

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

House Bill 2719, 83rd Legislature Reentry and Parole Referral Report



Prepared By

**Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Reentry and Integration Division
Parole Division**

December 2014

In the 83rd Legislative session, HB 2719 and SB 1 were enacted. HB 2719 requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Reentry and Integration Division and the Parole Division to jointly submit an annual report detailing certain program referrals for offenders under supervision. A similar requirement is included in SB 1, the general appropriations act. The report is to be submitted no later than December 31st of each year to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house and the chairs of each standing committee having primary jurisdiction over the department, with the first report due December 31, 2014. The report is to reflect referrals for employment, housing, medical care, treatment for substance abuse or mental illness, education, veterans services, and basic needs as well as other types of information to include available resources, areas where resources were not available and outcomes of referrals. Data regarding reentry coordinator training and parole officer training is also to be included.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice strives to ensure reentry efforts are implemented agency wide with divisions working collaboratively to deliver programs and services aimed at assisting offenders upon release to the community. An extensive diagnostic and assessment process begins immediately upon receipt of an offender, to include obtaining personal and family history through interviews with the offender, completing a full physical and mental health assessment protocol, an automated inquiry conducted in cooperation with the Department of State Health Services to identify offenders who have been part of the public mental health system, criminal history checks, and educational assessments conducted by the Windham School District (WSD). In addition to measuring educational achievement level, the WSD identifies offenders who must be educationally served through the special education program based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and also verifies and documents offender accomplishments, including high school diplomas, general education diplomas or college credit and degrees.

During the intake process, the offender is also screened and assessed via the Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS). This intake tool identifies criminogenic risk levels, and this information can be used for programmatic placement through the remainder of the incarceration period.

The information gained through various evaluations and assessments is used to develop an Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) for each offender. The ITP helps guide program enrollment practices by displaying a need and priority indicator that is available for review by individuals making decisions regarding offender program placement. Programs available to offenders during their incarceration include academic career and technical education, post-secondary education, life skills, cognitive intervention, substance abuse treatment, sex offender treatment and faith based programming. In addition, thousands of volunteers supplement the programming provided by TDCJ, WSD and contract staff.

Reentry and Integration Division and Parole Division

The Reentry and Integration Division is responsible for continuity of care and reentry planning for offenders incarcerated in the TDCJ. As an offender nears the end of their sentence, the TRAS is administered again which will determine the level of supervision upon release from the institution and allow the case manager to initiate the case and reentry planning to address barriers to reentry. The Reentry and Integration Division includes the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI). TCOOMMI has developed and employs a Continuity of Care program for special needs offenders returning to the community from the TDCJ's correctional institutions. To ensure continuity of services upon release from the TDCJ, the Reentry and Integration Division conducts verification and identification services to include the application and receipt of a certified birth certificate, replacement social security card and Texas identification card for each eligible offender. These identification documents are provided to the offender at the time of release from the TDCJ. In addition to identification documents, offenders are provided a toll-free reentry hot line number which allows the offender to contact the Reentry and Integration Division for additional assistance and referrals post-release. This hotline is answered by a dedicated post-release reentry case manager.

The Parole Division supervises offenders released from the custody of the TDCJ to serve the remainder of their sentence in the community. The division strives to enhance successful offender reintegration through services impacting factors that contribute to recidivism. Services provided through parole supervision include employment, housing, education, and substance abuse treatment. The collaborative efforts of the Parole Division, community partnership assistants, volunteers, offenders and their families provide a positive vehicle to the reintegration process. The division, in conjunction with the Windham School District and the Rehabilitation Programs Division, is responsible for ensuring offenders have completed required programming before release, and coordinates with the Reentry and Integration Division throughout the releasing process to ensure the placement of special needs offenders is completed. This collaborative effort enhances services and ensures continuity of care. Additionally, the Parole Division works closely with the Board of Pardons and Paroles to ensure offenders have the necessary special conditions in place prior to release from incarceration to assist them in successful reintegration into society. The division also completes placements for aftercare programs, as well as placement of offenders into residential reentry centers when no other home plan options are available. Throughout offender supervision, the Parole Division utilizes available resources to ensure offender compliance with imposed special conditions and to address any identified issue that arises.

Reentry Barriers and Referrals

Should an offender have an identified need which would hinder successful transition and reintegration to the community, TDCJ staff coordinate with a contracted vendor or another state agency for provision of services specific to that need or, in some cases, to local self-help organizations. Types of referrals are as follows:

Housing: Offenders are not released to supervision without an approved residence. Currently, there are seven privately operated residential reentry centers (halfway houses) for use in placement of offenders without an approved residence. Offenders under parole supervision are placed in a residential reentry center either immediately upon release or upon referral from field parole staff in the event an offender no longer has an approved residence. Also available for

use are Alternative Housing resources, which are community residential resources where two or more unrelated offenders reside, owned by an individual, a private entity, non-profit or faith based organization with which the TDCJ has no contracted agreement. These facilities must complete an application process to be approved to accept offenders on parole supervision. These facilities receive no compensation from the TDCJ and any payment they require must be paid by the offender.

