

Reentry Program's Evolution FY 2005-FY2016

Included in the Department of Corrections' (SCDC) October 29, 2019 letter to the House Legislative Oversight Committee (LOC). This information was provided in response to the following question in LOC's October 8, 2019, letter to the Department of Corrections: "3. Provide timeline (1-2 pages) of how SCDC's re-entry programs have evolved over the last 15 years (e.g., length of program, number of staff, etc.), including related recidivism and any major changes in inmate population."

In addition to providing the information in this document, SCDC provided the following response:

- Please see attached Timeline, Average Population, Recidivism Rates for Manning and Return to Prison Rates of Inmates Released FY2005-FY2016.

3. Provide timeline (1-2 pages) of how SCDC's re-entry programs have evolved over the last 15 years (e.g., length of program, number of staff, etc.), including related recidivism and any major changes in inmate population.

- Under the direction of Director Bryan Stirling and Deputy Director Nena Staley, SCDC increased the reentry programming significantly in 2015
- Reentry programming specifically targets inmates that will be returning to society
- SCDC also offers additional programming to inmates serving lengthy or life sentences, such as Step Down Program (stepping down from Lock Up), Character Based Units, Academy of Hope, Vera, etc.
- 2002
 - The Going Home Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI Grant)- to develop resources for inmates who will be released to the community
 - This initiative was performed by existing staff and other agencies
 - The Going Home Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) is a grant program primarily for violent or high-risk inmates ages 17 to 35 that have a requirement for community supervision in South Carolina following a period of incarceration
 - This partnership included the S.C. Department of Corrections, S.C. Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation and the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice
 - SVORI was a grant and once the grant funding ceased so did the program
- 2004/2005
 - Interagency Partnership-community-based long-term support was being developed as a collaborative effort between the S.C. Department of Corrections; the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services; the legislature and other local, state and federal agencies
 - In 2004, agency heads joined SCDC in a statewide effort to plan and coordinate services for offenders returning to the community, in continuation of the SVORI Grant
 - This initiative was performed by existing staff and other agencies
- 2007
 - Self-Paced in Classroom Education Program (SPICE) was developed in conjunction with S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, SC. Vocational Rehabilitation and Greenville Technical College, Piedmont Technical College, Midlands Technical College, York Technical College, and Spartanburg Technical College
 - SPICE Programming is located at Tyger River, Leath, Ridgeland, and Kershaw Correctional Institutions
 - There is one FTE allocated for each facility that has the SPICE Programming and staff is on-site
- 2011
 - Manning Correctional became the Agency's Centralized Pre-Release Center
 - Judge Byars decided to centralize pre-release functions at Manning CI
 - This program can accommodate 480 inmates at a time, releasing up to 80 per month and intaking up to 80 per month to keep the program beds full
 - Behavioral Health Counselors were repurposed Manning Correctional Institution to provide services to the new population, along with staff from Watkins Pre-Release Center
- 2012
 - Young Offender Parole & Reentry Services (YOPRS) was established
 - (YOPRS) encompasses both institution and community-based services for male and female offenders sentenced under the Youthful Offender Act (YOA)
 - FY12 Budget Year Legislature provided \$3,405,575 in budget authority
 - YOPRS Division started with 25 new employees which provide community supervision to young offenders upon release
- 2014

- At the direction of Director Stirling, in partnership with Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) committed to provide office space at Manning CI and provide Work Force Development services behind the walls
- 21 computers were installed for resume writing training and job search services
- Implementation of partnering with Second Chance Employers for Returning Citizens
- Intensified vocational programming at Manning CI to include brick masonry, carpentry, as well as, more robust approach to completing GED and Workeys
- 2015
 - Manning Correctional Institution adopted a six (6) month reentry programming and protocol to prepare Level 1 inmates for release
 - Coordinated with DEW, the first behind the walls, Job Fair with employers offering jobs to inmates prior to release
 - Became partners with the Federal Reentry council
 - Hosted first Federal/State/Local government Reentry Council meeting at Manning Correctional
 - Began partnership with Catholic Charities and provided them with office space for indigent population
 - Director Stirling mandated that all Wardens create a clothing closet on-site and that no inmate would be released in the modified uniforms
 - Intensified vocational programming at Manning to include brick masonry, carpentry, as well as, a more robust approach to completing GED and Workeys
 - S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation staff was provided office space which enables them to provide direct services on-site
 - Jumpstart began providing programming statewide to ensure housing to qualified Returning Citizens
- 2016
 - Request submitted and approved to change the name of Manning Correctional Institution to Manning Reentry and Work Release Center
 - This institution serves as the Agency's centralized Pre-Release Center for male offenders who are within 180-days of release
 - A work release program and labor crew provide work opportunities for offenders who do not participate in the Pre-Release Program
 - The Pre-Release Program is a two-component system: 1) a 150-day program in which the offender can work in an educational, vocational, or certificate program and attend life skills classes, and 2) a 30-day program dedicated to outside community resources, skill enhancement in the area of employment, and preparation for release
 - Department of Justice identified April as National Reentry Week
 - Manning celebrated the week and hosted Governor Haley and other dignitaries
 - SC Works partnership provides post-release series that include instruction on basic computer skills, resume preparation, refining interviewing skills, developing a career profile, information on criminal record expungement, and employment referrals statewide
 - SCDC added to our website a Released Offender Skills which gives transparency to employers regarding rehabilitation efforts of the inmate prior to release
- 2017
 - Goodwill (DOL grant \$1,500,000 for pre-release services at Manning & Camille Graham)
 - Trident Technical College (DEW grant \$250,000 at MacDougall providing vocational training)
 - DEW placed an employee at Camille Graham Pre- Release to assist with female Returning Citizens in May of 2017
 - S.C. Thrive Benefits Bank training and services began September 8, 2017 (staff at six (6) institutions were trained to use the Benefits Bank to provide services for offenders being released)
- 2018
 - Kershaw CI became the reentry location for Level 2 male offenders

