

TN Department of Correction

Day Reporting & Community Resource Centers

Advancing Offender Rehabilitation in Community Supervision

Tennessee Department of Correction | Fall 2017





The non-negotiable mission of the Tennessee Department of Correction is to operate safe and secure prisons and provide effective community supervision in order to enhance public safety.

Executive Summary

On January 1, 2017, components of the Public Safety Act of 2016, one of the most transformative and far reaching pieces of criminal justice reform legislation in recent Tennessee history, went into effect. The Public Safety Act is aimed at reducing crime and addressing the growing prison and jail population through strategic initiatives: Smarter sentencing, use of a single validated risk and needs assessment across the criminal justice spectrum, and the implementation of more community-based options for some offenders including a system of swift, certain and proportionate sanctions for individuals on community supervision. The Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) is instrumental in driving a number of these critical components; the development of Day Reporting and Community Resource Centers (DRC/CRC) for community supervision offenders falls in lock step with both the initiatives of the Public Safety Act and the Department's unwavering mission of creating safer Tennessee communities. As our community partners, we strive to keep you informed and look forward to sharing the work of our dedicated team of correctional professionals.

Background

The work that serves as the foundation for the Public Safety Act has also informed the development and implementation of Day Reporting and Community Resource Centers (DRC/CRC). Substance use and unemployment/underemployment are two of the largest driving factors of recidivism. These factors combined with lack of access to other resources can lead to criminal behavior. Addressing the causes of recidivism before a new crime is committed is essential to enhancing public safety. Community supervision can be a reliable pathway to reducing recidivism and increasing public safety through the use of smarter, assessment-driven offender management practices. Armed with this knowledge, the Department recognized the need for an intensive, "one stop" model of comprehensive programming paired with access to and assistance with resources such as housing, employment assistance, and medical and mental health care.

In 2013 the Johnson City Police Department opened the Johnson City Day Reporting Center. This DRC offered intensive programs focused on substance use treatment, cognitive behavioral, and job readiness training. Using the Johnson City DRC as a reference, TDOC also examined similar programs in Ohio, Georgia, and Washington, DC. Through this process, our team developed a model of a consolidated Day Reporting Center and Community Resource Center (DRC/CRC) to provide offender-specific, evidence-based programming combined with resource support. Last year TDOC made the decision to take over operations of the Johnson City Day Reporting Center to hold offenders accountable and provide prevention and intervention programming in order to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety.

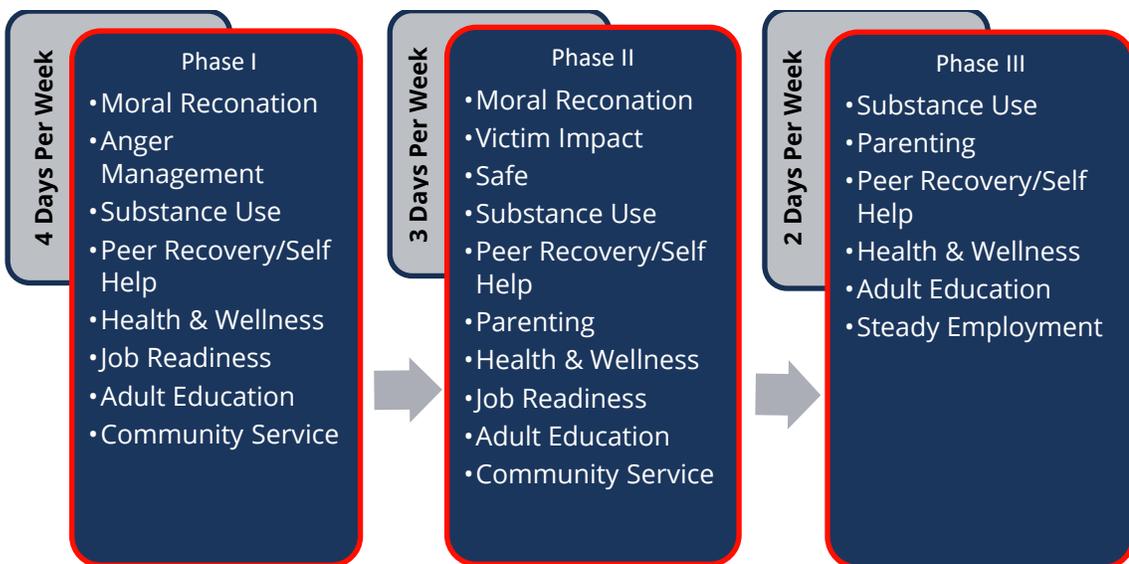
While public safety is the central focus of community-based correction efforts, there are also considerable cost benefits. The average jail or prison bed in Tennessee can cost anywhere from \$49-\$76 per offender, per day. In comparison, offenders can be supervised in the community for \$3-\$6 per day. Managed risk opportunities

to reduce recidivism and correct offender behavior in the community through evidence-based, assessment-informed practices can both save valuable taxpayer dollars and enhance safety for Tennessee families.

Implementation of DRC Programming

After months of planning and preparation which included policy development and staff training, the Department moved forward with plans to have a total of six DRC/CRCs, with two in each region of the state. In addition to the Johnson City DRC in 2017 the Department opened locations in Jackson, Memphis and Knoxville. Currently, plans are being finalized for locations in Nashville and Murfreesboro and it is anticipated they will open later this year.

