

The Tool Kit

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Northern Kentucky Reentry Team

By Staci Alder

- Special points of interest:**
- **NORTHERN KY REENTRY TEAM**
 - **CASE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**
 - **INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAM UPDATE**
 - **WHY I LOVE MY JOB.....**
 - **REENTRY RECRUITING POSTER**

The Northern Kentucky (NKY) Reentry Team, which began meeting in 2005, currently has a membership of over 150 individuals who come from over 60 different agencies across the state of Kentucky. This includes but is not limited to the following: KY DOC; KY Probation & Parole; US Federal Probation; Administrative Offices of the Courts; Department of Public Advocacy; Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; local jail officials; various local, state, and federal government agencies; community and social service agencies; mental health and substance abuse treatment providers; employment service providers; housing agencies; state and community colleges; community organizations; faith based organizations; and individual community members who have an interest in offender reentry.

Since the NKY Reentry Team was established, the team has worked diligently to establish various reentry efforts across the NKY

continued on page 4



Inside this issue:

Northern Kentucky	1
Case Management	1
Why I Love My Job	2
Program Update	5
Most Frequently Ask Questions	8
Tool for the Tool Box	9
Recruitment Poster	12



Case Management Plan Update

By Brigid Adams

What does case planning mean to me?

The Department of Corrections has conducted over 22,400 risk and need assessments on offenders in prisons, jails, halfway houses and in the community. The Department began using the Level of Service / Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) in July, 2010. This assessment enables staff to identify the offender’s risk of return to prison as well as the needs to be addressed to reduce that risk.

continued on page 10

“Why I love this Job”

By Tom Morrison, Reentry Coordinator-KCIW



Tom Morrison
Reentry Coordinator
KCIW

I enjoy my position as a Reentry Coordinator as it affords me the opportunity to help people. Many times, I feel I truly make a difference in their lives, their attitudes and encourage success. Mind you, I know we can't guarantee every offender's success after release, but those that really want to succeed do. If they are willing to work for it, change their lifestyle and are given a little encouragement, sound advice, and assistance in finding a place to live upon their release, they have a better chance at success.

I have also learned that when assisting offenders in finding a halfway house, it is important to determine the type of assistance they need and use that information to help them identify the right placement. Then we work on the application that will afford them the best chance for success. For example, I helped one lady find a placement that I am especially proud of and count as my greatest reentry success story. I will refer to her as AMS. She is an Army Veteran that was receiving full medical retirement prior to her conviction. In September, 2010, she was a student in my Prison to the Streets class when I discovered that she was a Military Veteran, was due to meet the Parole Board for the first time, and had no idea where she could live if recommended for parole. The first thing I did to assist her was contact Kathy Vasquez with the Department of Veterans Affairs and arranged a meeting for the two, so Ms. Vasquez could offer AMS assistance and explain the various benefits AMS was entitled to as a veteran. Ms. Vasquez explained that she could not help her in finding housing, but did explain the various ways she could help, and was instrumental in helping AMS in getting her military retirement pay and benefits started back up after she was released.

We still had not solved the housing problem. Other than a 13-year-old daughter, AMS had no family or friends in KY. Her family was scattered in NY, FL, and GA and AMS wanted to stay in KY so she could be near her daughter in hopes of regaining custody. In my conversations with AMS, she mentioned her Christian faith repeatedly. AMS did not have any substance abuse issues. I took these two facts into consideration and suggested the McCauley House, a faith based transitional house in Crestwood, KY which is sponsored by Prodigal Ministries. After a brief description of the home and services they offer, AMS was quickly convinced, so I arranged for her to be interviewed by Jennifer Partin and Marsha Decker with Prodigal Ministries.

Continued on page 3

At this point everything started falling into place very quickly and just in time. AMS was recommended for Parole on 11/18/10 and on 11/19/2010 her parole plan for the McCauley House was approved and she was released that day. Residents of the McCauley House are encouraged to attend the local church, Crestwood Baptist Church, which just happens to be the church I attend. The Sunday after her release, as my wife and I were leaving the worship service, I heard someone yell out “Mr. Morriston.” I turned, and to my surprise, it was AMS.

Since her release, AMS has followed all rules of her parole; is again receiving her military retirement check; purchased a reliable car; moved out of the McCauley House after six months to a rental home in Crestwood; and has regained custody of her daughter. AMS still attends Crestwood Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and, along with another resident of the McCauley House, who also was released on parole from KCIW, serves at “The Closet” which our church sponsors. “The Closet” provides free clothes, food, and other items to those in need, including newly released offenders residing at the McCauley House and Prodigal Ministries’ halfway house for male offenders—The Wright House located right down the road in Buckner, KY. Just last month, AMS presented a video testimony to the Church in which she outlined her experience as a convicted felon from the day she was booked, through her trials, sentencing, time in prison and ultimately regaining her freedom. To sum up her video presentation, the entire experience has renewed her faith, which in turn has completely changed her life for the better. She continues to be compliant with all rules of a parolee and has done so well on parole that she had her supervision reduced to Administrative Supervision. Each week, as I attend worship, I am reminded by AMS’s smiling face as she sings in our choir, just one example of why I love this job.

