

States Engaging Human Need with Community Partners: Alabama and Prisoner Reentry

Every year in Alabama around 7,000 people are released from prison and reenter society. In an effort to help the four to five hundred people released each month from returning to prison, Governor Bob Riley established the Community Partnership for Recovery and Reentry (CPR). CPR will bring together government agencies and faith-based and community programs to help ease the transition for ex-offenders.

In March of 2008, CPR held its first Advisory Council meeting. The meeting was successful in establishing both regional and county structures and dividing the state group into nine focus areas. The nine focus areas deal with the most imminent requirements that a person who is close to his/her release date or who has recently been released need to increase his/her success in society. The focus areas are documentation (driver's license, social security number, birth certificate, etc.), employment, education and training, food and clothing, health care, housing, professional services (counseling, drug rehabilitation, case management, etc.), transportation, and spiritual needs. These focus areas help CPR to meet its goal of decreasing recidivism among Alabamians. Also in an effort to raise awareness and to help ensure that the organizations have up-to-date training, regional reentry summits and trainings have been scheduled.

On March 27, 2008, the Department of Corrections and representatives from multiple community organizations participated in a capacity building training, Discharge Planning and Reentry Training A-Z – Phase 1, held in Montgomery, Alabama. The goal of the training was to encourage participants to identify vital components of an effective discharge plan for the general population and special needs inmates. An estimated thirty-three Department of Corrections staff engaged in a dialogue about institutional programs, best practices, pre-release programs, and linkages to community resources.

On May 20, 2008, Governor Bob Riley hosted over 700 participants at the Governor's Reentry Summit. The Governor's Reentry Summit was followed by regional re-entry workshops.



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