

PUBLIC SAFETY

Video

Deborah Daniels
Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs

Audio

“Most people who go to prison are coming out at some point. They are going to come out. In many cases, you are going to fear that the only thing they are going to know how to do is commit crimes. I would say that returning offenders are the number one public safety problem for communities, given the very high repeat offending rate of return offenders.”

Susan Herman, Executive Director
National Center for Victims of Crime

“One of the things that I would like to encourage the people who are developing reentry programs to do, is to bring victims organizations to the table. They have a tremendous amount to offer and they are not usually included in planning reentry programs. It is beginning. It just needs to happen more. They have knowledge about patterns of offending behavior that even the police don't have because only half the crimes are reported to the police. Victim's organizations often know an awful lot more about crime patterns in neighborhoods and communities than the police do. They also know about victims' needs. And they can tell you about the experience of victims, the safety concerns of victims. They can generalize about the experience. That information should be used in planning these programs.”

SOUTHSIDE DAY REPORTING CENTER **Chicago, IL**

Tom Hurley, Executive Director
Southside Day Reporting Center

“Some of the National Statistics say that folks in your shoes go back to the penitentiary at a rate of 60, 70, 80 percent of the time within 18 months of release. Those are staggering but real statistics. You're proving those wrong. And that's what's exciting about this. We celebrate being open five years.

B-roll

V.O.#1

Tom Hurley is Executive Director of the Southside Day Reporting Center(DRC). He is speaking at a Transition Celebration for men and women who were formerly incarcerated, and who participated in the Illinois Department of Corrections program that is operated by Behavioral Interventions. The goal of DRC is to protect the public by providing clients with a combination of maximum supervision, immediate reporting, and intensive treatment at one

location. Those who participate must report to the DRC within 24 hours after release.

Donald Coney
Former DRC Client

“You’ve been confined for x amount of years, however many years that might have been. You want freedom, instant freedom, and this doesn’t provide that for you.”

Mary Hutch
Former DRC Client

“When I first heard that I had to go, I was quite upset about it because I just didn’t want to go. I thought my time was over.

B-roll

V.O.#2

Jim Anderson is Vice President for Reentry Services for Behavioral Interventions, which created the Day Reporting Center.

Jim Anderson
Vice President Reentry Services
Behavioral Interventions, Inc.

“It’s been around for just over 25 years now. It’s really mostly known in the criminal justice industry for having invented electronic monitoring products. So, that’s a big part of our business -- ankle bracelets, in-home alcohol testing devices, voice identification, tracking systems, those kinds of things, the electronic part of supervision of the business. But then, on the other side, we have offices like here in Chicago, community correctional service centers.”

B-roll

V.O.#3

At the Day Reporting Center there are four levels of supervision for each client, starting at the most intensive level of reporting seven days a week and maintaining abstinence from drug use for 30 days. Curfew is from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. They progressively move to less intensive levels depending on the actual behavior change that has taken place for each individual client.”

Tom Hurley Tour

“If clients are just checking in, they don’t have groups for the day, they just check in, a couple minutes process. [They] do the breath alcohol test, possibly submit to a urinalysis test and then go. If they’re negative, ‘great job, keep up good work, let’s keep moving forward.’ If they’re positive, ‘let’s talk about that.’ What’s going on? Is there relapse? Is it something that maybe it’s an old drug and it’s taking some time and it’s still in their system and it’s working itself out? So we can talk about that immediately and then talk about what’s the next step.”

B-roll

V.O.#4

Since its inception, the Day Reporting Center has closely worked with the Department of Corrections Parole Community Service Division in monitoring and supervising clients and providing case management. There are three groups per week providing

education classes, employment readiness, cognitive thinking, substance abuse treatment, and more. Intensive reentry programming puts parolees in a high visibility position that rapidly separates those who are serious about making changes from those who try to slide through.

Donald Coney

“It’s obvious that we can’t do it on our own. If we could, then we wouldn’t keep coming back and forth to jail.”

Mary Hutch

“It has taught me to work for the things that I want out of life. I no longer reach for that instant gratification. I’ve learned some patience, some perseverance, and it kind of teaches you about yourself. It makes you look at some of the things that are not so good about you so that you can start making changes to be a better person.”

