

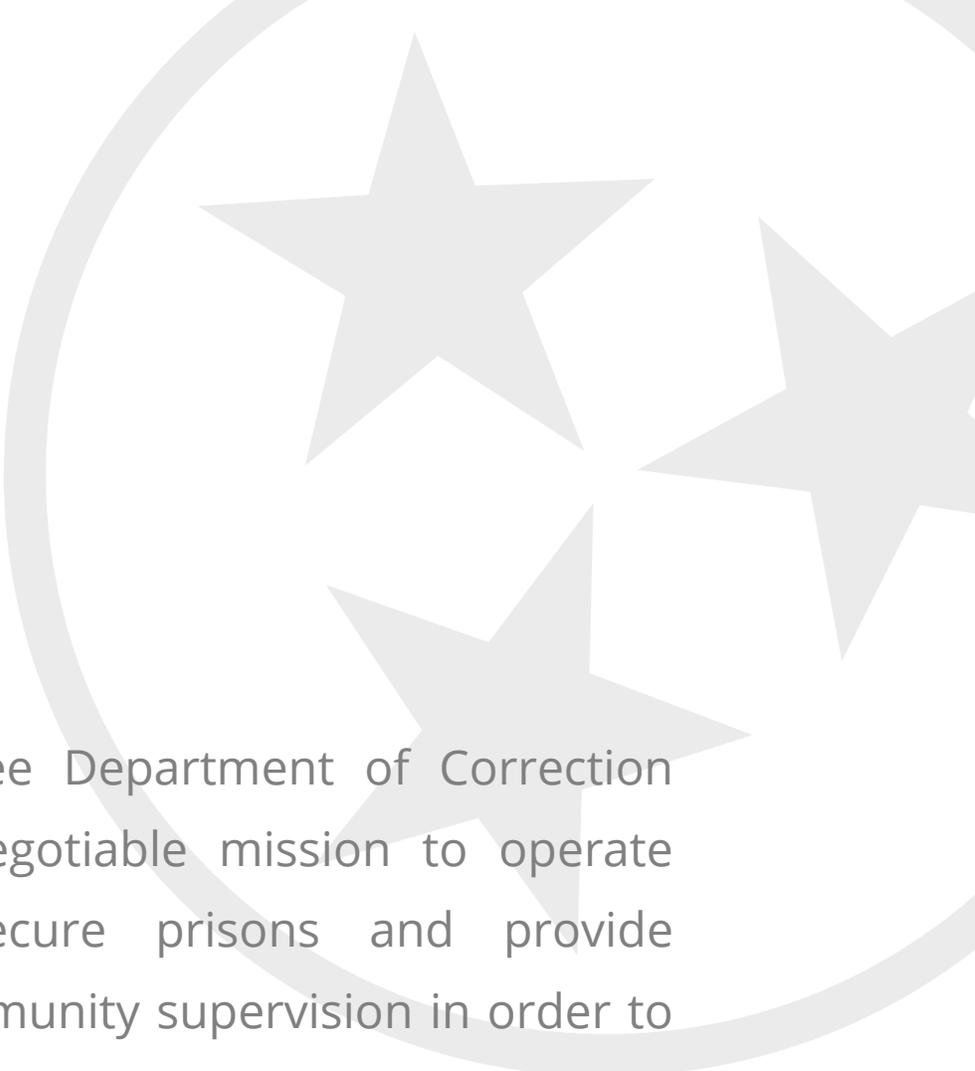


Day Reporting & Community Resource Centers

Advancing Offender Rehabilitation in Community Supervision

Tennessee Department of Correction | Spring 2017





The Tennessee Department of Correction has a non-negotiable mission 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 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 several strategic initiatives. This includes smarter sentencing, use of a single validated risk and needs assessment across the justice system 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 and 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 throughout the process 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). According to studies commissioned through the U.S. Department of Justice, the American Psychological Association, and the Council of State Governments Justice Center, substance use and barriers to employment 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 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. Those studies show specific amounts of programming can positively impact individuals with a high-risk to re-offend; in fact, the research indicates over-programming or under-programming individuals can actually have a negative effect on recidivism. Armed with this knowledge, the Department took stock of our current practices and recognized the need for an intensive, "one stop" model of comprehensive programming paired with access to and assistance with resources such as housing, legal assistance, and health care.

