

# Governor's Re-entry Council

February 24, 2010  
Labor and Industries Bldg  
350 Winter Street NE  
Conference Room F  
Salem, Oregon

## Meeting Minutes

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### **Attendees:**

*Council Members:* Todd Anderson, Ron Chase, Aaron Felton, Ginger Martin, Thomas McClellan, Victor Merced, Jerry Moore, Colette S. Peters, Mark Royal, Ross Shepard, Cameron Smith, Laurie Warner, Max Williams

*Steering Committee Members:* Cindy Booth, Martin Burrows, Mark Cadotte, Val Conley, Pegge McGuire, Heidi Steward, Patrick Vance

*Interested Observers:* Kimberly Allain, Devarshi Bajpai, Krissa Caldwell, Doug Cooper, Sharon Darcy, Chane Griggs, Stephanie Gaidosh, Kelly Officer, Anne O'Malley, Paul Solomon

### **Ginger Martin: Welcome and Introductions**

On behalf of Max Williams, who was delayed, Ginger Martin, Assistant Director for Transitional Services for Department of Corrections, called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming. Everyone introduced themselves.

### **Announcements and Information Sharing**

Ron Chase, Executive Director of Sponsors, Inc., announced the building dedication ceremony for their men's transitional housing facility will be held on July 29, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in Eugene. Speakers include Victor Merced, Max Williams and Mayor Kitty Piercy.

Victor Merced announced that the Department of Human Services (DHS) was awarded \$7 million in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. One strategy being funded is the purchase of foreclosed houses which are converted to supported housing for the homeless and those releasing from prison. There are 6-7 counties across the state that are benefitting from participation in the program. Oregon is one of only 40 recipients nationwide. A 3<sup>rd</sup> round of program funding is possible and, if so, DHS will again apply.

Pegge McGuire announced a second free training on messaging the services of government by Patrick Bresette, Associate Program Director of Public Works at Dēmos, which will be held in Portland on March 10, 2010.

Ginger Martin said she is writing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act Grant proposal to take the transitional housing initiative adopted by the Re-entry Council to the implementation stage. The initiative proposed a 50% local contribution and a 50% state contribution. The state contribution would be funded by the grant to establish the program, which could be continued by state funding in the future. The counties invited to participate were selected because they have the highest number of releases are: Multnomah, Lane, Clackamas, Jackson and Washington. Since Marion County has been awarded a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act Grant they were not included. The proposal includes offering services along with transitional housing.

Mr. Williams briefly explained the process for developing agency policy packages after an inquiry from Ross Shepard as to whether or not the DOC would be including the housing initiative in our next policy package. While the concept of including state funding in the future was included in Ms. Martin's request to the legislature for permission to apply for the grant, the strategy is to fund a successful pilot through the grant before requesting state funding. At that time, DOC will invite other Re-entry Council member agencies to support our request. The grant is for \$750,000 for 1 year and can be awarded for up to 3 years.

Mr. Williams explained a commission the governor established through Executive Order known as the Re-set Cabinet. There is a large deficit in the state revenue versus expenditures projected over the next decade of \$1.5 to \$2.5 billion. This high level statewide group was formed to address the structural imbalance across the full spectrum of state government and began developing a menu of potential actions. The governor broke the group into 4 ad hoc committees. They are: public safety, higher education, K through 12 and human services. These groups have been meeting to develop options, none of which are desirable. A survey is also being conducted. A report from the cabinet is due to the governor in June. This report should generate challenging and complicated debate among political candidates and the voters.

Pegge McGuire reported that the Department of Housing and Community Services executive team has decided to provide additional funding for rent guarantees to DOC participants in the housing component of the transition classes. Half a million dollars has been committed and there are a number of different organizations who will be able to take advantage of the program. The DOC participants will have a certificate of completion when they are released.

### **Review Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the November 12, 2009 were approved as submitted and will be posted to the Re-entry Council webpage.

### **Public Input**

No one requested time for public comment.

## **Re-entry Resource Centers: Devarshi Bajpai, Criminal Justice Commission**

Mr. Bajpai reports that \$1.5 million will be spent over 2 years beginning January 31, 2010 on 3 transitional resource centers. There will be polygraphs for sex offenders and those with domestic violence offences in Klamath County; a variety of other services, which may include housing services; employment services; batterer intervention; or behavioral services will be available at each site. Recidivism data will be available after 2 years and the Criminal Justice Commission will give a progress report to the council in 1 year. Each service center will also have a representative report out at that time.

