

THE TOOL KIT

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF NEWSLETTER



KDVA Expands Women and Incarceration Project

By LeTonia Jones

REENTRY IS ABOUT PUBLIC SAFETY

- Fewer crimes
- Fewer victims
- Responsible parenting
- Law abiding, productive citizens
- Holding an offender accountable

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What happens to a battered woman after she has been convicted of a crime, serves time, and is released? What if that crime of which she was convicted was directly related to abuse she endured? Is it easy to return to a community, a family, a life after being convicted of a crime? After years of working with incarcerated and formerly incarcerated battered women the answer most advocates would give would be a resounding “no”.

Reentry for formerly incarcerated battered women is not easy and the barriers faced can be insurmountable. And it is because of these barriers KDVA applied for a Second Chance Act Adult Mentoring grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. We are also proud to announce that we have created *The KDVA 2nd Chance Reentry Coaching Project*.

The KDVA Reentry Coaching Project is a collaborative effort between KDVA, the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, the Center for Women and Families, the Fayette County Detention Center, and the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections. The project is designed to address the needs of incarcerated battered women and support them upon reentry back into their communities. Its purpose is to create a support system for reentering battered women by facilitating domestic violence and reentry groups inside of two corrections agencies in Kentucky.

The Project intends to make more accessible all of the services offered at two domestic violence programs, including assessment and case management. The Project will also match incarcerated battered women with volunteer coaches from the Lexington and Louisville communities.

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If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a coach, please contact LeTonia Jones at 502-209-5382 for more information.



Volunteer coaches will be trained about the reentry needs of women, the impact of domestic violence, and provided with resources to serve as additional support to the person with whom they are matched.

The KDVA Reentry Coaching Project envisions a community that understands the complex issues formerly incarcerated battered women face and participates in removing barriers that prevent successful reentry by building strong relationships that foster hope and empowerment. It is our hope that community members will step forward to volunteer as coaches and offer the support needed to ensure successful reentry and decrease risks associated with recidivism. **If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a coach, please contact LeTonia Jones at 502-209-5382 for more information.**



**If you have information you would like to see provided in your newsletter, please contact any of our staff members:
Homeward Bound Contact Information:**

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Or write to us at 275 East Main Street, P. O. Box 2400,
Frankfort, KY 40602

Remind me again...why do we need reentry in Kentucky and what does it have to do with Public Safety? ?

WHY REENTRY...

- 2.3 million offenders are incarcerated in the United States (BJS 2009).
- In 2007, 7.3 million were on probation , parole, in jail or in prison:
 - 3.2% of the U.S. adult population
 - 1 in every 31 adults (BJS, 2009)
- 97% of offenders will leave prison and most will return to their communities.
- Approximately 30% of the nation’s adult population has a criminal record (U.S. Dept. of Justice—BJS 2009).
- We are all someone, know someone, or are related to someone with a criminal record.
- This is a population that we can no longer ignore.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Fewer crimes
- Fewer victims
- Responsible parenting
- Law abiding, productive citizens
- Holding an offender accountable



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REENTRY IS CONSTANT MOVEMENT FORWARD:



- Reentry begins at the time of adjudication and continues through release from supervision.
- Meeting the needs of the offender and balancing the risk to the community through appropriate offender assessment
- Reentry is a partnership between the offender, correctional staff, service provider and community partners.

What impact does Contract Management have on the reentry process?

One of the major barriers to the reentry process is housing. Contract Management is responsible for overseeing the 25 community service centers that house state inmates, probationers, and parolees. This oversight includes auditing and processing per diem payments for an Average Daily Population (ADP) of approximately 617 inmates and 640 probationers/parolees; auditing and processing of inmate state pay and drug testing.

The Branch audits and processes per diem payments for the 10 Recovery Kentucky centers that house up to 500 male/female parolees and probationers in need of substance abuse programming; audits and processes per diem payments for Marion Adjustment Center (MAC), which is owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America. MAC has a population of 794 minimum and medium custody male inmates.



MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION:

What is the “treatment principle”?

