



Re-Entry Roundup

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
RE-ENTRY DIVISION

Summer Edition Vol. 1

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Special points of interest:

- Update on Starke County TC
- Addiction Recovery in Madison
- New Education Opportunity for Female Offenders
- Medicaid Update
- Social Security MOU

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Starke County Therapeutic Community

The Starke County Regional Therapeutic Community (SCRTC) is an innovative, pilot program, resulting from the collaborative efforts of the IN DOC, county agencies and the sentencing courts, in an effort to provide residential addiction recovery services on a more localized basis. The program is housed in the Starke County Jail, providing two dormitories, housing a total of 48 IDOC offenders from 8 participating counties: Starke, La Porte, St. Joseph, Marshall, Fulton, Pulaski, Jasper and Porter counties in north central Indiana. After several months of planning and preparation, the first residents arrived on February 4, 2016.

The physical setting, the cooperation of Sheriff Dulin and the jail administration, the support of Starke County Judge Kim Hall and the partnership with the Starke County Community Corrections Department provides some unique opportunities for programming:

“The Farm” – The jail created a small farm on the grounds, where the residents of the TC have been actively involved in raising chickens, restoring a donated chicken coop, constructing two greenhouses and planting and harvesting the crops. Over 3000 pounds of produce have been harvested, providing some fresh food for the jail kitchen and donations to the local food pantry.

Judge Kim Hall – Starke County Judge Kim Hall regularly visits the residents of the TC with the intention of implementing some of the “Drug Court” concepts. He has presided over several events in the onsite court room, including: a stage promotion ceremony, educational/cultural events, testimonials by two individuals under the supervision of the Starke County Community Corrections and a visit by Congresswoman Jackie Walorski.

Family/Community Reintegration – The unique involvement of the Starke County Community Corrections Department has incorporated the use of a local Family/Community Reintegration Liaison. The Liaison works with family/friends, making home visits and encouraging attendance of the SMART Family and Friends meetings in the communities prior to the seminar. Her services have been well received by the family members and TC residents.

With the ongoing support of the individuals and organizations involved, we expect to be adding additional program activities in order to provide a holistic and effective therapeutic experience for the residents of the Starke County Regional Therapeutic Community.

Upcoming Trainings



Case Management 101 and IRAS Certification trainings are scheduled for the rest of the year. The trainings are mandatory for new case management staff. We've also scheduled another Supervisory Audit Training, which is mandatory for new supervisors who will be responsible for auditing case management staff. These trainings will be held at the Correctional Training Institute in New Castle, IN. Supervisors, please contact your facility's training coordinator to ensure your new staff are enrolled.

- Case Management 101 Training
 - December 5th-6th (CTI)
 - SD_Case Mgmt Training_120516
- IRAS Training
 - December 7th-8th (CTI)
 - SD_IRAS_120716
- Supervisory Audit Training
 - December 13th, am/pm sessions (staff only need to attend one session)
 - SD_Supervisory Audit AM_121316
 - SD_Supervisory Audit PM_121316

Refuge Recovery

The Therapeutic Community Program at MCU started a Refuge Recovery meeting in April of 2016. Refuge Recovery is a weekly recovery meeting that focuses on recovery principles, meditation, and mindfulness. Over the few months since it began, it has developed into a community of recovering addicts who are using the principles and meditations to heal the pain and suffering that addiction has caused in their lives and the lives of their loved ones.



The meeting shows participants how to incorporate meditation and mindfulness into a daily practice of recovery based coping skills. In addition to teaching coping skills, Refuge Recovery expands on traditional recovery tools such as emotional skills and cognitive skills. It teaches participants that everything in life changes, how to skillfully react to present circumstances, and letting the process of practicing these skills be its own reward. Refuge Recovery helps participants understand that the cause of suffering in life is because of our reaction to the thoughts, emotions, cravings, and circumstances of our lives; the cause of addiction is the over-indulgence in these behaviors or substances.

When asked how Refuge Recovery has helped them one client responded, "Recently I was faced with an overwhelming relapse trigger. It caught me off guard. My body instantly started to shake, broke out in a cold and clammy sweat, felt nauseous, and had a lot of anxiety. I had to stop what I was doing and evaluate the situation. I realized that I was in a safe environment and that I would be ok. I found my center and began to meditate. I was able to focus on the present and calm my inner storm to find peace."

Congratulations!