Jamesetta Harris, Community Activist

“These are our children. These are our family members. People make mistakes, but having a program like this helps them get an education. I’ve been to two or three graduations to see them go from basically nothing, having very low self-esteem, not believing in themselves, and all of a sudden you see their head come up and that smile, that big smile on their face. You can see the pride there. And I think that’s going to be key in helping them to turn their lives around.

Rev. Michael Pflieger
St. Sabinas Catholic Church

“The BI Day Reporting center is, to me, one of the most successful models because there’s the balance, if you will, of support and care and a passion to say we want you to make it. But at the same time, the accountability to say we’re not here to baby you, we’re here to treat you like the man or the woman that you are and demand you to be responsible for your life.”

B-roll

V.O.#5

Parolees placed in the Southside reentry group were re-incarcerated for new criminal convictions at a much lower rate than a comparable group of parolees who went into regular parole supervision without day reporting. This represents a 40.6 percent reduction in new criminal convictions.”

Mary Hutch

“I do not believe that I would be where I am today had I not had the daily reporting center. I have friends that came out with me that didn’t get the Day Reporting Center. They’re back in jail.”

B-roll

V.O.#6

Mary received her GED while attending DRC. She is currently a junior at Chicago State University and a supervisor at Haymarket House, a residential drug treatment program. She recently married and just purchased a new home.

Jim Anderson

“They have to know that we are invested in them succeeding as opposed to catching them and sending them back to prison. We catch people, and they go back to prison, but our focus is – and it’s relayed to them in a number of ways – is that we care whether or not they succeed.”

BOSTON REENTRY INITIATIVE

Boston, MA

Video

Audio

B-roll of people gathering for panel.

V.O.#1

The City of Boston uses a public safety strategy, including effective transitional services and increased vigilance in monitoring the reentry of high-risk offenders.

Paul Joyce, Superintendent
Boston Police Department

“Reentry started in the spring of 2000 when we saw a spike in some firearm violence in some of our neighborhoods. In looking closer at that, the individuals, both as victims and perpetrators in these cases, were recently released from incarceration. So we felt that we had to put something in place to deal with the high number of offenders who would be coming back into the community.”

Gregory Haugh, Assistant Superintendent
House of Corrections

“We realized that we were releasing about 200-250 inmates a month from this facility. Most of them are going to, living in communities within a three- to four- to five-mile radius of this facility. That’s a lot of people going back.”

B-roll

V.O.#2

The Boston Reentry Initiative has built on the foundation of interagency law enforcement and community and faith-based partnerships. Once a month, the group faces a panel of high-risk inmates who have been targeted as those most likely to recommit crimes. The goal is to change their behavior by defining available community services as well as the consequences of criminal activity. Each of these inmates will leave prison with a transition accountability plan that intends to decrease crime and reduce recidivism.

Gregory Haugh, Assistant Superintendent
House of Corrections

“It’s primarily identification from the Boston Police Department through the Youth Violence Strike Force, which is commonly known as the gang youth unit. The district attorney’s office can also -- any of the law enforcement people can -- put someone into the program or suggest that someone be in.”

Kevin Hayden, Assistant District Attorney
Boston, MA

“The kids who are coming out of the House of Corrections and who are chosen for our panel are the ones that are determined to be most likely to re-offend. This is either because they’re returning to a hot spot or because they’re a person that’s a known player in the city, so to speak. People on the faith-based side, a lot of whom I know and am friends with, offer them help and support and mentorship and the like. At the end, myself and a representative from the U.S. Attorney’s office speak to them as well. We let them know what the alternatives are to not trying this program, or what the alternatives are to not turning their lives around and trying to do the right thing. If they want to continue to commit crimes, and do the kinds of things that got them in the House of Corrections in the first place, their punishment will be swift; it’ll be severe. It’s not really a scare tactic, it’s more a dose of reality.”

Blake Norton, Operations Director, Public Affairs
Boston Police Department

“This is not hug-a-thug. I will tell you that right now. We are not warm and fuzzy. We are not social workers. However, the one thing that I think the police department has learned in the past ten years is the importance of partnership and knowing what we’re good at and then reaching out to those people who are good at doing other things.”

