Iowa Department of Corrections

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Institution Reentry Coordinators Proving to be Important Link

An offender reentry grant program funded through the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy supports one reentry coordinator at each of the following institutions: Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF), Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and the Clarinda Correctional Facility. The reentry coordinators there engage in a myriad of activities, working with institution educators, counselors and medical personnel, probation/parole officers and counselors, and most importantly the offenders themselves. The program has not been in operation for very long, and only MPCF has operated long enough to be looking at outcomes. The early returns for MPCF show good promise. The performance measures tracked are as follows:

➢ Parole processing time: The length of time between notification of parole and release from the institution;
➢ UA/BA test results: Percent of UAs/BAs that test positive for alcohol or drugs;
➢ Time to employment: Number of days between release and start date of employment; and
➢ Time to programming: Number of days between release and start date of interventions.

As the grant project moves forward, the recidivism rate (return to prison) will also be tracked. The MPCF reentry coordinator did not start work until midway through the first month of the 2nd quarter of FY 2010, but MPCF has shown reentry improvements for each of the performance measures tracked in comparison to the previous quarter and the previous fiscal year:

Description	FY 2009	1st Quarter – FY 2010	2nd Quarter – FY 2010
Parole Processing Time	17 days	17 days	**15 days**
UA/BA Test Results	11% unsatisfactory	22% unsatisfactory	**4% unsatisfactory**
Time to Employment	40 days	40 days	**30 days**
Time to Programming	31 days	23 days	**20 days**

While the short time period studied does not allow us to fully measure impact, the results so far show promise that what we are doing is making a difference.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:
Advance Successful Offender Reentry to Protect the Public, the Employees, and the Offenders from Victimization.