## **Updates from Housing, Employment and Continuity of Care Workgroups Pegge McGuire, Martin Burrows, Patrick Vance**

Pegge McGuire, chair of the Housing Workgroup, reported that since having their transitional housing initiative adopted by the Council, they have begun focusing on private market landlords and the availability of housing in the private market. The workgroup is working with the messaging group and the Ending Homelessness Advisory Council to develop messages that we can all incorporate in working with landlords and people needing housing. Legislation in other states has come to their attention related to employment that addresses limiting employer liability. One of the reasons it is difficult to get people with a criminal history into housing is that landlords have similar concerns about liability as do employers. What are the consequences for the landlord if a renter with a criminal history re-offends or damages someone else's property, harms someone or steals something? They are working on language for legislation that can absolve some of the landlord's liability in those situations.

Martin Burrows, chair of the Employment Workgroup, reported that over the last year they have concentrated on two main goals. The first was to increase the number of resources inmates have available to prepare for and look for work. One of the main barriers for inmates is lack of internet access. The Employment Department has a system that is used throughout the state in public settings and is internet based, yet secure. The Steering Committee had seen a presentation of the system and was impressed. DOC Information Technology Services staff members have been working with Employment Department staff members to ensure the security of the system and the hardware. A pilot program is being prepared for Oregon State Correctional Institution. The Employment Department has offered training to DOC employees on their systems, which is appreciated. The iMatch system will enable inmates to input their information in the system and have it available to them after release to use to find and apply for jobs online from any personal computer or at an Employment Department office.

The Employment Workgroup identified the need for verification of learned and demonstrated soft skills of inmates while working jobs while incarcerated. The DOC has developed a procedure to document soft skills, establish job performance evaluations and resumés that can follow the inmate through their incarceration and their transition to the community job market. Oregon Corrections Enterprises has been working cooperatively with DOC to accomplish these objectives.

Patrick Vance, chair of the Continuity of Care Workgroup, gave a brief overview of the work being accomplished. They are continuing to focus on connecting inmates with resources in the community for post-prison health care and/or mental health care. In the last year, processes have been established to:

- provide a 30-day supply of medications
- task nurse managers with connecting high needs offenders with mental health care providers in the community
- list resources that are available in the community on the Re-entry Wiki
- provide specific medications that require lab test follow-up to the person's Parole Officer
- change dental health services offered within DOC
- coordinate services for specific offenders; community mental health directors agreed to identify a liaison in each county to work with DOC
- develop a protocol for making appointments with mental health care providers in the community for inmates nearing release; representatives from the Mental Health Directors Association met with DOC health services staff
- work to eliminate eligibility barriers for establishing or re-establishing benefits through the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Supplemental Security Disability Income (SSDI) programs with the Oregon Law Center

**Presentation: DOC Transition Program “Road to Success”  
Stephanie Gaidosh**

Ms. Martin introduced Stephanie Gaidosh, a DOC Transition Coordinator at Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI) who is providing the Road to Success curriculum directly to people who are leaving prison.

Ms. Gaidosh distributed a handout with Road to Success statistics at CRCI from 2009 (attached). This program is available on a volunteer basis to all people being released. Those with a high or medium ACRS (Automated Criminal Risk Score) who elect not to participate are contacted by their counselor to discuss the program and how participation can positively impact their re-entry to the community. Ron Chase suggested that anyone who has been incarcerated for over 5 years could benefit from the follow-up encouragement with their counselor, whatever their ACRS. Mr. Williams explained that the information we gather with the ACRS tool, tells us how likely the person is to recidivate (commit another crime). If the person has a low ACRS and they choose not to participate in the transition program, they are still less likely to recidivate than someone with a high ACRS. Therefore, the extra effort goes into those with a high ACRS as the goal is to reduce recidivism. Virtually everyone releasing from prison has the opportunity to participate in the transition program.

