

## REENTRY TODAY

## JEREMY TRAVIS VISITS OHIO

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **President George Bush puts major emphasis on Reentry in his State of the Union address. See page 4 for further details.**
- **For Further details on the Ohio Plan on Reentry, visit the DRC intranet, under the initiatives site.**

On October 22, 2003 Jeremy Travis, Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute spoke to a crowd of 100 people at the Ohio Institute of Correctional Best Practices regarding the philosophy of reentry at the national level, and prisoner reentry in Ohio. Director Wilkinson provided opening remarks, highlighting the Department's reentry vision, and the Ohio Plan. The attendees consisted of personnel from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Department of Education, Department of Mental Health, Office of Criminal Justice Services, and local community partners. These Departments also had the opportunity to set up informational booths for participants to view.

Jeremy Travis's presentation pro-

vided attendees with an overall perspective on reentry, "Reentry is not a program, not a form of supervision, not an option." Mr. Travis spoke in regards to the upcoming study, *Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry*, a three year multi-state project focusing on many factors that contribute to the experience of reentry. One of the initial products of this research entitled, *A Portrait of Prisoner Reentry in Ohio*. This report may be viewed and downloaded from the departments intranet site under *Offender Reentry*, or by accessing the Urban Institute's website under <http://JPC.urban.org>.



Jeremy Travis speaks to staff at the Ohio Institute on Correctional Best Practices

## DRC'S AND SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION'S REENTRY INITIATIVE

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Social Security Administration, Ohio Bureau of Disability Determination and Ohio Department of Mental Health, will partner in a project to assist disabled offenders (unable to do gainful work) prior to release by helping them through the application process for dis-

ability. The target population will be mental health clients-C1 level/ (RTU)-residential treatment unit, mentally retarded clients, and clients with severe medical needs. The pilot will target offenders returning home to Allen, Franklin, and Cuyahoga counties from eleven institutions. To assist in facilitating

this process, a phone interview will be conducted by SSA claims representative after receipt of the application, approximately 45 days before the offender is released. Training for the pilot was held in October. The pilot will run through June 2004.

## DRC CELEBRATES 2003 EXCELLENCE IN REENTRY

On September 30th 2003, the Department recognized several institutions for their excellence in reentry initiatives. The winners of the Excel award are as follows:

1. **Chillicothe Correctional Institution**-CCI staff have developed an electronic form to assist unit staff with obtaining information from inmates during the reentry assessment process. This form is used as an objective guide and scoring device to estimate the rating of an inmate's needs in the seven dynamic domain areas.
2. **Lorain Correctional Institution**-The Lorain Correctional Institution Reentry program consists of all the elements as specified in the Release Preparation Policy. Elements of the program are supported by educational and institutional staff, and appropriate outside agen-

cies. All inmates who desire a professional quality resume are provided with one upon release. Inmates returning to select cities in Ohio are offered the opportunity to be interviewed by potential employers via teleconference.

3. **Richland Correctional Institution**-PEAR is a public calendar on the exchange server available to RiCI staff to review inmate programming scheduled throughout the month. This calendar uses custom forms to display the event, activity, or program and the reentry domain in which the program is located.
4. **Oakwood Correctional Facility**-The Oakwood Correctional facility established an initiative with the Parole Board

and Adult Parole Authority to discuss inmates on the severely mentally ill caseload. The communication that has been established will build a strong foundation for the further development and strengthening of reentry programming for the seriously mentally ill offender. The placement and continuity of care is critical to the success of release. When the community is fully aware of the needs of the inmate prior to the release, and discussions are held to accommodate those needs in the community, the success rate of the releasees will improve.

Congratulations to all those who received the prestigious Excel Award.



Reentry starts with the question, "What is needed to prepare this offender for successful reentry?"

## OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES PRESENTS BROCHURES SERIES

The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) recently designed and showcased a series of brochures for the corrections, mental illness, MR/DD, and court communities. The brochures were created to increase awareness of Ohio's vulnerable populations and issues involving the mentally ill and substance abusing offenders. The series entitled, *Jus-*

*tice Alternatives*, is comprised of six brochures and two pocket guides for use by law enforcement, courts, corrections, and service providers. The brochures were developed in collaboration with other state agencies, the Ohio Supreme Court and the Ohio Community Corrections Organizations. It was fully

funded through a federal Byrne grant award to OCJS. The *Justice Alternative* series includes:

**Community Sanctions**-This explains Ohio's graduated sanction process, from least restrictive (non-residential) to most restrictive (prison).  
(continued on page three)



## OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE (CONT.)

**Mental Illness**-This provides an overview of mental illness, including frequent signs and symptoms; tips for interacting with the seriously mentally ill individual, and state and national contacts. A corresponding *quick reference pocket guide* is also available.

**Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities**- This offers clinical definitions of mental retardation and developmental disabilities and sug-

gestions for effective communication with offenders with disabilities. A corresponding *quick reference pocket guide* is available.

**Offender Reentry**-This tracks the various phases of Reentry courts, from the time offenders are released from prison through intensive court supervision, treatment, and life-skills training for a long-term success.

### **Community-Oriented Reentry**

This defines the successful CORE reentry initiative offered in Allen, Franklin, and Cuyahoga counties and its intensive post release services to high risk, serious, and violent offenders.

**Specialty Courts**-Identifies Ohio's Drug, Mental Health, and Reentry specialized court dockets and the support services they provide to significantly reduce recidivism.



To obtain copies of these brochures, please contact the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services at 614-466-7782

## DATES AND PUBLICATIONS

### **Just Published:**

Christy Visher, Nancy La Vigne, and Jim Farrell. "**Illinois Prisoners' Reflections on Returning Home.**" September 2003. Washington D.C.: Urban Institute.

-For a more detailed description of prisoner reentry in Illinois, please refer to La Vigne, Nancy and Cynthia Mainalian. 2003. **A Portrait of Prisoner Reentry in Illinois.** Washington D.C.: The Urban Institute.

***They're Coming Back: An Action Plan for Successful Reentry Return of Offenders that Works For Everyone.*** Philadelphia, Consensus Group on Reentry & Reintegration of Adjudicated Offenders "**Search for Common Ground.**" Washington D.C. 2003

### **Dates to Remember**

**APPA 2004 Winter Training Institute, February 8-11, Reno, Nevada**

Register online at [www.appa-net.org](http://www.appa-net.org) or call 859-244-8204

**OCCA Third annual convention "Research, Programming & Change: How to Choose"** March 17-19, Columbus, Oh. [www.occaonline.org](http://www.occaonline.org)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) launches new website titled "Reentry Trends in The United States" [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/reentry/reentry.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/reentry/reentry.htm).



We are on the web! [www.drc.state.oh.us/web/offenderreentry.htm](http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/offenderreentry.htm)

## ODRC

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## Vision Statement

The Ohio Institute on Correctional Best Practices serves as a dynamic forum for generating ideas that showcase, promote and enhance correctional best practices. As a catalyst for positive change, the Institute in partnership with others will inspire excellence and innovation thereby improving the quality of life in Ohio

### President George W. Bush– State of the Union Address-January 20, 2004

**Comments on Funding for a Prisoner Reentry Initiative:** “So tonight, I propose a 4-year, \$300 million Prisoner Re-entry Initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including faith-based groups.”

*R E E N T R Y   M E A N S :  
G O I N G   H O M E   T O   S T A Y !*

## REENTRY MISSION STATEMENT

The Reentry Initiative is a holistic and systematic approach that seeks to reduce the likelihood of additional criminal behavior. Beginning at sentencing and extending beyond release, reentry will assess, identify, and link offenders with services specific to their needs. This will be accomplished through associations with community partners, families, justice professionals, and victims of crime.

