



## Governor's Re-entry Council Transition Activities Update August 2008

### Communication and Education

The Governor's Re-entry Council has a web site. A newsletter article was distributed to Council members to include in publications to their constituents.

Both judiciary committees, along with the Public Safety Strategies Task Force, hosted a special hearing to learn more about state and national initiatives to improve success following incarceration.

### Statewide Transition Network

A new statewide network was formed, including prison-based and community corrections-based individuals working on re-entry and transition. The purpose of the network is to improve release planning and information sharing. Work groups have already been formed to address the first priorities:

- ✓ Improve the content of release plans
- ✓ Create consistent processes for reach-ins
- ✓ Create a process to deliver information at intake about conditions of supervision
- ✓ Plan a training so that people know how to find information in the electronic case files and also guidelines for entering information into the electronic case notes.

### Identification

The Department of Corrections and the Department of Human Services worked together to streamline the process of getting Oregon birth certificates to people prior to release from prison.

7,000 birth certificates have been ordered this year by the Department of Corrections. The goal is for every eligible person to leave custody with a birth certificate.

The Social Security Administration and the Department of Corrections are reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the process of getting social security cards to people prior to release.

Requirements for driver's licenses in Oregon changed significantly; driver's licenses are now more difficult to get than they were at the beginning of the year. DMV and DOC cooperated to get this information out to community corrections staff. The two agencies continue to look for solutions to getting state-issued photo ID prior to release.



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### Technical Assistance

The Department of Corrections received federally-funded technical assistance to assist the four work groups in defining their tasks and work products.

### Potential Funding

A joint State/Federal Byrne Grant application was submitted to improve post-incarceration employment rates and provide "virtual" integrated resource sites for people transitioning from incarceration in several pilot communities.

### Transition Programs and Services

The federally-funded Prisoner Re-entry Initiative provides pre-release and post-release services primarily aimed at improving employment to eligible offenders releasing to Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. Program data to date, shows the program has placed 80% of participants and is rated number 2 in the country. Low recidivism rates and high average wages have also exceeded program goals.

ROAR has been formed in the Portland area to improve re-entry and transition. The group is an association of forty-four agencies working together. They expect to receive some United Way funding for their work.

The Director of the Department of Corrections met with the community college presidents to begin the discussion of portable college curricula that would be offered by each of the community colleges pre-release and would thus be unaffected by transfers from institution to institution. All colleges would give similar credit for these courses in their degree programs.

Thirty day release medications for those leaving prison are now also being issued to people who have a detainer issued by another jurisdiction.

A faith-based re-entry curriculum has been introduced within DOC prisons. This program is designed to assist participants prepare for the challenges and opportunities of re-entry by tapping into the sacred stories, teachings, and traditions of their own faith.