A Temporary Housing Assistance Program (THAP) facility is also a community residential resource where two or more unrelated offenders reside, owned by an individual, a private entity, non-profit or faith based organization with which the TDCJ has no contracted agreement; however, these facilities do receive compensation from the TDCJ in an amount not to exceed the established cost to house an offender incarcerated in a correctional institution or housed in a residential reentry center. These facilities must complete an application process to be approved to accept offenders under parole supervision. Consistent with Texas Government Code 508.157, THAP sites cannot be located in a county that has a state contracted residential reentry center. While housing options are available for the paroling population, housing barriers might include limitations of public housing assistance programs or entitlements for offenders with felony convictions, lack of housing in the county of conviction, or a restriction that prohibits an offender from returning to the county of conviction. The agency's contract residential services are not available to offenders who release after having served their entire sentence.

Substance Abuse: The In-Prison Therapeutic Community (IPTC) and Substance Abuse Felony Punishment (SAFP) programs are six to nine month programs in the prison setting, with an aftercare component that lasts approximately 12-15 months, ensuring a seamless continuum of care. The exact length of the program is based on the offender's progress and needs. Other programs addressing chemical dependency during incarceration include the Pre-Release Substance Abuse Program, Driving While Intoxicated Recovery Program and State Jail Substance Abuse Program. The Therapeutic Community Substance Abuse Aftercare Treatment Program administers a range of therapeutic outpatient and resource programs to released offenders who completed certain programs. It oversees and coordinates these interrelated

programs for the substance abuse treatment of offenders and makes use of case management and drug and alcohol testing to assist in supervising offenders.

The Substance Abuse Counseling Program is an education, intervention, and treatment program serving offenders on parole supervision. The Substance Abuse Counseling Program is designed to reduce the recidivism rate of offenders who use alcohol or drugs while on parole supervision, have a history of drug or alcohol use, or who request assistance with drug and/or alcohol related issues during their parole supervision. Parole Division Counselors licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services provide these relapse services. Outpatient and in-patient treatment services are provided by contracted treatment vendors for those eligible offenders who submit positive urinalysis specimens. Peer support programs, such as Narcotics or Alcoholics Anonymous or Winner's Circle (a non-secular support program), are also available for offender post treatment or education programming. Barriers regarding substance abuse treatment primarily affects the discharging population as the Parole Division has dedicated funding for these services, but transportation or waiting lists could be issues for supervised offenders.

Employment: For those offenders who are unemployed or under employed, a referral is made to the Texas Workforce Commission, as well as job fairs coordinated by TDCJ staff, which provide linkage to those employers willing to hire offenders. Barriers for employment for the offender population are very dependent on many variables. The barriers can vary based on geographical locations as well as offender job skills. There are barriers related to licensing restrictions as well as overall job markets in the offender's surrounding area.

Medical: Medical barriers exist when the offender is not eligible for disability on a federal or state level and the ability to access medical care is limited due to financial constraints. Referrals are coordinated through the TCOOMMI office in conjunction with local hospital districts for available care. The offender population is able to access local indigent health care programs available to all indigent individuals. Barriers could include access to clinics, transportation and cost of care even with assisted funding.

Mental Health: Mental health barriers are similar to medical barriers in the lack of resources available while pending application for disability or in the event of denial of benefits. Again, TCOOMMI provides assistance by coordinating care with local mental health authorities and providing funding for services for this segment of the population. The barriers for this population would include access to care for offenders who do not have severe or persistent mental health disorders that qualify for treatment by the public mental health system. They are given resource information for general medical care and public assistance.

Education: Offenders released to supervision with less than a sixth grade education or without a verified general equivalency diploma (GED) or high school diploma, as well as those offenders who do not possess adequate vocational skills, are referred to Texas Workforce Commission resources and local education resources through the Texas Educational Agency. The barrier to obtaining education typically exist when testing centers are geographically limited in rural areas or testing hours are not varied.

Veterans Services: Offenders verified as a veteran of the United States armed services are eligible for referral for services at the state level through the Texas Veterans Commission, the federal level with the Veterans Administration and peer network support services on a local level, such as the Military Veterans Peer Network. These resources provide linkage to housing, medical and mental health assistance, in addition to other identified needs. The main barrier to veterans services exists when the veterans hospitals or clinics are located beyond where the offender can access care.

