Presentation Oriented Around Two Broad Questions

1. How do release decisions fit within a comprehensive framework for reentry?

2. How can release decisions facilitate effective post-release supervision?

Synthesizing three bases of knowledge

– UI’s foundational work on prisoner reentry
– UI’s recent work on parole supervision strategies
  • Putting Public Safety First
  • 2008 Parole Practices Survey
– UI’s role evaluating the Transition from Prison to Community (TPC) initiative

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Release Type Profile Has Changed

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics

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Changing Focus from Programs to Systems

- Solid research base on program/intervention effectiveness
  - “What Works” literature

- Systems approaches needed to realize large scale changes in outcomes
  - Matching right person to right intervention
  - Seamless transition from prison to community
  - Planning to sequence interventions
  - Providing incentives and enhancing motivation to change

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The TPC Model
Transition From Prison to Community

Sentencing  | Admission to Prison  | Assessment and Classification  | Behavior and Programming  | Release Preparation  | Release/Revocation  | Supervision and Services  | Discharge  | Aftercare  | Law Abiding Citizen

Prison  | Community Supervision  | Human Services Agencies

Institutional Phase  | Re-Entry Phase  | Community Phase

Violation

TPC Integrated Case Management

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The TPC Model
Transition From Prison to Community

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Releasing Authorities Can Be Part of a Behavior Change System

- Corrections is extremely fragmented in most states
- TPC and the *Putting Public Safety First* assume a focus on changing behavior to reduce recidivism
- Common sense of purpose is vital across:
  - Institutional corrections
  - Releasing authority
  - Post-release supervision agency

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## 13 Parole Supervision Strategies to Enhance Reentry Outcomes

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<th>Organizational-Level Strategies</th>
<th>Individual-Level Strategies</th>
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<td>1. Define success as recidivism reduction and measure performance</td>
<td>8. Assess criminogenic risk and need factors</td>
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<td>2. Tailor conditions of supervision</td>
<td>9. Develop supervision case plans that balance surveillance and treatment</td>
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<td>3. Focus resources on moderate and high-risk parolees</td>
<td>10. Involve parolees to enhance their engagement in assessment, case planning, and supervision</td>
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<td>4. Front-load supervision resources</td>
<td>11. Engage informal social controls to facilitate community reintegration</td>
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<td>5. Implement earned discharge</td>
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<td>6. Implement place-based supervision</td>
<td>13. Employ graduated problem-solving responses to violations of parole conditions in a swift and certain manner</td>
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<td>7. Engage partners to expand intervention capacities</td>
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Partnership with Parole Supervision Could Be Stronger

Parole Administrator Contact w/Agencies Organizations

Parole Administrator Satisfaction w/Agencies Organizations

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Releasing Authorities and Organization-Level Strategies

• Focus resources on moderate and high-risk parolees
  – Who gets supervised
  – Who gets matched to what interventions

• Tailor conditions of supervision
  – Realistic, relevant, and research-based
  – Half of parole offices report conditions regularly tailored
  – 55% report responsibility for setting/modifying conditions

• Implement earned discharge
  – Behavioral contract
  – Discharge from both prison and parole can be earned

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Releasing Authorities and Individual-Level Strategies

• Assess criminogenic risk and needs factors
  – Key information for population risk management

• Supervision case plans balancing surveillance and treatment
  – 15% of parole offices report paroling authority has responsibility for developing reentry plans

• Employ graduated, problem-solving responses to violations
  – 18% of parole offices report that the paroling authority determines sanctions

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Releasing Authorities Can Push Evidence-Based Practice

• Understanding your population/context/environment
• Using what works and refusing to use what doesn’t work
• Commitment to determining whether what you’re doing is working
• Decision-makers requiring evidence is what institutionalizes EBP
Do Systematic Approaches to Reentry Work?

• TPC outcomes
  – **Missouri**—Decreasing rates of recidivism (return to prison) 6 and 12 month follow-ups (23% down to 15%, 37% down to 30%)
  – **Georgia**—Upward trend in successful completions of parole 2005-2007 (66% up to 71%)
  – **Michigan**--MPRI outcomes through August 2007 -- 26% improvement in total returns to prison (net 400 fewer returns to prison)

• Proactive Community Supervision in Maryland
  – Regardless of criminal history and risk level, rates of rearrest and warrants filed for TVs significantly lower for parolees supervised under PCS strategy

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Does Release Discretion Matter?

- Solomon et al. (2005): Mandatory parolees fare no better on supervision than similar prisoners released without supervision
  - Releases by parole board were 4 percentage points less likely to be re-arrested
- Discretionary release is a powerful incentive
- Reentry models are generally designed to accommodate either kind of release
Resources

• Transition from Prison to Community Reentry Handbook: http://www.nicic.gov/Library/022669

• Putting Public Safety First

• UI on Reentry: http://www.urban.org/justice/index.cfm
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