- The reentry program mirrors Manning Pre-Release
- New curriculum from the Change Company entitled “Getting it Right” for Reentry Counselors was implemented
- DEW is hiring a staff person @ Kershaw; partnership began September 20, 2018
- S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles provides state identifications on December 12, 2018
- S.C. Thrive expanded to all 21 institutions on October 19, 2018
- Skills Report made available to employment partners to assist with matching potential employees
- DAODAS given office space to provide Medication Administration Treatment by Peer Counselors for opioid addiction
- 2019
 - Lieber - Going Home for Good, became the reentry location for Level 3 male offenders
 - Going Home for Good is a 2-year reentry program
 - CDL Simulators purchased for four (4) institutions
 - FreshStart Visions began reentry services at MacDougall and Allendale May 23, 2019
 - Pee Dee Healthy Start, Inc. began reentry services to inmates returning to the Florence/Darlington area May 30, 2019
 - Reemerge Reentry Program at Manning began May 30, 2019
 - S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control partnership to provide birth certificates to inmates, contract currently pending approval
 - Manning’s Reentry inmates participate in Reemerge Job Fair in community with staff
 - Thinking for a Change training provided to all new Reentry staff
 - SC Thrive – Benefits Bank/Good Grid – Staff training for all new Program Coordinators was conducted in May and October 2019
 - S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) – April 2019 DMV Cares Van came to Manning to provide ID’s to eligible inmates
 - Since April DMV has provided 395 identifications
- Ongoing Partnerships without MOU’s: (each of these are in the contract development stage)
 - Fatherhood Coalition provides education and services tailored to inmate fathers trying to rebuild lives with their families
 - Turning Leaf Project provides post-release classroom based cognitive behavioral therapy, in-house employment, and external job placement
 - Telamon Corporation provides a reintegration program for homeless veterans
 - Prison Fellowship provides pre-release course work, post-release services, prison ministry, and the Angel Tree Christmas package program
 - Catholic Charities provides birth certificates for indigent inmates, provides funding for housing post-release, provides clothing, and provides transportation services post-release
 - Oxford House provides substance abuse courses and services, pre and post-release
- Reentry staffing for adult offenders, statewide, is 41
- YOPRS staffing for young offenders, statewide, is 105
- SCDC inmate population has declined since 2005. Please see the included Average Daily Inmate Population Fiscal Years 1970- 2019

Average Daily Inmate Population Fiscal Years 1970 - 2019

FISCAL YEAR	SCDC FACILITIES	SPECIAL PLACEMENTS ¹	DESIGNATED FACILITIES ²	SCDC JURISDICTION ³	ABSOLUTE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR	PERCENT CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR
1970	2,537	--	--	2,537	182	7.7%
1971	2,859	--	--	2,859	322	12.7%
1972	3,239	--	--	3,239	380	13.3%
1973	3,341	--	--	3,341	102	3.1%
1974	3,517	25	--	3,542	201	6.0%
1975	4,557	25	36	4,618	1,076	30.4%
1976	5,671	25	568	6,264	1,646	35.6%
1977	6,392	27	748	7,167	903	14.4%
1978	6,677	32	738	7,447	280	3.9%
1979	6,761	149	713	7,623	176	2.4%
1980	7,003	184	682	7,869	246	3.2%
1981	7,190	236	652	8,078	209	2.7%
1982	7,635	353	614	8,602	524	6.5%
1983	8,151	683	558	9,392	790	9.2%
1984	8,182	1,051	556	9,789	397	4.2%
1985	8,539	1,081	501	10,121	332	3.4%
1986	9,299	978	478	10,755	634	6.3%
1987	10,320	993	473	11,786	1,031	9.6%
1988	11,069	1,104	487	12,660	874	7.4%
1989	12,426	1,162	461	14,049	1,389	11.0%
1990	14,417	1,292	440	16,149	2,100	14.9%
1991	15,810	1,376	455	17,641	1,492	9.2%
1992	16,328	1,815	438	18,581	940	5.3%
1993	16,669	1,601	434	18,704	123	0.7%
1994	17,182	1,540	428	19,150	446	2.4%
1995	17,704	1,233	391	19,328	178	0.9%
1996	18,736	987	399	20,122	794	4.1%
1997	20,146	380	404	20,930	808	4.0%
1998	20,656	341	404	21,401	471	2.3%
1999	20,957	505	394	21,855	454	2.1%
2000	20,979	638	436	22,053	198	0.9%
2001	20,973	567	406	21,946	-107	-0.5%
2002	21,710	529	404	22,643	697	3.2%
2003	22,845	525	403	23,773	1,130	5.0%
2004	23,130	490	405	24,025	252	1.1%
2005	22,905	447	408	23,760	-265	-1.1%
2006	22,897	417	372	23,686	-74	-0.3%
2007	23,375	391	372	24,138	452	1.9%
2008	23,889	373	375	24,637	499	2.1%
2009	24,017	347	370	24,734	97	0.4%
2010	24,040	310	360	24,710	-24	-0.1%
2011	23,293	273	373	23,939	-771	-3.1%
2012	22,711	252	371	23,334	-605	-2.5%
2013	22,088	237	355	22,680	-654	-2.8%
2014	21,712	273	330	22,315	-365	-1.6%
2015	21,183	292	298	21,773	-542	-2.4%
2016	20,671	306	317	21,294	-479	-2.2%
2017	20,483	340	312	21,135	-159	-0.7%
2018	19,559	362	324	20,245	-890	-4.2%
2019	18,743	361	312	19,416	-829	-4.1%