Basic Needs: Basic needs encompass clothing, food, social and support services. Offenders lacking resources to meet the basic needs for clothing and food can be provided assistance through referrals to local charities, food banks, churches, and non-profit organizations. Support services can range from budget management, assistance with utilities, and parenting and life skills programs

Each year, over 70,000 offenders are released from TDCJ with over half of that number not subject to any supervision requirements. All offenders are provided with a resource referral pamphlet at the time of release. Currently, 126 Reentry Division case managers provide pre-release services, as well as an additional 13 case managers who provide post-release services to offenders across the state. Services are provided consistent with a three phased program system devised to assist offenders.

Phase I consists of case managers ordering replacement social security cards, certified birth certificates and military discharge verifications (DD-214) for those within six months of parole eligibility for prison sentenced offenders, or within one week of arrival to TDCJ for state jail and SAFP offenders. Upon receipt of a social security card and certified birth certificates, the Reentry and Integration Division case managers order Department of Public Safety identification cards for those offenders who have been approved for parole, or for state jail and SAFP offenders at the time of receipt of the identification documents. During Phase II, parole approved offenders with a moderate or high risk intake assessment are scheduled for reentry assessment. Those scoring moderate or high risk on a reentry assessment are offered program enrollment and receive individual case planning to address needs, goals, action steps and resources targeted toward equipping the offender for successful return to the community and are referred to Phase III upon release from TDCJ. Phase III services are available to offenders who were enrolled in Phase II pre-release, or with a moderate or high risk assessment score who are self-referred or referred by a parole officer. Those who agree to enrollment receive continued individual case planning, if referred from Phase II, or have case planning initiated when entering services post release and may participate in group activities.

In fiscal year (FY) 2014, the Reentry and Integration Division ordered 43,946 certified birth certificates and 54,987 replacement social security cards for incarcerated offenders. Identification card ordering began in late January 2014 with the Division ordering 13,147 ID cards for offenders. These Phase I services for identification documents are essential for all releasing offenders as it is the primary starting point for the offender to be able to obtain housing and employment as well as other services.

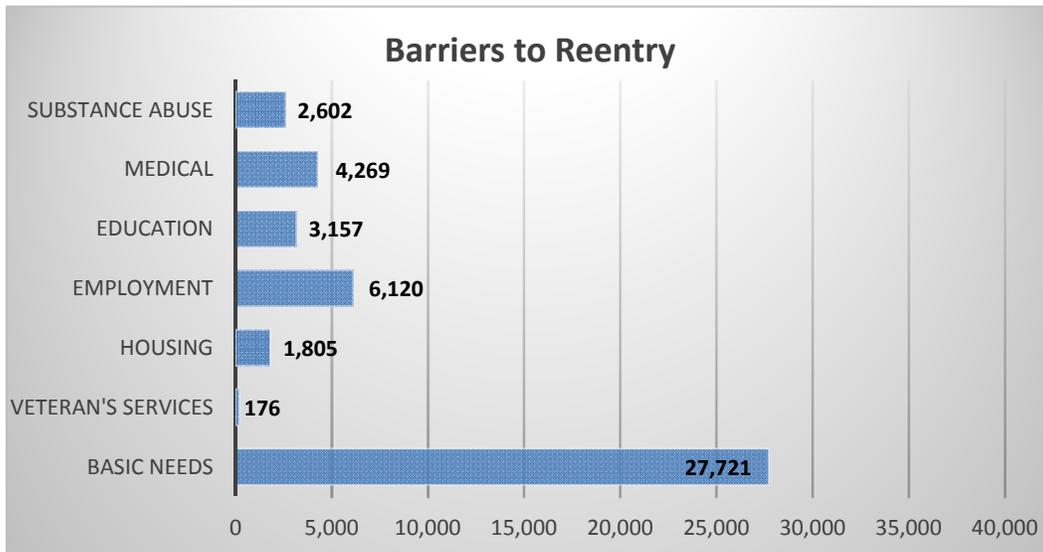
Reentry services for special needs offenders include referrals for case management and continuity of care services through TCOOMMI vendors for offenders with medical and/or mental health related needs. During FY 2014, a total of 8,818 offenders were provided a continuity of care referral for medical needs while 7,273 offenders received referrals for mental health services.

The TDCJ has determined that seven percent of the incarcerated offender population self-report as a veteran, and further research has revealed that veterans involved in the criminal justice system are more likely to have a history of alcohol dependence, live with a mental illness, are at risk for post confinement suicide, suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and have difficulty finding employment. As a result of this information, reentry initiatives such as unit programming and housing dedicated to veterans, as well as continuity of care coordination with veterans peer groups for post release assistance, have been developed to address the needs of this specific offender population.

