



# Reentry Snapshot

Virginia Department of Corrections

Jessica Lee

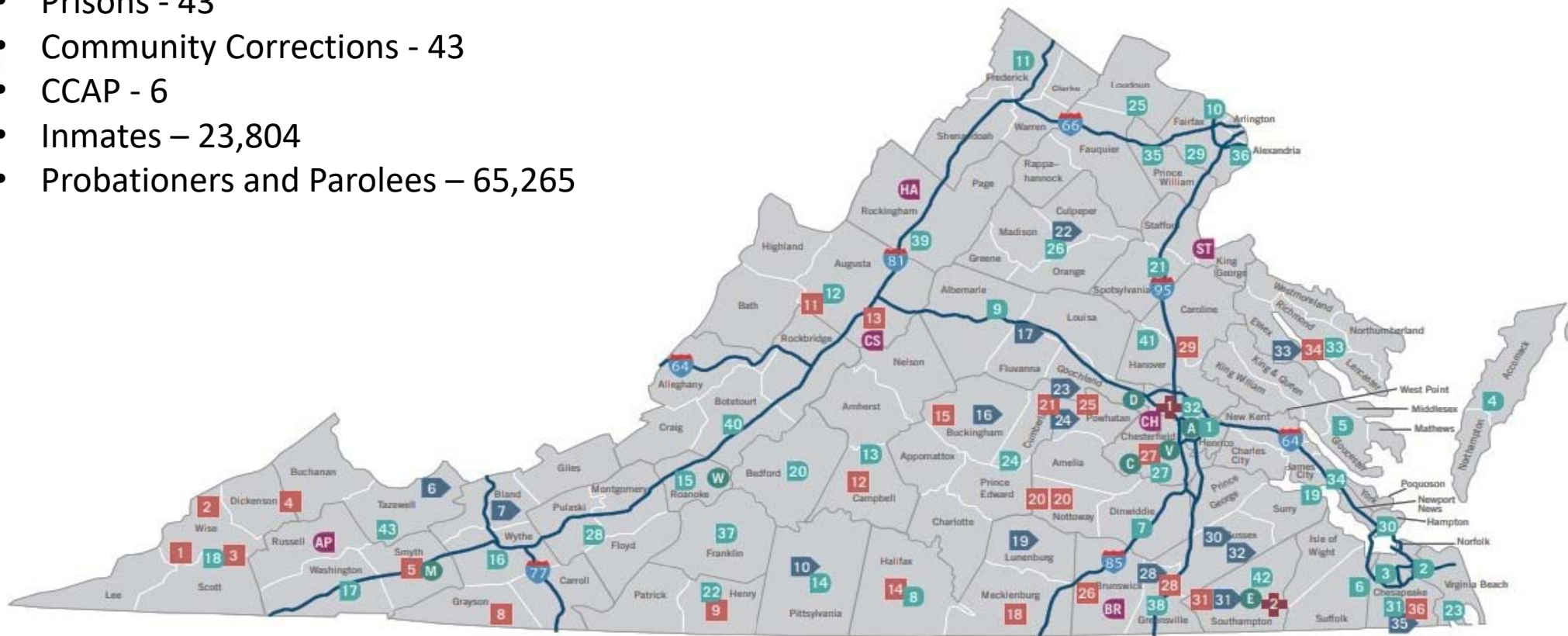
Reentry Services Administrator

2023

# VADOC Mission

*We are in the business of helping people to be better.*

- Prisons - 43
- Community Corrections - 43
- CCAP - 6
- Inmates – 23,804
- Probationers and Parolees – 65,265