Ellen Mason, The Work Place

“We’re saying we’re out here, we’re willing, we’re able, we’re eager. All you have to do is reach out and keep reaching out. As long as you’re doing that, we’re working with you. So the combination of a very real presentation of what can happen at a next offense and the presentation of all the opportunities for support and for resources to make changes is very powerful.”

Robert Scott, Inmate in Reentry Program

“Well, he comes and he asks me how I’m doing. You know, how I’m doing personally and what are my plans for when I get out.”

True See Allah, Mentor

“We spend anywhere from a day to three days in the House of Corrections during the week, getting to know them on a one-on-one basis to define what a discharge plan would be. If housing is an issue, if schooling is an issue, because they all vary, that’s when we would find that out and that’s when we can start to put the resources into place.”

B-roll

V.O.#3

One of the community organizations that participates in the Reentry program is the Ella J. Baker House, which provides employment, housing, and mentoring services to assist people who were formerly incarcerated.

Kevin Johnson, Executive Director
Ella J. Baker House

“Right now, we have a situation where the community, in effect, delegates the criminal justice problem to police and correctional agencies, which have their very important role. But the community itself must take ownership of crime and must take ownership of reintegrating these men and women back into the community because these came from our community. These are our youngsters who grew up and got off the track. Now we need to reach out and back to them and pull them back in.”

Stephen Peevy, Mentor

“Before I got out, it hit me that I had choices. I didn’t have to be a career criminal when I got out, you see. I didn’t have to be a menace to society when I got out. I had a choice. So I try to instill that in them: they have a choice today.”

Andrea Cabral, Sheriff
Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department

“I’m very sensitive to the fact that many of the things that we offer in reentry are not offered to people who’ve been victimized. You know, by the luck of incarceration, there are opportunities being offered to people who actually have committed crimes that are not offered to law-abiding people who perhaps have been victimized by them. So because of that, I’m very serious about inmates making meaningful the opportunities presented to them by reentry and I’m very serious about what should happen to them when they re-offend.”

Patrick Bradley, Superintendent
House of Corrections

“You’re not going to get out of prison having been punished for the crimes you committed just to do the exact same thing over and over again. Because through all this, no matter what we do in criminal justice, we have to remember what the victims are saying to us. They’re the ones who paid the greatest price. So it’s incumbent upon us, the criminal justice community, to protect the community that it serves. That’s what we’re trying to do with the Boston Reentry Initiative.”

MARYLAND REENTRY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
Baltimore, MD

Video

Audio

B-roll of David and Terrance

V.O.#1

Daniel has been in and out of prison for the last 30 years of his life. While in the Maryland House of Corrections, he found out about the Maryland Reentry Partnership and saw it as a way of helping him break the cycle of recidivism.

Daniel Woodrum-el
Maryland Reentry Client

“Like I say, I come home intent on not going back. Not being able to get employment, you become depressed, stressed out. Then you go back to your old habitat and do things that you know well.”

B-roll

V.O.#2

The Maryland Reentry Partnership is a public-private partnership made up of several agencies that work together to provide a network of support for returning prisoners. Key partners include the Enterprise Foundation, Maryland Department of Corrections, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, Parole and Probation, the Baltimore Police Department, and local community development corporations. The Initiative targets three communities that will receive about 60 percent of the 13,000 offenders being released into Baltimore City this year. The program begins in prison and includes an Exit Orientation.

Nevelle Thompson
Case Manager, Maryland Reentry Partnership

“Transition is inevitable. Everybody sitting on the side of the room facing me knows transitioning is inevitable. You’re getting out of here, that’s inevitable. Transition with change is a choice.”

Thomasina Hier
The Enterprise Foundation

“Here in the State of Maryland I believe our recidivism rate is around 50 or so percent, meaning that most of the people who walk out of our prisons go back. The question is why? So we wanted to try something new. Of course, there are lots of folks who come out and they’re under state-imposed supervision, but the agents can do but so much. A lot of these guys, they’re in and out of prison; it’s sort of a revolving door. If we could put something in place in their communities to assist them with not just their reentry from prison back into the community, but a reintegration into their community and to their families in a positive way, then we’re banking that they’ll be less likely to commit more crimes.”