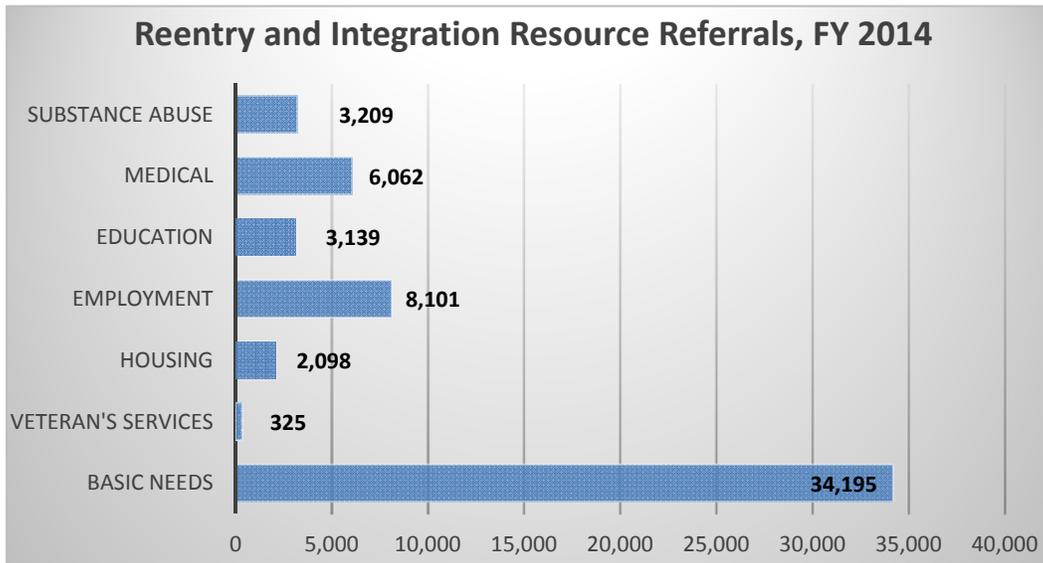
In FY 2014 the Reentry and Integration Division's pre-release programs served 39,727 offenders. A total of 13,513 offenders were assessed via the TRAS in FY 2014. Of the 13,513 offenders assessed, 3,059 offenders were determined not eligible for individual reentry planning services, due to no identified barriers, an assessment score of low risk or the individualized case planning services were declined by the offender. The 10,454 remaining offenders were identified with one or more barriers to reentry in the categories of identification, veterans services, housing, employment, education, mental health or medical, substance abuse, transportation, clothing, food, financial resources, support systems, and social services. Of those 10,454 assessed offenders, 7,186 offenders were released during FY 2014 and were provided with case management and resource referrals to address their identified barriers. Of the remaining 3,268 offenders assessed, 2,730 offenders remained incarcerated and were active in reentry case management as of the end of the fiscal year. The remaining 538 offenders were dropped from the program due to a variety of reasons to include reconsideration of the parole vote, limited time for case management prior to release, the addition of a felony detainer, or

paroling out of state. Offenders who were released were provided resource referral pamphlets regardless of case management status or risk level.

Of the 7,186 offenders who were identified during pre-release case management services as requiring assistance with reentry barriers, the most frequent barriers identified and encountered in pre-release planning were Basic Needs (27,721), followed by Employment (6,120), Education (3,157) and Substance Abuse (2,602). These identified barriers to reentry, as well as resources to address these issues, are discussed with the offender during case management and release planning. Upon release, the offender is given a packet with identification documents received while incarcerated, as well as information and resources to address any identified barriers. An offender may receive one or multiple resources in any given category, as well as any additional information determined by the case manager to be necessary for a successful transition to the community.



Note: Offenders enrolled in case management services may have identified with one or more barriers to reentry.



A total of 57,129 resource referrals, including multiple resources in each area, were given to offenders enrolled in case management services and released in FY 2014.

Parole officers provide referrals to offenders to comply with conditions imposed by the Board of Pardons and Paroles. Additionally, referrals are provided to meet other offender needs as identified by parole officers during the course of supervision. In FY 2014, parole officers provided 2,039,257 referrals to 87,029 active offenders, consisting of:

791,947 referrals for substance abuse - substance abuse referrals are provided to offenders who have a history of substance abuse and offenders who have tested positive for an illegal substance. The agency provides a variety of in-patient and outpatient services to offenders on parole supervision. These referrals include, but are not limited to, contracted providers, Parole Division Counselors, and support groups such as Narcotics or Alcoholics Anonymous and Winner's Circle.

