



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

"Protecting You and Your Community"

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Governor

THOMAS J. BEAUCLAIR
Director

TRANSMITTAL #3

August 28, 2002

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Thomas J. Beauclair, Director, Department of Correction 
Brent D. Reinke, Director, Department of Juvenile Corrections 

SUBJECT: Idaho's Adult and Juvenile Reentry Initiative

ACTION REQUESTED: Formal Partnership involving the Workforce Development Council with the Departments of Correction and Juvenile Correction in comprehensive and collaborative reentry programming designed to return serious and violent young offenders under parole supervision to productive and crime-free lives in Idaho's communities.

The combined efforts of Department of Correction and Department of Juvenile Correction came to fruition when the U.S. Department of Justice Programs approved their joint application for a grant to fill in gaps in their agencies' respective reentry programs. The federal "Going Home: Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative" acknowledges the financial burden of crime and imprisonment to our states and nation. Ultimately, the initiative seeks to decrease these costs by providing effective programs that reduce recidivism. The federal initiative targets a particularly difficult population: offenders whose criminal histories and assessed risk factors indicate almost certain perpetuation of a cycle of crime, incarceration, parole violation/new crime, and re-imprisonment.

Idaho's \$2,000,000 grant (covering FY's 03—05) requires a collaborative approach involving diverse external partners. An abstract of Idaho's Adult and Juvenile Reentry Initiative follows:

*Idaho's State Plan for Effective Reentry of Young, Serious and Violent Offenders
Idaho Department of Correction and Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections*

The Idaho Department of Correction and Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections have jointly developed a state plan for the efficient and effective reentry of young, serious and violent offenders into society. This plan begins with an "Institutional Phase," during which time the offender is incarcerated in a correctional facility participating in programming and educational services essential to successful release. A "Transition Phase" follows, with the offender reentering the community under probation and/or parole supervision and accessing community services. Finally, a "Sustain Phase" arrives; the ex-offender has taken full responsibility for his or her behaviors and actions and has succeeded in becoming a contributing and productive member of society.

Reentry services and programming necessarily involves diverse partners from the public and private domains. Idaho's adult and juvenile correctional agencies have taken leading roles in developing a comprehensive and collaborative reentry plan for targeted offenders. The Advisory Committee on Correctional Education and Programs brought these stakeholders together to share the joint reentry plan on May 9, 2002.

By February 2002, several key decisionmakers from the Board of Correction, Department of Juvenile Corrections, Board of Education/Workforce Investment Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Parole Commission, and Department of Labor had signed a Memorandum of Understanding specifically regarding the education of inmates. This original document created the aforementioned Advisory Committee. Numerous interested parties—including the Governor's office, the Legislature, the state postsecondary education system, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Professional-technical Education, Department of Health and Welfare, and State Police—have attended meetings of this committee and contributed to committee recommendations. During its May 9, 2002, meeting the committee unanimously agreed to approve the concepts in the adult and juvenile corrections reentry plan and recommend appropriate parties to engage fully in the project's activities.

The Departments of Correction and Juvenile Corrections will use funding received under the "Going Home: Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative" to fill in gaps in reentry programming and services by contracting services to satisfy needs unmet by existing resources; to develop partnerships among the various agencies and community resources in order to improve continuity from institution-based to community-based program elements and services; and to improve accountability and the dissemination of needs, participation, and outcomes of offenders served by the initiative. Programming will address needs and criminogenic risk of the targeted population as identified through assessment. The reentry program will include more extensive substance abuse programming, mental health services, education, employability and workforce development opportunities, life skills programming, housing, counseling regarding triggers for criminal and antisocial behaviors, aftercare, and restitution/ restoration.

Key components in the Adult piece include Transition Parole Officers who will mentor offenders throughout all Phases of the reentry program. The Juvenile piece uses the Idaho Juvenile Offender Reintegration Services (IJORES) System, an individualized, strength-based program that involves community and state organizations through the purchase of service agreements coordinated by a Resource Broker.