

Re-Entry 101 for Case Managers

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What is Re-Entry?

- The transition of individuals from prison or jail back into the community

National Stats

- The Bureau of Justice Assistance reports that more than 650,000 people are released annually from state and federal prisons.
- BJA also reports that 2/3 will be re-arrested within 3 years of release (2006)

Local Stats

- 2,769 people were released from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice into Travis County in 2012. This is a 5% increase from the previous year.
- 11,000 people were released from custody of the Travis County Jail in fiscal year 2013, this includes sentence completion and probation releases.

What is parole?

- Parole is the release of an inmate from prison prior to his or her sentence's maximum date, but after the minimum sentence date, to continue serving the balance of the sentence under supervision in the community.

What is Probation?

- Probation is a sentence that does not include a period of incarceration; it is served in the community rather than jail. The sentencing judge always makes the decision regarding an offender's probation conditions and violations.

Barriers/Challenges

- Housing
- TANF/Food Stamps
- Employment
- Family
- Debt

Impact on Individuals

- Institutionalization
- Social isolation/Stigma
- Barriers to re-entry
- Increased trauma/mental health issues

Impact on Families

- Children of prisoners are 6-8 times more likely to go to prison themselves
- Loss of income, even if that income was illegal
- Instability and grief/loss for children/families
- Intergenerational cycles of crime and poverty

Impact on Communities

- Large number men removed from communities, returning unemployed with little to no resources/support
- Female prisoners are more likely to have been primary caregivers of children
- Community attitudes toward authority, police, begin to shift
- Marginalized voters (13 states)
- Apathy, hopelessness, lack of participation

What can we do to help?

- Educate yourself as a social worker/case manager on the issues affecting returning members of our community
- Work in cooperation with parole and probation officers to help create successful outcomes
- Be an advocate for your clients to knock down barriers

Questions

- Next Up:
- Neilyn Navarro, TDCJ Parole Division
- Gary Carlisle, Travis County Adult Probation