“Tom Morriston is conscientious and thorough in his efforts to guide all inmates who are leaving KCIW, and he is especially skilled at assisting inmates who have special needs or who have obstacles to successful re-entry.” said Warden Janet Conover.



Northern Kentucky continued.....



community. Some of these efforts include the NKY Female Offender Reentry Project—intensive case management services available to female offenders being released to the NKY area from KY prisons; Circles of Hope Mentoring—mentoring in a group setting for NKY offenders; and Second Chance Mentoring—one-on-one mentoring to state inmates releasing to NKY. These services have shown a dramatic cost savings of \$1.5 million dollars to the Commonwealth of KY since 2009 when the first of 165 participants were served. The team is also now working diligently with Pre-Trial Services to determine what needs are most prevalent to their offenders and how the NKY Reentry Team can help to meet those needs.

The NKY Reentry Team is in the final stage of developing a NKY Reentry Resource Manual for KY DOC. This manual includes community resources and various reentry services, as well as a “How To/FAQ” section which addresses questions that are commonly asked by offenders. The manual will also include commonly used forms such as applications for a KY birth certificate, SNAP benefits, etc. This will be made available on the DOC website and can easily be printed off as needed, either as an entire manual or in necessary sections.

For more information about the NKY Reentry Team or to be added to the email distribution list, please contact Staci Alder: staci.alder@ky.gov.

Kentucky Legal Aid Workshop Schedule

Hopkinsville

Thursday, April 26th 9 a.m.
Hopkinsville Chamber of Commerce
2800 Campbell Blvd.
RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext 8899

Paducah

Friday, May 11th 9:30 a.m–12:30 p.m.
McCracken County Public Library
555 Washington Street
RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 7399

Bowling Green

Wednesday, June 6th 9 a. m.
Bowling Green/Warren County
American Legion
208 Dishman Lane
RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 8899

Owensboro

Wednesday, May 23rd 12-3 p.m.
American Legion
118 W. Veterans Blvd.
RSVP: (800)782-1924 Ext. 4099

Examples of the services the workshops offer are expungement of records, information on child support and divorce.

Program Update

by Mary Godfrey

In the Spring of 2011 the KARE sub-committee on Programs started an assessment of programs that were offered for offenders within the Kentucky Department of Corrections institutions. This committee included representatives from all institutions.

The committee was tasked with identifying programs, activities and clubs that were already available for offenders.



Programs were assessed to determine if they met the criteria of an Evidence Based Program.



Activities and clubs were removed from the programs list.

A section on LS/CMI (risk/needs assessment) provides statistical data captured from completed assessments.



The risk/needs assessment identifies the individual inmate's criminogenic needs.



The individual criminogenic needs will be addressed by referring inmates to programs that will meet their needs.

Following the assessment of programs already available to inmates, a national search was made for Evidence Based Programs that would fill the gaps identified by the assessment.

continued on page 6

Programs continued...

A matrix is provided on the Department of Corrections intranet-listing all programs that are offered and at which institutions. This matrix identifies evidence based programs and programs for which good time/sentencing credits are awarded for successful completion.

There is also a synopsis of programs, activities and clubs that are provided for the offenders.

The following criteria has been established to identify programs as Evidence Based:



A program that would become the cornerstone of future programs.



Programs must be cognitive behavioral therapy based.



Programs must address criminogenic needs as identified by the risk/needs assessment utilized by the department.



Require ongoing fidelity studies of identified programs.



Require programs that have been proven effective in reducing recidivism in like inmate populations.



A six month program that would allow good time/sentence credit to be awarded to inmates participating and successfully completing the programs.

continued on page 7

Programs continued...

Training for staff who will present programs is very important to provide uniform materials with the same level of instruction. This will ensure that published fidelity studies are maintained.

Here is a sampling of programs that have been identified as meeting the established criteria and are in place in some facilities. The goal is to be able to offer these programs at all Kentucky DOC institutions and in the community when the offender is released providing the offender with a continuum of care.

Thinking for a
Change

Moral
Reconation
Therapy (MRT)

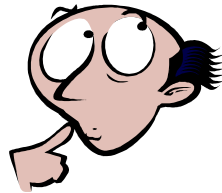
Pathfinders

InsideOut
Dads

Parenting for
female
offenders

As these programs are implemented an assessment of other programs within our institutions will be conducted to determine if the programs should be retained or deleted.

