



**Ohio**  
**Ex-Offender Reentry**  
**Coalition**

**2010**  
**Annual**  
**Report**

**Ohio**

From the Chairman



In December 2008, the Ohio General Assembly passed a historic piece of reentry legislation, House Bill 130, which called for the formation of an Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (hereafter the “Reentry Coalition”) serves as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across the state, local agencies and communities. The notion of preparing offenders for their return to the community is not a new concept. However, it is now being addressed from within a fundamentally different paradigm: one that recognizes correctional systems alone are not sufficient to change offender behavior. In Ohio, it is estimated over 26000 adults and 800 juvenile offenders will be released from institutions during the next year. The state’s annual cost to incarcerate an adult offender is approximately \$24,000. It costs approximately \$123,370 to confine a juvenile offender. These figures do not account for other criminal justice-related costs or the costs to the victims of crime. These costs cannot be sustained. Investing in the success of the offender after release offers the promise of generating real savings. This is especially so in the current economic crisis. Whether returning offenders become taxpayers or tax burdens is largely dependent on their ability to find productive employment, stable housing, and links to vital community services.

When the reentry process is successful there are benefits for the community in terms of improved public safety. Correctional and criminal justice costs are reduced in the long-run as offenders are directed away from reoffending to more productive work and civic contributions. Successful reentry is important not only to the futures of offenders and their families, but also to the well-being and quality of life of families and neighborhoods throughout Ohio.

The Reentry Coalition is committed to assisting offenders as they reenter our communities in an effort to become law-abiding and productive citizens. The Reentry Coalition’s overriding goals are to: (1) reintegrate offender into society, (2) reduce recidivism, and (3) maintain public safety. The Reentry Coalition will accomplish these goals by facilitating successful transition and reintegration of offenders into neighborhoods across the state.

The accomplishments and achievements will be shared with all Ohioans. Working together in a collective fashion, the Reentry Coalition and its partners will be positioned to draw on human and social capital from many sources as well as target the impact of incarceration now and on future generations of Ohio citizens.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Mohr  
Chairman, Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

## Mission

**The mission of the Reentry Coalition is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Coalition will achieve these goals through collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. It will utilize a holistic evidence-based approach that starts at the point of contact with the criminal justice system and includes an emphasis on education, families, health services, alcohol and other drug treatment, employment, mentorship and housing.**

# Accomplishments

## Five-Year Strategic Plan

Representatives from the statutory membership revised the current comprehensive five-year strategic plan outlining the

Reentry Coalition's blueprint for addressing the barriers faced by adults and juvenile offenders as they reintegrate back into Ohio's communities. The plan details the goals and objectives in a systemic and holistic approach for the Reentry Coalition over the course of the next five years. This plan is reviewed on an annual basis by Reentry Coalition members to update and modify the goals and objectives to contribute to successful reentry outcomes.

## Coalition Reentry Website

The Reentry Coalition's website, launched on September 16, 2009, continues to serve as a clearinghouse for resources, community service events, research findings on evidence-based practices, funding opportunities, and highlights of local reentry efforts. The purpose of the website is to enhance communication by providing open access to timely, accurate and useful information about offender reentry throughout Ohio, including county specific information and events. The website provides electronic access to public forums and documents, including the Reentry Coalition's operating procedures and by-laws, funding opportunities, minutes, reports, meeting schedules, and news items. Information about non-profit organizations and community events are also included. The website address is [www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov](http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov).

## Grant Development Sub-Committee

A Grant Development Sub-Committee, formed to identify and support the preparation of grant applications aimed at securing federal, state, foundation, and other sources of funding to create and sustain evidence-based reentry initiatives, is responsible for developing procedures and protocols when applying for grant opportunities as a collective body. This is accomplished by providing technical assistance to local partners, supplying letters of support, and seeking out additional funding opportunities. The committee is supportive of lending or arranging technical assistance

to parties who apply for reentry-related grants. The goal is to offer the Reentry Coalition's support whenever possible to enhance the competitiveness of grants submitted from jurisdictions within Ohio. The Reentry Coalition provided letters of support to state and local entities in an effort to secure approximately \$47M. Organizations were able to secure \$29 million in federal grant monies to support twenty initiatives, an increase of \$27.4M from the previous year (CY2009).

## Local Reentry Coalitions

One of the significant accomplishments continued throughout 2010 was the on-going commitment by the Reentry Coalition to offer support for the establishment of single and multi-county reentry coalitions to address local needs. Staff persons representing statutory member agencies have been providing technical assistance to the local communities to establish and implement local reentry task forces. Technical assistance ranges from information sharing, identifying community needs and service gaps, uniting non-traditional service providers with government funded agencies, and assistance in developing a five-year strategic plan. Liaisons from the Reentry Coalition commit to serve as the conduit of information between the local coalitions and the state level Reentry Coalition by serving as ad hoc members to the local communities. The growth at the local level has led to coordinated efforts and community investment in addressing service delivery for adults and juveniles in the criminal justice system, ultimately reducing the costs and duplication of services while promoting public safety. In 2010 there were 28 established local reentry task forces representing 34 counties, an increase of 7 newly established task forces during CY2010. Furthermore, there are 15 counties/regions engaging in the discussion process to form a regional or county local reentry task force.