¹ This category of inmates does not take up bedspace in SCDC facilities due to placement in diversionary programs. These programs include Extended Work Release, Supervised Furlough, and Provisional Parole. Special Placements include inmates assigned to hospital facilities, as well as Interstate Corrections Compact, and authorized absences. Special placements includes inmates serving South Carolina sentences concurrently in other jurisdictions-for FY 2018 this number averaged 266.

² Suitable city, county, and state facilities have been designated to house State inmates as a means of alleviating overcrowded conditions in SCDC facilities, and facilitating work at the facility and in the community.

³ The jurisdiction count on this table does not include YOA parolees or inmates conditionally released under the Emergency Prison Overcrowding Powers Act (EPA); (S.C. Code of Laws 1976 Section 24-3-1110) invoked in September, 1983, and EPA II invoked in May, 1987. The average EPA counts were as follows: FY 1984 - 24; FY 1985 - 271; FY 1986 - 574; FY 1987 - 768; FY 1988 - 654(EPA), 126(EPA II); FY 1989 - 377(EPA), 213(EPA II); FY 1990 - 171(EPA), 189(EPA II); FY 1991 - 146(EPA), 164(EPA II); FY 1992 - 150(EPA), 160(EPA II); FY 1993 - 145(EPA), 156(EPA II); FY 1994 - 131(EPA), 33(EPA II); FY 1995-124(EPA), 22(EPA II); FY 1996 - 110(EPA), 14(EPA II); FY 1997 - 105 (EPA), 12 (EPA II); FY 1998 - 105 (EPA), 12 (EPA II); FY 1999 - 1 (EPA II); 0 EPA II after 1999.

South Carolina Department of Corrections
Recidivism Rates of Inmates Released from Manning Reentry/Work Release Center

	Year of Release							
	FY 2015		FY 2016					
Number of Inmates Released from Manning	859		903					
3-Year Recidivism Rate	Recidivism Rate by Year of Release							
	Number of Recidivists	Recidivism Rate	Number of Recidivists	Recidivism Rate				
Recidivism Rate for Manning	176	20.5%	166	18.4%				

Note: The recidivism rate "excludes" inmates returning to prison for old offenses that occurred prior to their release (where inmate returns for that offense alone).

In this case the inmate did not reoffend, but returned for past criminal activity due to a detainer or newly acquired offense information.

Inmates returning to SCDC due to revocations from community supervision programs (parole, probation, community supervision, supervised reentry, intensive supervision) are included in recidivism.