Ms. Gaidosh explained there are a variety of sessions of varying lengths in the Road to Success. They cover how to handle rejection; the current job market (it's not easy for those without a criminal history to find a job), and how best to approach a potential employer, how to complete a job application (spelling and neatness counts); how to keep a log to document job hunting for your Parole Officer (PO); how to be a good tenant, how to advise a potential landlord about your new accomplishments; the family and community piece explores how their crime and criminal lifestyle affected others and how

to make better choices; budget how-to, what is: an ATM, debit card, credit card, payday loan and how can they be used to help/hurt; working effectively with your PO, attitude is important, how to use your PO as a resource; safe sex is being offered through a federal grant; Goodwill Job Connections is offered at Two Rivers Correctional Institution; the Veterans Administration comes in to meet with veterans regarding benefits and there is a VA employment group; there is an anti-gang group going into OSCI with collaborative resources available in the community for PO's; the Employment Department teaches a class which instructs inmates on the iMatch system and assists them in completing the forms on the computer; Parole Officers come in to meet with those they are soon to supervise and often sit on a panel to answer questions and back-up the curriculum; individual release planning.

Ms. Gaidosh has open office hours 2 days a week to assist inmates with applications for or information about:

- Oregon Health Plan
- Oregon Prescription Drug Plan
- Food Stamps
- Project Clean Slate
- AA and NA meeting schedules in their zip code
- Bus schedules
- Employment search
- Child support payments – how and why
- Credit report – how to get one
- E-mail address – how to get one

Barriers to success:

- Letters of recommendation from DOC employers (some will, some won't – not a policy not to write one)
- Conditions of supervision
  - ID theft conviction requires no computer use, but iMatch computer system input required to apply for jobs
  - Family no contact order at release after contact is ongoing while incarcerated
- Lack of official identification

Discussion established the need to add the sometimes conflicting practices of "victim" contact while incarcerated and the supervision condition of no contact to a future agenda.

### **Presentation: ROAR Community-based Transitional Services Doug Cooper for Anne O'Malley**

Doug Cooper reported that the Re-entry Transition Center in Multnomah County is up and running. It is partially funded by a grant from the United Way. The center first opened in October 2009 and moved to a new location at Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Grand Avenue in January. There will be an open house on March 18, 2010. There are 8 community organizations working together to bring the services to the people who need them. The most common help has been with transportation, housing, employment and

obtaining a drivers license. The services provided seem to mirror what is being done inside the institutions through the Road to Success program.

The requested feedback received so far has been very positive with concrete assistance in specific situations reported to have been helpful in re-entry. Community programs have come to the center and offered assistance. One such program is providing \$1,000 for housing subsidy after seeing an article about the center in The Oregonian. Over the holidays, several large donations were made. Many of the people transitioning are offering to return to volunteer at the center, once they are settled. Multnomah County Health Department has visited and is becoming involved as a community partner. They've met with Senator Merkley and have his support for this work.

One criteria for the grant from Mercy Corps NW was an advisory committee and requires a member from Department of Corrections, which is Heidi Steward; representatives include the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Federal Parole Officer, 3 members of ROAR, a family member of an incarcerated person, a formerly incarcerated person, and 2 members at-large, one of which is Sharon Darcy, Executive Director of Pathfinders. They will be meeting in the near future.

### **Review Draft Re-entry Performance Report Ginger Martin**

Ms. Martin distributed a draft report of performance progress on re-entry (attached). She asked that as she leads the review of the report that members comment on information that is unclear, not complete, missing, or not presented in an understandable format.

### **Re-entry Council: Setting a Course for the Future**

Mr. Williams summed up the review of the report with a request to the members to think about what they heard and read today, think about what is going on in their world that touches this broader conversation and plan to spend about an hour at the next Council meeting to discuss the priorities for the next phase of the work. Are there people needed at the table? Are there reorganizational issues? He asked that the Steering Committee have the same discussion and bring their ideas to the next Council meeting.

## **CRCI 2009 Yearly Road to Success Transition Coordinator Report**

343 – Individual Assessments

77 – Reassessments due to inmates ACRS score

88 – Reviewed/Updated student assessments

60 – Inmates completed entire Road to Success curriculum

96 – Inmates completed the Road to Success employment curriculum

182 – Inmates completed Ready-to-Rent

125 – Inmates completed Road to Success Family class

144 – Inmates completed the Road to Success Finance & Budgeting curriculum

172 – Inmates completed the Road to Success Working effectively with your PO class

305 – Inmates completed the SMART START class

100 – Inmates attended Goodwill Job Connections orientation

860 – Individual walk-ins for release plans

59 – Inmates were seen by the VA representative.