1,926 referrals for medical - medical referrals are necessary when an offender is not eligible for disability and the ability to access medical care is limited due to financial constraints. These referrals are coordinated through the TCOOMMI office in conjunction with local hospital

districts for available care. The offender population is able to access local indigent health care programs available to all indigent individuals.

180,494 referrals for education - education referrals are provided when an offender does not have a high school diploma or GED as well as those lacking adequate vocational skills. Additionally, referrals are made for those offenders lacking a sixth grade education or those required to participate in educational programming as a condition of release. These referrals include, but are not limited to, the Texas Educational Agency and the Texas Workforce Commission.

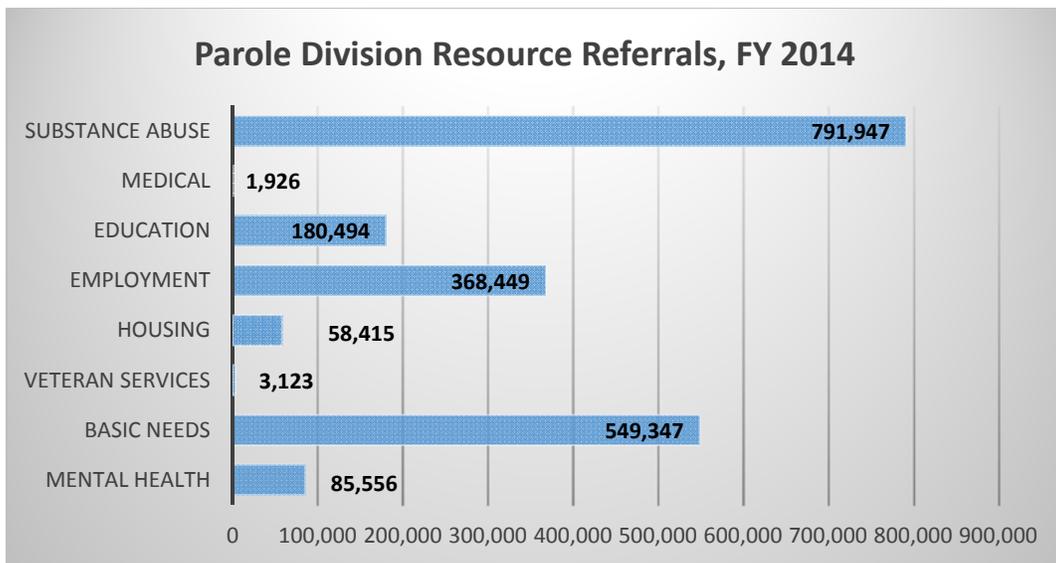
368,449 referrals for employment - employment referrals are provided to unemployed and underemployed offenders. These referrals include, but are not limited to, the Texas Workforce Commission, job fairs and employers identified by staff.

58,415 referrals for housing - referrals for housing are provided when an offender is releasing without an approved residence or if an offender would become homeless post-release absent further action by the division. Housing referrals include, but are not limited to, residential reentry centers (halfway houses), alternative housing and THAPs.

3,123 referrals for veteran services - veteran services referrals are provided to offenders verified as a veteran of the United States armed services. These referrals are to the state and federal agencies, such as the Veterans Administration, which provide linkage to housing, medical, mental and other identified needs.

549,347 referrals for basic needs - referrals for basic needs are provided when an offender is in need of necessities that include food, clothing or any other social/support service. These referrals include, but are not limited to, local charities, food banks, churches and non-profit organizations.

85,556 referrals for mental health - mental health referrals are necessary when an identified need exists due to a diagnosed mental impairment. These referrals include, but are not limited to, Health and Human services and local mental health authorities.



Referral resources include the utilization of TDCJ resources such as residential reentry centers; state agencies such as the Veterans Commission, Texas Education Agency or the Texas Workforce commission; local mental health authorities for psychiatric issues to include intensive case management, transitional case management or continuity of care services through a TCOOMMI contracted vendor; residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment or psychiatric services; community resources such as churches or food pantries and support services such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Winner’s Circle or the Military Veterans Peer Network. These resources may be state paid or subsidized, private pay or private insurance or services provided by peer support networks at no charge.