# Public Safety

## Long Term Public Safety

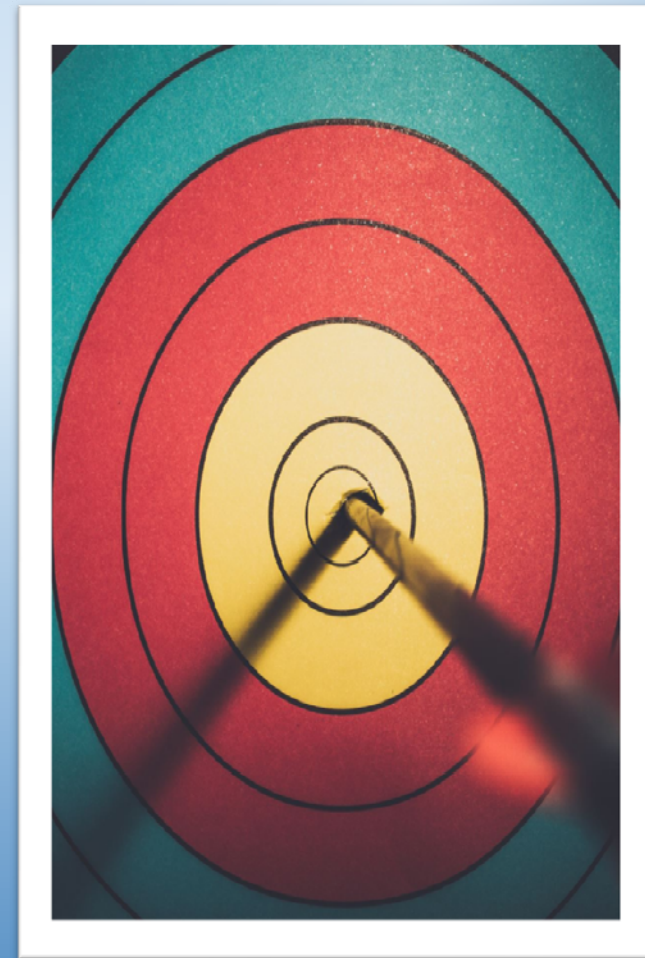
Reentry preparation begins with the initial contact to the VADOC

## Risk Needs Responsivity

The COMPAS assessment drives case planning and placement into programs/services

## Reentry Preparation

Reentry preparation includes education, vocation, workforce preparation, programming, medical and mental health services.