## OYAS and EPICS

The Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) is a uniform risk/needs assessment process that provides the juvenile justice system with a standardized process to evaluate the risk and criminogenic needs of the youth it serves. The OYAS is a five-tool system applying instruments at various stages in the juvenile justice system—diversion, detention, disposition, residential and reentry. The OYAS was released in September 2009 and, through December 2010, 53 training and certification classes were conducted around the state. As of September, there were 1,431 certified users of the OYAS, including staff from DYS, local facilities, and 77

# Accomplishments (con't)

of the 88 juvenile courts. The reentry tool is designed to support programming in the community, treatment needs and case planning for parole staff. To date, more than 28,000 OYAS assessments have been conducted.

In 2010, the use of the OYAS tools, combined with the Effective Practices In Community Supervision (EPICS) model of supervision, has facilitated Juvenile Parole Officers (JPOs) in becoming an integral part of a more comprehensive and coherent approach to supporting youth returning to the community as productive and law abiding citizens. Both initiatives have been accepted by JPOs as an effective way to connect to the youth on their caseloads and determine appropriate services. The combination of the OYAS and EPICS model is offers positive guidance in youth.

## Reentry Program Grants and Evaluation-Ohio

On March 15, 2010, the Office Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) in collaboration with state agency partners selected fourteen sites across the state to receive Justice Assistance Grant Reentry Program Awards focusing on offender reentry initiatives totaling nearly \$4.7 million in federal economic stimulus funds. The grants were funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The awards represent a significant investment in Ohio's communities, enhancing a key priority that is emerging throughout our state's criminal justice system. Investments in community-based reentry programs such as these should help to achieve a reduction in recidivism, as well as successfully reintegrate citizens back into Ohio's communities. Beginning at sentencing and extending beyond release, reentry focuses on assessing, identifying and linking offenders with services specific to their needs through associations with community partners, families, justice professionals and victims of crime. Additionally, the University of Cincinnati received a grant award under the auspices of the same funding stream to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the 14 grantees to determine the effectiveness of the grantee's strategic plans, program design and implementation plans. The evaluation will be concluded mid year of 2012. The publication will consist of process and outcome



evaluations of each site.

## Second Chance Act Grant Awards

The Ohio Departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services received four Second Chance Act Awards from the Department of Justice. The first award, the Healthy Environment, Loving Parents (HELP) program, is designed to effectively address the issues of female offenders with children returning to the Franklin County community who are or were currently incarcerated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women and Franklin Pre-Release Center. The goal of the program is to develop lasting relationships between the children and their incarcerated parents through ongoing capacity development as they transition from prison to the community. The process is designed to prevent offenders from engaging in criminal behavior while promoting the reduction of parental recidivism and decreasing the likelihood of the child's involvement within the criminal justice system. The grant is expected to end September 2011.

In September 2010, the DYS was awarded a Bureau of Justice Second Chance Act Reentry Demonstration grant entitled "Targeting Offenders with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders." The Columbus Regional Office, Kent State University's Center for Innovative Practices (KSU), and Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) are working together to provide services to youth returning to Franklin County from DYS institutions who are diagnosed with both substance abuse and mental health disorders, for up to 6 months while the youth are on parole. KSU is overseeing the implementation of the Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment Model while NCH staff provides the direct services to youth and their families, with the support of the Juvenile Parole Officers. This is a 24 month grant which is designed to serve approximately 80 youth.

DRC's Succeeding at Home program uses an actuarial assessment based instrument targeting criminogenic needs and provides the target offenders with sustained case management and treatment delivering continuous and appropriate

# Accomplishments (con't)

integrated drug and mental health treatment, job training/ placement, housing, educational services and other supports for successful reentry. Services will be delivered to those male offenders returning to the Franklin County area. The program utilizes cognitive behavioral, social learning, motivational interviewing and integrated dual diagnosis treatment models. The grant is expected to end September 2012.

In September 2010, DRC was awarded a two year Criminal Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Grant - for the EMPOWER project.

This collaboration with a community partner targets female offenders who have co-occurring mental health, substance abuse and trauma issues that impact their successful reentry.

The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism, by reinforcing the released offenders adjustment to the community. A documented secondary benefit and goal is the reduction of inmate on inmate and inmate on staff aggression.

## DYS forms the DYS Office of Reentry Services

The Department has formed the Office of Reentry Services (ORS), to further bolster efforts to enhance resources and expand partnerships with community providers. It helps create a Reentry Continuum that better serves all youth committed to a DYS placement. ORS will establish a strategic plan, related policies and reentry guidelines, as well as represent DYS at the state level in the Reentry Coalition and with other bodies. This office will identify resources available for reentry and assist staff through the utilization of these resources for youth and the training of staff. As an example, the office will work closely with the transition coordinators in the DYS facilities to link youth to community schools and vocational/career-tech certification programs. Though the DYS average daily parole population continues to decline (1,506 in February 2008 to 928 in February 2011), youth served by the

department continue to exhibit complex issues that require the intensive interventions this office will coordinate.

