
REENTRY TODAY

THE OHIO PLAN

Volume 1, Issue 2

June 2003

Release Preparation Program Implementation Training Soars Off

Reentry Implementation

Susan Renick, Reentry Administrator

Office of Offender Reentry and Correctional Best Practices

The Release Preparation Implementation team has been busy at work. The team divided the state into nine regions consisting of institutional and parole staff, cross training parole staff with institutional staff on the newly adopted Release Preparation Policy #313-01. Beginning in February 2003, the regions began to receive release preparation training. The first region to be trained was the Southeast region at Ross Correctional Institution. Staff from CCI, SCI, HCF, RCI, and SOCF was present. Only one site remains to be trained, the Northwest region which encompasses TCOI, ACI, LCI, and the Lima Parole Region. The training will be scheduled over the summer. If you missed your area's training, this will provide another opportunity to receive this vital and necessary training.

Continued on page 2

Akron A.P.A Weed and Seed Program Receives Community Award

Since the partnership with the Youngstown Police and neighborhood Blockwatch groups started three years ago, the removal of twenty-two firearms, 2,300 residential checks, seizure of 100 grams of crack cocaine and five pounds of marijuana have reduced potential victims. Community support has resulted in a decrease of 56% in the number of reported crack house, 16% drop in homicides, and 17.1% drop in rapes.

The Weed and Seed Program has been recognized with a Gold Star Award, An Excel Award and in May 2003 the United States Department of Justice Coordination Honor Award



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Release Preparation Training
- 2 National Media Outreach Campaign Recognizes Ohio
- 3 Risk Assessment- Update from Reception
- 3 Urban Institute Launches Major Study in Ohio
- 4 Have You Heard?
- 4 WCP's Reentry Implementation Team a Success

Policy Alert! Policy Alert!

There are two new policies that deal with reentry issues that became effective in the last couple of months and are available for viewing on the Department's Intranet. The new policies are:

#306-02-Reentry Programming

#501-70-Supervision of Reentry Offenders

With the completion of training, all sites should be implementing their interdisciplinary approach to Release Preparation. Release Preparation is designed to start as early as six months prior to release. Here are some of the new modules to be incorporated into Release Preparation:

- ❑ The APA workshop on supervision
- ❑ Mental Health Workshop
- ❑ Community Justice Component
- ❑ Expanded Employability Skills Modules

Is your institution offering other workshops that need to be included in the Release Preparation? Please submit your ideas and/or lesson plans for review to Susan Renick, Reentry Administrator Susan.Renick@odrc.state.oh.us or James Dixon, Release Preparation Administrator James.Dixon@odrc.state.oh.us.

JUST THE FAQS SIR, JUST THE FAQS

Preview FAQ's or *Frequently Asked Questions About Reentry*. The frequently asked question page is found under "Initiatives/Offender Reentry" on the Department's intranet site to assist departmental staff in receiving answers and information about reentry accountability planning. It will be expanded over time to include other areas impacted by reentry changes. Here are four of the questions you will find:

- ❑ **If my institution receives an offender without a static risk score, do I need to do one?** Yes. Regardless of the length of time an offender must serve, a static risk assessment needs to be completed on every offender that has been sentenced to prison after October 1st, 2002. Please refer to Policy 306-01 for further instructions.
- ❑ **Will there be a derived history of programming available in the DOTS/RAP system?** Yes. This option should be available around July 1st, 2003.
- ❑ **What does a supervisor or parole officer do if there are inaccuracies in the RAP?** The unit supervisor should make the appropriate changes and make note of these changes in the RAP6 screen (notes).
- ❑ **Where can I find a PSI in DOTS?** The Post Sentence Investigation (PSI) can be located by going to the PSIM screen or PSNAM screen in DOTS. Please note you must have prior permission and clearance to access this portion of DOTS.

National Media Outreach Campaign Recognizes Ohio Citizens' Circles

John Matthews, Mansfield Regional Services Coordinator

Recently, representatives from the Marion, Mansfield, Elyria, and the Toledo Citizens' Circles were invited to participate in a video series production for the *Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign*. Citizens' Circles are Community Justice Partnerships forged between ODRC and Ohio communities that promote interaction with community supervision. The representatives were asked to discuss their views on the moral responsibility of helping offenders, how offender reentry impacts their own communities, the key components to successful offender reintegration, and public safety. Citizens' Circles are powerful forms of community collaboration. They provide an opportunity for citizens to communicate their expectations for successful reentry and help the offender develop a viable plan of action to promote responsible citizenship. The National Media Outreach Campaign raises community awareness as well as facilitates discussion and decision-making about solution-based reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities. The purpose of the campaign is to develop a National Reentry Resource Guide that showcases a variety of promising programs to community leaders, faith-based coalitions, and policy leaders. The outreach video and Reentry Resource Guide will be available in the spring of 2004.

For more information about this article contact John Matthews at John.Matthews@odrc.state.oh.us.



RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE FROM REENTRY

From October 1, 2002, through June 10, 2003, reception staff completed 19,545 static risk assessments. Of that number, 15,496 offenders have been designated as Reentry Basic, and 4049 have been assessed as Reentry Intensive.

DATES AND PUBLICATIONS

"CITIZENS' CIRCLES: COMMUNITY COLLABORATION IN REENTRY." CORRECTIONS TODAY, AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION, 2003

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION'S 133RD CONGRESS OF CORRECTION
PLACE: NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
DATE: AUGUST 9-14, 2003
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT ACA'S WEB SITE AT WWW.ACA.ORG.