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



QUESTION: Why was I sent to a halfway house, even though I have a pending home placement?

ANSWER: Sometimes the Department of Corrections will release you before your home placement has been approved. As soon as your home placement has been approved, you will be released from the halfway house. If your home placement is denied, you will have to submit another home placement, or work the halfway house program.

QUESTION: Is it true that starting in January of 2013 MGT goes from 7 days a month to 10 days a month?

ANSWER: : Currently, MGT awards will continue to be 7 days per month.

QUESTION: If I am on HIP can I switch to MRS?

ANSWER: Yes if you are on HIP and meet the criteria for MRS, when it is time to switch, your officer will let you know.

QUESTION: If I am on HIP can I still get parole?

ANSWER: Yes, the parole board does a file review and if they grant parole, your officer will inform you of their decision. In many cases, parole is recommended after you have transferred to HIP.

If you are currently on parole, you cannot transfer to HIP, but your parole officer may place you on electronic monitoring as a sanction.



March's Tool For The Toolbox "COURAGE"

According to Mr. Webster, courage is the "ability to face danger without fear." From a staff's perspective, the danger several employees perceive is CHANGE. As we all know, change can be *scary*.

We as humans don't necessarily embrace change. We like our comfort zone and resist the implementation of something new. Something new means having to move out of our routine and perform duties that are different. This could signal a sign of fear...what if I fail, what if this doesn't work, what if my employees don't want to embrace this new concept, what if I don't have time to complete my job assignment ...what if...what if...what if...!!!

Reentry is a new concept for many correctional employees and changing our philosophy about the offender population's risk and needs can be scary. When we embarked upon this endeavor two years ago, we knew it would take time. We must stay the course...our discomfort and indecision can easily filter to our caseloads. The offender population is also uncertain of what the future will bring and it's up to us as employees to show them the meaning of the word "courage." Embracing this new philosophy means keeping a positive outlook about change and pointing out the progress we are making. In last month's issue we received a report card from "*The Center for Effective Public Policy*" by Gary Kempker.

As we saw with Mr. Kempker's report Kentucky is doing extremely well. We found the courage to take the first step in the implementation of this new philosophy and now we need to move forward and embrace the next phase of reentry. Will courage be required...yes. Can we as Corrections professionals accomplish this even in the midst of our difficult economic times...most definitely.





Case Management Plan Update continued...

Now that we are able to identify the offenders needs, we can develop a case management plan to create a roadmap with the offender related to education, programming and resources.

So what is a case management plan?

