

Reentry Housing

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Overview

- ▶ Reentry Assistance Program (RAP)
- ▶ Available Resources
- ▶ Barriers in Finding Appropriate Housing
- ▶ Overcoming Barriers
- ▶ Opportunities for Improvement



About the RAP program

- ▶ Community Corrections program at Douglas County Dept. of Corrections
- ▶ Majority of clients have felony charges
- ▶ Only community corrections program that allows presentenced inmates



About the RAP program

- ▶ All clients work with the case manager to create an individualized reentry plan
- ▶ Clients take a variety of classes to reduce criminogenic thinking and recidivism
- ▶ Earn access to the community to meet a variety of goals on their reentry plan



Current Resources in Use

- ▶ Three Quarter Way Houses/Sober living-
 - Oxford
 - William's Prepared Place
 - The Bell House
 - Murphy's Turning Point
 - Santa Monica
 - Carla Vista
- (Not inclusive)



Current Resources in Use

- ▶ Shelters-
 - Open Door Mission
 - Micah House
 - Siena Francis House
 - Stephen Center
 - VA Housing Program
- (Not inclusive)



Barriers to Housing

- ▶ Mental health issues
- ▶ Employer stigma/lack of education
- ▶ Lack of resources
- ▶ Nature of criminal charges
- ▶ Unknown status of current criminal case
- ▶ Loss of benefits upon incarceration



Barriers to Housing

- ▶ Personal barriers of reentering persons
 - Financial - Criminal history
 - Health - Custody issues
 - Criminogenic Thinking
- ▶ These barriers may result in relapse, reoffending and/or living in unsafe environments



Overcoming Barriers

- ▶ Address mental health issues
- ▶ Address addiction
- ▶ Classes to increase skills
- ▶ Community outreach and inreach
- ▶ Communication with court personnel
- ▶ Addressing any personal barriers



Opportunities for Improvement

- ▶ “Ban the Box” - Nebraska LB907
- ▶ Increase education for renters and employers
- ▶ Flexibility for the pre-sentenced client
- ▶ Payment plans & budget assistance
- ▶ Increase in transitional housing options
- ▶ Public transportation access



Opportunities for Improvement

- ▶ Increase funding for returning citizens
- ▶ Specified government assistance
 - Reentry Grant : assist individuals prior to release



“As we all know, improving rehabilitation programs and reentry outcomes doesn’t just help formerly incarcerated individuals; it’s also good for our communities as a whole”
- Loretta Lynch, Attorney General