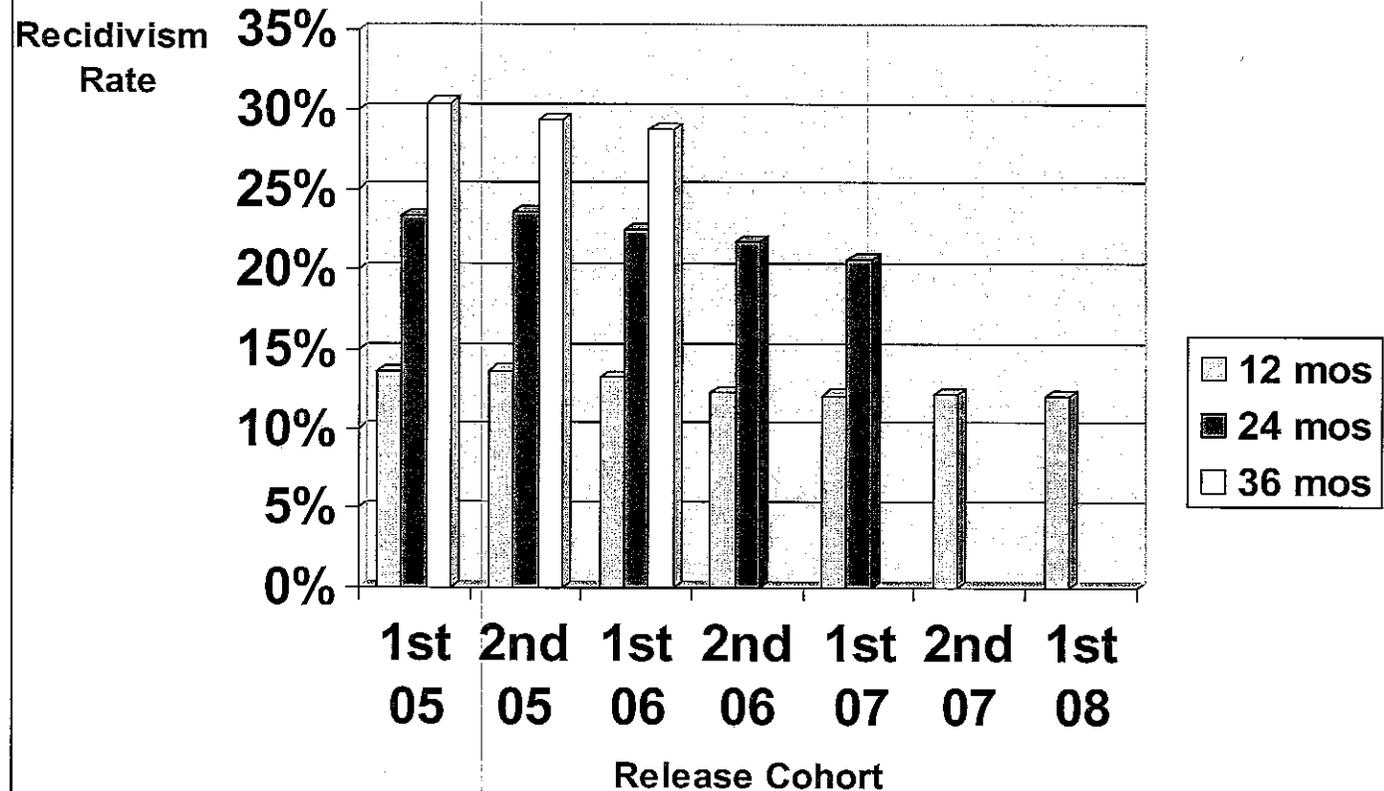
# **Governor's Reentry Council**

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Progress Report  
February 2010