South Carolina Department of Corrections Return to Prison Rates of Inmates Released during FY2005 - FY2008					
	Year of Release				
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Total Number of Releases	13,489	13,565	13,716	13,499	12,807
Percentage of Releasees who Returned to SCDC:	Recidivism Rate by Year of Release				
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Within One Year or Less	12.1%	12.1%	11.9%	13.1%	12.3%
Within Two Years or Less	24.5%	25.5%	25.6%	25.7%	24.0%
Within Three Years or Less	33.0%	33.9%	33.6%	33.5%	30.6%
Within Four Years or Less	38.4%	39.1%	38.8%	37.7%	35.6%
Within Five Years or Less	42.1%	42.6%	42.0%	40.9%	38.3%
Comparison of 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Inmate Attributes					
Attributes	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Overall Rate	33.0%	33.9%	33.6%	33.5%	30.6%
Gender					
Males	34.4%	35.3%	35.1%	35.1%	32.2%
Females	22.2%	23.7%	22.3%	20.9%	18.5%
Type of Release					
Maxout (Expiration of Sentence)	24.0%	25.3%	26.0%	25.6%	22.2%
Parole	29.1%	29.1%	27.9%	26.3%	25.2%
Probation	42.1%	45.8%	43.9%	43.5%	41.5%
Community Supervision	29.6%	34.1%	32.6%	32.3%	24.9%
Supervised Reentry	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Youthful Offender Act* - Parole	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Youthful Offender Act* - Parole	53.4%	53.0%	52.8%	54.1%	52.8%
Youthful Offender Act* - Maxout	33.9%	31.2%	33.9%	40.4%	29.7%
Age at Release					
Under 25 Years	43.5%	43.2%	45.1%	44.9%	43.2%
25-30 Years	30.7%	31.8%	30.8%	31.0%	29.2%
31-40 Years	31.4%	33.3%	31.7%	32.1%	28.2%
Over 40 Years	23.8%	26.4%	27.2%	27.2%	23.3%
Program Participation					
Pre-Release	28.2%	31.1%	31.5%	29.7%	25.0%
Work Program	25.9%	28.1%	27.4%	24.8%	23.4%
Labor Crew	27.1%	29.4%	28.8%	25.4%	23.3%
Labor Crew/Work Program	26.8%	29.2%	28.6%	25.4%	23.3%
Prison Industry	27.8%	29.8%	27.2%	26.4%	23.4%
GED Earned in SCDC Education Program	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r	n/r
Sentence Type					
Youthful Offender Act*	51.7%	50.9%	51.2%	52.7%	50.6%
Straight-time	29.7%	31.4%	31.2%	30.7%	27.5%
Criminal History					
Had Conviction and/or Commitment	33.6%	36.2%	36.4%	36.7%	32.9%
Had Commitment	36.3%	38.9%	38.3%	38.2%	34.6%
No Known Priors	22.1%	28.7%	27.9%	27.2%	26.4%

* Youthful Offender Act (YOA) inmates serve an indeterminate sentence of 1 to 6 years.

GED earned n/r denotes data was not recorded during that time period

South Carolina Department of Corrections Recidivism Rates of Inmates Released during FY2009 - FY2016								
	Year of Release							
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Total Number of Releases	13,454	12,744	12,024	11,409	9,623	9,485	9,354	9,147
Percentage of Releasees who Returned to SCDC:	Recidivism Rate by Year of Release							
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Within One Year or Less	9.6%	8.0%	7.5%	6.2%	6.2%	5.6%	5.8%	5.5%
Within Two Years or Less	20.0%	18.0%	16.7%	15.5%	16.2%	15.2%	15.7%	14.2%
Within Three Years or Less	26.6%	24.8%	23.4%	22.4%	23.1%	22.7%	22.3%	21.2%
Within Four Years or Less	31.0%	29.6%	28.4%	27.2%	28.4%	27.6%	27.3%	n/a
Within Five Years or Less	34.1%	32.7%	31.7%	30.9%	31.8%	30.8%	n/a	n/a
Comparison of 3-Year Recidivism Rates by Inmate Attributes								
Attributes	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Overall Rate	26.6%	24.8%	23.4%	22.4%	23.1%	22.7%	22.3%	21.2%
Gender								
Males	27.8%	26.1%	24.3%	23.3%	24.1%	23.7%	23.1%	21.9%
Females	17.7%	14.3%	15.9%	15.2%	15.2%	14.8%	16.2%	15.7%
Type of Release								
Maxout (Expiration of Sentence)	17.8%	18.1%	17.6%	17.7%	19.0%	18.7%	18.6%	17.1%
Parole	21.0%	17.8%	18.8%	18.3%	17.4%	19.0%	19.5%	16.8%
Probation	40.8%	36.6%	33.3%	31.8%	32.2%	34.3%	31.3%	29.6%
Community Supervision	20.4%	16.1%	15.3%	14.0%	14.7%	12.0%	12.9%	12.6%
Supervised Reentry	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.1%	27.9%	25.1%	27.1%
Youthful Offender Act* - Parole	46.8%	42.0%	39.4%	38.4%	37.7%	30.9%	31.9%	33.7%
Youthful Offender Act* - Maxout	30.1%	28.6%	28.9%	23.0%	27.8%	25.0%	32.8%	24.7%
Youthful Offender Act* - Intensive Supervisic	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9%	28.9%	30.3%	30.6%
Age at Release								
Under 25 Years	37.7%	34.6%	32.9%	32.0%	31.8%	28.5%	29.1%	31.4%
25-30 Years	25.3%	24.8%	22.3%	23.6%	23.1%	23.4%	24.1%	20.7%
31-40 Years	23.6%	22.3%	20.4%	19.9%	20.3%	21.9%	19.7%	21.3%
Over 40 Years	21.1%	19.0%	19.4%	17.0%	19.8%	19.1%	19.2%	16.2%
Program Participation								
Pre-Release	25.1%	22.1%	20.6%	21.6%	20.8%	20.8%	20.4%	19.9%
Work Program	22.4%	21.1%	18.1%	17.9%	19.1%	22.6%	16.3%	15.8%
Labor Crew	22.4%	20.2%	19.0%	17.8%	19.1%	21.9%	18.0%	17.4%
Labor Crew/Work Program	22.5%	20.1%	19.0%	17.8%	19.1%	21.8%	18.0%	17.3%
Prison Industry	19.4%	18.6%	17.3%	14.6%	13.5%	12.5%	13.4%	10.9%
GED Earned in SCDC Education Program	24.9%	26.3%	22.1%	21.4%	21.7%	21.3%	17.3%	15.8%
Sentence Type								
Youthful Offender Act*	45.4%	40.8%	38.2%	36.9%	35.6%	29.7%	30.8%	30.5%
Straight-time	23.8%	22.5%	21.2%	20.7%	21.7%	21.9%	21.4%	20.3%
Criminal History								
Had Conviction and/or Commitment	28.6%	26.4%	25.1%	24.7%	25.4%	25.6%	25.4%	22.8%
Had Commitment	30.2%	28.7%	27.2%	26.4%	27.1%	26.8%	26.7%	23.4%
No Known Priors	23.0%	21.9%	20.5%	18.6%	19.4%	18.0%	17.4%	18.6%
Mental Health Classification at time of release								
Mentally III	28.1%	28.9%	26.7%	26.4%	25.9%	25.8%	24.4%	24.7%
Non-Mentally III	26.4%	24.2%	22.9%	21.9%	22.8%	22.3%	22.1%	20.8%

