

Attachment D

Successful Re-entry Framework Pre- and Post-Release Services

Pre Release Services

Assessment - Correctional facilities administer health, mental health, education and skill assessments.

Mental Health, Substance Abuse Treatment - Upon incarceration, offenders need access to services. (As allowed by sentencing/facility classification)

Service Plan or Portfolio - Offenders create a service plan based on assessments that outlines service needs during incarceration and extends beyond release. Plan should include steps /strategies to attain basic employment documentation prior to release, including: birth certificate, Social Security card, Mass ID and MassHealth card.

Education and Skill Development - Offenders enroll in adult education (GED), ESOL, vocational training, college preparation and coursework and job readiness workshops.

Transition Planning - Transitional planning begins prior to release to identify:

- Connections to housing
- Enrollment in MassHealth (access via Virtual Gateway)
- Organizations and referrals for mental health, substance abuse, and health care.
- Regional Re-entry Center, Community Correction Center or One Stop Career Center services needed for post-release.

Linkages for Ex-Offenders Built with Service Providers Prior to Release - Offenders are connected to service providers prior to release or “behind the wall” based on transition plan – direct referral, provider orientations, etc.

Work Release Models - Provide individuals with work experience and the potential for employment post-release and develop agreements with employers to “credit” offender with employment history for company earned through work release program.

Post Release & Community Based Services

Transportation - Need transit options upon release to appropriate community resources.

Housing, Mental Health Substance Abuse Support Services - Ex-Offenders need resources to provide these services simultaneously. Research has shown that this needs to be in place upon leaving a correctional facility. (72 hour window of success)

Coordination of Services and Case Management - Upon release, a contact individual should be identified to connect the ex-offender to community resources. Often, Regional

Re-entry Centers & Community Correction Centers provide case management for ex-offenders, referrals to employment, substance abuse, mental health, and other services. “Wrapped” individuals (completed sentence) need incentives to engage. All applicants will be required to include in their proposals a provision for multi-agency participant case conferences, to ensure coordination of services across agency lines.

Employment Planning and Placement - Regional Re-entry Center & Community Correction Center make referrals to One Stop Career Center. Offender brings “portfolio” to work on employment planning and getting a job while Career Center acts as employer contact. See attachment F for examples of portfolios.

Education and Skill Development - Resources for ex-offenders to access education (ABE/ESOL, post-secondary) and occupational training to enhance job prospects and income.

Liability Protections for Employers - Education about federal bonding program and the work opportunity tax credit (WOTC).

Employer Outreach Strategies - Models should include employer outreach strategies for pre- and post-release placements, including employer breakfasts (to market population), or assignment of a job developer to support the individual. All applicants must include in their proposals a plan for informing participating employers about resources and information available to employers to mitigate risks of hiring ex-offenders, including third party risks.