Referral Outcomes

The Reentry and Integration Division maintains a resource directory that is shared with the Rehabilitation Programs Division and the Windham School District for use in determining pre-release referrals during case planning. As previously noted, parole officers provide referrals to offenders to comply with conditions imposed by the Board of Pardons and Paroles and to meet other offender needs as identified by the officer during the course of supervision. The Parole Division utilizes an electronic case management system to track offender information, which also contains a resource directory for officer use. The resource directory affords parole officers the ability to search for available resources by type, city, zip code and/or county with supervisory staff having the ability to edit, add or update provider information. If a resource was identified as no longer available, that resource would be removed from the directory by Parole Division staff. In areas lacking resources, offenders are referred to the nearest available resource. Outcomes of referrals are not based upon offender compliance or non-compliance but are measured based upon availability of services, as a referral should not be made unless the officer believes the service is available. If a referral was made and the service was not available or a waiting list existed, then the outcome of the referral was considered unsuccessful.

Of the 2,039,257 referrals made in FY 2014, offenders were able to receive known or verified access to the services, with about three-tenths of one percent of the referral resources (0.31%, or 6,240) not being readily available or wait lists existing. The following provides a breakdown of those 6,240 referrals, by type: substance abuse – 1,366, medical and mental health – 454, education – 1,667, employment – 989, basic needs – 1,764. Housing and veterans services did not have any areas where services were not available or a waiting list existed.

In addition to identifying the outcome of referrals, parole officers have identified those counties where additional resources or providers to meet offender reentry needs would be

beneficial (Appendix A). Parole officers address referrals and monitor effectiveness on a monthly basis and provide additional referrals or modifications, as needed.

Training and Curriculum Development, FY 2014

Training is an agency priority with the goal of providing staff the tools necessary to perform their job functions efficiently and effectively while at the same relaying the most current proven practices to aid in case management and supervision of offenders.

In FY 2014, training for Reentry and Integration Division staff was comprised of Basic Training for New Case Managers, Basic Training for New Community Case Managers, and Department of Public Safety (DPS) Identification Process Training. *Basic Training for New Case Managers* is a 36-hour class which consists of an overview of the Reentry and Integration Division, Reentry Planning, Identification Documents, Regional Releasing and includes work in a computer lab. Case managers are required to complete 56 hours of structured observation of another case manager performing duties on a TDCJ facility prior to attending *Basic Training for New Case Managers*.

Basic Training for New Community Case Managers is a 32-hour class which addresses the same topics as *Basic Training for New Case Managers* but does not address prison specific topics. As with the basic case manager training, community case managers are required to complete 40 hours of structured observation of another community case manager performing duties prior to attending the formal case manager training. Structured observation, together with formal classroom training, has been determined to be critical to a case manager's success.

Additionally, Reentry staff attended the *DPS Identification Process Training* which detailed the processes for requesting the DPS identification card for eligible offenders, to include capturing the offender's photograph, fingerprints and signature while incarcerated for

submission to DPS and the actual delivery of the identification card to the offender at time of release.

In FY 2014, training for Parole Division staff consisted of the Parole Officer Training Academy – training for newly hired parole officers (216 hours); In-Service Training – annual training consisting of various pertinent topics identified by management (40 hours); Unit Supervisors Course – overview of supervisory duties (40 hours); Parole Supervisors Course – overview of functions of an office manager (40 hours); Firearms – firearm preparedness course for staff who choose to carry a weapon (40 hours); and Specialized Officer Supervision Schools (SOSS). SOSS courses generally consist of a weeklong training that is conducted for officers prior to assignment to a specialized caseload. SOSS courses were conducted for Special Needs (32 hours), Sex Offender (36 hours), Therapeutic Community (32 hours), District Reentry Center (24 hours), and Super-Intensive Supervision Program/Electronic Monitoring Officers (40 hours). In-Service training topics included ethics, criminogenic needs, violation reports, emergency/afterhours warrants, motivational interviewing, pre-hearing/hearing process and employee work hours.

Summary

As a result of Reentry and Integration Division pre-release programming, over 39,700 offenders were served in reentry programs during FY 2014. . There were 10,454 who were both assessed and served in individualized case planning, with over 7,000 having identified barriers to release. Those offenders who were released during the fiscal year were provided with case management services and individual reentry planning to include resources and other information in the areas of substance abuse, medical and mental health needs, education, employment, housing, veterans services, and basic needs. Reentry coordinators were able to provide a total of over 57,000 referrals to resources in these areas to assist in a successful transition for these offenders. All offenders were provided with a resource referral pamphlet at the time of release.

The Parole Division's parole officers made over 2 million referrals to address compliance with conditions imposed by the Board of Pardons and Paroles and to meet other identified offender needs with regards to substance abuse, medical, education, employment, housing, veterans services, basic needs, and special needs. However, areas have been identified where additional providers could assist offenders in reintegration. If available, this could reduce the need of travel outside of their immediate area or out of their home county to receive services.