## Online Collateral Sanctions Database

The Ohio Justice & Policy Center ([www.ohiojpc.org](http://www.ohiojpc.org)), with the help of the Ohio Public Defender, has created a ground-breaking tool for understanding the Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions: the CIVICC Database. This database was

developed in part to help the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

fulfill its statutory mandate to analyze all the barriers to successful reentry

for people leaving state correctional

institutions (see Ohio Revised Code 5120.07(C)). It allows anyone to quickly search Ohio statues and regulations for employment and other barriers that are associated with specific criminal offenses that create a barrier to a particular privilege, such as an employment-related license. The power and simplicity of this tool will significantly improve the criminal justice system as it will help defendants better understand the long-term consequences of a conviction. It will also allow social-service providers, educational institutions, and people with criminal records to make smarter decisions about training and employment pursuits. The preliminary version of the database is publicly available online right now at <http://opd.ohio.gov/CIVICC>. Once complete in late 2011, the database will be the first of its kind in the country in terms of its breadth, depth, and accuracy.

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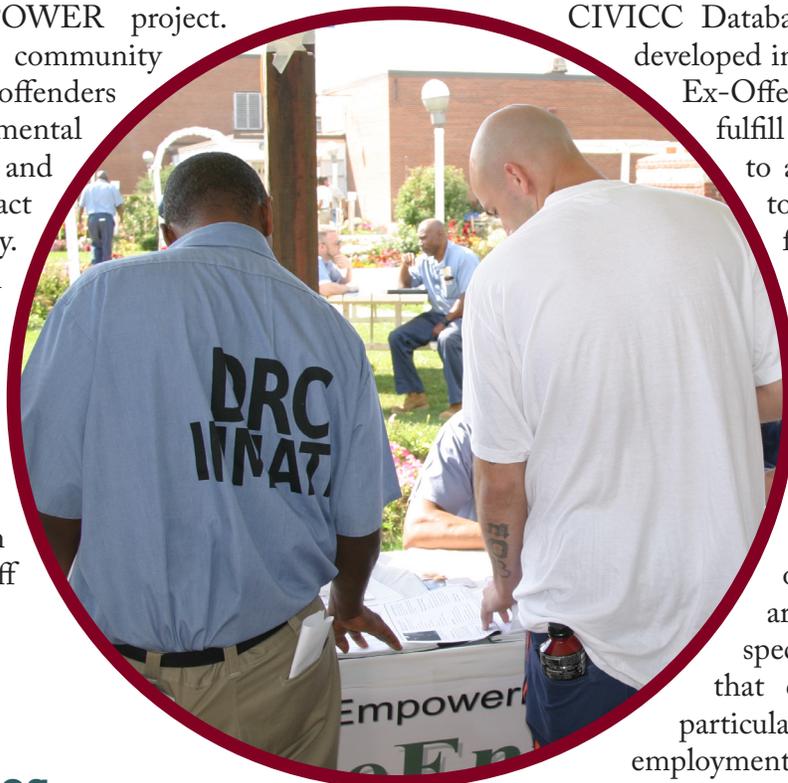
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# Accomplishments (con't)

Ohio State Bar Foundation, the Toledo Bar Association Foundation, and the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. For more information about CIVICC, contact Stephen JohnsonGrove, Deputy Director for Policy at the Ohio Justice & Policy Center, at [sjohnsongrove@ohiojpc.org](mailto:sjohnsongrove@ohiojpc.org).

*..our working relationship with the Ohio Reentry Coalition, its staff and the services provided by them have been invaluable. - Sandusky County Reentry Task Force*

**The State Reentry Coalition has been an enormous help in guiding us through process of strategic planning and collaboration. The State has kept us connected by giving us accurate information and assistance during every stage of the process. - Clark County Reentry Task Force**

*All of this would not have happened without the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and its help, guidance and mentoring support in addressing ex-offender needs locally. - Miami/Darke/Shelby Counties Task Force*

**The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition provides the leadership and inspirational support necessary to the development of our local reentry taskforces in southeast Ohio. - Washington County & Morgan/Noble Reentry Task Forces**

**Ohio can be proud of the model set forth by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. - Wayne/Holmes Reentry Task Force**

Guidance received from the state level reentry coalition as well as direction provided by DRC Reentry Services especially Angi Lee and John Matthews assisted in the growth and development of our coalition - Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio (Lucas County).

**This type of interaction makes us feel that we are not operating an outpost here in our county, but that we are part of much greater effort - Portage County Reentry Task Force.**

**This state Reentry Coalition provides a platform for the strategic alignment of the community connectedness of reentry efforts. - Montgomery County Reentry Task Force**

Through our partnership with the State Level Reentry Coalition and its services and staff we have been able to move mountains. - Cuyahoga County Reentry Task Force

# Federal Funding Requests CY 2010

## Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and Partners

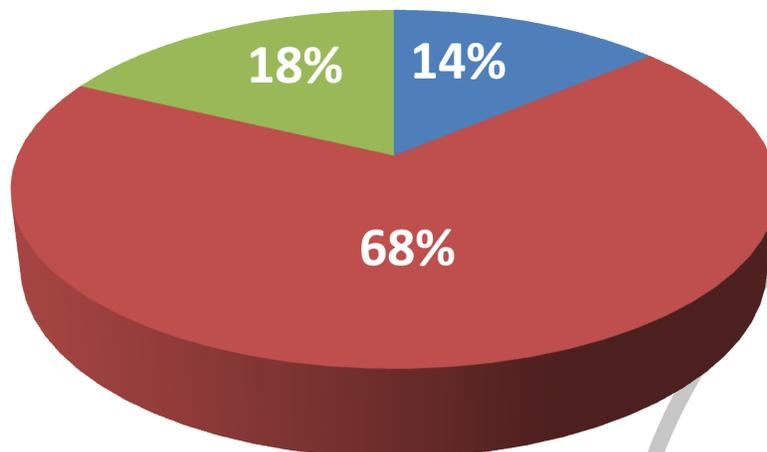
## Requested Funds

	<b>\$</b>	
■ Dept. of Justice Second Chance Demonstration Grant		4,555,000
■ Dept. of Justice Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant		5,000,000
■ SAMSHA Offender Reentry Program		7,200,000
■ Health & Human Services Prisoner Reentry Initiative		150,000
■ Dept. of Justice Justice Mental Health Collaboration Prog.		494,000
■ SAMSHA Local Oriented Systems of Care		400,000
■ Dept. of Justice Targeting Off. w/Co-occurring		1,538,000
■ Dept. of Justice Office of Victims of Crime		74,407
■ Dept. of Justice OJJDP - SCA Prisoner Reentry Int.		300,000
■ SAMSHA Access to Recovery		16,000,000
■ Dept. of Justice Second Chance Act-Mentoring Grant		3,000,000
■ SAMSHA Jail Diversion/Trauma Recovery Grant		394,000
■ Health & Human Services - Addressing HIV in CJ System		1,500,000
■ Youth Build Smart Program		1,000,000
■ U.S.D.A. Rural Business Enterprise Grant		130,000

## Grand Total

**\$41,735,407**

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration
- Department of Justice
- Health & Human Services



# Strategic Plan Objectives

[Click here to view the strategic plan](#)

The Reentry Coalition has established the following key areas through the identification of goals and objectives relative to specific areas of focus for successful offender reentry. The recommendations detail the goals and objectives in a systemic and holistic approach. The results listed in the following pages are inclusive of the annual review conducted by statutory coalition members detailing the actions and progress of the inter-agency partners between January 2010 and December 2010.

## Education

### (1) Statement of the Problem

The lack of adequate educational, career development and vocational transitional programs may contribute to offender recidivism. Educational, employment readiness, workforce development, and vocational opportunities during incarceration should be designed to serve as many offenders as possible.

#### Strategic Performance Goal and Outcome(s):

Increase the number of certificates by 419 each year over the next five years (Literacy, ABLE, Pre-GED, GED, High School Diploma, Career Technical, Transition Education Program, Apprenticeship, Tutor and Advanced Job Training) earned by students in the Ohio Central School System (DRC) and the Buckeye United School District (DYS).

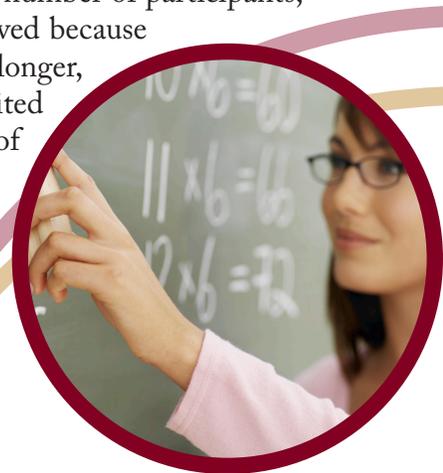
*The target number of certificates to be issued for FY2010 was 14,931. The number of actual certificates awarded for incarcerated adult offenders for FY2010 was 16,590 and 217 for the incarcerated juvenile offender, exceeding the target goal by 1,876 certificates or 13% higher than originally projected.*

Increase the number of incarcerated offenders offered educational services by 5% each year. The target number for FY2010 was 19,765.

*The target number of incarcerated adult and juvenile offenders offered educational services totaled 34,051, an increase of 14,286 or 73% higher than originally projected.*

#### Collaborative Accomplishments:

All incarcerated offenders are eligible to receive education and vocational opportunities through the Buckeye United School District of DYS and the Ohio Central School System (OCSS) of DRC. The OCSS has greatly expanded its offering of short-term, intensive career-technical courses to better serve a larger number of participants, particularly those with a shorter sentence. Previously, many offenders were not served because the short nature of their sentence precluded many of them from completing the longer, more time intensive career-technical program offerings. Within The Buckeye United system, juvenile offenders are served more effectively through the establishment of Transitional Skills classes designed to reinforce the skill sets needed to successfully move from the institution to the community. That effort, with technical and funding support provided through the Ohio Department of Education, is to be expanded to include all juvenile offenders in FY2011.



Federal grants designed to support and enhance the education of Adult and Juvenile offenders awarded through the Ohio Department of Education to the State Correctional Schools in FY2010 include the following: Career Technical Perkins Grant, Title 1 Special Education, Title 1 D Neglected and Delinquent Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Second Chance Act Technology Careers Training Demonstration Project (DYS), and Department of Justice Grant-Office of Justice Programs.

## Employment

### (1) Statement of the Problem

The employment of ex-offenders is crucial to public safety. The absence of adequate employment opportunities increases the risk of recidivism and compromises successful reentry. Decreased recidivism and successful reentry is affected by employers implementing the Federal (Fidelity) Bonding Program and Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program in hiring this population. The current unemployment rate during this period of economic crisis makes this issue more challenging.