B-roll of Terrance and Daniel

V.O.#3

Upon release, reentry participants are connected with services, including substance abuse treatment, housing, health services and vocational and educational training. In addition to traditional supervision provided by the Department of Parole and Probation, community-based case managers and advocates are assigned and work closely with clients to extend the reach of supervision and to aid in their reintegration.

Priscilla Griffith, Maryland Department of Parole & Probation

“We’re part of law enforcement, in effect. So I think the trust level is different with the community advocate and with the community case manager and that really helps the agent in areas where they can’t reach somebody. If an offender fails to report for a few appointments, the agent can pick up the phone and call the case manager and say, ‘can you help me find this person?’”

Terrence Moody, Advocate, Maryland Reentry Partnership

“I pick the guys up from the gate when they’re released, take them home, or if they’re going to transitional housing, I’ll take them there. But in the process, I find out what exactly do they need. If they need an ID, things we take for granted, that’s my job to get it for them. Social security card, birth certificate, take them to the clinic, take them to the doctors, or a lot of times, they just need somebody to talk to, to ride around and talk with and that’d be me.”

Nevelle Thompson, Case Manager
Maryland Reentry Partnership

“I’m a recovering addict. I’m also an ex-offender. So I understand the challenges that someone faces in transitioning from not only inside the walls to outside the walls but from inside that prison up here [points to his head], to the freedom that we can receive once we can replace that old misinformation. Not only misinformation, but missed information.”

B-roll of Tyrell
Williams and Nevelle

V.O.#4

Tyrell Williams is 22 years old and has already spent three years of his life locked up. Through his involvement and commitment to the Maryland Reentry Partnership, he is working toward his GED and is in a Floor Technician training program.

Tyrell Williams, Maryland Reentry Client

“I sat around and heard what they were talking about and I liked what they were talking about -- about the roadblocks that you got to face when you go out there, when temptation hits you, when you step on the bricks, when you step on the real ground. It’s a lot of temptation that hits you and if you don’t pick up on it and see your place, you’ll be lost.”

Nevelle Thompson “These guys are resources, man, they are some intelligent individuals and if we can just challenge that intelligence and use the intelligence to be part of a rebuilding, a revitalizing part of this community, the possibilities are enormous.”

Thomasina Hiers “The division benefits because if we’re able to link these guys to services, then that’s less folks who are coming back into prison. The Division of Parole and Probation benefits because their agents have astronomical caseloads, and if an agent can work with the case manager in the community, that case manager nine times out of 10 has more contact on a day-to-day basis with the clients and can report to the agent and share. The client, of course, benefits because he’s getting access to services that he may not have had an opportunity to access and he’s also getting support that he may not have necessarily had.”

William Sondervan, Commissioner
Maryland Department of Corrections

“The first part of our mission is, of course, public safety. We have to keep inmates confined where they can’t do any harm. We have to do that in a humane and dignified way. We have to provide prisons that are safe for our staff and employees to work in. But the second and equally important part of our mission is to prepare inmates to go back home. I can do my part inside the fence and I can do my part to develop the cooperation and to do all the things that we can to make this flow and to make it easy and make it painless. But without that handoff, without people in the community doing their part and being involved, then the process just won’t work.”

State Representative Michael Lawlor
Co-Chair, Joint Judiciary Committee (D,CT)

“I think people are beginning to understand in a different light, in part because of the budget crisis, we have to figure out better ways than just building more prisons because we just don’t have the money to do that, but also when it comes to public safety, ironically, you can promote public safety by changing the way you punish criminals. And I think even many crime victim organizations around the country are starting to understand the connection, especially as it relates to nonviolent offenders.”

CITIZENS' CIRCLES
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION

Video

Images of documents

Edward Rhine
Chief, Office of Offender Reentry and Correctional Best Practices
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Audio

V.O.#1

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has received a federal grant, under the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, of about \$2 million dollars to develop and implement the Ohio Community-Oriented Reentry Project, or CORE. CORE is part of a larger strategy known as the Ohio Plan for Productive Offender Reentry and Recidivism reduction.