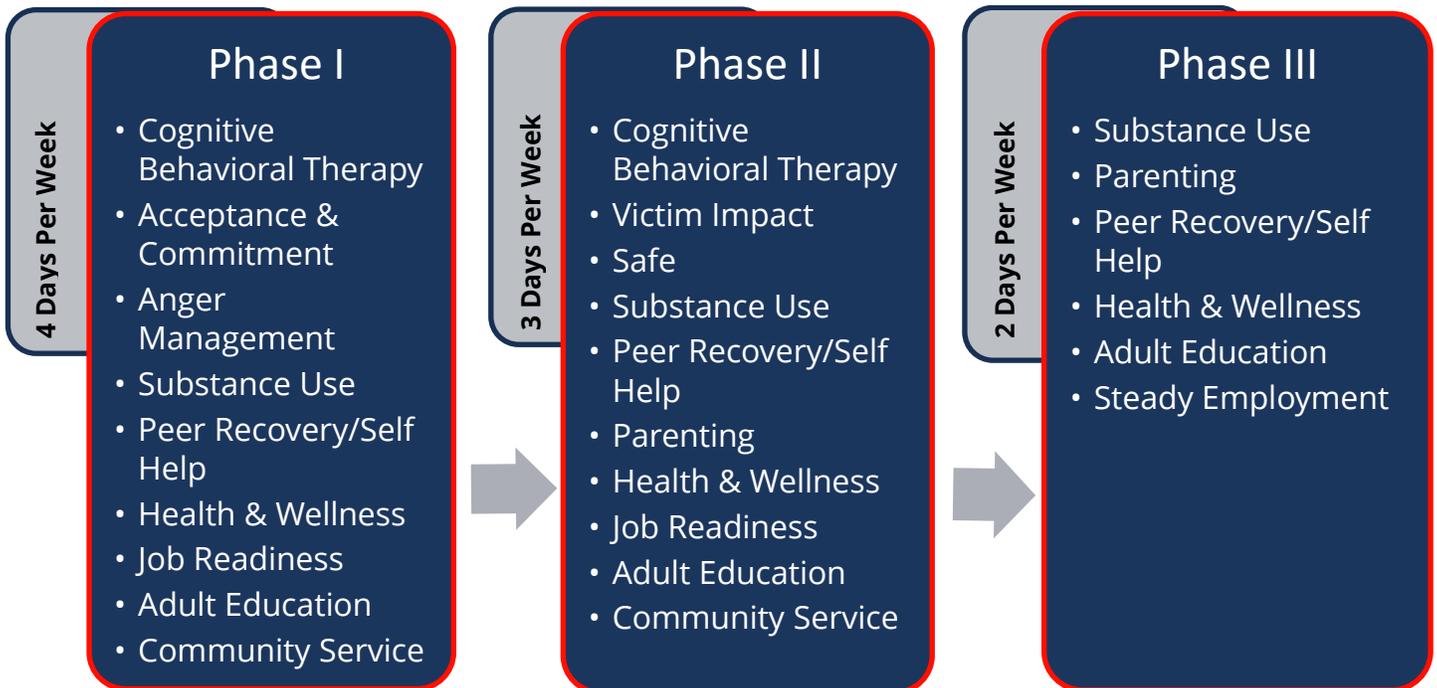
As the first step in developing a statewide model, TDOC acquired operation of the Johnson City Day Reporting Center. First opened in 2013 by the Johnson City Police Department through grant funding, the Johnson City DRC offered intensive programs focused on substance use treatment, cognitive behavioral programming, and job readiness training. Participants report to the center multiple days each week to attend classes while also receiving assistance from resource organizations in the community. Using the Johnson City DRC as a reference, TDOC also examined similar programs in Ohio, Georgia, Washington, DC, and New Jersey. 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. These components serve to accomplish the agency's goals of holding offenders accountable and providing 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.

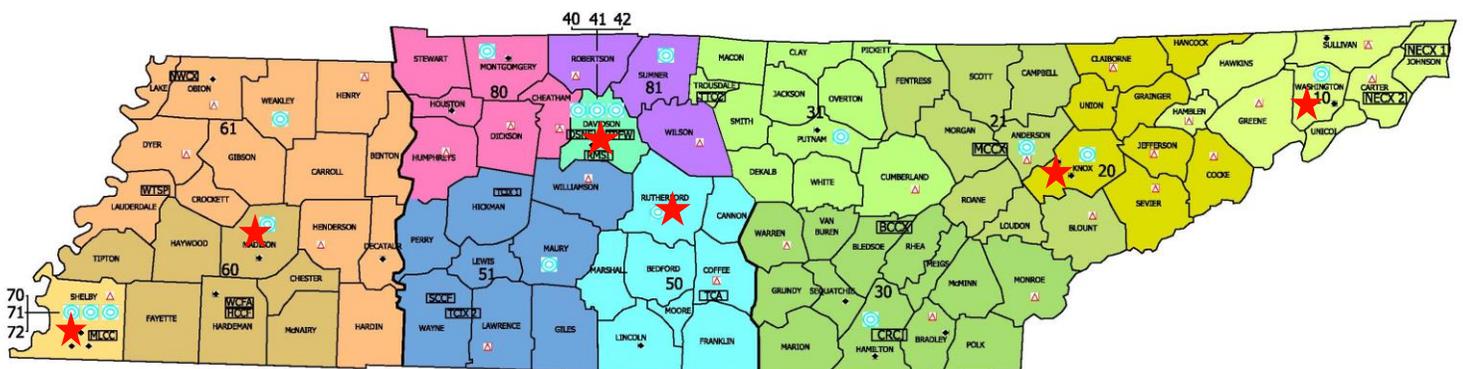
Implementation

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 in operation statewide by summer 2017. Offenders may be referred to a DRC program by the court or by his or her probation parole officer through the informed use of the STRONG-R risk and needs assessment. 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 to become successful, productive members of our communities. The entire curriculum will take nine to twelve months to complete.



The DRC program will be complimented by an on-site CRC, which will provide access to and assistance with a multitude of services and resources. TDOC employment specialists in each area are actively working with local businesses, the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, American Job Centers, Goodwill and others to help offenders find meaningful, long-term employment. Staff on-site will also assist offenders with reentry services including obtaining identification, finding housing, social security and veteran’s benefits, legal aid and health and wellness services. These CRC services will be accessible to anyone on community supervision, not just those individuals enrolled in the DRC program, further ensuring all offenders on probation or parole have access to services aimed at helping them overcome barriers to success and become productive members of society. CRCs will be at each DRC location with the exception of Memphis, where our team already works with the Memphis Shelby County Office of Reentry to ensure offenders have access to resources.

In addition to Johnson City, the Department made the strategic decision to locate two DRC/CRCs in each region of the state. These DRCs will be located in Knoxville, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Jackson, and Memphis. Proximity to public transportation, potential employers, and other resource organizations has been a key consideration in identifying DRC/CRC locations. Offender accountability is enhanced by the “one stop” centralized model for treatment and services. 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. Through these collaborative efforts with our justice system, 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.



★ DRC/CRC Locations

Next Steps

Hiring efforts to staff DRC/CRC locations across the state are in their final stages and specialty training is currently underway. Our team is also currently working to identify and finalize leases on several locations and

we anticipate all properties will be completed in spring 2017. Renovation work to accommodate the DRC/CRC mission is currently underway at several sites. TDOC leadership teams have been holding discussions with stakeholders across the state and plans are underway for soft opening community meetings at each DRC/CRC location later this spring to inform the public and engage community support. We anticipate the DRC/CRC offices will open for offender programming and resources in summer 2017.



Final Thoughts

The Tennessee Department of Correction is committed to the 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 policies as needed and piloting the most innovative methods in offender management. The development and implementation of centralized programming and resource centers within the community in order to reduce recidivism and increase safety moves the Tennessee Department of Correction closer to fulfilling our vision of being the best correctional agency in the nation.



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