#### Strategic Performance Goal and Outcome(s):

Increase the number of Fidelity Bonds for offenders by 10% each year.

*In CY2009 there were 32 fidelity bonds issued on behalf of offenders compared to 47 bonds issued for CY2010. This is an increase of 21% thus exceeding the goal by 11%.*

Increase the number of WOTC certifications for offenders by 10% each year.

*In FY 2009 there were 421 WOTC issued compared to FY2010 264 WOTC certifications issued which is under the projected goal of a 10% increase. This may be attributed to the downturn in the States economy offering fewer job prospects for ex-offenders.*

### (2) Statement of the Problem

Approximately 51% of youth released from the Ohio Department of Youth Services remained underemployed or unemployed throughout the duration of parole supervision.

#### Strategic Performance Goal and Outcome(s):

Assist juvenile offenders in securing high school diplomas, GEDs, vocational programming certificates and employment.

Percent of youth released during the fiscal year obtaining a high school diploma, GED, vocational programming certificates, and/or employment while in the institution or on parole. Of those released 25% will obtain educational certification or employment.

*In FY 2010 there were 1,338 youth released from DYS facilities. Of those released, 1,305 had a completed reentry plan that addressed education/employment. The target number for FY2010 was 334 released youth would either have obtained high school diplomas, GED certificates, vocational programming or employment. Of the youth released in FY2010 176 youth had completed an educational or vocational program and 594 youth were employed for a total of 770 youth exceeding the target goal by 436 youthful offenders or 77%.*





## Reentry Courts

### (1) Statement of the Problem

With the success of the drug court approach, these programs quickly spread throughout the country. Over the past two decades numerous outcome evaluations have been conducted showing that the drug court model reduces recidivism by 2% to 20% depending on the program's target population. Drawing from this model, reentry courts were created to help curb the cycle of recidivism by more effectively transitioning supervised offenders from prison back into their community. Ohio currently has six operating reentry court dockets. House Bill 130 serves as enabling legislation for the expansion of reentry courts across the state.

#### ***Strategic Performance Goal(s):***

Increase the number of operating reentry court dockets from the current 6 to 11 by 2014 and increase the number of supervised offenders released from prison participating in existing specialized docket programs.

*The Ohio Supreme Court has introduced proposed rules that establish specialized docket standards through proposed Amendments to the rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. A specialized docket offers a therapeutically-oriented judicial approach to providing court supervision and appropriate treatment to individuals.*

## Mental Health

### (1) Statement of the Problem

There is a prevalence of offenders with mental illness that experience a lack hope of recovery from their mental illness. Mental illness, if coupled with the high-co-occurrence of criminogenic needs, can impede the offender's ability to function in society.

#### Strategic Performance Goals and Outcomes:

Train 100% of DRC Reception Center mental health staff in the proper assessment of the criminogenic needs by the end of FY 2012

#### ***Strategic Performance Goals and Outcomes:***

*This goal is on track to be accomplished by the end of FY2012. At the Correctional Reception Center, Ohio Reformatory for Women, and Lorain Correctional Institution, DRC is in a state of transition as it relates to the number of individuals who can provide diagnostic assessments. Based on policy changes, there will be more individuals who will engage in the assessment process. During 2010, there were 31 people who could provide our basic assessments, and out of that number, 16 (50%) were trained in the proper assessment of criminogenic needs. This is an ongoing training process, but the trained individuals have received instruction in identifying criminogenic needs in addition to the traditional sequelae of symptoms routinely assessed in a traditional mental health evaluation.*

Increase programming that provides a mental health based reentry program specific to the needs of the mentally ill by four before the end of FY 2012.

*DRC Mental Health Services is committed to integrating a reentry focus into treatment. The Residential Treatment Units have all committed assets to reentry planning through Community Linkage and case management. Specific reentry programming for the SMI population is offered at 4 Residential Treatment Units providing a more comprehensive track to address criminogenic need.*

Number of incarcerated offenders with severe mental illness who received the Wellness Management and Recovery Program or similar evidenced-based practice while in the institution.

*Of the 4426 offenders with an SMI condition, more than 75% receive treatment that could be classified as an evidenced-based practice. This is typically in the form of some type of cognitive therapy of a short term nature or a prescribed psycho-educational treatment. Others may be in a simple medication management program that does not require a specific empirically validated treatment. Due to the delay in implementing the WMRP program, no offenders received that specific emerging best practice in FY2010.*

## (2) Statement of the Problem

Offenders with mental illness with a multitude of issues face unique clinical risk factors and social challenges to being successfully reintegrated into their communities upon release from prison. These challenges are different for this special population than they are for the general correction's population. Almost half of these individuals never receive any mental health services and/or other supports after being released from prison. This population must learn skills to manage their mental illness and their criminal thinking. They also require various supports in order for them to live at their optimal functioning level with ongoing recovery and continued mental health services being primary goals.

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives(s):**

The number of released offenders with severe mental health issues who attended their first appointment after release will increase by 40% after 5 years based upon approximately 3,364 offenders with severe mental illness being released annually with a baseline of 1744 individuals linked with services.