JUST PUBLISHED:

DAVID KARP AND TODD CLEAR, WHAT IS COMMUNITY JUSTICE: CASE STUDIES IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION, THOUSAND OAKS

APPA CONFERENCE-28TH ANNUAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
PLACE: CLEVELAND, OHIO
DATE: AUGUST 24-27, 2003
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL DIANE KINCAID AT 1-859-244-8195

STATE LEVEL FEDERAL REENTRY GRANT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
PLACE: LONDON, OHIO
DATE: JULY 23, 2003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ANGI LEE AT ANGLLEE@ODRC.STATE.OH.US

PAROLE REENTRY TOWNHALL MEETINGS:

CLEVELAND REGION-JULY 2, 2003
MANSFIELD REGION-JULY 10, 2003
COLUMBUS REGION-JULY 11, 2003
CINCINNATI REGION-JULY 18, 2003
AKRON REGION-JULY 22, 2003
CHILLICOTHE REGION-JULY 29, 2003
LIMA REGION-JULY 31, 2003

Urban Institute Launches Major Reentry Study in Ohio

Edward Rhine, Chief

Last year, the Urban Institute announced that it had selected Ohio as one of its sites for a major study designed to document the pathways associated with prisoner reintegration to the community. The study, *Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry*, is a three year, multi-state project focusing on the many factors that contribute to the experience of reentry-whether successful or unsuccessful. Specifically, the project will explore the prison experience itself, inmates' plans for reentry, their experiences subsequent to release, and the challenges they confront during their reintegration into their neighborhoods, families, peer-groups, and the labor market. Particular attention will be paid to the characteristics of ex-prisoners in Hamilton and Cuyahoga counties.

One of the initial products of this research will be a report entitled *A Portrait of Reentry in Ohio*. Preliminary work has begun with the Bureau of Planning and Evaluation and the Bureau of Research on the sharing of data that will inform the preparation of the final report. The portrait will describe the reentry process relative to inmates released during the calendar year 2001 highlighting demographic and other information about this cohort. Special attention will be given to "mapping" where in Ohio these prisoners return. The study will be distributed to DRC staff, other justice system officials, and service providers across the state. The findings will be useful in making programmatic recommendations that will enhance the prospects for successful offender reentry, reduce future victimization, and increase public safety.



“HAVE YOU HEARD?”

*Success can be found in the Circle,
Citizen’s Circle that is...*

...Randy was released from the institution after being on the ‘Over Due’ list for several months. He did not have any family members or friends who would allow him to reside with them. He came to the Marion County Community homeless shelter, no community contacts, and \$75.00 in his pocket. Randy’s parole officer referred him to the Marion Citizens Circle for assistance. Randy was unstable and unsure of his ability to maintain self-control in the community. Randy was taking psychotropic medications while incarcerated and had been issued a fourteen-day supply of medication. The Marion Citizen Circle members were able to provide access to housing, an appointment with the local treatment agency, and a community mentor through a local church. Randy began volunteering his time at that church and continues to help them regularly. Randy recently received his final release, terminating him successfully from community supervision. He is still active in the Marion Circle, offering advice to offenders recently paroled, and those who are having difficulty adjusting to being home.



“WCI Is Off and Running”

Sandra Cranford, Warren Correctional Institution

In December 2003, WCI implemented a reentry management team that meets weekly with inmates that have entered the Department after October 1, 2002. The team meets with the offender to develop his Reentry Accountability Plan. Prior to the offender meeting with the RMT he has been interviewed by his case manager in order to complete the dynamic needs assessment. The RMT (inclusive of the offender) discusses the offender’s needs and makes the appropriate program referrals. At WCI, the RMT is a multi-disciplinary team that is chaired by the unit management administrator and includes representatives from education, recovery services, mental health, and the offender’s unit manager and case manager. To date, the RMT has met with 99 inmates. Of those, 52 have already been enrolled in education, recovery services, or unit management programs

Doug McDaniel, Recovery Services Supervisor, stated, “With the inception of the RMT, departments are working together to provide a better quality of care and delivery of services to the offenders.”

All members of the RMT have been enthusiastic about the process. Everyone has expressed the process is a benefit to the offender, their individual departments, the institution, and the community. Never before has so many institutional departments worked so closely together to link offenders to those services they really need.

Building on the Past for a Safer Tomorrow

Mike Anderson, CCDC III, Akron Parole Region

As reentry rolls out across the state, the Adult Parole Authority and Offender Services Network is meeting the challenge head on. Reentry is a major initiative within our department and is being described as a 'philosophical shift, changing the way we do business.' It is commonplace today to attend a meeting, conference, or workshop and hear people talking about Citizens Circles, Reentry Accountability Plans (RAP), or Community Reentry Management Teams (RMT).

The creation of the Offender Service Network brought specialized positions and expertise into the Adult Parole Authority Regions. A Chemical Dependency Specialist, Sex Offender Specialist, Psychologist, Lab Technicians, and a Regional Services Coordinator all make up these regional teams. Research tells us the sooner we get an offender involved in community programming following incarceration the better chance we have for reducing recidivism. Recovery Services, "Transition to the Community Process" as well as Mental Health Services, "Community Linkage" both are considered today as model reentry practices.

As the Department begins taking reentry to the next level, having a solid foundation already established through the Offender Services Network will assist in building our way into the future.

Office of Offender Reentry and Correctional Best Practices
P.O. Box 69
London, Ohio 43140

BUILD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
98765

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mailing Address: