



Criminal Justice Reentry in Pennsylvania

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What is Reentry?

“Reentry” is not a specific program, but rather a process that begins when an individual is incarcerated (pre-release) and ends with their reintegration into the community (post-release).

BJA 2018



What is Good Reentry?

Good Reentry = Collaboration

Working together to achieve a common goal that is difficult or impossible to reach without the assistance of another.





What is Good Reentry?

- Belief in treating everyone with dignity
- Belief that people are capable of change
- Belief that jail and parole are opportunities, not just punishment
- Access to resources that match needs



Good Reentry is Good for Everyone

- Communities
- Victims
- Taxpayers
- CJ System as a whole (police, DOC, courts)
- Justice involved individuals themselves



PCCD

Our Role ... By statute, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is a collaboration of public servants and private citizens representing all aspects of criminal and juvenile justice.

Our Mission ... To enhance the quality and coordination of criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities.

Our Vision ... To be a state and national leader supporting innovative programs that promote justice for all citizens and communities of Pennsylvania.



Why Form a Reentry Coalition?

- Identifies complex needs of returning citizens
- Acknowledges demands of CJ system
- Identifies barriers and consequences for returning citizens
- Identifies disconnected services in communities
- Reveals conflicting program/system requirements
- Identifies areas for system changes
- Improves outcomes for returning citizens



Why create a county reentry strategic plan?

- Identifies persistent/emerging problems in CJ system
 - Promotes systems level thinking, planning & action
 - Clearly articulates goals in major CJ system areas
 - Enables effective use of limited resources
 - Guides priority decisions using data
 - Allows focused pursuit of various funding sources
- ***PCCD requests strategic plan submissions when applying for grant funding AND...It's important to note that many Second Chance Act, Justice Reinvestment, and other funding sources are beginning to require a 3-year Reentry Plan.



Assessment of County Practices

Is prison inmate data being collected?

If so, what data is collected?

How is the data being used?

Are there reentry services being provided?

Was prison inmate data used to determine service need/s?

Do services fit the needs of clients?

Identifying Gaps

- Is there collaboration between CJ system partners including courts, prison, and probation/parole?
- Is there a risk/needs assessment tool used at any level of the CJ system?
- Do services reflect the assessment tool outcome needs?
- Is there a community continuum of care system post release?
- Are community/faith-based service providers included in care system?



Developing a Reentry Strategic Plan

MISSION

VISION

STRATEGIES

Identify Major Problem Areas (housing, transportation, employment, etc)

Form Problem Area **Subcommittees**

Identify Gaps in Reentry Services

Detail of goals, objectives, measures of success to address gaps in each major identified problem area



Minimum Operating Standards Background

- To assist CRCs throughout Pennsylvania and ensure consistency across coalitions.
- PCCD engaged reentry coordinators from six CRCs across PA to inform the creation of minimum operating standards.
 - Initial working session was held 10/28/19
 - Draft standards developed and review by six counties
- Presented to PARC on 1/23/20
- Presented to CJAC on 2/12/20
- Adopted by PCCD on 3/11/20

Membership

- **County Reentry Coalitions must have robust and diverse membership from a wide range of partners throughout the county.**
- **PCCD has identified three required membership categories for CRCs: 1) Reentrants, 2) Government Agencies, and 3) Community Partners.**
- **PCCD understands that CRCs cannot force entities to be members, coalitions must, at minimum, invite the required entities/organizations.**

Membership

- **Reentrants:** have experienced the criminal justice system firsthand; potentially received assistance when returning to the community.
- **Government Agencies:** responsible for operating all facets of the criminal justice system; detailed knowledge of the system and the resources available within the county.
- **Community Partners:** providing services to reentrants daily; detailed knowledge of the services offered to returning citizens in the county.



Membership – Reentrants

- **County Jail Reentrants**
- **State Prison Reentrants**
- **Federal Prison Reentrants**
- **Reentrants' Families**



Membership – Government Agencies

- Chief Local Elected Officials (Commissioners/County Executive/Mayor)
- District Attorney
- Chief Public Defender
- Courts (including county specialty courts)
- County Jail
- State/Federal Prison
- County Probation and Parole
- State Probation and Parole
- Community Corrections Centers
- Single County Authorities (SCAs)
- County Drug and Alcohol Agencies
- County Housing Authority
- Employment Services (Local Workforce Board; PA CareerLink®)
- Mental Health Organizations
- Behavioral Health Organizations
- Family Services
- Victims Services
- County Law Enforcement
- County Assistance Offices (CAOs)
- Social Security Office
- Children and Youth
- Domestic Relations
- Area Agency on Aging
- Veterans Services



Membership – Community Partners

- **Non-profit Organizations**
- **Faith-based Organizations**
- **Education Providers (Adult Basic, Post-secondary [Community College; 4-year Colleges and Universities], Career & Tech)**
- **Service Providers with a Reentry Focus**
- **County Transportation Authorities**
- **Mentors and Volunteers**
- **Local Private Foundations**

Membership

- Who is engaged matters!
 - Decision makers able to invest time and resources of organization
- **Coalitions must have a designated coordinator.**

Bylaws

- **County Reentry Coalitions must have formally approved bylaws that outline how the coalition will operate.**
- **At minimum, coalition bylaws must include the following:**
 - **Name** – Official name of the coalition.
 - **Mission and Vision** – Mission statement should define the coalition's objectives and approach to achieve them; vision statement should be the ultimate goal of what the coalition hopes to achieve.
 - **Membership** – Outline the members of the coalition and any eligibility requirements.



Bylaws

- **At minimum, coalition bylaws must include the following:**
 - **Leadership Structure** – Outline the leadership structure of the coalition including chair, vice chair, executive committee, subcommittee chairs, etc.
 - **Leadership Responsibilities** – Outline the responsibilities of the coalition's leadership.
 - **Coordinator Responsibilities** – Outline the responsibilities of the coalition's coordinator.
 - **Meeting Logistics** – Outline the frequency, location, and method of notice for coalition meetings. **CRCs should meet quarterly, at minimum.**
 - **Decision Making/Voting** – Outline the process the coalition will use for making decisions, what issues members will vote on, quorum, etc.



Reentry Strategic Planning

- **County Reentry Coalitions must have an active reentry strategic plan or be engaged in the strategic planning process.**
- Reentry strategic plans identify persistent/emerging trends in the criminal justice system; promote systemwide thinking, planning, and action; emphasize a more effective use of limited resources; enable the prioritization of county-wide goals; and allow for the focused pursuit of various funding sources.



Reentry Strategic Planning

- For all CRCs, the development of a reentry strategic plan should, at minimum, include the following steps:
 - Conduct an environmental scan of county practices by identifying trends, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and barriers;
 - Identify the major problems areas (housing, employment, transportation, etc.) and gaps in reentry services in the county;
 - Determine a strategic direction for the coalition through the development of goals and objectives related to the major problem areas and gaps in reentry services;
 - Develop tasks and actions steps to achieve the identified goals and objectives; and
 - Develop performance measures to track the coalition's success in addressing the identified goals and objectives.



Recidivism Data Collection

- **County Reentry Coalitions must collect data elements that can be used to calculate recidivism rates for the county.**
- PCCD acknowledges that each county may define recidivism differently and will not establish a common statewide definition for recidivism.
- Focus is to ensure counties are collecting the relevant data elements necessary for calculating recidivism.



Recidivism Data Collection

- **At minimum, each county must collect the following data elements for all county jail inmates:**
 - **Offender Name**
 - **Date of Birth**
 - **State Identification Number (SID)**
 - **Offender Tracking Number (OTN)**
 - **Release Date**
- **These data elements will allow for the calculation of the recidivism rate and time to recidivate for all county jail offenders.**

Compliance

- In order to be a formally recognized County Reentry Coalition by PCCD, coalitions must comply with all requirements outlined in the minimum operating standards.
 - Process is underway; 11 coalitions in compliance
 - Rolling-basis; CRCs submit info when they are ready
- Future funding for reentry programming through PCCD may require a County Reentry Coalition that meets the minimum operating standards.

Reentry Programming

- No dedicated funding stream for reentry programs
- Supported through federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program
 - 2019/20 JAG Single Solicitation Local Funding Initiative Grants: 11 reentry-focused grants totaling nearly \$950,000
 - 2021/22 JAG Single Solicitation Local Funding Initiative Grants: 5 reentry-focused grants totaling nearly \$1.2 million
 - 2022 County Reentry Strategic Planning Grants: 9 grants to develop or update a countywide reentry strategic plan.
- Women's Reentry Services Initiative funding announcement closed on October 25, 2022.

PENNSYLVANIA

REENTRY COUNCIL

Office of Public Engagement
Executive Deputy Attorney General,
Robert Reed
Reentry Coordinator, Charla Plaines



PARC

Tom Wolf
Pennsylvania Governor

Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General



PARC History

- Established May 15, 2017, by Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro to coordinate PA's reentry efforts.
- Result of collaboration between the Governor's Office; Office of Attorney General; PCCD; Office of Victims Advocate; PA State Police; Homeland Security; Departments of Corrections, Human Services, Labor and Industry, Education, Transportation, and Aging; Board of Probation & Parole; and the U.S. Attorneys' Offices in the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of PA.

PENNSYLVANIA

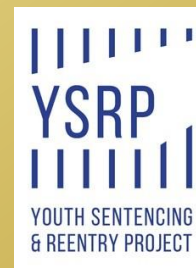
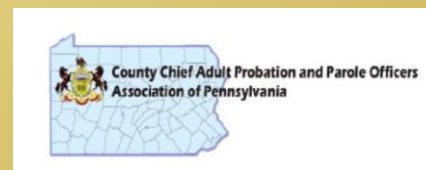
REENTRY COUNCIL

Tom Wolf
Pennsylvania Governor
Josh Shapiro
Pennsylvania Attorney General

PARC



PARC Partners



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT of PENNSYLVANIA

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
WESTERN DISTRICT of PENNSYLVANIA





PARC Mission

To make communities safer by reducing recidivism and victimization through the successful reintegration of returning citizens by supporting the efforts of county reentry coalitions and other federal, state, and local reentry focused organizations.



PARC Purpose

- To expand education of the public, members of law enforcement and criminal justice, and policymakers on why supporting prisoner reentry efforts is essential to reducing crime and violence;
- To provide a forum for the sharing of best practices, including reviewing successful, existing evidence-based programs and initiatives;



PARC Purpose

- To Identify barriers to successful reentry for persons with criminal records including:
 - Providing or enhancing access to housing;
 - Removing barriers to employment;
 - Providing access to transportation;
 - Providing enhanced access to effective treatment for healthcare, substance use, mental health, & trauma;
 - Pro-social needs, including family reunification, mentors, peer support, and faith-based services.



PARC Purpose

- Facilitating access to driver's licenses, social security cards, and other identification documents essential to obtaining employment, housing, and other government assistance;
- Expanding access to education and training; and
- Collaborating with Reentry Courts, Veterans Courts, and Drug Courts on best practices.



How PARC Works

- PARC meets quarterly, prior to these meetings the PARC Steering Committee and Subcommittees meet.
- PARC has established ten (10) “subcommittees”. Each subcommittee has a chairperson, who is a member of the PARC Steering Committee, and they meet via conference call quarterly prior to the Steering Committee meeting.



How PARC Works

PARC Subcommittees:

- Data, Metrics & Information Sharing
- Diversity, Equity & Reentry
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Physical & Behavioral Health
- Reentrant
- Restorative Justice
- Special Populations – People Convicted of Sex Crimes
- Special Populations – Women, Family Reunification & Mentoring



How PARC Works

- PARC Steering Committee provides oversight and plans quarterly meetings.
- PARC meetings include the sharing of best practices, updates on state policies and programs in the PA Department of Corrections and the PA Board of Probation and Parole, and presentations by county reentry coalitions about their best practice programs/projects.
- During the meetings, there is brainstorming about challenges facing reentrants and reentry coalitions and discussions about what steps can overcome these challenges.



PARC Contacts

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Bucks County Reentry Coalition

Video Link:

<https://app.frame.io/reviews/31447541-7260-4f5e-ba0d-374db2667860/3ec95aec-7e34-4976-9ac6-e41d9d13201a>

Questions?

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