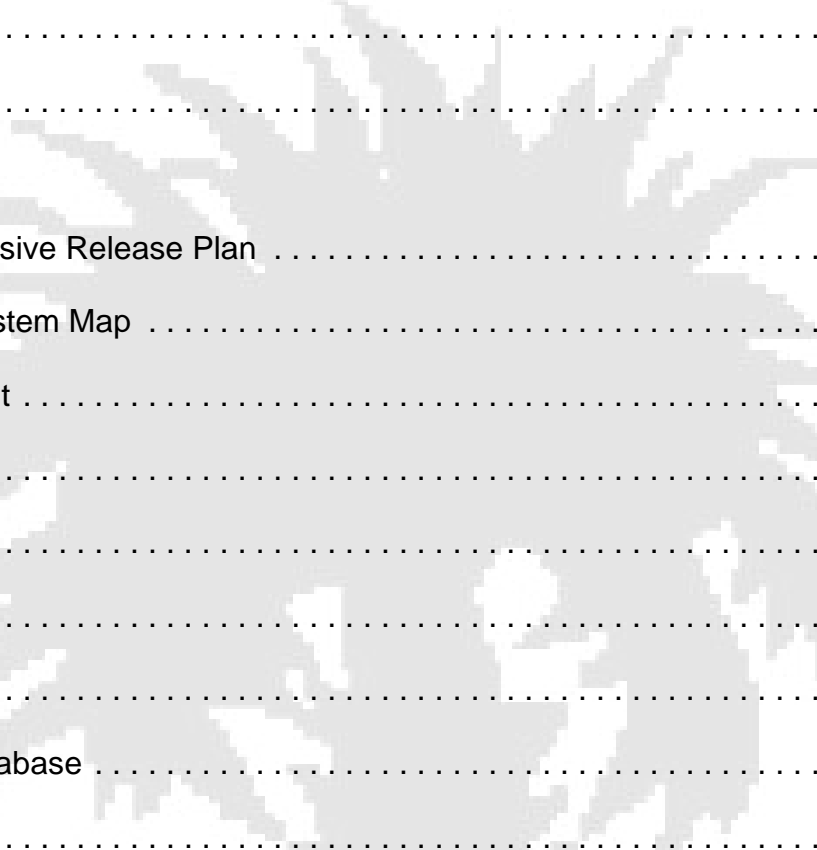
* Youthful Offender Act (YOA) inmates serve an indeterminate sentence of 1 to 6 years. "Intensive Supervision Parole" releases began in FY13; this parole

SOUTH CAROLINA REENTRY INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIVE TEAM



*Interim Report
February 2005*

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most pressing and complex challenges facing our state government is the reintegration of offenders from prison back into society. Almost all inmates currently incarcerated in our state, 97%, will eventually return to our communities. In FY 2004, the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) released 13,489 offenders back into society. These offenders return home with disproportionately high rates of addiction and mental illness, as well as, on average, limited education and work experience. Currently, most receive little to no preparation for the transition back to the community and little to no support or assistance after release. Almost a third of the inmates released in FY2001 returned to SCDC custody within three years. It is in everyone's best interest that offenders reenter society safely and live as law-abiding, self-sufficient citizens.

In order to address reentry issues, the South Carolina Reentry Interagency Collaborative Team was formed. The team is a collaborative effort among South Carolina stakeholder agencies. The team's mission is to recommend strategic improvements in South Carolina's offender reentry practices that involve the gathering and sharing of information, enhanced utilization of resources, the development of new initiatives and the integration of promising practices, and the identification of potential funding or other resources, as necessary, for each recommendation.