# Integrated Model for Lasting Public Safety

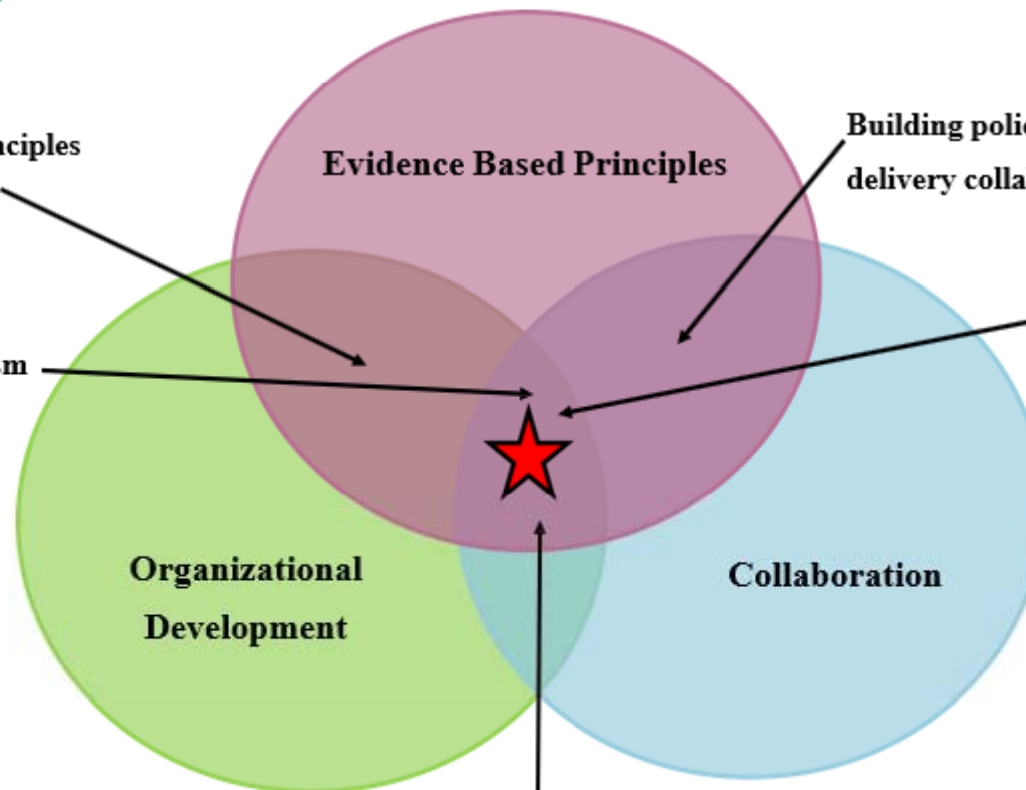
## Integrated Model for Re-entry



Alignment with principles  
and practices

Reduced Recidivism

- Vision, Mission, Values
- Dialogue
- Learning teams
- Healing Environment
- Training
- Procedures
- Coaching/Performance
- Strategic Plan



Building policy & service  
delivery collaboration

Enhanced  
Public Safety

- Internal DOC
- External partners

Interdependency

# Overview of Programs

DOC provides a range of services to address needs of inmates to develop social behaviors.

Some examples of programs include:

Cognitive Behavioral

Substance Use Disorder

Education/Vocation

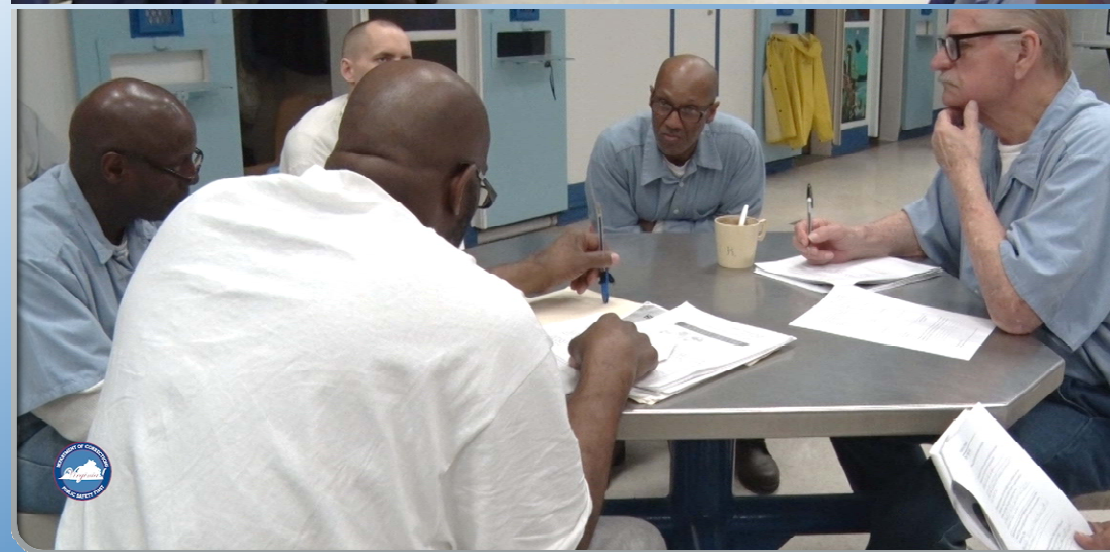
Life Skills

Anger Management

Victim Impact

Workforce Development

Intensive Reentry



# Intensive Reentry Programs

18-24 months prior to release, inmates are transferred to a facility closest to home plan location based on security level

Cognitive Community Model is a structured peer-based program that requires inmates to practice new cognitive behavioral patterns in a learning environment

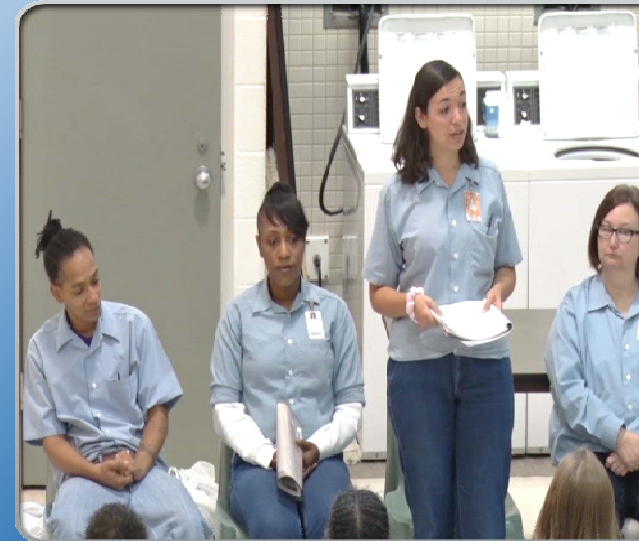
14 IRP locations statewide, proximity to home plan

