



DOC Accomplishments

In an effort to educate sentencing judges, district attorneys and public defenders about the State Intermediate Punishment program and the Recidivism Risk Reduction Initiative (RRRI), department officials, in March 2011, developed checklists to be used by these individuals to determine an offender's eligibility for these two sentences. In addition, to answer any questions individuals may have regarding offender eligibility, the DOC created an e-mail address to which such questions may be sent. Since distribution of the checklists and the creation of the e-mail account, the DOC has received positive feedback.

- The goal of these initiatives is to have a larger number of SIP eligible offenders be referred by the courts to the department for evaluation as only 29 percent of eligible offenders are currently referred.
- Offenders who meet the eligibility criterion for receiving a RRRI minimum must be given this sentence; thus it is critical that all parties understand and follow the legislative criterion for state-sentenced offenders who are to receive a RRRI minimum sentence.
- Thus far, the SIP and RRRI initiatives combined have saved taxpayers \$44 million dollars and have had no detrimental impact on public safety.

Since the implementation Act 84 of 1998, the DOC has collected more than \$42 million in victim restitution and other court ordered fines, fees, costs, penalties and reparations from state prison inmates. Since 2004, when collections began for the Crime Victims Fund, the DOC collected more than \$4 million from inmates.

From 1995 through 2010, the Department has assisted non-profit organizations and other state agencies complete community work projects with those organizations realizing cumulative savings of upwards of \$50 million as a result. Inmates on the supervised work crews perform a variety of duties, from debris clean up in state parks to painting fire department buildings. In addition, during summer months, all facilities put their crews to work picking up litter from along state roadways.

In 2010, the DOC reduced staffing of perimeter towers at its five prisons that have such towers. All staff was reassigned to either the perimeter security patrol or to positions inside the perimeter. The DOC estimates that it saves \$2.6 million annually through this initiative.

Efforts to reduce and control overtime has saved the department \$3.6 million to date.

In the area of inmate health care, the DOC is saving taxpayer money by consolidating medical services at certain prisons rather than sending inmates out for treatment. This would include Hepatitis C liver biopsies being performed at SCI Dallas (\$17,000 savings in 2010); Hepatitis C treatment program at SCIs, Dallas, Forest and Muncy (\$305,000 savings annually); a dialysis center at SCI Laurel Highlands (\$2.6 million total savings); treatment of hemophiliac inmates at SCI Pittsburgh (\$2 million total savings); and oncology services at SCI Graterford (\$1.1 million savings in 2010).

Since 1999, inmates have been charged a medical co-pay. Beginning at \$3 per medical visit, this fee was increased several years ago to \$5. Inmates who have medical insurance pay for their own medical needs through that insurance. Co-pays are charged for non-emergency sick calls, self-inflicted injury or illness, initial prescriptions, injuries as the result of an assault and injury or illness as a result of participation in a sport. Since the DOC began charging medical co-pays, the DOC has received more than \$414,000 from inmates.

Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics

PA Department of Corrections , P. O. Box 598, Camp Hill , PA 17001-0598 Telephone (717) 975-4970
Tom Corbett
Governor

John Wetzel
Secretary-designee of Corrections

The DOC continues to seek ways to reduce spending and to increase efficiency. Earlier this month, Secretary-designee Wetzel encouraged all DOC employees to submit cost-savings ideas. A special e-mail account was created to receive such suggestions. So far, DOC employees have suggested some 400 ideas, all of which are being reviewed.

Providing Services Aimed to Enhance Offender Success:

The number of inmates receiving alcohol and other drug treatment continues to increase. In 2010, more than 18,000 had received treatment either in a state prison or a community corrections setting. This is up from 13,800 in 2006.

In 2010, more than 1,700 inmates earned their GED. Also, more than 10,000 were enrolled in academic programs and another 3,600 were participating in vocational programs.

Presently more than 45,500 of the 51,000 inmates are assigned jobs, whether those jobs are general prison jobs or Correctional Industries jobs.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners Grant (Big Brothers Big Sisters)

- One in 28 children in the United States has a parent incarcerated.
- The children of incarcerated parents are up to 6 times more likely themselves to be incarcerated.
- The Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) model is a proven approach to assisting at-risk children develop critical skills and pro-social relationships.
- The Department, 26 BBBS chapters from across the Commonwealth, and Dr. Wilson Goode are partnering to offer a program funded through a competitive grant, which allows us to identify state offenders' minor children and connect them with "Bigs" in their communities. We are in the first year of a three-year project and have received a very good response thus far.

Certified Peer Support Specialists

- Over 22,000 (43%) of the Department's 51,000 offenders, have or have had mental health issues and/or treatment in their lives.
- In partnership with the Department of Public Welfare and the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the department will train 100 state inmates as Forensic Peer Support Specialists. The inmates selected as peer supports will be carefully screened and provided with intensive training which will allow them to be tested for certification in this field. Once certified, the peer support specialists will work with mentally ill offenders in the Department's special needs units.
- Offenders receiving the peer support credentials also qualify for the civil service position of the same name. Thus, this initiative has multiple benefits including: providing meaningful opportunities to engage prison inmates in pro-social activities, assisting in the smooth operations within the prisons and opening up employment opportunities for offenders upon release from prison.