PLANNING HISTORY

In May, 2004, an informational meeting to examine South Carolina's reentry issues was convened by Jon Ozmint, Director of South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), with Directors and representatives from SCDC, the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon

Services (PPP), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), and the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD). A consensus was achieved among everyone present to explore an interdepartmental collaboration designed to improve reentry practices.

On May 25-27, 2004, representatives from stakeholder agencies attended a workshop entitled *Enhancing the Effectiveness of Collaborative Teams: A Training Workshop for the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Grantees*. At that time, the South Carolina Reentry Interagency Collaborative Team developed its vision and mission statement, and adopted ground rules and a timetable for its actions. Members of the team are listed below:

Sammie Brown	<i>Grants Coordinator/Evaluator - S.C. Department of Corrections</i>
Kelly Cordell	<i>Executive Director, Planning & Quality Assurance - S.C. Department of Social Services</i>
Cherry Daniel	<i>Director, Adult/Community Education - S.C. Department of Education</i>
Mike Easterday	<i>Senior Policy Advisor - S.C. Department of Health and Human Services</i>
Burke Fitzpatrick	<i>Administrator - S.C. Department of Public Safety</i>
Carl Frederick	<i>Operations Coordinator - S.C. Department of Corrections</i>
Shirley Furtick	<i>Jail and Correctional Services - S.C. Department of Mental Health</i>
Rhonda Grant	<i>Director, Programs & Grants Mgmt. - S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services</i>
Teresa A. Knox	<i>Deputy Director of Legal Services - S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services</i>
Wilbert Lewis	<i>Program Manager, Community Resource Development Faith-Based Programs - S.C. Department of Social Services</i>
Geraldine Miro	<i>Acting Director of Programs & Services - S.C. Department of Corrections</i>
Michele Murff	<i>Program Manager, Housing & Homeless Programs - S.C. Department of Mental Health</i>
Scott Norton	<i>Director of Field Operations Support - S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services</i>
Earle Pope	<i>Client Services Consultant - S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation Department</i>
Lenard Price	<i>Employment Field Supervisor - S.C. Employment Security Commission</i>
Thomas Scott	<i>Director of Residential Services - S.C. Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services</i>
June Ussery	<i>Director, Community Service Coordinators, Alston Wilkes Society</i>
James Wilson	<i>Treatment Consultant, Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services</i>

Former Team Members include Margaret Kherlopian (DAODAS), Wanda Tarpley (SCDC), and Bruce Bondo (HHS).

The team began meeting monthly in June, 2004. The team's initial efforts focused on identifying and prioritizing issues that surround offender reentry. Eight major areas of critical concern emerged and those formed the basis of the group's subcommittees. The following subcommittees were formed:

- Comprehensive Release Plan Model
- Reentry System Map
- Employment
- Treatment
- Housing
- Education
- Identification Cards
- Shared Database

Each subcommittee was tasked with developing a problem statement setting forth the issue to be addressed, including reliable data illustrating the depth of the problem. The subcommittees each set concise, individual goals. The subcommittees are expected to recommend options for solving the stated problems and provide implementation strategies. Initial work on the subcommittees has revolved around identifying information and research needs, along with identifying additional members needed to complete the work. The subcommittees are at different stages in their work, with each progressing and expected to successfully meet the deadlines imposed by the team. A brief overview of the subcommittees' progress is provided in the following pages.

Comprehensive Release Plan

The subcommittee has determined that one of their greatest challenges is to identify how agencies can coordinate services and improve access to resources. Their goal is to develop a comprehensive release plan and create a visual display of services and decision points in

coordination with the System Map Subcommittee. The subcommittee plans to examine developments in other reentry sites and visit several states to learn more about best practices. The subcommittee members are Sammie Brown (Team Leader, SCDC), Carl Frederick (SCDC), and Scott Norton (PPP).

Reentry System Map

The services provided to the reentry of inmates into the community are not provided by a single agency. A number of agencies provide services which may be overlapping or duplicative. The provisions of services available have not been documented in any comprehensive manner. The goals of the subcommittee are to identify all the services available to offenders by system providers and to “map” these in a comprehensive illustration highlighting service delivery points throughout the reentry continuum. This subcommittee plans to examine developments in other reentry sites and visit several states to learn best practices. The subcommittee members are Sammie Brown (Team Leader, SCDC), Rhonda Grant (PPP), Teresa Knox (PPP), and Rob McManus (DPS).

Employment

Offenders exhibit a variety of characteristics that greatly limit their employability and earnings capacities. The goals of the subcommittee are to assist inmates in becoming employable and to assist offenders who are reentering society to obtain sustainable employment. Some options being explored by the subcommittee include programs to increase the number of offenders who receive education, GED, literacy, and life skills programs during incarceration; the expansion of vocational training for inmates; allowing inmates access to one-stop center services before release; the establishment of case managers and employment specialists to ensure the

job readiness of inmates; and, the creation of a reentry resource guide for inmates. The subcommittee members are Earle Pope (Team Leader, VRD), Kelly Cordell (DSS), Carl Frederick (SCDC), Lenard Price (ESC), and Brent Garvin (ESC).

