

Reentry News



Corrections Division Reentry Program

Inaugural Year for Reentry Program

The concept of a Reentry Program evolved from Sheriff McGovern's request to the National Institute of Corrections' Jail Center (NIC) to conduct a Justice System Assessment of the correctional facility and its operations along with reviewing local criminal justice system practices. The on-site technical assistance team visited March 14th-16th, 2006 and spoke to over 85 local criminal justice officials. Some of the recommendations include:

- Linking inmates to community services upon release;
- Improving data management systems;
- Organizing a criminal justice coordinating committee;
- Consider design and development of intermediate sanction options.

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Upon review of NIC's recommendations, a reentry committee community planning summit was held April 17th, 2006 that included local law enforcement agencies, community mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, residential housing intervention agencies, the University of Kansas' School of Social Welfare, and District Court. A core steering committee emerged and met for approximately 1 ½ years to review how NIC's recommendations, including the

"While it may be in vogue to talk (a) very hard line on all criminals, the truth of the matter is that in Douglas County nearly all of the offenders incarcerated are going to be released and will be returning back into the community."

NIC Douglas County Justice System Assessment

recommendations, including the identified barriers that face inmates upon release, may evolve into a local inmate reentry program.

Initially, the Corrections division and core steering committee absorbed reentry through existing work and staff in order to actualize some of NIC's recommendations. They:

- Developed a mission;
- Outlined eligibility and other processes to incorporate into existing programs and duties;
- Implement a new jail management system, "live" February 11th with improved query and identification features; and
- Visited model programs, including Kent County Michigan.

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Programs & Volunteers

Reentry also evolved out of the Programs and Volunteers division, headed up by Director Mike Caron for the past 8 years. The facility hosts a number of programs that specifically address particular inmate risks and needs and programs that increase the peaceful management of in-

mates. As of January 24th, well over 100 approved volunteers offer programs and services related to education and literacy, addiction and substance abuse recovery, behavioral and cognitive change, healthy living and life skills, spiritual guidance and other

other religious needs, job readiness and retention, and many others."

Interested in volunteering your particular niche?

**Contact Mike Caron at
785.830.1055 or
mcaron@douglas-county.com.**

March 3rd, 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

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So far...

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So far....

- Developed initial policies & procedures
- Institute risk/needs assessment to target programming
- Developed inmate intake, orientation and rules
- Add link to Reentry and Programs on website
- Updated resource cards to include info specifically for women, children, crisis needs and surrounding communities
- Met with social service providers and faith-based community
- Figured out where stuff on my desk is!

PROGRAM DETAILS

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

Must be sentenced to serve time or as a probation violation dispositional sanction; or
As ordered by the convening Court; and
No Level III disciplinary write-ups for a minimum of 2 weeks; and
Agree to sign Release of Confidential Information forms to parties involved in the development and execution of the reentry plan; and
As approved by the Reentry Director.

MANDATORY DISQUALIFICATIONS

Pre-Conviction; or
Awaiting transport to a state or federal detention or correctional facility; or
Inmates returning to a community in which the majority of their support is outside of Douglas County, Kansas; or
Maximum pod classification within the disciplinary segregation or administrative segregation units.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Inmate completes eligibility screening;
Upon initial approval, inmate and Reentry Specialist completes appropriate assessments to identify programming to target risks and needs;

Identify personal goals;
Develop initial Local Correctional Inmate Release Plan (LoCIRP) to identify and schedule targeted programming;
Inmate completes internal programs prior to release.
Final LoCIRP is completed prior to release.

PROGRAM REMOVAL

Non-compliance with programs per policy
Any Level III disciplinary write-up; or
Potentially any Level II disciplinary write-up (will be reviewed by the Reentry Director for possible program removal at his/her discretion).

What's Next?

- **Host Social Services pathways meeting March 25th (call or email to RSVP)**
- Develop a Community Advisory Council on Reentry (CACR)
- Expand *Mentoring* program
- Identify data collection points

“Helping inmates with mental illness or simply with the life skills they need to live a law-abiding life is a good investment for the state. Sending criminal offenders to prison is a short-term solution. The longer term goals of reducing crime and prison populations requires that punishment be paired with meaningful planning and preparation for a successful life on the outside.”

*Lawrence Journal World Opinion Column,
February 26th, 2008*

INAUGURAL YEAR-CONT

Once the barriers and pathways were identified, it became apparent the absorbed responsibilities should shift to the birth of a formal program. The County Commission in conjunction with County Administration concurred and agreed to fund a position dedicated to inmate reentry into the community. The search began and through three rounds of interviews narrowing the field, Shannon Murphy was hired and began her duties. 18 inmates were initially identified as eligible for the program. Work has begun!

The Urban Institute’s Jail Reentry Round Table

“Over the past five years, there has been substantial momentum around the issue of prisoner reentry. It is now well known that some 650,000 prisoners return from state and federal prisons each year, facing a myriad of challenges and high recidivism rates. At the same time, little attention has been paid to the issue of reentry from local jails, despite the fact that jails process more than 12 million admissions and releases each year.

With support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Urban Institute, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation have partnered to convene a Reentry Roundtable on the topic



of reentry from jails. Over the past six years, the Urban Institute has held eight Reentry Roundtables, each focusing on a different aspect of prisoner reentry with the aim of advancing knowledge and creating policy opportunities to improve outcomes. This ninth Reentry Roundtable focused attention—for the first time at the national level—on those 12 million individuals released from local jails each year. The two-day meeting, held June 27–28, 2006 at the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C., brought together leading jail administrators, researchers, corrections and law enforcement professionals, county and community leaders, service providers, and former inmates to discuss the unique dimensions, challenges, and opportunities of jail reentry.”

Undersheriff Kenneth Massey was one attendee. He and Shannon Murphy, Reentry Director, will attend a continuing roundtable discussion with national leaders March 5th-7th, 2008.

The roundtable discussion includes a “focus on the following jail reentry issues: inmate challenges, short-term interventions, community supervision, evidence-based reentry practices in the jail setting, reentry from jails for females, the economics of jail reentry, jail to community linkages, and reentry from rural jails”.

All papers, presentations, and materials developed for the Jail Reentry Roundtable Initiative are available on the Roundtable website: <http://www.urban.org/projects/reentry-roundtable/roundtable9.cfm>”

**Shannon Murphy,
Director**

Shannon joined the Sheriff's department after 12 years with District Court's Community Corrections probation program. Her experience in maintaining public safety through offender supervision and case management is being brought inside the facility to offer inmates a jump-start on their risks & needs before returning to the community

Reentry Mission

To enhance public safety by bringing together the public & private resources of Douglas County to help ex-offenders successfully re-enter their neighborhoods as accountable, self-sufficient & law-abiding citizens.

We'll be on the web soon!

Look for us at

<http://www.douglas-county.com/sheriff/sheriff.asp>

**FEEL FREE TO SHARE &
RE-DISTRIBUTE!**

**Corrections Division
Reentry Program**

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