 through July, 2012. Of those reductions, 1,022 or 51% of all reductions were DRC employees.
- This is due to the completion of the fifth job abolishment in as many years. Though the abolishment has not been finalized, this budget will result in a further reduction in staff by approximately 400 filled positions.
- DRC will continue to manage within its available resources.

FY 2014-15 Request Flat-funded agency programs



- Despite the Department's flat-funding over the biennium, DRC is projecting a \$60 million deficit over the biennium due to projected increases in the number of inmates, health insurance premiums and other payroll changes, and inflation in utilities and medical services.
- These projected increases will require the Department to implement budgetary cuts and further improve operational efficiencies.



Measures to Increase Operational Efficiencies and Reduce Budget

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- **Office of Correctional Healthcare** – One of the major initiatives contained within this budget is to fully implement the Office of Correctional Healthcare, an interdisciplinary, holistic program to serve the medical, mental health, and recovery services needs of inmates. Combining all funding lines will increase flexibility and streamline operations of this office.
- **Recovery Services** – DRC is entering into a memorandum of understanding with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHA) to develop a strategic plan to reform recovery services both within the prisons and the community. The partnership with DRC and ODMHA will increase the availability of recovery services.

Measures to Increase Operational Efficiencies and Reduce Budget

- In addition, DRC is committed to creating two additional therapeutic communities within the prison system at Grafton Correctional Institution and at Chillicothe Correctional Institution. These programs have been documented to reduce offender recidivism. This partnership with ODMHA will lead to additional intensive programs and more outpatient services.
- **Food Service** – Over the last year, a joint labor/management committee worked tirelessly to examine costs associated with inmate meals. Their hard work resulted in the inmate cost per meal decreasing from \$1.72 in January 2012 to \$1.58 in December 2012.
- A Request for Proposal was released for food service operations statewide. It is projected that this action will result in at least \$15 million savings annually.

Measures to Increase Operational Efficiencies and Reduce Budget



- There will also be additional contract monitors to insure compliance with the Heart Healthy menu and all applicable policies, rules, and procedures. The vendor will have a contractual preference to hire impacted DRC staff, buy Ohio produce, and purchase OPI meat and milk products.
- Opportunities for employment will be made available for qualified staff in the Correction Officer ranks.

Measures to Increase Operational Efficiencies and Reduce Budget



- **Revenue Committee** – The Director commissioned a committee to find ways to raise revenue in order to decrease DRC’s reliance on general revenue funds.
- Through creative ideas such as harvesting and selling timber from prison land, assessing fees to private companies to utilize DRC data, asset forfeiture, and renting unused prison space to other criminal justice agencies, and demand response utility.
- The group has generated more than \$2 million.

Measures to Increase Operational Efficiencies and Reduce Budget

- **Laboratory** – DRC is exploring whether to continue to operate a stand-alone laboratory or to use a private vendor or the Ohio State University. The laboratory at Franklin Medical Center recently revised prices, which will establish a baseline to compare against when a Request for Proposal is released.
- **Warehouses** – DRC is exploring alternative means of providing warehouses and managing procurement of items that are stored at multiple sites. A Request for Proposal will be released to determine what other options exist and how they would impact DRC staff.

Measures to Increase Operational Efficiencies and Reduce Budget

- **Operation Support Center/Franklin Medical Center Zone B** – There are ongoing discussions regarding ways to reduce or eliminate the \$1.14 million annual lease for the Operation Support Center (OSC).
- The lease can only be extended month-by-month until December, 2013. Staff will be notified as decisions are made regarding relocation.
- One option that is likely to occur is the closure of the majority of the housing units at Franklin Medical Center Zone B (formerly the Franklin Pre-Release Center) and modify areas in order to provide office space for OSC staff. This would lead to a reduction of staff through attrition.

Other Budget Initiatives



- **Erasing the Lines and Regionalization** – The DRC budget request supports a holistic approach to recidivism reduction which moves towards erasing the traditional lines between prison and parole and community services staff, and moves the agency towards a unified organizational chart encompassed by four regions.
- This move from a centralized management system to a regionalized format will result in the downsizing of our Operations Support Center as indicated above, placing more staff in the field where they can provide services more directly to our offenders.

Other Budget Initiatives



- **Focusing on our Staff** – It is our intent this year and in the next biennium to focus on our staff, improving skills and competencies, enhancing workforce development and succession planning, and creating positive work cultures in our facilities to foster our mission.
- Enhanced quality of life on the job means improved work performance in order to achieve the agency goals and foster our mission. Cultural Assessments of our facilities are the key measurement tool to determine whether we are succeeding in enhancing the quality of life for our staff in the field.

Budget Language

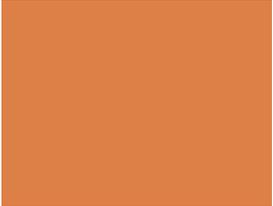


- The Executive budget proposal contains language proposals that will merge the existing Prison Labor Advisory Council (PLAC) and newly developed Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board. The Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board will encompass the duties currently performed by the Prison Labor Advisory Council, as well as work to increase employment and employability of inmates.
- Language has also been developed to provide the authority for the Department of Administrative Services to sell state-owned employee housing. On a property-by-property basis, vacant employee housing will be considered for sale. This will allow the Department to focus on its core mission while not negatively impacting any employees.

Conclusion



- While the budget I have presented to you today will present challenges to meet our requested appropriation levels that include job reductions, consolidations, and outsourcing of services, I believe the reforms that we are implementing will allow us to provide services that achieve our agency mission in the most efficient manner possible for the taxpayers of Ohio.
- I am proud of the nearly 12,000 employees of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and I believe that their hard work and dedication is without parallel. I am also proud of our collaboration with our many community partners and criminal justice stakeholders.
- In conclusion, Chairman McGregor, and members of the Finance and Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee, I urge your support of the proposed Executive Budget contained in House Bill 59. I would now be pleased to answer any questions you might have.



Questions and Answers

Annual Violent Rule Infraction Rate

Annual Violent Rule Infraction Rate