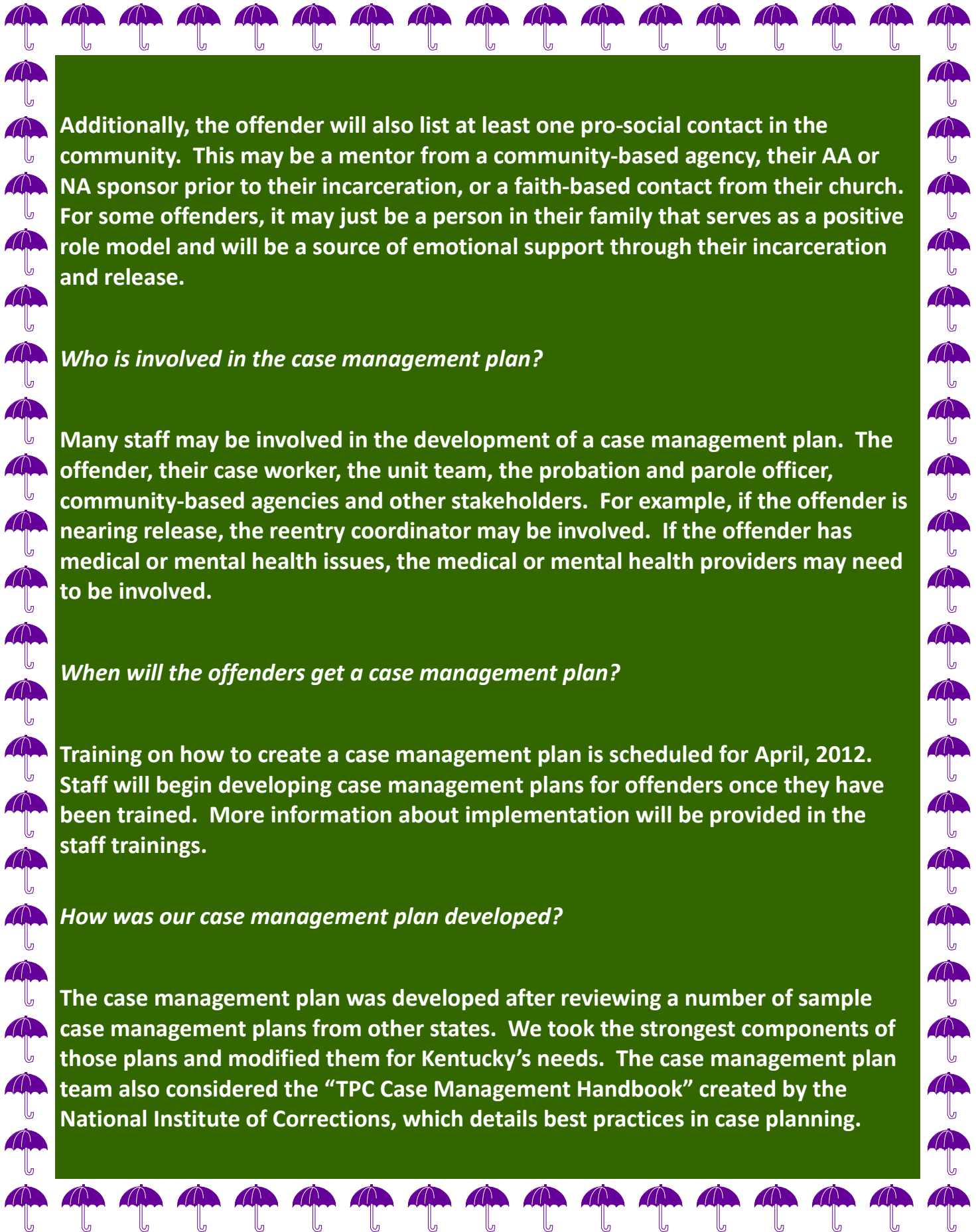
The case management plan is an opportunity to develop goals related to the offender's identified needs. For example, if an offender is seeking to rebuild a relationship with a loved one, it would be important to develop a few tasks to help achieve this goal. Once you have identified a goal to work on, you can develop a checklist of how to accomplish the goal. In this case, one thing on the checklist is to write a letter to the loved one just explaining the case plan. This is an easy letter to write, because the offender can explain what the case plan is, and how it will impact their incarceration or supervision. The checklist will serve as a list of tasks necessary to accomplish the goal. The goal and the tasks should have specific, measurable timelines. So, the offender will be expected to write the letter to his loved one within a couple of weeks, and report to the caseworker when it has been accomplished.

This seems like it focuses on weaknesses...

Actually, the case management plan is a strength-based approach for the offender. The case plan will provide the opportunity for the offender to list some strengths, which may include:

- Program completion information
- GED, vocational or educational courses completed
- Strong work history

continued on page 11...



Additionally, the offender will also list at least one pro-social contact in the community. This may be a mentor from a community-based agency, their AA or NA sponsor prior to their incarceration, or a faith-based contact from their church. For some offenders, it may just be a person in their family that serves as a positive role model and will be a source of emotional support through their incarceration and release.

Who is involved in the case management plan?

Many staff may be involved in the development of a case management plan. The offender, their case worker, the unit team, the probation and parole officer, community-based agencies and other stakeholders. For example, if the offender is nearing release, the reentry coordinator may be involved. If the offender has medical or mental health issues, the medical or mental health providers may need to be involved.

When will the offenders get a case management plan?

Training on how to create a case management plan is scheduled for April, 2012. Staff will begin developing case management plans for offenders once they have been trained. More information about implementation will be provided in the staff trainings.

How was our case management plan developed?

The case management plan was developed after reviewing a number of sample case management plans from other states. We took the strongest components of those plans and modified them for Kentucky's needs. The case management plan team also considered the "TPC Case Management Handbook" created by the National Institute of Corrections, which details best practices in case planning.



If your answers are "YES" to these questions, give us a call and come talk with us about reentry.

Tired of the same old caseload?

- **Do you support the new philosophy of reentry?**
- **Would you like to put this philosophy into action?**
- **Are you interested in a change?**
- **Do you want to be a part of DOC history?**
- **Do you enjoy working in the Louisville area?**
- **Do you enjoy a challenge?**
- **Do you want to be a part of this team?**

2 REENTRY PAROLE OFFICER OPENINGS

Contact Brigid or Cheryl 502-564-2220 at the Reentry Branch
275 East Main Street, Frankfort, KY

⇒ **PROGRESSIVE THINKING**

⇒ **CHALLENGE**

⇒ **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

⇒ **INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP**

⇒ **LOUISVILLE DISTRICT**

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Case load that will range from 60-75 offenders**
- **Offenders that score moderate to high on the LS/CMI**
- **Require Intensive Case Management**
- **Provide and develop resources in the Louisville area**
- **Thinking outside the box**
- **Offenders will process off your caseload**