
REENTRY TODAY

THE OHIO PLAN

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The Ohio Plan for Productive Offender Reentry and Recidivism Reduction

Reentry Implementation

Ed Rhine, Chief

Office of Offender Reentry and Correctional Best Practices

The Ohio Plan provides a comprehensive set of recommendations addressing the transition of offenders from reception to their parent institution to supervision in the community. Six Reentry Action Teams formulated the recommendations. The teams focused on six major areas affecting offender reentry: Offender Planning and Tracking, Offender Programming, Discharge Planning and Employment, Family Involvement, Offender Supervision, and Community Justice Partnerships.

Reentry Implementation Teams have been working on the adoption of the 44 recommendations contained in The Ohio Plan since its adoption in July of 2002. On a monthly basis, the chair/co-chairs submit progress reports on the status of their

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The Ohio Plan Quarterly Newsletter

In the months ahead staff will be provided with a 'user-friendly' reentry newsletter updating the progress of this initiative. Staff, local community agencies, and victim advocates are encouraged to submit articles regarding the implementation of The Ohio Plan. Future editions will include upcoming events, training information, staff and offender reentry experiences, new policies, highlights of institutional/parole reentry programs, and information regarding national reentry programs.

To submit articles, picture, upcoming events, or training information regarding reentry topics, please email or fax them to the attention of Ed Rhine, at

Edward.Rhine@odrc.state.oh.us or (740) 845-2913.

Submissions should be received by the 25th of every month.



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"The nation faces enormous challenges in managing the reintegration of increasing numbers of individuals who are leaving state and federal prisons. It is time to do the hard work of developing more effective responses to these challenges. We should do this, not only because it will be good for prisoners returning home, but because it will ultimately be good for their children, their neighbors, and the community at large."

-Joan Petersilia. When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry. Oxford University Press. 2003: 247.

work. Throughout this newsletter, DRC staff and community agencies will have the opportunity to view the areas where reentry policies have been adopted or proposed, or where progress on a given recommendation is being made.

Offender Assessments and Reentry Planning

The reception process has been augmented under the system of reentry to include a formal risk assessment, a needs assessment, and a new case-planning tool known as the Reentry Accountability Plan (RAP). RAP may be accessed as a series of automated screens in DOTS. The rollout of RAP began in October at the three reception centers and since then has moved to the parent institutions. Planning is nearing completion to connect the RAP process to the parole regions and the Offender Services Network. Establishing this linkage will foster effective reentry planning across the entire system.

Offender Programming

Programming for offenders will target needs that have been identified through an assessment of the seven dynamic domains used to support the development of the RAP. These domains identify broad areas that are associated with the likelihood of re-offending. A policy on programming has been developed and routed through the approval process. It will require that new and existing programs be tied to these domains. It will provide an assessment checklist by which to evaluate programs in the institutions and the APA/OSN. The goal of this policy is to provide certified reentry programs that may be included in an offender's RAP. It is anticipated that this policy will be approved soon. Training of staff will occur in the spring. The institutions and regions will be given a one-year grace period to assess existing programs under the new policy.

Family Involvement in Reentry

A new policy has been developed codifying the establishment of family orientation programs at each of the three reception centers. It is being routed through the review and approval process. Revisions in the Inmate Visitation policy are under review, and the curriculum for the "Responsible Family Life Skills Program" has been revised

to include a lesson plan on child support and paternity.

Employment Readiness and Discharge Planning

A comprehensive policy entitled the "Release Preparation Program" has been approved and adopted (#313-03). This policy combines and integrates two previously separate DRC policies that governed the operation of the department's pre-release programs. Its adoption will facilitate compliance with appropriate ACA standards. Lesson plans have been completed and are being used to support staff training (institutional and parole regions) which is expected to be completed in June.