*In FY2010, 2654 offenders were eligible for community linkage services. Approximately, 262 or 15% refused all services. The number of offenders eligible for services has decreased due to a change in policy regarding eligibility for community linkage services. The focus has changed from all offenders on the prison mental health caseload who receive medication to the offender diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI). The number of offenders who actually received services will not be available until next year's reporting cycle, thus giving the Department of Mental Health (DMH) a full year of data collection.*

The number of offenders with mental illness will be linked to additional (other than a community linkage appointment) supports in the community upon release from the prison (based upon the anticipated number of linkages total).

*This specific strategic performance outcome is not required to be reported out on until FY2011. However, DMH's community linkage program underwent a significant reorganization effort during FY 2010. As a result, staff was reduced from eleven to seven with newly defined tasks in addition to providing community linkage appointments. Newly acquired duties include: applying for benefits, housing, transportation, family reunification, and referral to local reentry coalitions. During the first half of FY2011 there have been 16 linkages made to other supports in the community, along with presentations made to local reentry task forces about the enhanced community linkage program.*

The number of peer mentors working in collaboration with reentry coalitions, consumer operated services or other entities in the community to enhance an offender with mental illness chances for successful reintegration into the community.



*Through the work of Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton's Advisory Committee on Mental Illness and the Courts (ACMIC) Reentry/Diversion subcommittee, a peer program has been discussed and is in the planning stages to meet this goal as defined for FY2011. Providers submitted to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) approval for reentry programs that include a residential and treatment component along with a peer mentoring piece. DMH continues to provide funding and support to the Ohio Empowerment Center which is a statewide consumer advocacy group which is working to develop a peer mentoring program to be implemented statewide.*

## (2) Statement of the Problem

Diversion activities to identify and divert youth with behavioral health issues from state operated facilities to community treatment providers have proven effective in decreasing subsequent criminal activity. Currently, 53% of the youth in DYS are on a mental health caseload. Roughly 70% of all youth currently committed to DYS were on a mental health caseload prior to commitment.

### Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives(s):

The number of youth receiving community-based, evidence-informed behavioral health services through the behavioral health/juvenile justice grants programs.

*The Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) grant program has assisted in developing the communities' resources and ability to respond to justice involved youth with behavioral health issues. During FY2010, 270 youth enrolled in these services were diverted from DYS, though some youth were placed locally in community correctional facilities and residential placements received BHJJ funded services to assist with their transition home. This number exceeded the target goal of 200 by 70 youth or 35%.*

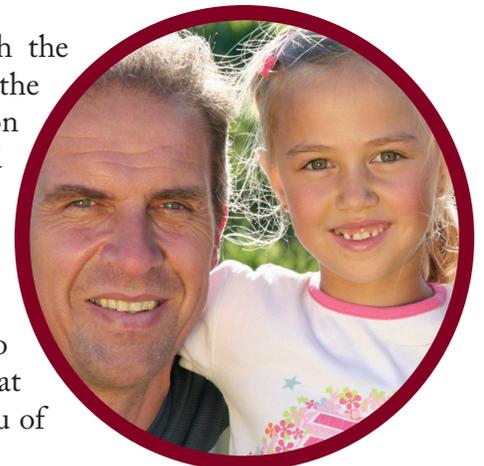
Through a targeted, competitive process provide behavioral health/juvenile justice grants for communities to support screening, assessment, and evidence-based services.

*During FY2010, DYS, in collaboration with ODMH and ODADAS, continued to support through the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice initiative the development of community- and evidence-based services and supports for justice involved youth with behavioral health issues. **Six grants** were awarded in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Summit and Lucas Counties. Common elements of the six BHJJ projects include 1) A partnership between the Juvenile Court and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services Board, 2) Effective models of assessment, treatment planning, and family-focused community-based evidence-based practices, 3) The pursuit of first and third party reimbursement, including Medicaid, 4) Assessing youth using the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) and 5) Participation in an extensive evaluation by Kent State University.*

### Collaborative Accomplishments:

DMH supported a juvenile justice mental health liaison position, through the utilization of Transformation State Incentive Grant (TSIG) funds. The goal of the position was to bring together various stakeholders to assist in the transformation of the juvenile justice system through better service coordination, funding, and policy changes. In addition, DMH has supported the work of the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice initiative through the dedication of dollars and staff. This has been in conjunction with other stakeholders

Throughout the year, DYS continued to explore funding opportunities to provide mental health programs. In June 2010, DYS submitted a proposal that was awarded in October and received \$537,998 for two years from the Bureau of



Justice Assistance under the Second Chance Act Reentry Demonstration Program Targeting Offenders with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders Program.

DMH has implemented a basic quality improvement/assurance program. Data has been collected on 28 community linkage referrals in both FY 2010 and the first half of 2011. The program will target quality and quantity issues. This program is being further defined as a project of a master's level student intern. Community linkage reviews will continue to occur quarterly even while the program is under further development. Items under review include the: 1) accuracy of basic demographics; 2) timeliness of completion of the packet; 3) quality and amount of information contained in the packet; 4) number of packets completed vs. the number of packets that should have been completed.

DMH is also tracking complaints and concerns as well as resolutions to such issues in a data base. In the latest partnership agreement between DRC and DMH, the quarterly community linkage meetings were expanded to include other stakeholders such as the mental health/recovery services board association and the behavioral health provider's organization – both customers of the program. The purpose was further monitoring and improvement of the program from the perspective of other stakeholders.