ANSWER:

The “treatment principle” specifies that the most effective interventions in reducing recidivism among medium and high risk offenders are “cognitive behavioral” interventions based on “social learning” research.

QUESTION:

What is the research on “social learning”?

ANSWER:

One of the things we have learned from the research on social learning is that over time offenders (and others) tend to behave in ways that result in the most rewards and fewest sanctions. Among higher risk offenders rewards (positive reinforcement) and the promise of rewards (incentives) are more effective than sanctions (negative consequences) or the threat of sanctions in shaping behavior. Ideally, rewards should be used in a ratio of 4 rewards for each sanction.

Swift and certain sanctions can also be effective in shaping offender behavior and reducing recidivism. The severity of the sanction is unlikely to influence its deterrent effect; overly severe sanctions tend to have a counter-productive effect on the behaviors of higher risk offenders. The severity of any sanction should always be proportionate to the severity of the underlying offense or violation.

Many medium and high risk offenders do not have the ability or skills to regularly behave in pro-social ways. The research on social learning also demonstrates that “behavioral” techniques are the most effective in the teaching of new behaviors and skills. Among the behavioral techniques that have been proven most effective with medium and high risk offenders are use of role models, demonstration of new behaviors and skills role playing by the instructor and trainee, provision of constructive positive and negative feedback to the trainee, and skill practice by the trainee in both therapeutic and natural settings.

“TIPS FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS”

WHY MAINTAIN RELATIONSHIPS?

This information is provided by the New Jersey Department of Corrections, Division of Programs and Community Services, Office of Transitional Services. The title “What About Me?” is a guide for discussing your incarceration with your children.

Is prison visitation good for the child of an offender? Is it good for the parent in prison? Is it good for the family? There is no one right answer for every situation or family. But there are many families and children that can benefit from maintaining family ties through the crises of incarceration.

CAN CONTACT WITH A PARENT IN PRISON BENEFIT CHILDREN?

Each family situation is different. The potential benefit to children depends greatly on how much support they receive. There are many adults who are important in the lives of children of offenders. Children can benefit when adults help with letter writing and phone calls. They can also benefit when these adults participate in preparing for and conducting visits. There are several ways children can benefit from visits to their parents in prison.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO CHILDREN:

1. CORRECTING FRIGHTENING IMAGES

What the child imagines about the incarcerated parent’s condition and circumstances is likely to be much worse and more frightening than the reality. As depressing as a prison visiting room may be, it is far better than what many children imagine.

2. TALKING FACE TO FACE

Parents in prison can talk with their children about their crime and life behind bars in ways that can decrease the child's guilt and feelings of responsibility. Parents in prison can help their children feel worthy and lovable.

3. LEARNING YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Seeing other children and families at prison visits helps families know their situation is not unique. There are people who understand.

4. PREPARING FOR RELEASE

Maintaining contact through visits, phone and mail is also important to prepare the incarcerated parent to be reunited with the family upon release. Without contact, the child may experience the parent’s return as an intrusion. The child may be confused when the newly released parent brings a change in parenting styles and rules to an established routine in the family. This can be true whether or not the parent will live with the child.

5. PREVENTING TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

For children placed in foster care because of parental incarceration, visits are important to avoid permanent placement outside the natural home. These visits assure children that their parents have not voluntarily abandoned them to strangers. In the lives of foster children, ongoing visiting creates continuity. Also, courts may be less inclined to terminate the rights of a parent who, while incarcerated, worked to provide parental support.

6. HEALING GRIEF AND LOSS

The pain of separation can overwhelm children in foster care and other children of offenders. Maintaining the relationship between the child and the parent in prison is important to the child’s adjustment and healing.

CAN CONTACT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS BEHIND BARS BENEFIT FAMILIES?

Families can benefit from bridging the gap between jail and community. Families are complex systems. The absence of a part of the system has a powerful impact on its functioning. Family members in prison can be a vibrant part of the family if communication exists.

While prison limits the activities that a family member can perform, an offender can still fill an important role in family life as mother, father, spouse, partner, or sibling. But families can only benefit from their relationship with an incarcerated member when and if they stay in communication. There are many reasons for families separated by arrest and imprisonment to keep in touch. There are also many reasons that doing so is difficult.

