



# Successful Re-Entry from Prison to the Community

## Overview

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for more than 14,400 felons statewide. About 93 percent of all persons sentenced to DOC will eventually be released from prison and return to our communities.

Statistically, about 26 percent of released offenders are convicted of a new felony crime within three years; this measurement is referred to as recidivism. The consequences of repeat offenders are felt by families and communities in terms of public safety and by the criminal justice system, which bears the costs to investigate, arrest, convict and incarcerate repeat offenders.

To keep our communities safe, reduce pressure on the criminal justice system, and to slow the demand for prison beds, DOC strives to shape the kind of people offenders will be when they re-enter society. While they are in custody, DOC works to identify and address inmates' risk factors for future criminal behavior. The goal is to provide inmates with the skills and resources they need to lead successful lives upon release.

## Offender Management and Rehabilitation

In 2012, DOC reorganized to better align the agency to achieve its mission and vision for the future. The Offender Management and Rehabilitation Division (OMR) enhances the coordination of resources, increases collaboration, furthers case management, and ultimately creates even safer prisons and improved outcomes. The division oversees an inmate's correctional plan starting from the time the inmate's judgment is ordered until the inmate's release into the community, improving outcomes for inmates and providing for successful transfer to community corrections.

The OMR Division includes: Intake; Offender Information and Sentence Computation (OISC); Office of Population Management; Inmate and Volunteer Services; Religious Services; Education/Work-based Education; Inmate Work

Programs; Alcohol & Drug/Cognitive Programs; Transition and Re-entry; and Release Services.

## Transition Plans

Concerted release planning begins four to six months before a person leaves prison. With an eye to public safety concerns, release counselors collaborate with the inmate, county community corrections agencies, the Parole Board, DOC medical and mental health professionals, other state and federal agencies, and private providers to develop a plan designed to help inmates successfully reintegrate into their communities, meet basic needs such as housing and employment, and ensure continuity of medical and/or mental health care post-release.

## Regional Re-Entry Prisons

Instead of replicating programs and services at all prisons, DOC has found it more effective and efficient to centralize services in certain prisons and assign inmates to those prisons based on individual program needs. Under this model, some prisons focus primarily on basic education, job training, and work, while others focus on treatment and transitional services. Approximately six months before release, many inmates are transferred to a regional re-entry prison located near their home community, and preparation for release is intensified. This time may also include alcohol and drug treatment, if appropriate.

## Road to Success Re-Entry Curriculum

Offered in nine of DOC's 14 institutions, Road to Success (RtoS) provides inmates with a self-assessment of skills, training and guidance on how to re-enter work, family and community life after serving time within state correctional facilities. Inmate participation is voluntary and the program is designed to meet individual needs. Transition coordinators work with inmates to jointly identify which components of the program will best assist their successful transition.

In addition to a structured curriculum, RtoS also provides connections to community resources, access to employment and housing information, connections to veteran's assistance programs, 'reach-in' opportunities with parole and probation officers, and one-on-one planning as needed.

## **Faith-Based Re-Entry Programs**

Hundreds of volunteers and faith-based community organizations work with the department to assist with reintegrating offenders. Community members provide offenders with pro-social support systems, they role model pro-social attitudes and behaviors for the offenders, and help develop their spirituality.

## **Alternative Incarceration Programs**

Alternative Incarceration Programs (AIPs) are offered by DOC to selected inmates who meet statutory eligibility requirements and are at risk of re-offending due to untreated addictions and criminal thinking. These programs are open only to inmates without mandatory minimum sentences (non-Measure 11 offenders) who are within three years of release. In addition, the judge must include AIP on a person's sentencing order for that person to be eligible for an AIP.

AIPs have two phases: inmates who successfully complete the initial six-month institutional phase move into the community. Still considered inmates in this phase, they are supervised for 90 days of "non-prison/transitional leave" while practicing the skills and disciplines learned in prison. Those who successfully complete this phase are eligible to have their prison sentences reduced. After transitional leave, offenders are supervised by parole officers while completing their post-prison supervision sentences in the community.