Program is 7 months in length

Criteria includes inmates scoring moderate and high risk of general recidivism on COMPAS

Program elements include:

- Morning and evening meeting
- Practice roles and responsibilities
- Release coordination with Senior Reentry Probation Officer
- Guest speakers
- Reentry specific programs
- Home plan development
- Workforce development



# Workforce Development

- Ready to Work – 40 hour employment preparation course
- Resume preparation and career portfolios
- Job interviewing training
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit education
- Resource/Employment Fairs - drawing in 20-50 community partners per event
- Virginia Bonding Program
- Drive to Work
- Job portal system pilot
- Case management employment pilot
- DMV Visits – compliance summary and ID Card



# Family Engagement

Parenting Programs

Family Reunification House in partnership with Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI)

Child-Friendly Visitation Rooms

Trauma Informed Care Training for Visitation Staff

Visitation Welcome Video



- Caregiver Guides available on VADOC website and distributed at facilities statewide
- Messages from Mom/Dad – video recorded messages and books from incarcerated parent to child/children



# Substance Use Disorder Services

- Residential Treatment Programs
  - Therapeutic Community Programs: 6-12 months in length, residential intensive treatment
  - Voluntary- Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program: up to 9 months in length, designed for inmates in active use
  - Level One Intensive Drug Treatment program: 6-9 months in length
  - Community Corrections Alternative Programs (court assigned probation)
- Outpatient Treatment Programs
  - Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA)
  - Recovery Route
- Medication Assisted Treatment
  - Naltrexone – long lasting opioid blocker
  - Buprenorphine continuation
  - Narcan take home kits
- Peer Support
  - Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous – voluntary
  - Peer Recovery Specialist
  - Supplemental workbooks



68% of incarcerated population in Virginia indicate a need for substance use disorder services.

# Mental Health & Wellness

Currently, 35% of inmates have MH issues

Continuum of care inside

Outpatient services to licensed acute units

Mental Health Clinicians at every major facility

- Intakes, assessment, monitoring, group facilitation, brief solution focused individual sessions, and crisis management

Mental Health Clinicians dedicated to CCAPs and Probation and Parole Offices

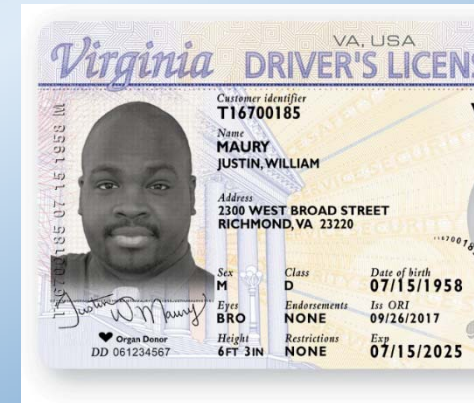
- Link supervisees to services and resources in a timely manner



# Personal Identification Documents

The VADOC assists inmates in securing Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards and DD214 Certificates prior to release.

- DMV Connect
  - Compliance Summaries
  - Real IDs
  - Veteran indicator available
- Pilots include:
  - DMV Knowledge Test
  - Intervention Interviews in partnership with VASAP
- Veterans Benefits
  - Compensation and Benefits exams
- Medicaid enrollment
- Child Support Enforcement information
- Restoration of Rights Acknowledgment
- Reentry Resource Packet



# VADOC Food Service

**Food Service plays a key role in reentry preparation:**

- ServSafe Certifications
- Culinary Arts Program
- Almost Home Café (work experience)
- Facility employment during incarceration
- Facility employment post release



# Correctional Education

## Academic Program

- Adult Basic Education
- General Education Development (GED)

## Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- 35 Different Career and Technical Education programs
- 165 Total programs offered
- Current with workforce needs
- Non-traditional for women
- Industry Certifications
- Apprenticeships

## College Programs

- Utilized Pell Grants and self pay



# Community Corrections

Individuals on probation are direct sentences from court  
released from jails, rather than prisons.