“The Ohio Plan is unique because it takes a systems approach. As a systems approach, we are talking about doing reentry planning for offenders when they come in the door at reception, carrying that planning forward to the parent institution, and carrying that plan even further into the community during the period of time that they are under some form of parole or post-release control supervision.

That’s a philosophy change that we’re attempting to engineer within our own department, but it’s also a philosophy change that needs community support and community ownership to be successful. I think if there’s something unique about reentry today, certainly under the point of view of our own Ohio Plan on reentry, it is the fact that we look to an expanded series and set of partnerships with folks in the community to help augment our limited capacity to truly and successfully return offenders home.”

B-roll of group

V.O.#2

An example of how the Ohio Department of Corrections engages the citizenry in reentry is in the formation of Citizens’ Circles. The Circles, which are growing throughout the state, are made up of representatives from law enforcement, social services, faith communities, and victims, all people who have a stake in successful reentry. They meet regularly with people who were formerly incarcerated, not only to keep an eye on their activities in the community, but to assist them by providing resources that can aid in their reintegration.

Edward Rhine

“When an offender is admitted into a Citizens’ Circle, you’ve got full participation at the community level. They have volunteered to come to the table because ultimately, if the offender refuses to comply with the terms and the obligations of good citizenship as part of the Citizens’ Circle, then we have the authority and retain the authority to violate that offender and return that offender to prison.”

Sally Glover, Deputy Warden of Operations
Mansfield Correctional Institution

“We have offenders at our institution. And we are a part of the Circle, so we can prepare them for the Circle. We have a lot of reentry things happening at our institution, so one of the things we do, we talk about the Citizens’ Circles and we talk about the fact that there’s a group of people to assist you when you walk out the door, from social security people to people who work at jobs and family services. We have all kinds of people who are a part of the Circle.”

Ralph Cumston, Marion City Council

“When we in government get involved with this, we’re always thinking that well, we know that prison is going to be a part of our life and people are going to commit offenses. But what do we do afterwards? And then I got a good taste of that. My brother was convicted of crack cocaine use and I saw first-hand what it does to families and what he struggled with as well.”

Rev. Hugh Daley
Deputy Warden Toledo Department of Corrections

“When we went to them for our first meeting and we said, ‘what are you doing with regard to people being released into your neighborhood from prison,’ the response was, ‘we are trying to get rid of them.’ So in just a few meetings, we’ve gone from an eradication of ex-offenders to an acceptance and inclusion in the neighborhood.”

Dana Eubanks
Mansfield Corrections Officer

“What are you going to do with him when he gets out? How are you going to help him to fit back in, because he’s going to get out. Everybody’s not doing life in the penitentiary and 80 percent are going to get out. They’re coming back home. It’s how you can accept them, and how you can fit them back in, and how you can help them when they get out, that’s going to make the difference.”

B-roll

V.O.#3

Reverend Tom Miller has been in prison ministry for four years and participates in a Citizens’ Circle in Mansfield. He was formerly incarcerated.

Rev. Tom Miller, Prison Ministry

“It’s a voluntary situation so we will not demand it, but we strongly recommend it. Everybody’s at that table that you need. Jobs and family services; a mentor is there; mental health; your parole officer is there, seeing that you’re interacting with all these people in the community. It can’t help but change his attitude towards you.”

Karen Ho
Victim Advocate

“And I think the strength in the Citizens’ Circles is its diversity, coming together to represent various aspects of the community: offenders, faith community, business community, including victims, helping with the accountability aspects as well as safety for victims.”

Ronnie Burke
Victim Advocate

“I think one of the most important issues is that victims see other people holding that offender accountable. It’s not just victims that are holding that offender accountable, but it’s justice professionals, people in the community, social service. It’s people offering them jobs, faith leaders, and that’s what’s important.”

Edward Rhine

“I think most offenders want to make it. They don’t want to come back to prison. Some offenders don’t, and we’re not going to reach some of those offenders. I’m not naïve about that nor is anybody else in the business. But I think to the extent you genuinely engage the offender in reentry planning and you reinforce that engagement each step of the way, they too have an ownership and more motivation to participate in programming and make it when they hit the streets. And that’s significant. That in a sense is the system, encouraging them and supporting them to go home and stay. And that’s what our reentry slogan is. Reentry means going home to stay.”