## **Community Corrections**

Successful work with offenders after release depends on the partnership among DOC and community corrections agencies. Community corrections includes supervision, treatment programs (*such as cognitive/behavioral, sex offender-specific, chemical dependency, etc.*), support services and community-based sanctions to hold people accountable for non-compliance.

Through the Community Corrections Division, the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) has a central role in coordinating community corrections, statewide, for the approximately 32,000 felons under supervision in the community.

*History* – Oregon has had a community corrections system since 1977. Prior to 1997, counties could choose

to operate probation and parole. As of January 1997, under Senate Bill 1145, counties were required to operate their own community corrections agency. Under SB 1145 (1997), the state provides funding through a grant formula; some counties add additional local funding to enhance their community corrections activities.

Under the law, communities and local governments are given the control, flexibility and funding to adapt their corrections activities according to local needs and priorities, including:

- Determining how the felons and misdemeanants on supervision will be supervised.
- Providing sanctions and programs to offenders according to locally established priorities determined by local public safety coordinating councils.
- Determining the level of local sanctions for offenders sentenced to prison for 12 months or less.
- Moving offenders within the continuum of sanctions available locally.

## **The Governor's Re-Entry Council**

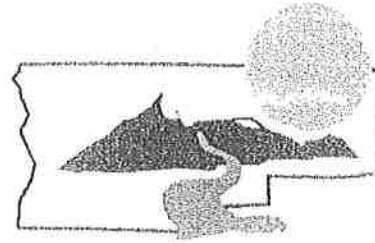
Recognizing that the successful reintegration of offenders returning from prison requires the efforts of multiple state and local agencies, former Governor Ted Kulongoski created the Re-entry Council in May 2007. The Council was established as a state-level, statewide leadership group to work collaboratively on improving the success and safety of incarceration to community transition. The work of the Council continues under Governor John Kitzhaber. It consists of 21 members from multiple state agencies and from statewide associations representing the local criminal justice system and community service providers.

With funding from a 2010 federal Second Chance Act (SCA) Grant, the Re-Entry Council funded a transitional housing initiative to improve outcomes for men and women assessed and high or moderate risk to reoffend, who were released to post-prison supervision from DOC correctional facilities. DOC contracted with four counties (Clackamas, Lane, Multnomah, and Washington) to develop transitional housing resources wrapped with transitional support services such as alcohol and drug treatment, access to appropriate mental and physical health services, education/vocational training, employment, independent living skills, and other re-entry services needed for positive re-engagement. ■

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**  
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**ADULT DIVISION**

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April 23, 2013

TO: Marissa Wilson  
Deer Ridge Correctional Institution

FR: Brad Mondoy  
Parole and Probation Officer

RE: Jon [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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I just wanted to notify you that Jon [REDACTED] has landed a job at Taco Bell in Madras on April 19<sup>th</sup>. He was very excited about landing a job. Today he will find out if it will be full time hours or not. Jon dropped in last Friday to tell me the good news. He could not believe that he landed a job one week after his release from Deer Ridge.

Jon mentioned his success was from the Roads to Success program. He specifically mentioned that his interview went well as he practiced questions while in the Roads to Success program. He told writer that the manager had cards in her hands with different questions on them. She pulled out a card and would ask him a question. Jon told me that he could answer the questions because he faced those questions while in the program.

Jon also mentioned that he followed other tips from the program such as dressing well while picking up applications and going out daily to pick up applications from different businesses. Jon told me that the program really helped him prepare for finding work before his release.

Jon was released from DRCI on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. As soon as he was released he went to the Employment Office and updated his Imatch information. He also reported to Mid Oregon Personnel Office and updated his information with Charitie Gamble. Jon then went out daily to find work. He interviewed at MacDonald's during an open interview day. He interviewed with Taco Bell on April 19<sup>th</sup> and landed the job.

I just wanted to tell you that Jon credits his quick success to the Roads to Success program. He also mentioned that his work with you directly has helped him a lot in his quest to find employment. Thank you very much to you and your staff for all of your work to help people get back on their feet.

cc: file

*BRAD MONDOY*