In the coming months, the TDCJ will continue to enhance referral networking opportunities by partnering with the Texas Connector, an online, interactive resource guide which will allow case managers as wells as parole officers the ability to access numerous non-profits and agencies in the offender's area that can further assist with the offender's reentry needs.

Appendix A

The agency makes a concerted effort to ensure all offender needs are met. The following is a list of counties by category where staff has identified additional services can assist with meeting the challenges of offender needs. Counties appearing on the list may provide services but due to the vastness of the state of Texas, some resources are difficult to consistently acquire.

Directory – Alphabetical Listing of Referral Needs by County

Housing – Referrals for housing are provided when an offender is releasing without an approved residence or if a released offender would become homeless absent further action by the division. Housing referrals include, but are not limited to, residential reentry centers (halfway houses), alternative housing and THAPs. While housing options are available for the paroling population, barriers could include limitations of public housing assistance programs or entitlements for offenders with felony convictions, lack of housing in the county of conviction, a restriction that prohibits an offender from returning to the county of conviction.

Anderson, Andrews, Aransas, Armstrong, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Bastrop, Bee, Blanco, Brazoria, Brewster, Briscoe, Brooks, Calhoun, Carson, Castro, Chamber, Cherokee, Cochran, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comanche, Cottle, Crane, Crosby, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dewitt, Dickens, Dimmit, Donley, Duval, Edwards, Erath, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Freestone, Gaines, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Hemphill, Henderson, Hockley, Houston, Hudspeth, Hutchinson, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Johnson, Karnes, Kenedy, King, Kinney, Kleberg, Lamb, La Salle, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Madison, Marion, Mason, Matagorda, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Mills, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Pecos, Polk, Presidio, Rains, Randall, Reagan, Real, Roberts, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba, Shelby, Sherman, Somervell, Starr, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Terry, Titus, Trinity, Upton, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Webb, Wharton, Wheeler, Wilson, Wood, Yoakum, Zapata

Basic Needs – Referrals for basic needs are provided when an offender is in need of necessities that include food, clothing or any other social/support service. These referrals include, but are not limited to, local charities, food banks, churches and non-profit organizations.

Armstrong, Borden, Briscoe, Burlison, Calhoun, Carson, Castro, Chambers, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crane, Culberson, Dallam, Delta, Dewitt, Donley, Edwards, Fayette, Fisher, Floyd, Franklin, Glasscock, Goliad, Gregg, Hall, Hansford, Hardin, Harrison, Hartley, Hemphill, Hunt, Hutchinson, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Kenedy, Kent, Lavaca, Liberty, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Loving, Martin, Mason, McMullen, Medina, Mills, Montgomery, Morris, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Refugio, Roberts, Sabine, San Augustine, Schleicher, Shackelford, Shelby, Sherman, Somervell, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Walker, Wheeler

Education – Referrals are provided when an offender does not have a high school diploma or GED as well as those lacking adequate vocational skills. Additionally, referrals are made for those offenders lacking a sixth grade education or those required to participate in educational programming as a condition of release. These referrals include, but are not limited to, the Texas Educational Agency and the Texas Workforce Commission. The barrier to obtaining education typically exist when testing centers are geographically limited in rural areas or testing hours are not varied.

Andrews, Aransas, Archer, Armstrong, Austin, Bailey, Borden, Bee, Blanco, Brewster, Briscoe, Brooks, Burlison, Burnet, Caldwell, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Chambers, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collin, Colorado, Comanche, Concho, Coryell, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Culberson, Dallas, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Dimmit, Duval, Eastland, Edwards, Ellis, Erath, Fayette, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Fort Bend, Franklin, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Grimes, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hardin, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hood, Houston, Hudspeth, Irion, Jack, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jones, Karnes, Kaufman, Kenedy, Kent, Kimble, King, Kinney, La Salle, Lampasas, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Marion, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, McMullen, Menard, Mills, Mitchell, Motley, Navarro, Newton, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Orange, Palo Pinto, Parmer, Pecos, Polk, Presidio, Rains, Randall, Reagan, Real, Refugio, Roberts, Robertson, Rockwall, Runnels, San Jacinto, San Patricio, San Saba,

Schleicher, Scurry, Somervell, Shackelford, Sherman, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Swisher, Taylor, Throckmorton, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Yoakum, Zapata, Zavala

Employment – Referrals are provided to unemployed and underemployed offenders. These referrals include, but are not limited to, the Texas Workforce Commission, job fairs and employers identified by staff.