The DRC program consists of three phases focusing primarily on substance use, job skills, family reunification, and behavioral and social programs, all with emphasis on accountability and self-discipline. In each phase, offenders will be provided with intensive, evidence-based programs that build on lessons gained in the previous phase to equip them with the skills and support needed to change criminogenic behavior and become successful, productive members of our communities. In the East and West Tennessee locations, Phase I programming for DRC participants is underway. The first participants are expected to begin Phase II this coming winter and Phase III next spring. The entire curriculum takes approximately twelve months to complete. Offenders may be referred to a DRC program by the court, by a forensic social worker, or by his or her probation parole officer through the informed use of the graduated sanctions matrix. Most participants currently in the program have been referred through courts and the TDOC team continues to work with judges and district attorneys around the state to raise awareness of the DRC program and encourage referrals of qualified offenders.

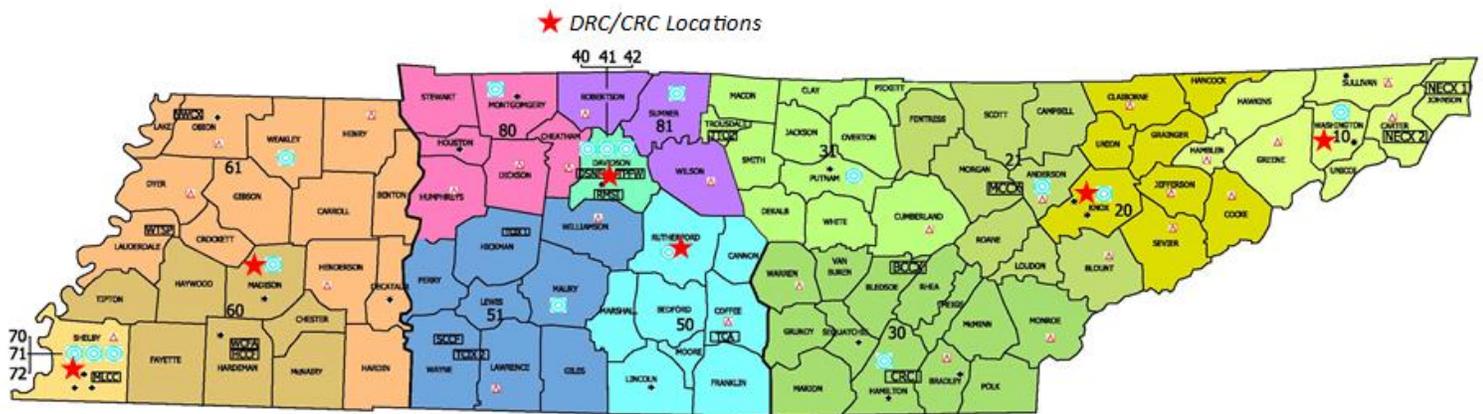


CRC Implementation

The DRC programs will be complimented by an on-site Community Resource Center (CRC), which provides access to and assistance with a multitude of services and resources. CRC services will be available to any offender on community supervision; not just those who attend programming at the DRC. Additionally, those who have flattened their sentences within the past year may also access services. An offender may contact the CRC directly for assistance, or be referred by his or her Probation Parole Officer.

Proximity to public transportation, potential employers, and other resource organizations was a key consideration in identifying DRC/CRC locations. TDOC employment specialists in each area actively work with local businesses, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, American Job Centers, Goodwill and others to help offenders to find meaningful, long-term employment. Staff on-site will also assist offenders with reentry services including finding affordable housing, obtaining identification, educational services such as high school equivalency (HiSET), medical services, and clothing assistance. The only location without an on-site CRC is Memphis. The Department made this strategic decision due to our partnership with the Memphis-Shelby County Reentry Center, which has a central location near the DRC site, to ensure offenders have access to those same services.

This “one stop” centralized model for treatment and services also serves to enhance offender accountability. Probation parole officers will be on site at each DRC/CRC to provide constant supervision and will work directly with the courts, Board of Parole, and local law enforcement agencies.



Memphis DRC
1991 Corporate Ave, Suite 600
Memphis, TN 38132

Jackson DRC/CRC
362 Carriage House Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

Nashville DRC/CRC
900 S. Gallatin Pike
Madison, TN 37115

Knoxville DRC/CRC
8417 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919

Johnson City DRC/CRC
110 KLM Drive, Suite 8
Johnson City, TN 37601

Memphis CRC
MSCOR
1362 Mississippi Blvd
Memphis, TN 38106

Murfreesboro DRC/CRC
TBD

Next Steps

Work to finalize the Middle Tennessee locations is currently underway and we anticipate they will open this winter. TDOC team members across the state continue to meet with various stakeholders in order to inform the public, forge new partnerships, and engage community support. Through these collaborative efforts with our criminal justice, government, and community partners, we at the Tennessee Department of Correction are confident the implementation of DRC/CRCs will serve to create safer Tennessee communities, reduce recidivism and save valuable taxpayer resources.



Final Thoughts

The Tennessee Department of Correction is committed to the unwavering mission of operating safe and secure prisons and providing effective community supervision in order to enhance public safety. This Department is committed to a system of continuous improvement by constantly reviewing our practices, updating as needed and piloting the most innovative methods in offender management. The move to community-based options focused on reentry moves the Tennessee Department of Correction closer to fulfilling our vision of being the best correctional agency in the nation.





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