For FY2010, there was a **15%** refusal rate of offenders not participating in the linkage process. Through the reorganization process, the new staff has been provided direction on actions to take when an offender refuses services. At a minimum, under the new direction, community linkage staff must make at least 2 attempts to meet with an offender if he or she refuses. These attempts are documented in the community linkage file and in the third party information section of the DRC mental health file. Staff must also report that lack of participation to the DRC mental health staff. It should be noted that previous refusal rates of services was closer to 25-30% with some individual staff having refusal rates of **45-55%**.

## Substance Abuse

### (1) Statement of the Problem

Approximately 70% of offenders are in need of some form of substance abuse services. Substance abuse, coupled with the high-co-occurrence of criminogenic needs, impedes offenders' ability to function in society and leads to increased recidivism.

#### ***Strategic Performance Goals and Outcomes:***

Number of incarcerated offenders with substance abuse issues who participated in Recovery Service Programs or Therapeutic Communities while in the institutional setting.

*In FY2010, 2,052 offenders participated in a recovery services program or therapeutic community during incarceration exceeding the target goal of 489 by 1563 or 76%.*

Number of offenders with substance abuse issues linked to an ODADAS certified treatment program in the community upon release from the prison in five targeted counties: Cuyahoga, Mahoning, Stark, Lorain, and Summit.

*Since 2007, ODADAS has provided treatment and recovery support services to adult offenders returning to Cuyahoga, Mahoning, Stark and Summit Counties through a federally funded grant called Access to Recovery (ATR). ODADAS was awarded a second round of ATR in October 2010, and will continue to provide these services to adult offenders in the same geographic area with the addition of Lorain County.*

*222 adult offenders with substance abuse issues were linked to an ODADAS certified treatment program upon release to the counties participating in the Access to Recovery (ATR) grant initiative.*

## (2) Statement of the Problem

According to the Center for Substance Abuse, the rate of substance abuse or dependence among adult offenders on probation or parole supervision is more than four times that of the general population (38.5% vs. 9%).

*From 2007–2010, the Adult Parole Authority (APA) referred 620 offenders to the Access to Recovery program*

## (3) Statement of the Problem

Many of the AOD services that are necessary for successful reentry are not available for the offender population upon release.

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Outcomes:**

A minimum of 5,547 offenders will receive recovery support services through the ATR model between fiscal years 2010-2013

An increase of faith-based and community-based organizations providing recovery support services between fiscal years 2010-2013 to 21 organizations

*In FY2010 alone, 2,019 offenders received recovery support and/or treatment services in the Access to Recovery target area (Cuyahoga, Mahoning, Stark and Summit Counties). In addition, there were 32 active faith and/or community-based providers providing recovery support services during the same time period.*

## **Family**



### (1) Statement of the Problem

There is tremendous backing for creating mechanisms to empower and engage families across systems in Ohio. The idea of institutionalizing, coordinating, and building upon family engagement in the reentry process is supported by professionals, families, and family advocates.

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Outcomes:**

DYS will increase the usage of video conferencing by families and increase the number of families participating in reentry planning by 5% each fiscal year beginning in 2010.

*Groundwork was laid during FY2010 to advance the engagement of families through the use of videoconferencing. Though most of the equipment was not operational until FY2011, a total of 173 video conference sessions occurred in FY2010 between youth, families and community-based providers to plan for reentry.*

Increase family participation in reentry planning for DYS youth through the usage of videoconferencing and engagement of family in release planning.

*In January, 2010, OCJS awarded DYS \$437,533 to develop the video conferencing capacity of juvenile courts and community correctional facilities. The video conferencing is used to conduct reentry review hearings, engage families with their children in institutions, and permit community-based providers to work with youth prior to release. During the grant period, an estimated 29 juvenile courts and 3 community correctional facilities will receive video conferencing capacity.*

## (2) Statement of the Problem

Diversion activities to divert non-compliant child support obligors from conviction, incarceration, and re-offending have proven to be effective mechanisms to increase child support payments, sustainable employment, and child engagement. Approximately 800 offenders are incarcerated presently on non-support convictions

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives:**

DRC through the Community Correction Act Grant Diversion Program will decrease the number of individuals committed to Ohio prisons for non-support as the primary offense by 5% annually through 2014.

*There were only 588 offenders in FY2010 incarcerated in DRC for non-support exceeding the target goal of 660 offenders by 72 or an 11% decrease. This is down from an all time high of 790 in CY2007. This represents a 26% decrease in incarcerations overall for non-support admissions.*

## **Mentoring/Community Engagement**

### (1) Statement of the Problem

Approximately 7% of the Department of Youth Services youth “age out” of the system creating young adults ill-equipped to reenter the community.

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives:**

Increase the community’s involvement in the lives of DYS youth by engaging youth in community service activities, and recruiting volunteers and mentors to interact with youth during their institutional stay and parole supervision period. The number of mentors will increase by 10% each year with a baseline of 62 mentors.

*DYS achieved 65 mentor matches in the community and 238 in facilities for a total of 303 mentor matches for FY2010. These numbers exceed the target goal by 235, or 345%. These numbers exceed the target goal largely due to the newly launched group mentoring programs in two of our facilities: Good Will Industries GoodGuides program (grant funded) and Kairos Torch (volunteers).*

Increase the number of hours of community service conducted by youth.

