



Issue Brief

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Inmate Re-Entry

Overview

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is responsible for the care and custody of more than 14,600 adults statewide. About 93 percent of all adults in custody will eventually be released from prison and return to Oregon communities.

Statistically, in Oregon, about 26 percent of released offenders are convicted of a new felony crime within three years; this measurement is referred to as recidivism. The consequences of repeat offenders are felt by families and communities in terms of public safety and by the criminal justice system, which bears the costs to investigate, arrest, convict and incarcerate repeat offenders.

To keep our communities safe, reduce pressure on the criminal justice system, and to slow the demand for prison beds, DOC strives to shape the kind of people offenders will be when they re-enter society. While they are in custody, DOC works to identify and address inmates' risk factors for future criminal behavior. The goal is to provide inmates with the skills and resources they need to lead successful lives upon release.

Offender Management and Rehabilitation

In 2012, DOC reorganized to better align the agency to achieve its mission and vision for the future. The Offender Management and Rehabilitation Division (OMR) enhances the coordination of resources, increases collaboration, furthers case management, and ultimately creates even safer prisons and improved outcomes. The division oversees an adult in custody's correctional plan starting from the time the individual's judgment is ordered until he/she releases into the community, improving outcomes for offenders and providing for successful transition to county community corrections supervision.

The OMR Division includes the following units:

- Intake
- Offender Information and Sentence Computation
- Office of Population Management

- Religious Services and Restorative Justice including Victims Services
- Inmate and Community Services
- Education, Training and Treatment
- Programs and Services including Volunteer Services
- Reentry and Release
- Office of Policy, Business Services and Process Improvement

Release/Reentry Plans

Concerted release planning begins approximately six months before release. With an eye on public safety concerns, release counselors collaborate with the releasing offenders, county community corrections agencies, the Parole Board, DOC medical and mental health professionals, state agencies, and private providers to develop a plan designed to help the individual reintegrate into his/her community, meet basic needs such as housing and employment, and ensure continuity of medical and/or mental health care post-release.

Regional Re-Entry Prisons

Instead of replicating programs and services at all prisons, DOC has found it more effective and efficient to centralize services in certain prisons and assign adults in custody to those prisons based on individual program needs. Under this model, some prisons focus primarily on basic education, job training, and work, while others focus on treatment and transitional services. Approximately six months before release, most adults in custody are transferred to a regional re-entry prison located near their home community. Preparation for release is intensified. This time may also include alcohol and drug treatment, if appropriate.

Reentry Benefits

DOC assists persons preparing for release from prison to the community to apply for health care other benefits for which they may be eligible. A DOC Reentry Benefits Coordinator assists individuals to complete the applications for Medicaid and/or Social Security benefits

depending on the person's age and circumstances and in compliance with state and federal regulations concerning health care and related benefits applications.

In addition, DOC helps adults in custody obtain copies of their certified birth certificate or Consular Report of Birth Abroad, and Social Security Card (or replacement card) which are critically important documents to have at reentry.

And, for those individuals who meet state eligibility requirements, DOC assists them with state-issued identification through the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles.

Alternative Incarceration Programs

Alternative Incarceration Programs (AIPs) are special programs offered by DOC to selected adults in custody who are at risk of re-offending due to untreated addictions and criminal thinking. These programs are open only to individuals without mandatory minimum sentences (non-Measure 11 offenders) who are within three years of release. In addition, the judge must include AIP on an offender's sentencing order in order for that person to be eligible for AIP.

AIPs have two phases. Inmates who successfully complete the initial six-month residential phase move into the community. Still considered inmates in this phase, they are supervised for 90 days of "non-prison/transitional leave" while practicing the skills and discipline learned in prison. Those who successfully complete this phase are eligible to have their prison sentences reduced. After transitional leave, offenders are supervised by parole officers while completing their post-prison supervision sentences in the community.

Faith-Based Re-Entry Programs

Under the leadership of DOC's Religious Services Unit, hundreds of volunteers and faith-based community organizations assist in reintegrating offenders. These re-entry programs help community members provide offenders with a pro-social support system, role model pro-social attitudes and behavior for the offenders, and help them develop their spirituality.

Transition/Re-Entry Network

In 2008, DOC partnered with the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) and established the Transition/Reentry Network to improve the release planning process and information sharing between DOC, Community Corrections, the Parole Board, and adults in custody. The Transition/Reentry Network reviews information on best practices and makes recommendations to OACCD and DOC related to policy designed to help

facilitate transition that is most effective for communities, the offender, and his/her family.

The Governor's Re-Entry Council

Recognizing that the successful reintegration of offenders returning from prison requires the efforts of multiple state and local agencies, former Governor Ted Kulongoski created the Re-entry Council in May 2007. The Council was established as a state-level, statewide leadership group to work collaboratively on improving the success and safety of the transition of prison to community. The work of the Council continues under Governor Kate Brown. Members represent multiple state agencies, statewide associations, and other organizations representing the local criminal justice system, community service providers, reentry advocates and other stakeholders. ■

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by holding
offenders accountable for their actions
and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



**Colette S. Peters, Director
(503) 945-0927**

**Kim Brockamp, Deputy Director
(503) 945-0927**

**Heidi Steward, Assistant Director
Offender Management and Rehabilitation
(503) 945-9092**

**Jeremiah Stromberg, Assistant Director
Community Corrections
(503) 945-9050**

**Oregon Department of Corrections
2575 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-4667**

www.oregon.gov/doc