

The Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy *Status Report Highlights*



SJR 126 Committee Meeting

November 15, 2006



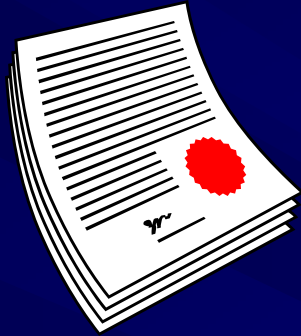
Code of Virginia 2.2-221.1



Directs the Secretary of Public Safety to establish an integrated system for coordinating the planning and provision of offender transitional and reentry services among and between state, local, and nonprofit agencies in order to prepare inmates for successful transition upon release from incarceration and for improving opportunities for treatment, employment, and housing while on subsequent probation, parole, or post-release supervision.

National Governors Association Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy Initiative

- Virginia selected as one of seven states in Spring 2004
- Brought together team of experts from various agencies involved in reentry
- NGA provided guidance on developing effective prisoner reentry strategies designed to increase public safety while reducing the costs of recidivism
- Goal of improving transition programs and services
- Subcommittees established to focus on key areas and barriers to successful reentry



Executive Order #22

June 2006

Established the Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy

1. Provide ongoing coordination at the executive level of reentry initiatives across the state
2. Explore programs that will aid with offender reintegration
3. Address policies and practices that impede successful reintegration
4. Work collaboratively to implement new policies and procedures
5. Submit a status report of actions taken to improve offender transitional and reentry services to the Governor and Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees no later than November 15 of each year.

Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy Meeting



Greensville Correctional Center
October 20, 2006

Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy Meeting

- Addressed the issue of prisoner reentry on the national, state, and local level
- Attendees included representatives of:
 - Governor's Cabinet
 - Policy Academy Members
 - Policy Academy Subcommittees
 - SJR126 committee members
 - Law Enforcement
 - Community Action Groups
- Included tours of DCE vocational programs (electricity, HVAC/refrigeration, and upholstery) and VCE furniture production shop



Secretary Marshall addresses over 100 attendees at first official meeting of the Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy



Thomas MacLellan of the National Governors Association presents on the national challenge of prisoner reentry



State agency representatives provided an overview of state programs and services relating to prisoner reentry



Christine Eacho, DOC



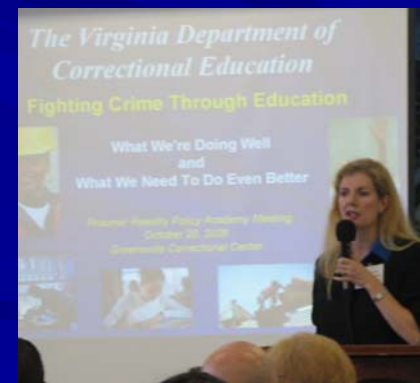
Barry Green, DJJ



Don Guillory, VCE



Scott Richeson, DOC



Gwynne Cunningham, DCE

Pat Smith of Jefferson Area Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR) discusses local reentry efforts



Jane Brown of DSS introduces local
Social Services Directors, who shared
unique aspects of their local pilot
reentry programs



Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy Subcommittees

- Housing, Financial Obligations and Financial Resources
 - Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Medical Issues
 - Employment and Education
 - Social Reintegration
-
- Committees continue to meet quarterly
 - Five pilot reentry sites are utilizing subcommittee recommendations in the development of local reentry programs

Upcoming Events:

Office of the Secretary of Public Safety will host a statewide conference on prisoner reentry in Spring 2007

Conference will include informational and educational sessions designed to:

- Stimulate ideas and solutions
- Provide networking opportunities
- Advance collaboration



Upcoming Activities:

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) Grant

“Designed to reduce recidivism by helping offenders find work and access other critical services”



- DCJS coordinating Virginia's application
- Plan is to support five reentry pilot projects, potential expansion to additional sites
- Grants to be announced in early 2007

The Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy: Where do we go from here?

- Office of Secretary of Public Safety will continue to focus on issues surrounding prisoner reentry and provide leadership to identify and coordinate initiatives and resources
- The Academy will encourage exploration of effective programs that will aid with offender transition
- Will continue to direct those involved with this issue to address policies and practices that impede successful reintegration

The Virginia Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy: Where do we go from here?

- The Academy will continue to work collaboratively to implement new policies and procedures
- Four subcommittees will continue to meet quarterly and provide guidance and support to local pilot programs
- Five local pilot reentry programs are underway - program evaluation will advise continuation and modification
- Additional local pilot programs to be developed based on successes of initial pilots

Members of Virginia's Prisoner Reentry Policy Academy offer:

- Our thanks to the members of SJR126 for
 - Bringing attention to this important issue
 - Providing a public forum in which all stakeholders have shared their ideas and concerns relating to reentry.
- Opportunity for Legislative and Executive Branches to work collaboratively together to strengthen the Commonwealth's system to support the successful reintegration of former offenders into our communities

