



Re-Entry Services

Nevada Department of Corrections

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Director's Message

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) believes Re-entry services should be provided to inmates. Nevada's Re-entry offers these services to inmates preparing for release into the community that differ from institution to institution. The aim of Re-Entry is to standardize the way that inmates are receiving services throughout the state and to provide state-wide services at all facilities. Re-Entry programs enhance public safety by providing offenders effective program services which prepare them for re-entry into the community.

This process starts by training existing casework and program staff to implement re-entry services consistently statewide, standardizing re-entry services for all institutions, and utilizing existing community resources and staffing. In the past year, Re-entry services have made significant strides. Vocational trainings, curriculum development, staff trainings, receiving grant dollars increased collaborations with Faith Based and Community Organizations (FB/CO) are some of the highlights over the past year.

This marks the first Re-Entry Newsletter NDOC has produced and will be generated quarterly to inform what is going on in Re-Entry within NDOC. I encourage you to read this newsletter and if you have questions or comments, please contact my Re-entry staff.

Purpose, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence (P.R.I.D.E.) to begin November 1, 2010

Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) has been working with the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) and the Department of Public Safety Probation and Parole (DPS-P&P) in a program called P.R.I.D.E.

The P.R.I.D.E. program will provide pre-release and post-release assistance to inmates and felons through a holistic program that incorporates intensive case management, tran-

sitional housing, employment training and placement, life skills training, mental health services, substance and drug abuse counseling, mentoring, and other comprehensive transitional services. The collaborative parties would like the Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners involved in this program to secure housing for released inmates throughout the state.

Probation and Parole and NDOC have also been working

on creating collaboration with Technical Parole Violators. Probation & Parole (P&P) will inform NDOC of technical parole violators and will bring the violators to Casa Grande Transitional Housing (CGTH). NDOC will evaluate parole violators to determine whether their sentence expirations and charges qualify for CGTH short-term housing. NDOC will provide programming as appropriate.

Governor Gibbons Announces Re-Entry Task Force

The Nevada Re-entry Task Force was created in January of 2010 by Governor Jim Gibbons. The Task Force was formed with the idea that Nevada has an economic and moral imperative to support offenders returning to its communities and that successful re-entry will provide both increased security and economic benefits for the state. A Statewide Re-Entry Coalition has been in place and active since 2008 to develop

strategies and direct resources toward prisoner re-entry. Grants have allowed the Nevada Department of Corrections to implement programs. However, a lack of resources has led to fragmented services. Nevada faces significant challenges in assisting approximately 5,800 inmates to re-enter society each year. Nevada has been one of the fastest growing states for the past several years. Its prison population exploded from 5,641

in 1990 to 13,369 in 2009 and community resources, state infrastructure, and prison construction have not kept up with this growth. Re-entry services for prisoners are difficult to provide in Nevada because so many ex-felons are competing for the same housing, jobs, treatment, and other community resources. Furthermore, Nevada now has the highest unemployment rate in the nation, significantly adding to the burden.

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Director Skolnik Announces Opportunity for Probation with Enforcement in Nevada (O.P.E.N.)



The Nevada Department of Corrections and the Nevada Department of Public Safety-Division of Parole and Probation, and District Court are working together to give probation violators a second chance with a new intermediate sanctions program, OPEN.

The program will be offered to 30 male offenders currently in violation status as an alternative to revocation. The offenders will be reinstated on probation with the added condition of participation in OPEN. Those that violate the conditions of their probation will be

immediately transported to Casa Grande Transitional Housing (CGTH). They will remain at CGTH until the next available court date, at that hearing, the Judge may determine to extend the length of the probationer's stay (ranging from three (3) to ninety (90) days) or add a new condition based on the violation.

While at CGTH offenders are housed separately from NDOC general population inmates. Each offender receives an individualized assessment from both NDOC program staff and other community partners to best identify programming needs.

Offenders will have limited privileges in order to maximize the time available to attend required programming. In the future, probationers will be given the opportunity to return to CGTH after their release to continue programming.

Funding

- In 2010, NDOC was awarded \$100,000 from the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Office of Criminal Justice Assistance (OCJA), administrators of the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). This grant allows states and local governments to support activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system.
- In 2010, NDOC was awarded \$750,000 for a cohesive, comprehensive statewide Prisoner Re-entry Demonstration Project. This project will target 200 high-risk offenders, including sex offenders, violent offenders and offenders who have been diagnosed with mental illness and substance addictions.
- The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) received \$1.2 million dollars from the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) to provide Re-entry services under the 7B Wagner-Peyser Federal Dollars. The funds have been divided in three ways: 1) funds for infrastructure, "office space", operating cost, and housing for 85 individuals have been transferred from DETR to NDOC through an inter-local agreement; 2) funds to employ two Parole and Probation Officers have been transferred from DETR to P&P through an inter-local agreement; and 3) funds to contract with a Faith Based/Community Organization (FB/CO) through a Request for Proposal (RFP) have been transferred to Workforce Connections through an inter-local agreement.
- Workforce Connections in collaboration with NDOC requested and obtained \$749,325.00 to conduct the "Green Energy Technology for Offenders Undergoing Training" or "GET OUT" high tech career training program in Clark County Nevada. The primary goal of the GET OUT project is to reduce the recidivism rate of a cohort of approximately 320 inmates within four Southern Nevada correctional (CGTH, FMWCC, HDSP, and SDCC) facilities who are within 12 o 18 months of release.