CAN CONTACT WITH FAMILIES BENEFIT OFFENDERS?

The family is probably this country’s most valuable weapon in fighting crime. Offenders who receive visitors, maintain family ties, and are released to a stable home environment are more likely to succeed in leading productive, crime-free lives.

Prison inmates clearly benefit from family efforts to stay in touch. Families can provide an incentive for prisoners to grow, learn and change. Families can help offenders stay in touch with what’s going on in the world, easing their transition back into society. Some parole authorities see strong family ties as an indicator that an offender is better prepared for release.

Many parents in prison can contribute positively to a child’s upbringing. Offenders who have failed as citizens can succeed as parents. Prison can be an opportunity to become a better, more caring, concerned and informed parent.

Prison may not be the best place to improve one’s parenting skills, but it has been done. Around the country, there is growing interest in starting and expanding programs to help offenders learn the skills of parenting.

Bluegrass Reentry Council Presents

Barriers to Reentry: Educating the Community on Current Trends in Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Addiction, substance use, and mental health issues are barriers to successful reentry for returning citizens. This training will provide powerful research and information for overcoming these barriers. Presentations will address:

- Substance abuse initiatives throughout the state
- Dual diagnosis/comorbidity in the prison population
- Synthetic and prescription drug abuse trends
- Opioid Addiction and Medication Assisted Treatment

Speakers include:

Jennifer Havens, PhD, MPH, Center on Drug and Alcohol Research, University of Kentucky

Kristopher Heigle, Kenneth Ouellette, Jeffery Meade, Stephen Will, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Lexington, Kentucky

Irina Soderstrom, PhD, and Kristie Blevins, PhD, College of Justice & Safety, Eastern Kentucky University

Michele Flowers McCarthy, LPCC, Community and Government Liaison, SelfRefind

Rob Duncan, Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of Kentucky

With Canine Unit demonstration by Sgt. Eric Bowling and Courtney Whittlesey, Lexington Police Dept K-9 Unit.

Join us Friday November 2, 2012, from 9 AM to 4 PM, at FMC Lexington, 3301 Leestown Road, Lexington, Kentucky 40511.

Go to kentuckyreentry.org for registration details.



REGISTRATION FORM

Bluegrass Reentry Council Presents

Barriers to Reentry: Educating the Community on Current Trends in Substance Abuse and Mental Health

On-line registration is available at kentuckyreentry.org or mail your registration to:

Bluegrass Reentry Council
P.O. Box 13578
Lexington, KY 40583-3578

Training location is:

FMC Lexington
3301 Leestown Rd
Lexington, KY 40511
November 2, 2012
9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.



Registration begins at 8:30 A.M.

REGISTRATION IS FREE

PRE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2012

Name & Title _____
Organization _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Special Accommodations _____

You will receive an email confirmation within one week of receipt of registration form. If you do not receive the confirmation, your registration may not have been received. Please contact Mark Johnson at majohnson@bop.gov with any questions or for more information.

STOP THE SILENCE ABOUT SENSELESS VIOLENCE

FUNDED BY THE KENTUCKY FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN

Date: Monday, November 5, 2012
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Shawnee Arts & Cultural Center
607 South 37th Street,
Louisville, KY



Many of us hope that we will never know the pain associated with losing a loved one or friend to senseless violence, but it seems like every day we hear about another senseless murder in the community. As we can only imagine the harm and pain that individual families endure; just imagine the feelings of hopelessness that senseless violence inflicts on the community, as a whole. This feeling of hopelessness increases when we remain isolated and do not talk about our individual and collective losses.

OUR GOALS FROM WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

- 1. Utilize art as a therapeutic tool**
- 2. Honor and remember your loved one**
- 3. Explore ways to bring the issue of senseless violence to the forefront of public consciousness from a woman's perspective**
- 4. Uplift and empower one another by visualizing peace for individuals and the entire community.**



Participant Space is limited...please contact us by October 29th, to reserve your space.

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