Treatment

Among the multitude of issues facing inmates in the reentry process, those which require treatment are significant barriers to the offender being able to gain and sustain employment, provide for families, pay taxes, and live a law abiding life. In South Carolina, 10% of all inmates have mental health issues and nearly half are chemically dependant. This subcommittee has focused its work on the development of the “treatment mall” model that provides comprehensive assessment and service provision and is applicable both inside the institution and in the community. The group has also worked toward identifying low cost programming options and alternatives to traditional treatment approaches addressing single and co-occurring disorders. Cross training for institutional staff and training for those who supervise offenders in the community is a component of a holistic approach to reentry treatment need. The subcommittee members are Shirley Furtick (Team Leader, DMH), Keisha Perry (SCDC), Jodi Gallman (PPP), James Wilson (DAODAS), Mike Easterday (HHS), Ernie Shaw (SCDC), Joette Scarborough (SCDC), Horace Smith (DAODAS), and John Brown (DMH).

Housing

There is a lack of quality affordable housing options available to former offenders. Key barriers to providing these housing options for former offenders include the lack of dedicated and flexible funding sources for development and supportive services, resistance from residents in local communities, and local land use regulations that affect housing cost and affordability. This

committee's goal is to develop an action plan that will address the housing needs of former offenders reentering the community after incarceration, as well as those sentenced to probation who have not necessarily been incarcerated. Some strategies being explored by the subcommittee include: reviewing the identified barriers to addressing housing needs of the former offender populations and identifying specific strategies to overcome these barriers; considering creative ways to partner with local supporters of housing programs for former offenders to address possible resistance from residents in local communities (faith-based groups, community organizations, political leaders); identifying private nonprofit housing developers interested in and capable of providing housing for former offenders; and identifying possible funding sources for development and supportive services that are dedicated and flexible for the former offender populations. Members of the subcommittee are Michele Murff (DMH), Wilbert Lewis (DSS), June Ussery (AWS), Mike Chesser (Upstate Homeless Coalition), and Thomas Scott (PPP).

Education

Education is a critical factor in an offender's ability to succeed in making permanent life changes. Nationally, 2 out of 3 inmates lack a high school diploma. Half of SC inmates cannot read at the 9th grade level. With diminishing staff and other resources, many times educational and vocational related initiatives are often neglected in favor of security and custody priorities. Inmates in education programs have a recidivism rate 15% lower than those who do not participate in these programs. This subcommittee has focused its efforts on identifying barriers to education, both in the institutional setting and throughout the reentry process. As with other issues, there is a definite need for more partnerships between agencies and organizations to provide educational programming for inmates and address gaps in educational services. One program that the subcommittee has identified is a model for a pilot program in partnership

between technical colleges and local Adult Education Offices. Subcommittee members include Dr. Cherry Daniel (Team Leader, DOE), Gerri Miro (SCDC), and Kathy Jackson (SCDC).

ID Cards

Picture identification cards and Social Security cards are needed in order for offenders to gain and sustain employment and thereby provide for their families, and become productive members of the community. A survey of SCDC institutions revealed inconsistent practices and uneven cooperation from local DMV and Social Security offices. Yet if picture identification cards and Social Security cards are consistently provided, offenders can seek, gain and sustain employment, provide for their families, and become contributing members of the community. Providing proper identification to offenders upon release also has implications for the safety of local law enforcement officers and Homeland Security issues.

The goal of this subcommittee is straightforward: to ensure that when inmates are released they are in possession of a valid state recognized picture identification card. The subcommittee has explored several different solutions. One proposal has been the establishment of a single point of contact at SCDC to coordinate state picture identification cards and Social Security cards. Another proposal is to use SCDC digital pictures as the photo accepted by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The digital photos would be securely emailed to DMV who would in turn create the cards prior to release. Because the Department of Corrections can positively identify their inmates (via fingerprints and DNA) to the satisfaction of outside agencies, the remote preparation of ID cards is feasible. The Director of DMV has been advised of this proposal by letter and a request has been made for technical and policy assistance. The committee also plans to work with representatives the Social Security Administration on this issue. The goal of the ID card initiative would be to insure that every inmate left their institution with a valid state-issued identification

