

Strafford County Drug Court

Re-entry Services

Starfish Story

The Starfish Story

Original Story by: Loren Eiseley

One day a man was walking along the beach, when he noticed a boy hurriedly picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said,

"I made a difference to that one."



Learning Objectives

- ▶ What re-entry is and why it matters
- ▶ The role of re-entry in the case management continuum
- ▶ How re-entry services can reduce recidivism
- ▶ Goals of the re-entry component in case management
- ▶ Understanding how re-entry services are delivered



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters

Approximately 9 million individuals are released from jail each year (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

In a study that looked at recidivism in over 40 states, more than four in 10 offenders returned to state prison within three years of release (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

The incidence of serious mental illness is two to four times higher among prisoners than it is in the general population (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

In 2002, 68 percent of jail inmates met DSM criteria for drug abuse or dependence. Half were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

More than 10 percent of those entering prisons and jails were homeless prior to their incarceration. It's higher for those with mental illness (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

The prevalence of chronic illnesses and communicable diseases is far greater among people in jails and prisons (CSG, 2014).

Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

Two in five prison and jail inmates lack a high school diploma or its equivalent (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

Employment rates and earning histories for offenders are often low before incarceration due to limited education, low skills and little work history (CSG, 2014).



Re-entry: What it is and why it matters, cont'd

Since 1991, the number of children with mothers incarcerated has doubled, up 131 percent. The number with incarcerated fathers has grown by 77 percent (CSG, 2014).



The Re-entry Role

- ▶ To provide assistance in transition from incarceration to community based programs such as:
 - housing (transitional and permanent)
 - substance abuse treatment
 - counseling
 - education and employment services
 - wellness programs including support and mental health

It's all about the recidivism!

- ▶ Drug court clients represent a high risk/high needs population.
- ▶ Research indicates that high-risk clients reap the greatest benefits from interventions and services, while low-risk clients may actually experience worse outcomes as a result of these services (Lowenkamp & Latessa 2002).



Goals of Re-entry services

To assist in the jail-to-community transition while working closely with Community Corrections case management and Probation/Parole services.

Goals of Re-entry services, cont'd

Prevent over reliance on criminal justice resources as a means of survival.

Goals of Re-entry services, cont'd

Re-integrate offenders in to the community as self-sufficient, productive and law abiding citizens.

Re-entry service delivery

- ▶ Contacts within jail, court, office or community.
 - ▶ Make referrals to clients to community services.
 - ▶ Connect with referral services in the jail if applicable.
 - ▶ Act as liaison in the community for programs.
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Resources

The Council of State Governments.

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry>

Lowenkamp, C. T. & Latessa, E. 2002. *Evaluation of Ohio's Community-Based Correctional Facilities and Halfway House Programs*. Cincinnati, OH: University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research.

Warwick, K., Dodd, H. & Neusteter, S. R. (2012). *Case Management Strategies for Successful Jail Reentry*. National Institute of Corrections & Urban Institute Justice Policy Center.