

**Lycoming County  
Reentry Coalition  
Five Year  
Strategic Plan  
2016 – 2021**

**Officially Adopted by the Lycoming County CJAB on June 24, 2016**

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## **BACKGROUND**

Ex-Offender reentry has been a focus of the Lycoming County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) for a number of years and in 2014, the CJAB created a Prison Population Management Subcommittee. The focus of that subcommittee was to take a closer look at both the prison population and ex-offender reentry in order to make recommendations to the CJAB to be used in the updating of the overall CJAB Strategic Plan.

After discussion and planning, the subcommittee identified three main priorities to focus on:

- To develop a Reentry Coalition to formalize the reentry planning process for county and state inmates
  - To write and implement a five year reentry strategic plan
- Create a system-wide definition of recidivism
- Conduct a three-year recidivism study to establish a county-wide recidivism rate to utilize as a bench mark for moving forward

These identified priorities were incorporated into the Lycoming County CJAB Strategic Plan that was adopted by the board in December of 2014.

Consequently, in February 2015, Lycoming County applied for and was awarded a Reentry Strategic Planning grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). As result, the county partnered with Dr. Kerry Richmond, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice-Criminology at Lycoming College, to help facilitate the analysis of the county's reentry system along with developing a county-wide Reentry Plan.

As part of the analysis and planning process, CJAB members took a close look at the prison population. An examination of the Lycoming County inmate population showed that in 2015, there were a total of 2,651 commitments to the Lycoming County Prison (LCP). Of these, 1,980 commitments were male and 671 female.

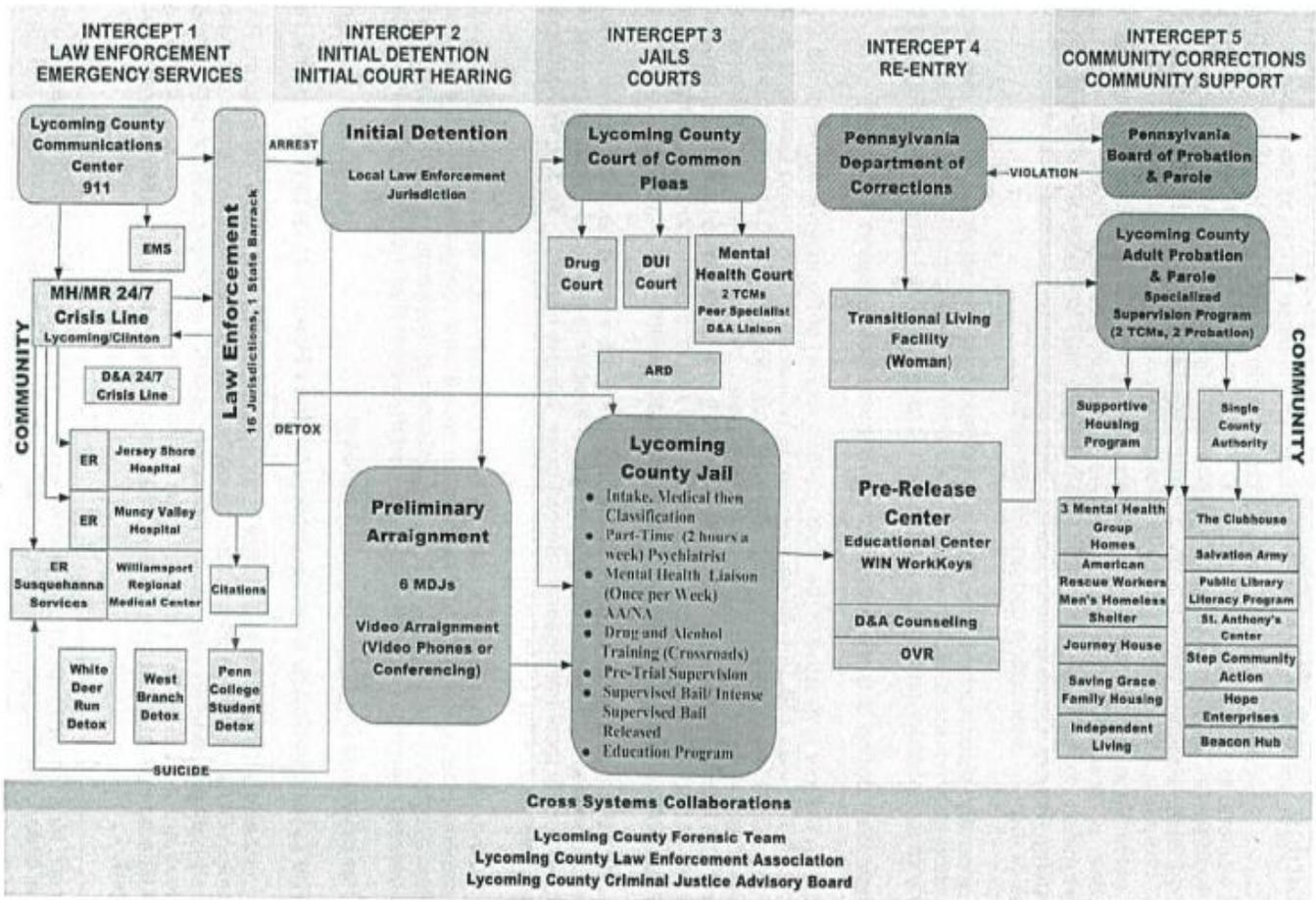
In order to start address Lycoming County's reentry needs, in 2011, Lycoming County developed a Cross Systems Mapping that is included in this reentry plan. This process focused on justice-involved people with mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders, and provided an opportunity for participants to visualize how mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice systems intersect in serving this group.