# Recidivism on Post-Prison Supervision: Combined Prison and Local Control

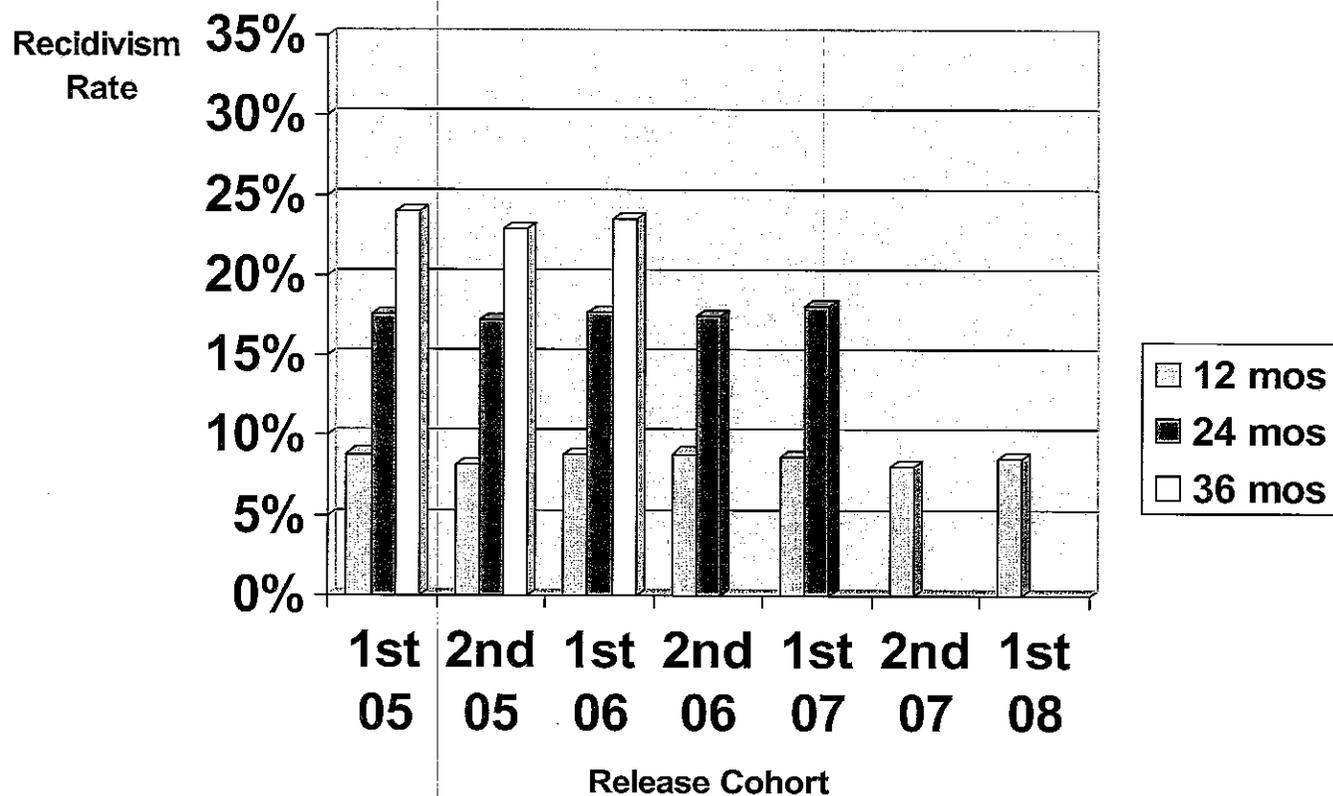


Corrections Information System

Recidivism = conviction of a new felony



# Recidivism on Post-Prison Supervision: Prison Releases Only



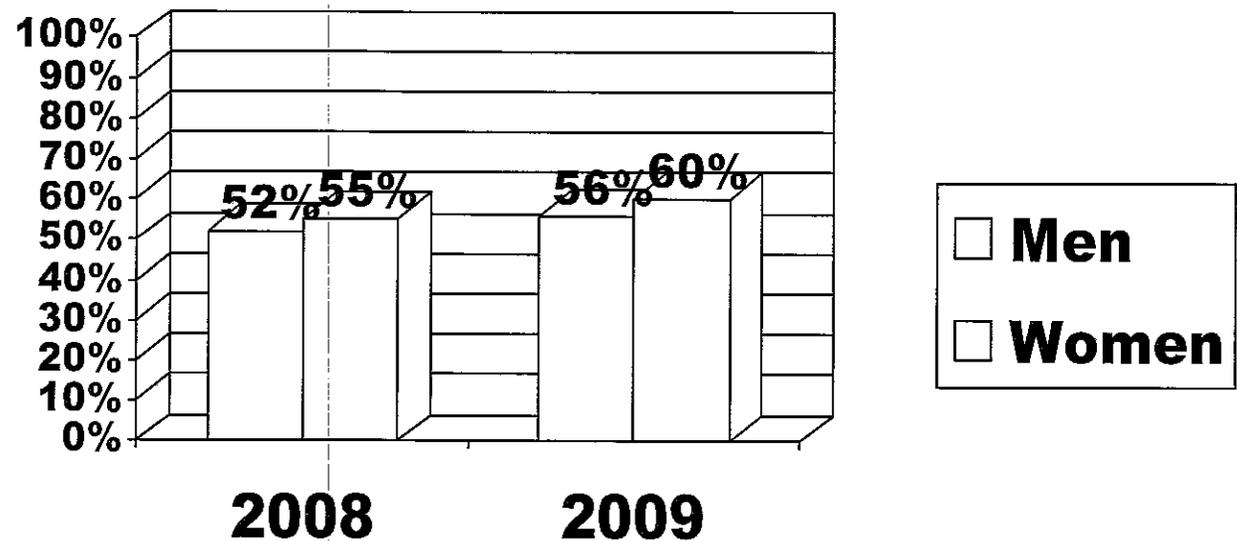
Corrections Information System

Recidivism = conviction of a new felony



# Housing at Release

## Releases With Valid Address

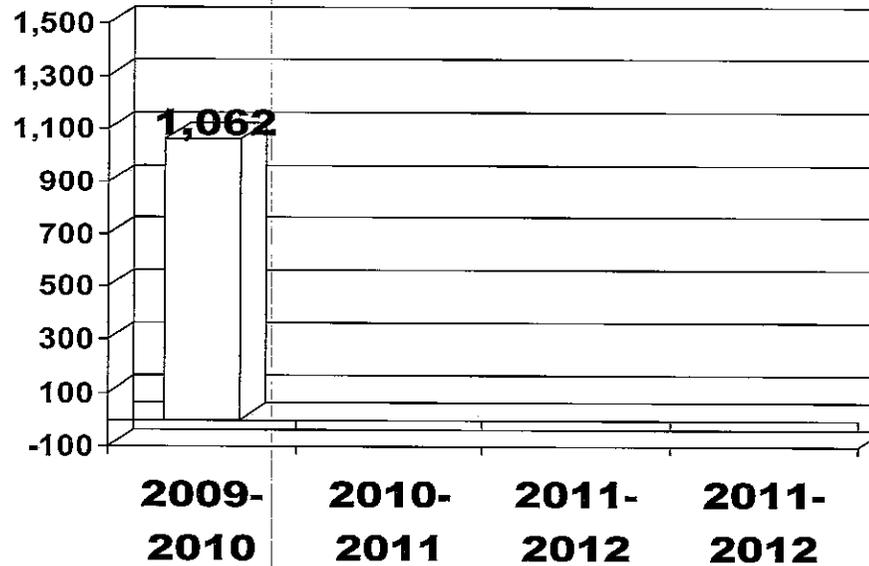


Information from release plans  
Missions and hotels excluded