Re-Entry Program Units

- Three institutions have now begun pre-release programs.
 - Florence McClure Women's Correctional Center (FMWCC)**
 - High Desert State Prison (HDSP)**
 - Southern Desert Correctional Center (SDCC)**



The Pre-Release Units at FMWCC, SDCC, and HDSP house inmates close to release into one area. Social workers, mental health counselors, substance abuse counselors, and community agencies assist them with issues which could affect their chances of successfully re-entering the community. These units offer intense programming and classes. Many community agencies come and talk to these men and women about what Programs or services are available to them upon their release.



Re-Entry Programs/Activities

New Beginnings” Re-entry course: Goal is to teach this curriculum statewide and to modify existing curriculum to make it more applicable to Nevada’s inmates; curriculum will be updated to include a section on family reunification, employment, and community resources.

Warehouse Career Program through ABA Training in Reno, NV will offer a Warehouse Career Program. Graduates will receive a gold-framed Warehouse Career Program Certificate plus the following safety training certificates: Material Handling, Lifting, Conveyors, Pallets, and Pallet Jacks. This program will take place at Northern Nevada Correctional Center (NNCC), Warm Springs Correctional Center (WSCC), and Nevada State Prison (NSP).

Veterans’ assessments/referrals: The established Veterans Administration Re-Entry Division (VA) and NDOC have established procedures to determine eligibility for incarcerated veterans. Necessary paperwork for receipt of VA benefits is begun for these individuals during incarceration. This process enables a more prompt payment of benefits after release.

Wells Fargo Bank- Beginning October 5, 2010 a representative of Wells Fargo bank will enter NDOC southern institutions and begin teaching Financial Literacy.

Teamsters Union 631 (Las Vegas) has collaborated with re-entry to go to multiple facilities to provide Forklift operation and OSHA 10 certification training. Currently, Teamsters staff has provided this training at FMWCC, SDCC, and HDSP.

Associated Builders and Contractors Core Construction Skills Training classes; Associated Builders and Contractors of Nevada provide a 5-week Core Construction Skills training class for CGTH.

Alpine Steel provides inmates at CGTH and HDSP the basic skills necessary to enter or re-enter the construction work force through Stick Welding Basics and Torch use, 10 Hour OSHA course with completion card issued, Basic Construction Math, and Intro to Blueprints.

Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) will teach OSHA 10 and basic construction skills classes at the Lovelock Correctional Center (LCC).

Silver State Industry provides pre release training and employment to inmates, statewide. Inmates work in a variety of trade industries which include; embroidery, building office furniture, and supplies, metal fabrication, mattresses, printing,, horse training, and running a dairy ranch.

Department of Transportation has entered Southern Nevada facilities for the purposes of providing Flagging certification training to inmates.



“We are continually working on improving and extending re-entry programs”

Community Involvement

NDOC Re-Entry partners with Urban League of Las Vegas on two grants for post-release training and inside assessments for the southern institutions. We are working with Urban League and the Work Force Investment Board for funding for vocational training during incarceration. Re-Entry staff are constantly seeking new avenues of opportunity for training.

An objective of the NDOC Re-Entry staff is involvement of the community in the re-entry efforts. Many community agencies are committed to assisting ex- Offenders.

NDOC Re-Entry collaborates with many community agencies including Workforce Connections, DETR, P&P, and RAIN (Religious Alliance in Nevada).

NDOC Re-entry staff are continually scheduling individual meetings with community service providers in Nevada to discuss re-entry procedures.



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Social Security Administration

NDOC has now established Memorandum of Understanding's (MOUs) with the Social Security Administration for assisting inmates in obtaining replacement social security cards through the mail while still incarcerated. Re-Entry will also assist inmates with completing the Social Security Disability/Income, (SSD/SSI) application. The process for SSD/SSI would begin 6 months prior to an inmates release. Should an inmate qualify for SSD/SSI, their benefits would begin 30 days prior to his or her release. The finalization of this process of SSD/SSI will start no later than mid October. The process of helping inmates obtain Social Security Cards has already begun.

The Mission

The mission of the NDOC Re-Entry is to enhance public safety by providing offenders effective program services to prepare them for established re-entry into the community.

This mission can be accomplished by complying with six principles and practices which will be customary in all of the Re-entry programs in the state. They include:

1. Motivate and shape offenders behavior with the "New Beginnings Re-Entry Class" one year to six months prior to release.
2. Assess offender's needs.
3. Staff to develop a re-entry/transitional plan, with the inmate.
4. Insure inmates have a community resources informational booklet.
5. Create community support for offender re-entry and reintegration.
6. To ensure services for inmates are not duplicated services.

The Future

The mission of NDOC Re-Entry is to enhance public safety by providing offenders effective program services which prepare them for established re-entry into the community. This process starts by standardizing re-entry services statewide.

NDOC understands that Re-Entry is ever changing and that it takes Faith Based/Community Organizations (FB/CO) as partners to increase the chances of a successful integration into the community. NDOC wants to make sure we use Evidence Best Practices (EBP) when implementing new things. We want to increase our volunteer pool to include a "Meet and Greet" when an inmate is being released. We would also like to involve Religious organization to serve as mentors to inmates pre-and post released. Re-Entry staff believes that re-entry services should start at intake. We will work towards providing services at an inmate's intake into a facility. We also would like to increase programming for our youthful offender population at High Desert State Prison.

We are continually working on improving and extending the program.