Andrews, Aransas, Archer, Armstrong, Austin, Bailey, Blanco, Borden, Brewster, Briscoe, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Chambers, Childress, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Concho, Coryell, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Edwards, Fisher, Floyd, Franklin, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hardin, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Irion, Jack, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kenedy, Kent, Kimble, King, Knox, Lampasas, Lee, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Marion, Martin, Mason, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Newton, Ochiltree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parker, Parmer, Pecos, Polk, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Real, Roberts, San Jacinto, Schleicher, Shackelford, Sherman, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Swisher, Throckmorton, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Upton, Wheeler, Wise, Yoakum

Veteran Services – Referrals are provided to offenders verified as a veteran of the United States Armed services. These referrals are to the state and federal agencies such as the Veterans Administration which provide linkage to housing, medical, mental and other identified needs. The main barrier to veterans services exists when the veterans hospitals or clinics are located beyond where the offender can access care.

Aransas, Archer, Armstrong, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Bee, Border, Bosque, Brazoria, Briscoe, Burlson, Burnet, Calhoun, Callahan, Camp, Carson, Castro, Chambers, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Colorado, Comal, Concho, Coryell, Cottle, Crockett, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dewitt, Dickens, Dimmit, Donley, Edwards, Erath, Falls, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Franklin, Garza, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hardin, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hill, Hockley, Hood, Houston, Hudspeth, Hunt, Hutchinson, Irion, Jack, Jackson, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Johnson, Karnes, Kenedy, Kent, King, Kinney, Kleberg, Knox, Lamb, Lampasas, La Salle, Lavaca, Lee, Leon, Liberty, Limestone, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Madison, Marion, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Newton, Ochiltree, Oldham, Palo Pinto, Parker, Parmer, Polk, Presidio, Rains, Randall, Reagan, Real, Refugio, Roberts,

Robertson, Rockwall, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shackelford, Sherman, Somervell, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Swisher, Terry, Throckmorton, Titus, Trinity, Upshur, Upton, Uvalde, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Wheeler, Willacy, Wilson, Wise, Yoakum, Zavala

Medical – Referrals are necessary when an offender is not eligible for disability and the ability to access medical care is limited due to financial constraints. These referrals are coordinated through the TCOOMMI office in conjunction with local hospital districts for available care. The offender population is able to access local indigent health care programs available to all indigent individuals. Medical issues could include access to clinics, transportation and cost of care even with assisted funding.

Armstrong, Austin, Blanco, Borden, Briscoe, Callahan, Carson, Coke, Coleman, Collingsworth, Concho, Cottle, Crane, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Ellis, Fisher, Floyd, Franklin, Glasscock, Goliad, Gray, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Irion, Jeff Davis, Kaufman, Kenedy, Kent, King, Leon, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Madison, McMullen, Menard, Moore, Motley, Navarro, Newton, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Polk, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Roberts, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shackelford, Sherman, Stonewall, Throckmorton, Trinity, Walker, Waller, Wheeler

Mental Health - Referrals are necessary when an identified need exists due to a diagnosed mental impairment. These referrals include, but are not limited to, Health and Human services and local mental health authorities. The barriers for this population would include access to care for offenders who do not have severe or persistent mental health disorders that qualify for treatment by the public mental health system. They are given resource information for general medical care and public assistance

Armstrong, Bailey, Blanco, Briscoe, Camp, Carson, Castro, Chambers, Clay, Cochran, Coke, Collingsworth, Concho, Cottle, Crane, Crockett, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Ellis, Floyd, Foard, Glasscock, Goliad, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hudspeth, Irion, Jack, Jeff Davis, Kaufman, Kenedy, King, Knox, Leon, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Loving, Marion, Martin, McMullen, Moore, Motley, Navarro, Newton, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Presidio, Rains, Randall, Reagan, Roberts, Rockwall, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shelby, Sherman, Somervell, Sterling, Swisher, Terry, Trinity, Tyler, Upton, Wheeler, Yoakum

Substance Abuse – Referrals are provided to offenders who have a history of substance abuse and offenders who have tested positive for an illegal substance. The agency provides a variety of in-patient and out-patient services. These referral include but are not limited to contracted providers, Parole Division Counselors, Narcotics or Alcoholics Anonymous and Winner’s Circle. The Parole Division has dedicated funding for these services, but transportation or waiting lists could be issues for supervised offenders.

Armstrong, Blanco, Borden, Briscoe, Brooks, Caldwell, Calhoun, Coke, Cottle, Crockett, Dewitt, Edwards, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Glasscock, Goliad, Hansford, Hardeman, Haskell, Hays, Hudspeth, Irion, Jackson, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jones, Kenedy, Kent, King, Lavaca, Liberty, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Loving, Mason, McMullen, Medina, Mitchell, Motley, Newton, Ochiltree, Oldham, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Refugio, Roberts, Rockwall, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Schleicher, Shackelford, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Throckmorton, Upton, Yoakum, Zavala