# Transitional Housing

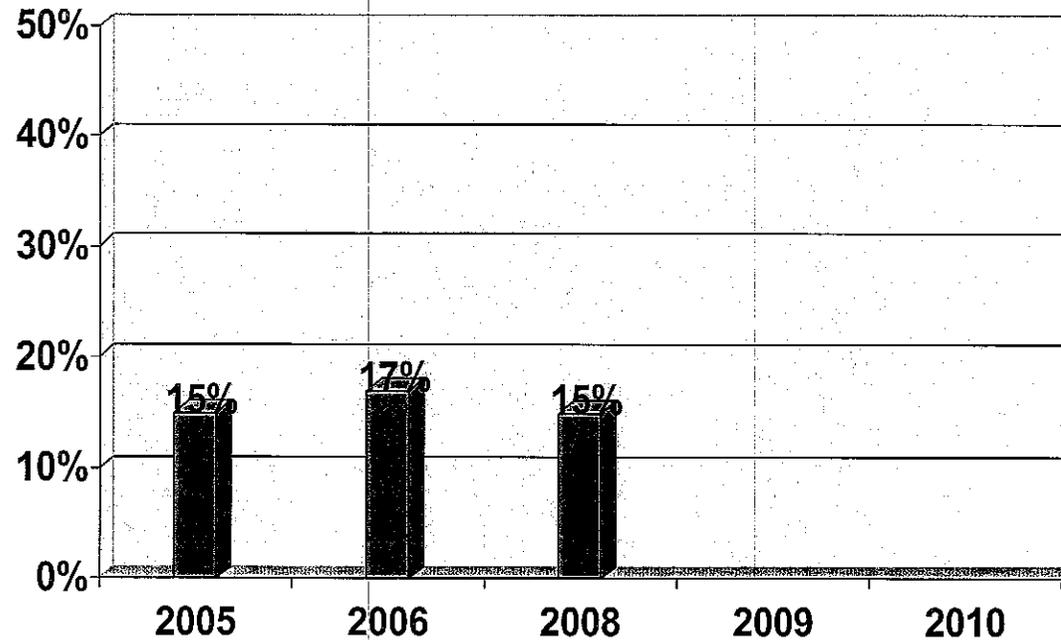
## Number of Units



Source: County community corrections plans



# First Six Months From Release: Employment



Corrections Information System: supervision records



# Employment After Release From Prison

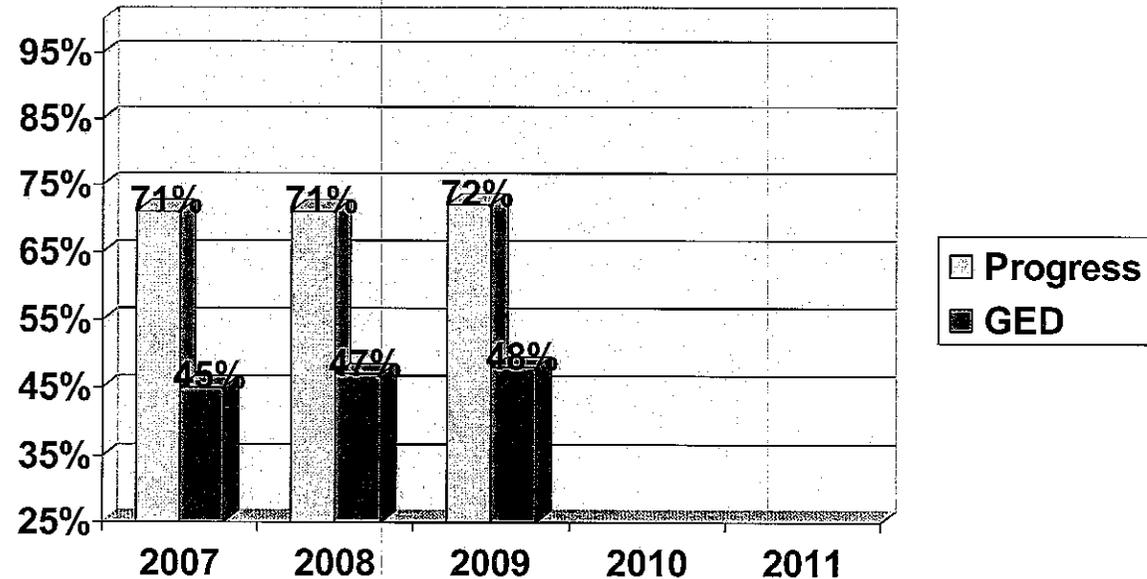
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- Average wage  
2009 = \$3,276/month
- Top 5 Types of Jobs 2009
  1. Support Services: clerical, landscaping, temp jobs, janitorial, trash disposal
  2. Manufacturing
  3. Construction
  4. Hotel and Food Services
  5. Retail



# Education

## Results for inmates without high school degree



Source: DOC Workforce Development

Progress means advance at least one grade in at least one skill



# Road to Success DOC Transition Program Participants

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- Employed Six Months After Release:

2008 : 43%

2009 : 51%

(Corrections Information System: supervision records, only those who completed the employment class)