*In FY2010, DYS youth completed 31,393 community service hours in DYS’ facilities and 15,160 community service hours while under parole supervision for a total of 46,553 community service hours exceeding the target goal of 1,000 community service hours by 45,553. Due to considerable success in this area, DYS will revise the goal upward.*

## (2) Statement of the Problem

Starting a reentry coalition/task force can be a daunting task. Launching such an initiative can be overwhelming to community stakeholders wanting to start and sustain a reentry task force. A critical first step is getting the right people together to assess the problem and collecting the right information to develop the committee and strategic plan.

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives:**

Increase the number of local reentry task forces with 5-year strategic plans by 10% each fiscal year.

*There were 15 fully operational local reentry task forces with fully developed five-year strategic plans encompassing 16 counties, which exceeded the goal of 14 by 1.*

Increase the number of newly forming local reentry task forces by 10% each fiscal year.

*There were 15 newly forming local reentry task forces covering 21 counties which exceeded the target goal of 2 by 13 or 87%. Many of these local reentry task forces will have fully developed task forces and five-year strategic plans by the end of FY 2011.*

## (3) Statement of the Problem

According to the 2009 Intake Study Report produced by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, nearly 25% of admissions had at least one prior domestic violence conviction. In FY 2010 there were nearly 850 commitments to the department with domestic violence as the most serious offense. Absent effective programmatic intervention many of these offenders pose a significant risk to commit acts of intimate partner violence upon release.

### **Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives:**

Increase the number of certified domestic violence program facilitators through the training of DRC staff and allied professionals.

*DRC's Office of Victim Services (OVS) has developed a plan for the education and training of DRC staff responsible for administering the survey tool to identify domestic violence offender typologies. The OVS training plan consists of two phases: 1) Identify personnel who serve DRC as victim coordinator in the selected institutions. Victim coordinators are DRC staff who are appointed by the warden or adult parole authority regional administrator who, in addition to their primary duties, provide immediate intervention to victims of crime. 2) Train OVS staff and victim coordinators in interviewing techniques similar to the approach employed by the adult parole authority's motivational interviewing program. In addition, representatives from DRC's Bureau of Research will train the group on proper notation and data collection.*



## **Housing**

### (1) Statement of the Problem

Securing safe, decent affordable housing is a major challenge for people exiting prison, particularly adult offenders with mental illness, sex offender convictions, and those with other chronic health conditions. According to DRC's Adult Parole Staff surveyed by the Bureau of Community Sanctions, approximately 2,208 offenders falling under these categories were released without viable housing in 2009.

**Strategic Performance Goals and Objectives:**

Increase the number of Independent Housing beds in targeted areas by July 2011.

*There was a 0% increase in FY 2010. The goal of increasing available beds by 25 was not met, however, neither were the number of beds decreased. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in December of 2010 soliciting proposals from interested parties to increase the potential beds to house low risk offenders by 29 female beds and 338 male beds. Because of the pejorative connotation now attached to Independent Housing (they are considered synonymous with sex offenders), the RFP requested proposals for Community Residential Centers.*

Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units available by 50 by July 2013.

*There was a 0% increase in FY 2010 for the number of independent housing beds. The goal of increasing the available beds by 50 was not met, however, neither were the number of units decreased. Expansion of the grant is pending completion of the study to determine whether PSH impacts on recidivism and is cost effective in terms of public dollars.*

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## **Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Legislative Recommendations**

As a part of its statutory charge to make legislative recommendations to the Ohio General Assembly to address barriers to offender reentry, an Ex-Offender Employment Workgroup was appointed in 2010. The workgroup met regularly throughout the year to examine and receive stakeholder input regarding potential legislative proposals that included expanding eligibility for expungement of criminal records, certificates of rehabilitation, and ban the box. The workgroup will make recommendations to the full coalition in 2011, with final recommendations to the legislature prior to the end of the year.

# Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

## Member Agencies

### Agency Contacts

- Department of Rehabilitation and Correction ..... 1-800-282-0515  
<http://www.drc.ohio.gov>
- Department of Aging ..... 1-614-466-4135  
<http://www.aging.ohio.gov>
- Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services ..... 1-614-466-3445  
<http://www.odadas.ohio.gov/public>
- Department of Commerce ..... 1-614-466-3636  
<http://www.com.ohio.gov>
- Department of Development ..... 1-614-466-2480  
<http://www.development.ohio.gov>
- Department of Education ..... 1-614-995-1545  
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>
- Department of Health ..... 1-614-466-3543  
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov>
- Department of Job and Family Services ..... 1-614-466-6282  
<http://www.jfs.ohio.gov>
- Department of Mental Health ..... 1-614-466-2176  
<http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov>
- Department of Developmental Disabilities ..... 1-614-644-0263  
<http://www.dodd.ohio.gov>
- Department of Public Safety ..... 1-614-466-2550  
<http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov>
- Board of Regents ..... 1-614-466-6000  
<http://www.regents.ohio.gov>
- Rehabilitation Services Commission ..... 1-614-438-1200  
<http://www.rsc.ohio.gov>
- Department of Youth Services ..... 1-614-466-4314  
<http://www.dys.ohio.gov>