A Draft Local Map, based on the *Sequential Intercept Model* (Munetz & Griffin, 2006), was developed. This map identifies opportunities and resources for diverting people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use out of the criminal justice system at five different points, by instead connecting them with appropriate treatment and support services. A copy of this map is contained in Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1: LYCOMING COUNTY CROSS SYSTEMS MAP  
Lycoming County Cross-Systems Map

Lycoming County, PA Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence Report, May 2011

Lycoming County Cross Systems Map



The following charts outline the numbers of commitments, releases, and average length of stay at LCP from 2011 through the first quarter of 2016. In the past 5 years the commitment and release populations has increased significantly as you can see in charts 1 and 2. One of the challenges posed is the average length of stay. Over half the population is committed for less than 2 weeks. This in turn creates several problems including not having enough time to provide programing and continuity of care.

Chart 1

**COMMITMENTS**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
	189	238	253	234									914
2016	187	181	298	251	243	239	255	213	195	208	176	205	2651
2015	210	209	242	234	234	220	216	213	204	213	165	221	2581
2014	212	207	168	217	235	227	216	204	184	217	201	168	2456
2013	242	218	191	194	232	202	186	234	170	218	212	176	2475
2012	209	150	191	199	195	209	157	194	220	214	195	218	2351
2011													

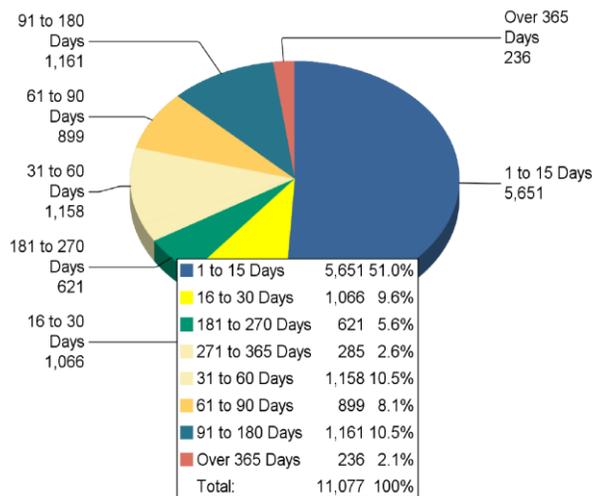
Chart 2

**RELEASES**

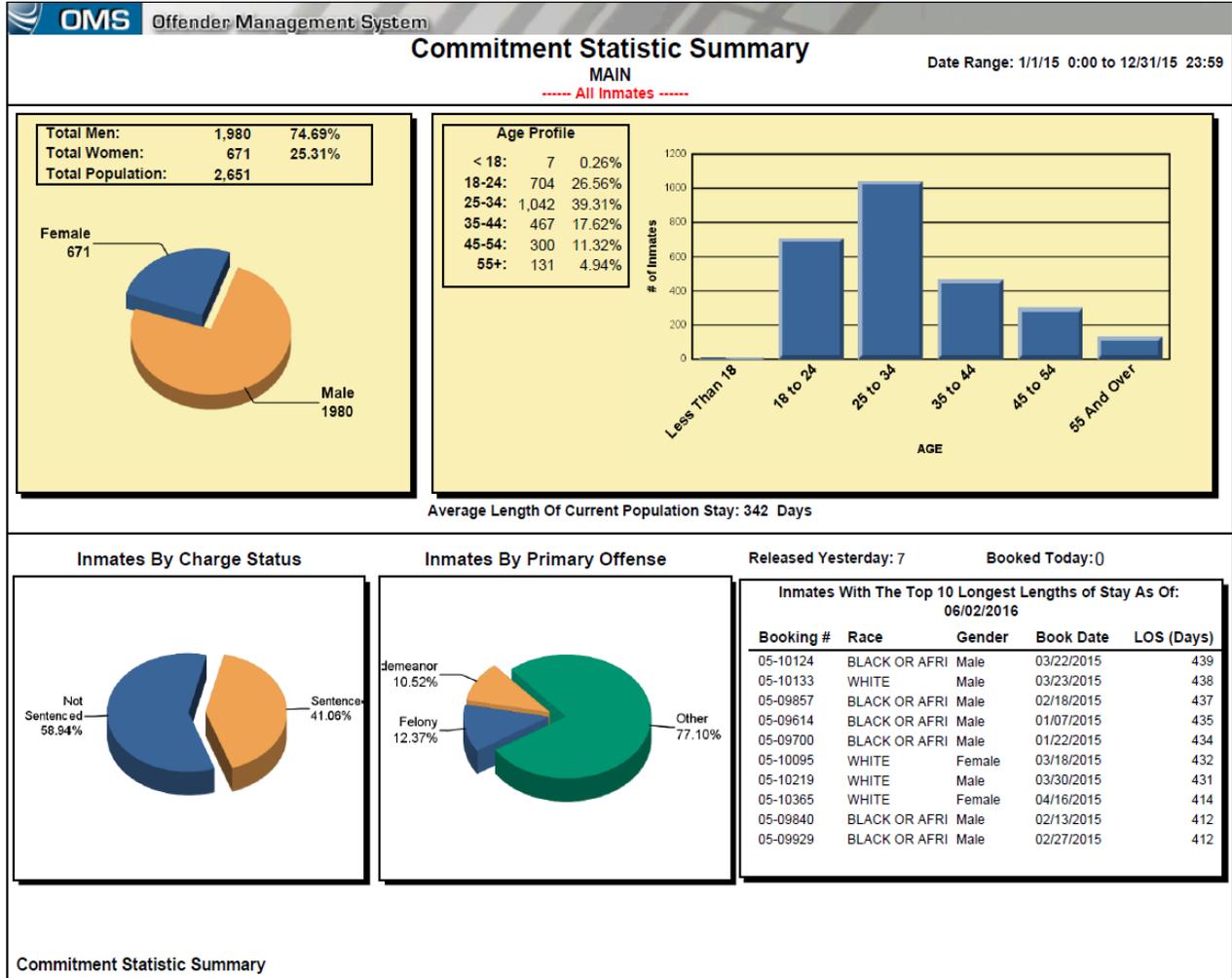
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
	207	245	223	229									904
2016	178	185	263	228	271	226	244	230	212	199	172	206	2614
2015	189	213	239	241	210	200	212	185	203	224	183	245	2544
2014	200	200	183	193	210	215	191	232	212	230	187	169	2422
2013	215	212	205	177	203	198	194	206	190	214	200	223	2437
2012	176	167	165	182	209	187	175	196	234	209	211	233	2344
2011													

Chart 3

**AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY - 01/01/12 - 04/30/16**



The following additional information provides a more detailed picture of the inmates housed at LCP during 2015. As shown, the majority of the population are male and between the ages of 25-34.



\*The “Other” category displayed in the Inmate by Primary Offense graph demonstrates a portion of our population that are court ordered returns, bench warrants, parole violators, costs & fines, domestic contempt, fugitives from justice, Summaries, PFA’s and on a limited occasion US Marshall/Military holds.

### Inmates By Marital Status

	Male	Female	Total
Divorced	124	49	173
Married	244	90	334
SEPARATED	54	22	76
SINGLE	1,506	482	1,988
WIDOWED	10	8	18
Undefined	42	20	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>2,651</b>

### Inmates By Charge Status & Offense

	Male			Female			Total
	Not Sentenced	Sentenced	Total	Not Sentenced	Sentenced	Total	
Felony	187	114	259	56	14	69	328
Misdemeanor	140	119	229	32	24	50	279
Other	846	721	1,492	379	207	552	2,044
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>2,651</b>

\* The “other” category displayed in the chart above demonstrate a portion of our population that are court ordered returns, bench warrants, parole violators, costs & fines, domestic contempt, fugitives from justice, Summaries, PFA’s and on a limited occasion US Marshall/Military holds.

## **Barriers to Reentry**

Prior to the Reentry Coalition Steering Committee kick-off meeting, the county prison and adult probation office under the direction of Dr. Richmond collected basic inmate release data. This information was collected to determine the needs of the prison population and was then summarized to the entire group during the kick-off meeting. This information is significant because it helps us focus our efforts on the strategic plan process.

A trial point-in-time survey of Lycoming County Prison inmates was conducted. In July and August 2015, individuals released from the Lycoming County Prison were asked to complete a survey to get an ex-offender's perspective on reentry in Lycoming County. Seventy-three surveys were completed (**75%** were sentenced; **25%** were pre-trial). The following information was collected:

Demographic and criminal history information:

- **71%** male, **81%** white, **74%** single
- Median age: **27**
- **37%** struggle with a drug addiction and **25%** struggle with alcohol addiction
- **71%** have a prior criminal history
- **76%** have served time at Lycoming County Prison before (median – 3 times)
- **84.9% were returning to Lycoming County**
  - **51%** were returning to Williamsport

Characteristics impacting reintegration:

- **41%** were employed prior to being incarcerated
- **63%** received food stamps and **74%** received medical assistance
- **33%** were going back to their own home/apartment and **42%** were going to live with a family member
- **45%** have a driver's license
- Only **35%** have own car
- **78%** have a high diploma or GED
- **44%** were taking prescription medications

When asked what types of services would be most helpful upon leaving Lycoming County Prison, the responses were:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Assistance finding employment
- Job training
- Food
- Medical and dental care services
- Drug treatment
- Clothing
- Programming

Furthermore, during the first couple of Reentry Coalition meetings, members identified common reentry issues, barriers, and challenges which included the following:

- Lack of a thorough evaluation and comprehensive needs assessment
- Lack of housing / lack of affordable housing– including sober living options
- Lack of transportation which makes it difficult to attend AA Meetings, treatment sessions, and mandated appointments
- Long waiting list for mental health services after release
- Insufficient drug/alcohol treatment options
- Difficulty in finding employment due to lack of transportation, stigma of being an ex-offender, lack of experience/education
- Not having insurance or medical assistance upon release
- Lack of immediate access to medications upon release
- Not having mentors, peer supports, sponsors, natural supports
- Being lonely and bored (risk factors for relapse)
- Difficulties in regaining family support and rebuilding family trust
- A need for more family counseling services
- The individual's own readiness for change-Accessible Cognitive Behavioral Therapy programming
- Disconnects and lack of coordination among support services
- Lack of structure/requirements for those placed on ARD
- Programs need to address underlying trauma, violence and other issues
- Need to address stigma in the community and lack of community support
- Reentry planning needs to begin at prison intake
- Services need to be individualized, not one size fits all
- Programs should have levels of “step down” in services and requirements so people aren't in an intensive program and then suddenly “discharged” – use “as needed” status
- Programs and individuals need to have a long-term focus
- Programs need long-term follow-up

Additionally, the Reentry Coalition identified both immediate and long-term needs of ex-offenders:

*Immediate Needs:*

- Identification (birth certificate, social security card)
- Health insurance
- Transportation
- Clothing
- Prescription drugs
- Food
- Housing
- Support network/peer mentoring
- Educational services
- Hope
- Money
- Employment

- Ways to communicate (i.e. phone, computer, etc.)

#### *Long-Term Needs*

- Information-sharing (between various agencies that they are receiving services from)
- Mentoring
- Sustainability
- Identification of goals invested in
- Child care
- Financial training
- Job training/opportunities
- Follow-up (people checking in on them to see how they are doing)
- Maintaining motivation
- How to overcome obstacles

### **PERCEPTIONS ON RECIDIVISM**

Recidivism, or the occurrence of repeat criminal behavior, is commonly used as a measure of effectiveness in criminal justice. Having data on which individuals continue to engage in criminal behavior, after completing a sanction handed out by the criminal justice system, provides criminal justice administrators with a better understanding of what types of offenders are high-risk. This knowledge allows for more targeted interventions to be developed which address the cause of repeat behavior and provides baseline data to determine whether these interventions are effective. Collecting recidivism data can lead to a better understanding of what types of individuals are cycling through the system and can be used to improve outcomes, increase public safety and reduce spending over time.

In May of 2015, Lycoming County embarked on a recidivism study, which focused on the outcomes of sentenced individuals (for a felony conviction, DUI or probation violation) who have been released from the Lycoming County Prison, in addition to individuals who have successfully completed a period of probation supervision in the county. Recidivism can be defined in many different ways, but for this study and for use as a tool to improve reentry planning in the county, it is being defined as any re-arrest, re-conviction or re-incarceration for either a new felony offense or a technical violation of probation or parole (within Lycoming County). Recidivism will be measured one and three years after release (or completion of probation supervision). The study is utilizing inmate records, probation data and court records as methods of data collection. The study is being conducted by the Department of Criminal Justice-Criminology at Lycoming College, with input from the Warden of the Lycoming County Prison and Chief of Lycoming County Adult Probation.

### **LYCOMING COUNTY REENTRY PLANNING PROCESS**

Given the magnitude and wide-ranging needs of the reentry population, it is essential to coordinate and concentrate community efforts. Although there are many services in Lycoming County that can benefit ex-offenders, there is not a coordinated way to access services, nor an effective way to inform ex-offenders of the service options.

In February 2015, Lycoming County was awarded a Reentry Strategic Planning grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). As result, the county partnered with Dr. Kerry Richmond, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice-Criminology at Lycoming College, to help facilitate the analysis of the county's reentry system along with developing a county-wide reentry plan.

Under the direction of Dr. Richmond, Lycoming County performed a county-wide offender services assessment to identify strengths and weaknesses in the service delivery system and lead to strengthening areas in need of additional support. Regular monthly meetings were held to obtain community-wide stakeholder participation in learning about the state of reentry locally and to set strategic reentry planning priorities and strategies for Lycoming County in the reentry plan.

Over the summer of 2015, the Reentry Coalition Steering Committee met to identify organizations – both non-profit and governmental – to invite to be part of the assessment and planning process.

On October 20, 2015, the Reentry Coalition Steering Committee hosted a kick-off meeting on the campus of Lycoming College with almost 100 individuals attending.

To educate attendees and the community, Lycoming County Prison Warden Kevin DeParlos and Deputy Warden of Inmate Services Chris Ebner provided prison statistics. Chief Adult Probation Officer Ed McCoy talked about the local probation and parole data.

At the second meeting on November 19, 2015, local service agencies presented on the needs of specific populations including women and individuals with a mental health diagnosis and/or drug and alcohol addiction. Two returning citizens – one male and one female – talked about the barriers they faced when returning back into the community.

The group discussed various directories that include information on agencies, programs, and the resources in the county that can provide services to ex-offenders. A resource mapping subcommittee was created to begin work on compiling services that individuals need to be connected to while incarcerated, at release, and then while in the community.

A second subcommittee was created to draft both a vision and mission statement for the Re-Entry Coalition.

The Reentry Coalition continued to meet on a regular basis to facilitate ex-offender reentry and serves as a subcommittee of the Lycoming County CJAB. Furthermore, in June of 2016, Lycoming County contracted with Jennifer McPherson to provide reentry coordinator services including the management of the Reentry Coalition.

### **S.W.O.T Analysis**

In addition to identifying reentry issues, barriers, and challenges, the reentry Coalition took part in a small group exercise to identify and discuss “influential factors” that could impact efforts to improve reentry in Lycoming County. The “influential factors” that were identified fell into

several categories: protective factors and risk factors, barriers & supports, and policies & priorities that could impact reentry efforts. The input gathered through these small group exercises, along with input from previous meetings was essentially a S.W.O.T. Analysis that yielded a basic list of strengths and weaknesses related to reentry in Lycoming County. These elements are outlined below:

### *Strengths*

- Large variety of resources available in the community
- Availability of alternative and diversionary programs
- Strong faith-based community
- Strong interagency relationships because of being a small community
- Pennsylvania College of Technology & Lycoming College
  - Use of student helpers, interns, faculty and staff to education the community
- Susquehanna Health and it's multiple services
- Availability of transportation system
- Invested police force
- Probation and Parole (state & county) opportunities
- Relationships with local businesses
- Availability of entry-level jobs
- LSI-R/assessment
- Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) funding
- Development of reentry coalition

### *Weaknesses*

- Services which are limited and inconsistent
- Overburdened agencies dealing with a lack of funds and a lack of staff
- Lack of career training and hiring programs
- Need more business support and employment opportunities
- Lack of communication, collaboration and coordination among agencies
- Negative public perception about issue/stigma/racial divisiveness
- Organizations have rules that make it difficult to access service/resources
- Need more prevention programs – intervene quicker, sooner, younger
- Lack of affordable/available housing
- Lack of peer mentoring services
- Lack of connection to mental health services
- Need a more user-friendly system to access services
- Creating more resources for the ever increasing needs – homeless, drugs
- Individual's failure to take responsibility
- Lack of evidence-based programs
- Lack of public education regarding reentry
- Lack of funding
- Lack of prison process to identify inmate needs

## **First Steps**

With the creation of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition, there has been an intensified focus on the challenges that ex-offenders are faced with upon their release. By bringing together representatives from the criminal justice system, social service agencies, and the community at large, the Reentry Coalition seeks to develop responses to these challenges and assist individuals being released from confinement in making a successful return to the community.

Through the development of this Strategic Reentry Plan a number of “first steps” have been taken. These steps are outlined below:

- With the creation of the Reentry Coalition, a collaborative and diverse group has been brought together to focus on assisting inmates in making a successful return to the community.
- The Reentry Coalition, through a process of consensus, crafted and adopted shared vision and mission statements for offender reentry and developed a scope statement that defines the target population.
- As part of reentry planning, the Lycoming County Prison initiated an Inmate Recidivism Study under the direction of Dr. Richmond, that when completed and reviewed, will form the basis for continued monitoring of recidivism of Lycoming County inmates and be used as a benchmark for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the re-entry plan.
- Initiated a process to implement the risk/needs assessment, the LSI-R.
- Initiated a process to identify existing reentry practices, resources, and gaps in Lycoming County.
- Identified a comprehensive list of resources available to ex-offenders and put together that information in different formats, written and online, that are readily accessible to ex-offenders and their support system.
- Began researching evidence-based reentry practices.
- Lycoming County Adult Probation Office employed criminal justice unified case management system.

## **Vision**

The vision of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition is to provide every individual / ex-offender with the support, tools, and knowledge needed to successfully and safely return to the community and through their own initiative, remain offense free.

*Adopted June 16, 2016*

## **Mission**

The mission of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition is to facilitate and support the successful return of incarcerated individuals to the community. In partnership with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders, the Reentry Coalition will utilize a holistic approach that includes an emphasis on education, families, health services,

treatment, employment, mentorship and housing. In pursuing this mission, we shall improve lives, reduce recidivism, and enhance public safety.

*Adopted June 16, 2016*

### **Scope and Target Population**

The Lycoming County Reentry Coalition serves ex-offenders who are residents of Lycoming County or residents who are returning to Lycoming County after being incarcerated in another jurisdiction.

*Adopted June 16, 2016*

### **Goals**

The primary goal of the Lycoming County Reentry Coalition is to enhance the successful return of individuals to the community and thereby reduce recidivism. For purposes of this program, recidivism is defined as the return of any individual who received a county sentence of imprisonment, is released, and is subsequently incarcerated within three years of release.

*Adopted June 16, 2016*

#### *Themes Regarding Goals*

- Better coordination between services
- Connect individuals with services prior to release
- Increase access to services
- Reduce recidivism
- Develop mentoring relationships with people who have been successful
- Increase access to affordable housing
- Provide more opportunities and support for employment
- Instilling hope

### **Strategies**

The Lycoming County Reentry Coalition will utilize the following strategies to fulfill its stated mission.

1. Create an identification process that includes a risk/needs assessment. The Level of Service Inventory- Revised (LSI-R) was initiated by the Lycoming County Prison and Adult Probation on November 11, 2015. The LSI-R is an objective, quantifiable instrument that provides a consistent and valid method of predicting risk to re-offend, and a reliable means of measuring offender change over time, through reassessment.
2. Ensure/develop collaboration, communication, and coordination among the Lycoming County Prison, Lycoming County Adult Probation Office, the Lycoming County Office of MH/ID, West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, faith-based organizations, and social service providers to offer seamless access to needed services.
3. Continue to identify/review gaps in the system on an ongoing basis and work with community and faith-based organizations to fill them (community case management, housing, drug and alcohol, mental health, mentoring, etc.).
4. Utilize grant funding to build the capacity of the community and faith-based organizations wherever possible.

5. Adopt a triage approach to prioritize interventions based on where resources are most needed or are most likely to be successful. The triage approach is a two-step process. The first involves using a validated brief screening tool to identify those inmates which are at greater risk to recidivate. The second is to administer a full assessment to those who are a higher risk to recidivate in order to identify the needs that must be targeted to reduce recidivism.
6. Focus on evidence-based programs and services such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and other programs that have been proven to be effective.
7. Provide services specifically targeted to the risk level of each participant.
8. Address root causes of recidivism and provide root cause solutions where possible.
9. Increase public awareness of the value and benefits of an effective reentry system through public speaking engagements, public service announcements, the posting of reentry information online, and so on.

### Summary of Strategic Action Areas

Focus Area	Strategic Goals	Strategic Objectives
<b>Assess Inmate / Ex-Offender Risks and Needs</b>	Accurately assess inmate’s risks and needs in order to provide comprehensive, integrated and holistic reentry services to incarcerated citizens returning to Lycoming County.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilize the LSI-R to screen individuals upon commitment to LCP to identify those at higher risk to reoffend.</li> <li>2. Utilize LSI-R to identify needs that need to be targeted to reduce recidivism.</li> <li>3. Provide adequate staffing to adequately assess inmate risks &amp; needs.</li> <li>4. Promote evidence based programs that address criminogenic needs to enhance the success of ex-offenders.</li> </ol>
<b>Develop Comprehensive Reentry Plans w/ Inmate/Ex-Offender</b>	Develop reentry plans that identify and address as many issue areas as possible upon release.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with inmates as early as possible to develop reentry plans.</li> <li>2. Provide adequate staffing &amp; support services to work with inmates prior to release.</li> <li>3. Develop a reentry class for inmates and provide resource information well before their release date.</li> <li>4. Work with DHS to reinstate benefits to ex-offenders as soon as possible after release, and work with providers to have D&amp;A and/or MH services scheduled prior to release.</li> <li>5. Maintain county resource guide and provide at time of release.</li> </ol>
<b>Educate and Gain Buy-In</b>	Educate members of the coalition, key stakeholders,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify the biggest challenges facing ex-offenders and educate the coalition and</li> </ol>

Focus Area	Strategic Goals	Strategic Objectives
	employers, and the community at large on challenges facing returning citizens and gain buy-in from all levels in assisting returning citizens to overcome those challenges and make a successful return to the community.	<p>stakeholders on those challenges.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Educate ex-offenders on available resources and their role in reentry.</li> <li>3. Educate the community on reentry activities, available resources, issues, and needs.</li> <li>4. Be prepared for negative/bad responses to reentry efforts.</li> </ol>
<b>Increase and Coordinate Resources &amp; Programs for Ex-Offenders</b>	Expand the availability of resources for ex-offenders and coordinate program and service delivery.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop and implement a coordinated referral process for the timely delivery of services to ex-offenders.</li> <li>2. Develop a mentoring program for ex-offenders.</li> <li>3. Develop a strong funding plan for our reentry objectives.</li> <li>4. Implement a process to assure all defendants are aware of collateral consequences that will accompany a guilty plea prior to sentencing.</li> <li>5. Create a data collection and reporting process.</li> <li>6. Streamline the earned time and parole processes.</li> </ol>

**The Re-entry coalition determined the best approach to serving the needs of ex-offenders returning to the community was to develop collaboration among community providers. Subcommittees were developed and focused specifically on these areas: education, employment, family/peer support and personal needs, healthcare, housing, mental health and substance abuse. The goals and objectives of each subcommittee are outlined below.**

**Subcommittee Goals:**

Focus Area	Strategic Goals	Strategic Objectives
<b>Education</b>	To establish relationships with post-secondary schools so that they can recruit qualified and interested candidates to post – secondary schools while individuals are incarcerated in the Lycoming County Prison. Qualified inmates must not only show interest in attending the post-secondary school but have the necessary aptitudes for successfully completion of training opportunities	To show inmates the possible opportunities that can be gained by pursuing a post- secondary education and how it can help them in their re-entry process.
<b>Employment</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a comprehensive assessment process to identify those inmates most likely to retain employment gained through work release.</li> <li>2. Increase number of inmates leaving with jobs or employed within 60 days.</li> <li>3. Increase employer awareness/education on risk/reward of hiring ex-offenders to increase job placement rates.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop soft skills training to be offered at PRC</li> <li>○ Identify and implement a suitability/soft skills assessment</li> <li>○ Develop internal process to identify those inmates most likely to succeed on work release</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify employer partners</li> <li>○ Offer employer seminars to educate employers on re-entry including employer testimonials</li> <li>○ Engage organizations such as; SHRM &amp; Chamber</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop additional job readiness and soft</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

<b>Employment (Continued)</b>		<p>skills training to be offered at PRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Give inmates an appointment for the Careerlink that is within 48 hours of release</li> <li>○ Develop internal procedures to ensure all PRC inmates have a resume template prior to release</li> </ul>
<b>Family/Peer Support &amp; Personal Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Identify potential family or peer support system</li> <li>● Identify issues that caused breakdown</li> <li>● Build trust</li> <li>● Identify and obtain basic needs or agency names, address and phone numbers for contact once inmate is released.</li> </ul>	<p>Insure inmates have necessary documents upon release.</p>
<b>Health Care</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Enlist/Invite area health care/related agency representatives to participate in the Healthcare Reentry coalition</li> <li>2) Establish formal referral protocol with LCP/APO/Courts and River Valley Health and Dental clinic to screen all reentry clients.</li> <li>3) Identify the healthcare needs of justice-involved veterans with local veterans groups with representation on health care subcommittee</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Educate/Inform all healthcare personnel from health systems and allied health offices in Reentry Coalition priorities and build health care coalition.</li> <li>2) Collaborate with medical benefits providers on training/orientation of criminal justice personnel on appropriate referral procedures.</li> <li>3) Identify a barrier-free process for health care referral/screening for veterans who are referred by Courts/APO/LCP.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Housing</b></p>	<p>To provide transitional housing for men and female at county level</p> <p>Increase access to transitional leading to permanent housing</p>	<p>Secure funding for housing/transitional housing and casework</p> <p>Transitional housing provides training that would lead to permanent housing</p> <p>Provide some degree of assurance to landlords through required transitional housing training</p> <p>Provide casework during and following transitional housing</p> <p>Reach out to agencies to secure mentorship programs (churches, groups, agencies) upon release from prison</p>
<p><b>Mental Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify high risk / high need offenders with significant Mental Health needs</li> <li>• Once identified increase access to MH treatment and follow up for those interested or court ordered to treatment</li> <li>• Provide opportunities prior to release to engage in MH Treatment and establish community connections for reentry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase use of all tools to quickly identify this targeted population</li> <li>• Increase Mental Health First Aid(MHFA) training for prison staff , volunteers and MH Forensic Peer Support Specialist</li> <li>• Increase access to MH insurance coverage</li> <li>• Coordinate referrals for MH treatment and medications</li> <li>• Increase community MH resources coming into the prison</li> <li>• Increase community MH resource connections outside the prison</li> </ul>
<p><b>Substance Abuse</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Access of Vivitrol at LCP</li> <li>• Expansion of treatment services at LCP</li> <li>• Expand the Jail to Treatment Program</li> <li>• Improve Coordination of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Alkermes representative to obtain Vivitrol for LCP</li> <li>• Start Inmates on Vivitrol prior to release</li> <li>• Arrange for continuing care prior to release</li> <li>• Identify/Utilize a Mobile Case Manager (WBDAAC)</li> <li>• Develop curriculum for treatment services to be provided at LCP</li> </ul>

<b>Substance Abuse (Continued)</b>	<p>Services for those being released</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify potential funding sources</li> <li>• Improve communication amongst state holders</li> <li>• Monitor outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Case Manager will attend PV hearings to identify appropriate individuals for programs and expedite assessments</li> <li>• Hold <i>semi-annual</i> meetings for stakeholders</li> <li>• Track number of individuals placed into programming</li> </ul>
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**Research and Evaluation**

To be able to evaluate the success of our reentry efforts, an effective system to collect and evaluate data will be created and maintained. A subcommittee of the Reentry Coalition will work with Lycoming College to prepare a data collection plan that will include the following:

- Determining what data needs to be recorded and how it is to be collected.
- Determining when the data will be collected.
- Drafting an initial data evaluation plan.
- Identifying who is responsible for the interpretation of the data.
- Determining who will have access to the data and its evaluation.

Evidence-based practices will be utilized for programming and new strategies will be researched to ensure the most effective programs are being utilized. By having a sturdy foundation and an effective plan to evaluate data, programming, and the effectiveness of our reentry strategies, an efficient and evolving process will be developed to sustain our efforts.

**Funding**

The Ad Hoc Grant Writing Subcommittee of the Lycoming County CJAB will work with the Reentry Coalition to identify funding needs and research grant opportunities and seek other funding sources to expand reentry services.

**Action Steps**

The Reentry Coalition has constituted a list of the major objectives that are essential for the successful implementation of the reentry plan. A formal process needs to be finalized to ensure the effectiveness of the plan and for all of the involved stakeholders to be consistent in their application. The main points of focus to ensure the success of the plan are as follows:

- Develop comprehensive strategies for each objective by designating what steps need to be taken, who is responsible for taking these steps, and provide a time-line for the completion of these steps.
- Review the list of objectives that were previously established every six months to ensure the efforts are directed in accordance with the list.

- Coordinate the communications between all involved parties for a controlled system of sharing information to report growth, positive responses, and those areas that need improvement.
- Manage the information and set up a system of yearly evaluations of the plan to ensure efficiency, reliability, and effectiveness.

The major objectives that have been established as a result of the planning process are vital to the success of the reentry plan. As the Reentry Coalition continues to work toward a common goal, the plan will grow and develop as new information, studies, and strategies become available. Changes and deviations are to be expected but to make radical changes to the major objectives should not be made lightly and should be reached by consensus of the Reentry Coalition.

### **Implementation**

This reentry plan will be incorporated into the overall Lycoming County CJAB Strategic Plan. The Reentry Coalition will continue to meet on a regular basis as a committee of the CJAB, and will report to the CJAB on a regular basis. With the implementation of this plan, there will be rewards and challenges ahead. The limited resources available to us as a coalition and to individual organizations will always be a factor in our decision-making-processes. By working together in a systematic fashion we will strive to do what we can to reduce recidivism and improve the lives of our returning citizens. Although we have established goals and objectives as part of our reentry planning, we also realize that we need to remain flexible enough to adapt to unique situations.

As part of the reentry plan, an Expected Process Flow was developed and is depicted in Appendix 2, with Appendix 3 containing the Lycoming County reentry resource guide.

## **APPENDIX 2 - EXPECTED PROCESS FLOW**

### The Lycoming County Reentry Program will:

1. Utilize LSI-R to screen individuals while incarcerated at the Lycoming County Prison to assess risk and needs.
2. Focus reentry efforts on offenders who are serving sentences of 60 days or more in the county prison, while still providing resources and services to those serving shorter sentences *where possible*.
3. Prepare for reentry by engaging offenders in pre-release planning and programming as early as possible during their period of incarceration.
4. Identify individual barriers to reentry including housing, employment, medication, transportation, and treatment needs, etc. through a reentry checklist that completed by prison staff and shared with adult probation staff for continuum of case management.
5. Assist ex-offenders in preparing applications for cash and/or medical assistance, or the reinstatement of those benefits, prior to release so they will be able to apply for those benefits immediately upon release.
6. As part of the reentry plan, schedule appointments with treatment providers, medical providers, employment services and other entities where appropriate prior to release so that ex-offenders will have an appointment already set up within a short time after release.
7. Work with medical staff to provide ex-offenders with an adequate supply of medications that will carry the person over until their appointment with medical providers in the community.
8. Maintain a supportive relationship and continue case management after release to ensure individuals are completing activities in the plan.
9. Develop a realistic data collection process that will allow us to measure outcomes and program performance.

## **APPENDIX 3 – REENTRY RESOURCES**

### **Lycoming County Steps to Success: A Resource Guide**

The Resource Committee of the Reentry Coalition created a returning citizen pocket resource guide. Copies will be provided to inmates prior to their release from the Lycoming County Prison. In addition, prior to release, inmates will be provided with brochures containing information on how to apply for or restore social security benefits; applications for Medical Assistance; and other information about services available in the community.

The resource guide contains sections on Housing, Utility Services, Food, Meals, Income, Identification, Clothing, Financial Assistance, Transportation, Health Services, Substance Abuse Treatment, Aging Services, Children Services, Parenting and Family Relations Services, Education, and Employment.

In addition to the printed pocket resource guide, a pdf version is posted online on the Lycoming County website at <http://www.lyco.org/>. Other reentry resources will be posted on that webpage.