- Housing at Release

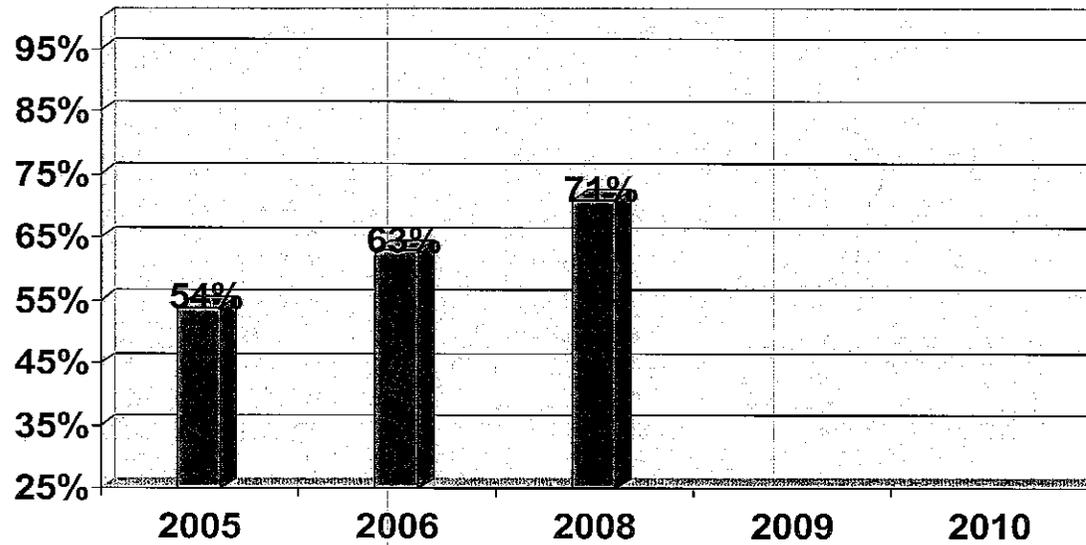
2008 : 53%

2009 : 49%

(Release Plans, missions and hotels excluded, only those who completed the housing class)



# Six Months Out: Compliance on Supervision



Non-compliance = abscond, revocation, reconviction



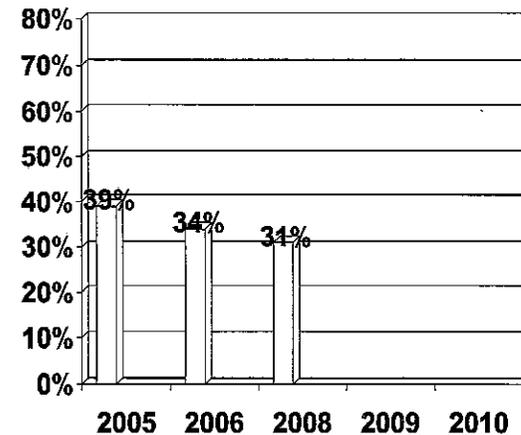
# Continuity of Health Care: Mental Health

- 914 people with mental illness were released from prison in 2009 (18% of releases)
- 298 of these people (6% of releases) have diagnoses that can lead to disability
  - 52 people were prequalified for state/federal benefits
- Future Report:
  - Percent leaving prison with a continuing care appointment



# Continuity of Care: Substance Abuse

Higher risk inmates  
with substance  
use disorder  
receiving  
treatment in  
prison



2009 = Over 95% of those who  
received treatment leave prison with  
a continuing care appointment in the  
community

Source: Corrections Information System, A&D treatment providers



# Identification At Release

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- 48% have a birth certificate
- 38% have a social security card
- 28% have both forms of ID
- State photo ID prior to release  
2009 : 36 (pilot program)



# Reentry Resource Centers

- Three centers funded in Multnomah, Lane, and Klamath Counties



## **Changes in Practice Supporting Reentry**

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- Develop and deliver reentry curriculum prior to release (DOC)
- Verification of in-prison work experience (DOC Pilot)
- Multi-agency teams to plan transition for juveniles sentenced as adults



## **Changes in Practice Supporting Reentry**

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- Established statewide Transition Network
- ODVA providing reach in services to all releasing vets
- People being released from prison signed up for Oregon Discount Prescription Drug Program
- Registered nurse care planners assigned to high acuity releasees to coordinate health/mental health care



## **Shifts in Resources Supporting Reentry**

- DOC paying fees for birth certificates (DOC)
- New process to support prequalification for state/federal disability benefits (DOC and DHS)



## **Shifts in Resources Supporting Reentry**

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- People released from prison with 30 days of medication
- Pilot program to issue state ID cards (DOC and DMV)



## Cost of Recidivism

- Prison day: \$84.46
- Jail day: \$105
- New prison: \$200-300 million
- Average cost for those who recidivate and return to prison
  - Cost of Prison: \$74,156 (878 days)
  - Cost of Post-Prison Supervision: \$9,010