



Rhode Island Department Of Corrections

From Prison to Re-entry: Working With Incarcerated Fathers and Their Families

Northeast Family Strengthening Conference

May 27 – 28, 2009

Ken Findlay

RIDOC Reentry Services



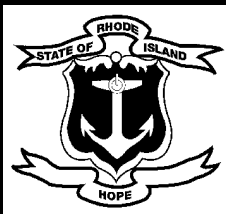
Reentry Vision Statement

An integrated statewide system that fosters the preparation & gradual transition of incarcerated individuals to productive, healthy, & crime-free lives.



The Case for Reentry

- RI ranked 8th in the nation in the rate of total correctional supervision (incarceration, probation and parole). It was the highest in the Northeast.
- Approximately 4,000 offenders are released from sentences every year
- 90% of the sentenced inmates released from the ACI remain under DOC supervision on Probation or Parole
- There are approximately 21,000 Probation & Parole offenders on the streets of RI everyday (1 of every 21 adult males)
- 34% of all sentenced inmates released from the ACI return on new sentences within one year
- Over half of all sentenced admissions to the ACI are Probation or Parole Violators
- This churning of repeat offenders through the system represents a risk to public safety and is a major contributor to the prison population and costs.



Rhode Island male probation & parole offenders on the streets of Rhode Island

| <u>CITY/TOWN</u> | Proportion of Male Population |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Rhode Island: | 1 in 23 |
| Central Falls | 1 in 10 |
| Cranston | 1 in 33 |
| East Providence | 1 in 31 |
| Newport | 1 in 19 |
| Pawtucket | 1 in 15 |
| Providence | 1 in 11 |
| 02905 | 1 in 12 |
| 02907 | 1 in 7 |
| 02908 | 1 in 15 |
| 02909 | 1 in 11 |
| other | 1 in 17 |
| Warwick | 1 in 32 |
| West Warwick | 1 in 19 |
| Woonsocket | 1 in 14 |
| | |



Reentry: A statewide systems approach

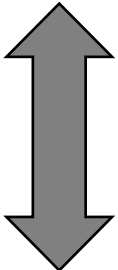
(Development of governance structure for reentry)

- Governor issues executive order 04-02 directing all agencies to participate in reentry
- With assistance from a consultant provided by NIC a tiered structure is designed to address issues of reentry
- The Governor's Steering Committee on Prisoner Reentry was established to create a comprehensive plan and systematic approach to promoting reentry strategies for all offenders.
- The Reentry Steering Committee shall:
 - a. Provide ongoing coordination at the executive level
 - b. Ensure agreement on overall policy direction;
 - c. Resolve policies and practices that impede successful reintegration;
 - d. Assign senior staff from the departments to implement established priorities.

Governor's Re-entry Initiative

- Department of Administration**
- Department of Children, Youth and Families**
- Department of Corrections**
- Department of Education**
- Governor's Office**
- Department of Health**
- Higher Education**
- Department of Human Services**
- Department of Labor and Training**
- Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals**
- Parole Board**
- Police Chief's Association**
- Public Defender's Office**
- Public Transit Authority**
- Rhode Island Housing**
- State Police**
- U.S. Attorney General**

Tier One
Governor's Office & Cabinet
Make possible policy changes that will support effective reentry efforts