Reentry-Centered Supervision

The Adult Parole Authority began the implementation of Citizens' Circles prior to the adoption of The Ohio Plan on Reentry. Three Citizens' Circles are now operating in Marion, Elyria, and Mansfield. Such circles are under development in Lima, Toledo, and in Cleveland while planning meetings are scheduled in Chillicothe and Youngstown. Citizens' Circles will operate in Columbus, Cleveland, and Lima in conjunction with the federal reentry grant. Lesson plans have been completed and a training schedule has been established for 'Reentry Orientation' sessions to be conducted by parole officers for offenders prior to release.

Community Justice Partnerships

A Faith-Based Advisory Board was established as The Ohio Plan was being developed. Regional councils are in the process of being formed. Specifically, a Central Ohio Regional Council has been established and hosted a seminar at the Allen Correctional Institution on reentry on February 26, 2003. The purpose of the seminar was to educate the faith-based community on DRC's reentry initiative and to encourage those in attendance to become involved in offender reentry.

RISK ASSESSMENT UPDATE FROM RECEPTION

From October 1, 2002, through February 27, 2003, reception staff completed 9,598 static risk assessments. Of that number 7,555 offenders have been designated as Reentry Basic, and 2,043 have been assessed as Reentry Intensive.

DATES AND PUBLICATIONS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS
TELECONFERENCE ON YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS IN ADULT
CORRECTIONS: EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS – DISTANCE
LEARNING PROGRAM

PLACE: LOCAL TELECONFERENCE SITE - HOSTED BY THE OHIO
INSTITUTE ON CORRECTION BEST PRACTICES ON TWO DATES.

DATE: MAY 14-15, 2003 -TRAINING THE TRAINERS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8-12, 2003: DRC STAFF TRAINING

The training will address the unique needs of youthful offenders by developing a system-wide, strategic approach to offender management and treatment. More information will be provided at a later date.

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE *TWO DAYS IN MAY*

PLACE: HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, COLUMBUS, OHIO

DATE: MAY 12-13, 2003

Please contact your local victim coordinator for registration information or the Office of Victim Services.

JUST PUBLISHED:

JOAN PETERSILIA. WHEN PRISONERS COME HOME:
PAROLE AND PRISONER REENTRY. 2003. NEW YORK.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. www.oup.com.



If you have any pictures you would like to submit for this newsletter, please email them to Angi. Lee@odrc.state.oh.us.

FROM THE FRONTLINE

By: Natalie Wehrs

My name is Natalie Wehrs. I am a Unit Manager at CRC. Since October 2002, I have completed 56 interviews and program plans for reception inmates. The inmates are very thankful to get into programs and to see a 'plan' on paper that will follow them to their parent institution. My experience with reentry has been great. This is something I really believe in, and I believe we will see the job we are doing 'pay off' soon.

“HAVE YOU HEARD?”

REENTRY, “GOING HOME TO STAY”

The first in a series of Reentry Posters, *Offender Assessments and Reentry Planning*, has been created and distributed. Such planning asks: “What caused the offender’s behavior and how can we keep it from happening again?” The Reentry Accountability Plan (RAP) will provide valuable information that will chart the offender’s needs and progress from reception to release through supervision. As The Ohio Plan begins to unfold and its implementation takes place, reentry posters will be distributed to each institution, central office, and parole region highlighting a specific component of The Ohio Plan.

The Ohio Plan is available on the Department’s Intranet Site under ‘Initiatives - Reentry’.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

“Family Day”

Edwin Voorhies, Belmont Correctional Institution

The Belmont Correctional Institution is developing a plan to offer a “Family Day” visit for offenders who have successfully completed all components of the release preparation phase of The Ohio Plan. The visit is intended to serve as an incentive for the offenders who are scheduled for release. The Family Day visit supports family involvement in programming and reentry planning and provides community linkage information to the family members in advance of the offender’s release to the community. This idea is still in the planning phase. However, BeCI staff is working diligently to make this proposal a reality. For further information, please contact Edwin Voorhies at Edwin.Voorhies@odrc.state.oh.us

On February 25, 2003, Cleveland Regional Service Coordinator Joyce Chisar conducted a Community Reentry Management Team presentation. There were approximately 45 participants from local agencies and community organizations. The most frequently asked question of the day, “When can we start?”

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