

Response Overview

- Urban Institute Justice Policy Center
- Transition from Jail to the Community (TJC)
- Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry
- Reentry Resource Center

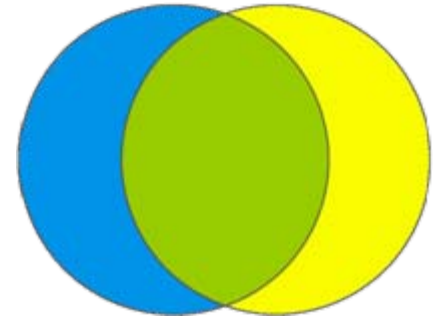
The Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center

- Over 30 researchers
- Two dozen active projects
 - Program evaluation
 - Analyses
 - “Action Research”
- Wide range of topics
 - Youth gang violence
 - Forensics/DNA
 - Reentry, institutional, and community corrections

Transition from Jail to the Community Overview

- An initiative of the National Institute of Corrections
- Launched May 2007
- Sites to develop a data-driven transition model focused on systems change and shared ownership
- Model will be tested and evaluated in six jurisdictions
- Technical assistance tools for broader set of jurisdictions

**The
Transition from Jail to Community
Initiative**



**One Year of TJC Implementation:
What Have We Learned So Far?**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
CORRECTIONS**

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Strategic Vision and Planning

- The importance of a mission statement
 - Illustrates shared vision
- Continually review initiative's progress against goals and objectives
- Be willing to leverage experiences (obstacles as opportunities)
- Leaders must set vision and engage at strategic points to move initiative forward
- Take swift but deliberate action
 - Ensure movement in the right direction, keep key objectives in mind

Collaboration

- Collaboration isn't easy, even with solid foundations
- Challenge of truly shared ownership difficult
- Clear structures, roles and responsibilities key to building and sustaining momentum
 - Requires consistency of participation
- True collaboration requires thinking strategically about core groups
 - Who, when, how big, when to bring in others

Communication

- Illustrating multiple “holders” and continual progress is key
- On-going education of core partners required to build collective understanding and buy-in
 - Conceptual and operational level
- Consider mechanisms that promote information-sharing

Applying the Lessons

- Keep overall plan at forefront of discussions
- Remember that incremental progress is still progress
- Resist silo thinking
- Build in time for reflection, assessment
- Set realistic goals
 - Bite-sized tasks with big picture in mind
 - Beware of the day-to-day

Returning Home

Implications for Policy & Practice

Finding: Housing and substance abuse treatment are critical needs

- Family greatest source of housing and emotional support

Implication:

Support and strengthen family and other support systems

Finding: Former prisoners are a diverse group

- Different criminal/substance use histories, health issues, incarceration experiences (state jail versus state prison), gender issues

Implication:

Tailor services & support to meet individual needs

Involve family in treatment plans

Returning Home: Post-Release Surveys

Implications for Policy & Practice

Finding: Employment is difficult after release

- Employment linked to positive outcomes, reduced recidivism

Implication:

Provide employment assistance to all releasees, esp. women

Finding: Supervision viewed positively

- Supervision may improve reentry experiences

Implication:

Enhance supervision role, capitalize on positive influences

Returning Home: Post-Release Surveys Implications for Policy & Practice

Finding: Pre-release and job training programs hold promise

- Programs, treatment, and job training can prevent relapse

Implication:

Adopt holistic, wrap-around approach to reentry support, services

Putting It All Together

What Does This Mean for You?

There's a lot we can do -

- Without new laws or regulations
 - Forging real partnerships, changing cultures, sharing information and data
- Without major costs
 - mentors, moment of release, Ids, tapping families, faith community
- With costs but expected returns
 - Voc. Ed., intensive supervision with treatment, cog-behav, drug treatment, etc.

Putting It All Together

What Does This Mean for You?

Roundtable framework is perfectly suited to address reentry:

1. Partnership with diverse group of stakeholders
2. Strategic planning/targeting resources through evidence-based practice
3. Outreach/public education
4. Concrete action steps
5. Accountability/continual feedback

Reentry Resource Center

- Identifying what works
 - Scan of practice
 - Comprehensive literature search
 - Meta-analyses
 - Field wisdom
- “What Works” library
 - Comprehensive
 - Online
 - Searchable



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For more information on prisoner reentry, please visit the Urban Institute website at: <http://www.urban.org>

To receive monthly email updates of JPC research, send an email to jpc@ui.urban.org

Returning Home

Study Background

- Longitudinal study of persons released from state correctional institutions
- Conducted in Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Cleveland, OH; Houston, TX
- Focused on reentry expectations & needs and post-release challenges & experiences
- Considers family and community context