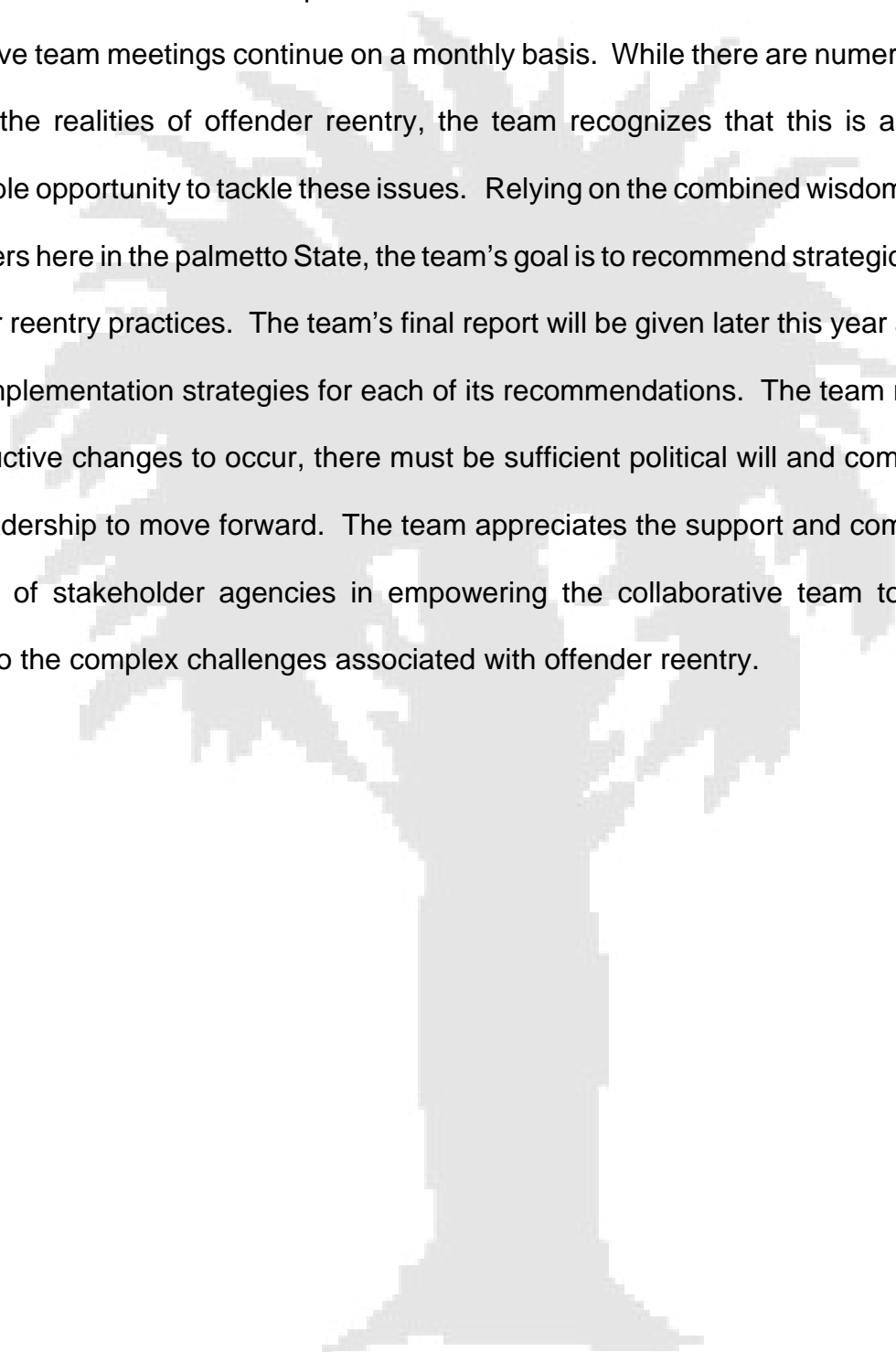
card, resulting in quantifiable improvements in recidivism. Subcommittee members are Rhonda Grant (Team Leader, PPP), June Ussery (AWS), Burke Fitzpatrick (DPS), Earle Pope (VRD), Brent Garvin (ESC), and Thomas Scott (PPP).

Shared Database

The goal of this subcommittee is to establish a statewide database or system for effective exchange of critical information between participating agencies/organizations regarding a common client population. A key issue identified was that most agencies were willing to work together to accomplish the goal, as long as “legacy” systems were not affected. The subcommittee is exploring the possibility of addressing its goals through utilization of the South Carolina Data Warehouse Project being developed by the Budget and Control Board, Office of Research and Statistics. This system is an integrated data base for a broad spectrum of service providers including Legal/Safety Services, Social Services, Claims Systems, Health Care Services, Behavioral Health Services, Health Department, Education Services, and Employment/Disabilities Services. Subcommittee members include Scott Norton (Team Leader, PPP), John Ward (SCDC), Sammie Brown (SCDC), Gerri Miro (SCDC), Rob McManus (DPS), and David Stagg (PPP).

CONCLUSION

Each subcommittee will report back to the team with its recommendations as the full collaborative team meetings continue on a monthly basis. While there are numerous challenges posed by the realities of offender reentry, the team recognizes that this is also the time of considerable opportunity to tackle these issues. Relying on the combined wisdom of experts and stakeholders here in the palmetto State, the team's goal is to recommend strategic improvements in offender reentry practices. The team's final report will be given later this year and will include detailed implementation strategies for each of its recommendations. The team recognizes that for constructive changes to occur, there must be sufficient political will and commitment of this State's leadership to move forward. The team appreciates the support and commitment of the leadership of stakeholder agencies in empowering the collaborative team to find systemic solutions to the complex challenges associated with offender reentry.



For additional information, contact:

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