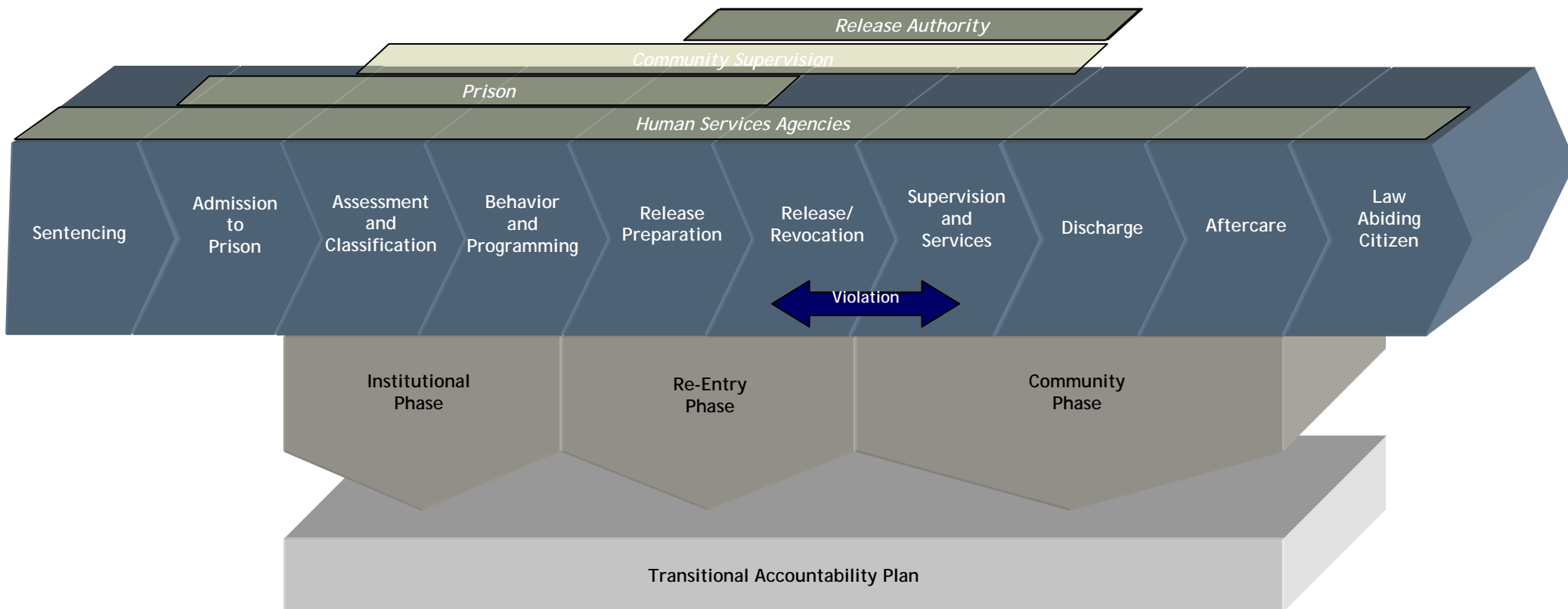


Tier Two
Policy Level Representatives
Define change strategies and oversee their implementation



Transition from Prison to Community Model

- Best practices model focuses on 8 decision points that impact offender reentry
- Integration of operational practice with reentry goals





Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)

- The LSI-R is a systematic way of collecting risk & needs information important to offender treatment planning (Andrews & Bonta 1995).
- LSI-R scores provide corrections personnel with a numeric estimate of each offender's risks and needs, enabling them to assign offenders to appropriate services (Petersilia 2003).
- The LSI-R can be used to help identify treatment goals & help reduce the risk of future criminal behavior (Petersilia 2003).



Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)

Level of service needs is measured in these categories:

- Criminal history
- Financial
- Accommodation
- Companions
- Emotional / Personal
- Education / Employment
- Family / Marital
- Leisure / Recreation
- Alcohol / Drug Problem
- Attitudes / Orientation



Program/Interventions

- Education/Vocational Training
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Institutional Programs
- Transitional Services/Discharge Planning
- Examples of Father Specific programming:
 - Parenting Education – Long Distance Dads
 - Special Saturday Parenting Visitation
 - Books Beyond
 - RI Men of Hope group



RIDOC and Fatherhood

- Strong working relationship with Child Support, RIC Child Welfare Institute
- Active member of the RI Fatherhood Coalition
- Governor's Workforce Plan now includes language supporting non-custodial fathers.

- WHAT DO WE NEED?
- More family reunification planning and support!!!!



Children of Incarcerated Parents

Child & Caregiver Data Collection

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▪ Last Name: | <input type="text"/> | ▪ First Name: | <input type="text"/> |
| Other Parent Name: | <input type="text"/> | ▪ Child's Sex: | <input type="text"/> |
| ▪ Relationship Origin: | <input type="text"/> | DOB: | <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="button" value="Add"/> | | <input type="button" value="Update"/> | |
| Last Name: | <input type="text" value="S"/> | First Name: | <input type="text" value="SF"/> |
| Other Parent Name: | <input type="text"/> | Sex: | <input type="text" value="FEMALE"/> |
| Relationship Origin: | <input type="text" value="Adopted Child"/> | DOB: | <input type="text"/> |
| Address: <input type="text"/> | | | |
| City: | <input type="text"/> | State: | <input type="text"/> |
| Zip: | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Last Name: | <input type="text" value="S"/> | First Name: | <input type="text" value="SF"/> |
| Other Parent Name: | <input type="text"/> | Sex: | <input type="text" value="FEMALE"/> |
| Relationship Origin: | <input type="text" value="Adopted Child"/> | DOB: | <input type="text"/> |
| ▪ Custody Contact: | <input type="text"/> | | |
| Phone: | <input type="text"/> | | |
| ▪ Custody Status: | <input type="text"/> | | |



The LORTE-RI Project

Level of Response to Traumatic Events



The LORTE-RI project has been supported by funding from the US Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, through the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.



The Rhode Island Department of Corrections purchased the copyrights to the LORTE model for use within the State of Rhode Island and is in the process of finalizing four projects based on the LORTE model:

A Caregiver's Guide to working with children of incarcerated parents

An inmate parenting program

A program curriculum for elementary school children

A program curriculum for middle school children



LORTE - RI

What does the LORTE model do?

- Allows one to anticipate reactions and behaviors to emotional events.
- Defines, tracks, and explains adverse behavior.
- Enables youth to better control situational outcomes.
- Simplifies the task of creating effective programs, training and “treatment” goals.



Rhode Island Department Of Corrections

THANK YOU

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