Probation and Parole – Ranges from intensive to low level  
supervision based on Risk-Needs assessment and adjustment

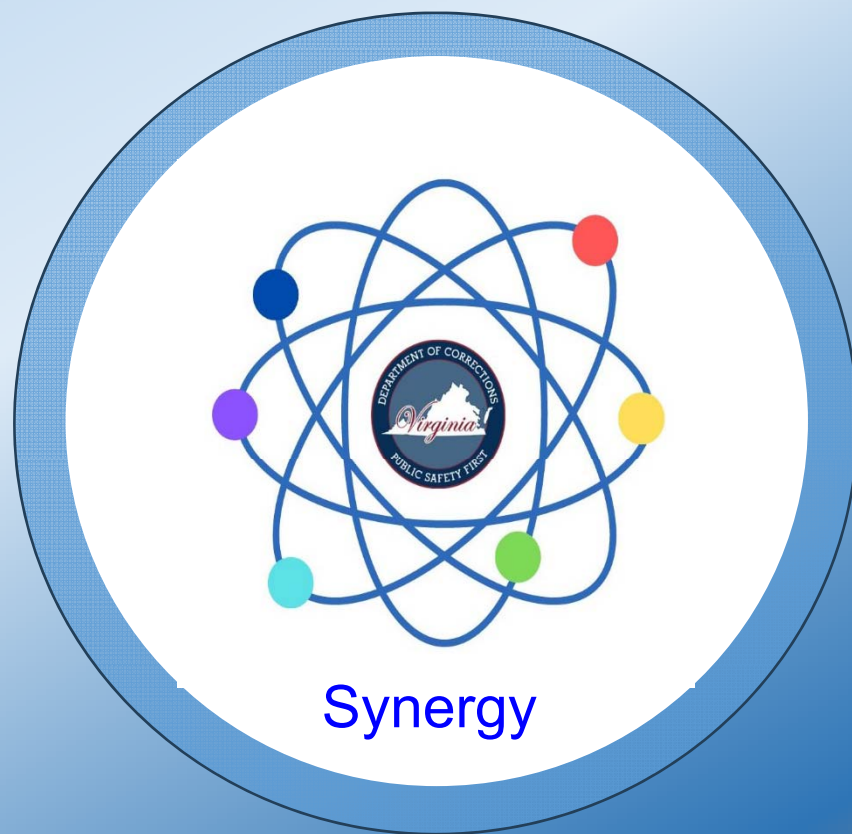
Collaborations – Community partners such as faith-based  
organizations, Community Service Boards, Reentry Councils,  
housing providers, community resources

Programs continued through risk assessments – COMPAS and  
case planning



# Community Collaboration

- Reentry Councils
  - Community stakeholders working together to support those transitioning back to the community
  - 43 Councils Statewide
    - 15 Central, 14 East, 14 West
- Community Residential Programs
  - 9 current CRPs
    - 199 Beds statewide
    - 90 days of transitional housing
- State Agencies
- Mentorship
- Employment/Education Coaching
- Faith Based Community



# Does what we do work?

Across the United States, 42 states have agreed to measure recidivism similarly. This data is compiled over a measure of 3 year return to DOC jurisdiction.

In the past 7 years in a row, Virginia DOC has had the lowest or second lowest recidivism rate in the nation, currently 20.6%. This means fewer victims and greater success for justice involved individuals.

## Program evaluations:

Intensive Reentry Programs, 18.4%

Peer and Technical Education Programs, 12.4%

Academics 16.9%

Virginia Correctional Enterprises, 13.8%

DOC frequently employs and contracts formerly incarcerated individuals.



# An Example of Success



Mr. Travis May