Congratulations to staff who promoted within the Re-Entry Division recently! These promotions include, James Hunt - UTM at CIF, Cory McGuire - CM at ISR, Nathan Lagenour - UTM at ISR, Phil Sonnenberg - UTM at WCC, Randall Purcell - CM at WVC, and Amber Petty - CM at WVC. It's wonderful to see such talented individuals take on new challenges to help lead the Department's Re-Entry efforts.



Indiana Leads the Way: Assisting Female Inmates with Re-Entry Skills

Ten women at Madison Correctional Facility will be part of a cohort participating in the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council's Certified Production Technician program. This is a partnership between Ivy Tech and Madison Correctional Facility, along with River Valley Resources. Ivy Tech Madison received \$42,378 through the Indiana Department of Education's Perkins grant, which has made this opportunity for our female offenders possible.

While this program provides manufacturing skills certification, the women must also complete a job readiness program and then proceed to employment in a work-release job. The skills they are provided with are long term and have the potential to lead to stable employment in a sector which increasingly demands more than just "basic skills". This partnership also provides participating women with college credits which they can use at Ivy Tech. Several women have expressed an interest in continuing their college education post-release, to gain even more meaning full experiences and improve their post-release employment potential.

It is important to note, this program is the only one like it in the United States.



**IDOC has
completed
16,311
healthcare
applications for
releasing
offenders since
July of last year.**

Medicaid Update

For just over a year, we've been applying for HIP 2.0 on behalf of our releasing offenders. To date, the Medicaid Processing Unit (MPU) has completed 16,311 applications. This is due in no small part to the efforts made by you to ensure the MPU has the necessary documents to complete these applications. Released offenders are able to utilize their coverage for mental health and substance abuse treatment, in addition to their medical needs.

Additionally, the MPU utilizes Presumptive Eligibility (HPE) to establish Medicaid coverage for offenders who have been hospitalized. This allows the hospital to bill Medicaid for approved services, rather than Corizon. By utilizing this method, huge cost savings have been achieved! To date, \$5,787,960 in medical costs have been saved.





**If you can't
figure out your
purpose, figure
out your
passion. For your
passion will lead
you right to your
purpose.
- T.D. Jakes**

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Vital Records Processing

Social Security Cards:

We recently finalized our MOU with the Social Security Administration and conducted webinar trainings with field staff to discuss any changes and provide a refresher on the process. The major changes were:

- Social Security Card applications can no longer be kept on file, including electronically. This means SSC applications should no longer be included in Medicaid packets.
- Cards received for released or transferred offenders must be mailed to the Re-Entry Services Division at Central Office.
- If an offender passes away in custody, the vital records must be mailed to the Re-Entry Services Division within 30 days of death.

So far this year, we have applied for 6,187 replacement SSCs, and received 4,888.

Birth Certificates:

Many facilities have transitioned to applying for birth certificates as part of the A&O process, and the benefits to this are being seen throughout the Department. Not only is the Medicaid Processing Unit getting the documents it needs to process offenders for HIP 2.0, but our Level I facilities and work release centers are noticing that more offenders are arriving with these documents. So far this year, 17,502 birth certificates have been received for our offenders. Keep up the great work!

BMV IDs:

Fantastic job to all of the facilities that hosted "Branch in the Box." So far this year, we have been able to obtain 5,122 IDs for our releasing offenders. As a reminder, please do not request a BMV ID for offenders who have valid driver's licenses, as this results in the driver's license becoming invalid.



Difficult Release Turned Successful Re-Entry!

In December 2015, Mr. Greene was released to parole at the age of 45. Due to being a special needs offender, he was referred to a Corizon Re-Entry Liaison during Parole District 2's orientation process. Mr. Greene had received BDDS services in the past so the liaison set up an appointment for him to be assessed by BDDS services to see if he still qualified for services. It was determined during the assessment, that client did not meet the requirement for BDDS services at that time.

The Liaison then contacted the community mental health center in which the Mr. Greene was receiving other services, requesting case management and assistance finding more permanent housing (Mr. Greene had lived with a friend and an ex-girlfriend after his release from DOC). Mr. Greene was able to begin working with a case manager who assisted him in finding his own apartment and continues to work with him on activities of daily living to maintain his apartment. Thanks to these efforts, Mr. Greene was successfully discharged from parole in September.

If you have any re-entry success stories, please email them to John Mather, JMather@idoc.IN.gov, to possibly be included in future publications.