



# Virtual Town Hall: Earned Release Program

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 | 10:00 – 11:15 AM



# Welcome!

This virtual town hall meeting will open dialogue between key stakeholders around one of DOC's key strategic initiatives—the expansion of the Earned Release Program (ERP).



# Town Hall Overview

As valued partners of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, we thank you for joining us for our next town hall meeting. During this moderated session, we'll discuss the following topics:

- ✓ Outline for ERP expansion
- ✓ Stakeholder questions and concerns
- ✓ Where we are currently
- ✓ Next steps for ERP expansion
- ✓ Upcoming judicial ruling and impact
- ✓ Experiences with programming

# About the Attendees

- Wisconsin Court System members
- Wisconsin Office of Public Defenders members
- Wisconsin Department of Corrections staff
  - Wardens
  - Superintendents
  - Administration

# Meet the Panelists

## Kevin A. Carr

Secretary, Wisconsin  
Department of Corrections

## Lisa Reible

Office of Program Services  
Director, Wisconsin  
Department of Corrections

## Todd Allen

Legal Counsel, Wisconsin  
Department of Corrections

## Michael Claus

Recent Graduate of the  
Earned Release Program

# Opening Remarks

- **Kevin A. Carr**

*Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Corrections*

- **Lisa Reible**

*Office of Program Services Director, Wisconsin Department of Corrections*

- **Todd Allen**

*Legal Counsel, Wisconsin Department of Corrections*

- **Michael Claus**

*Recent Graduate of the Earned Release Program*

# Panelist Q+A

What is the Earned Release Program (ERP) and who can participate? How does ERP differ from a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Program? How can ERP programs be made more known to individuals, so they know to ask for the programming during sentencing?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*

# Panelist Q+A

What changes does the DOC hope to make to ERP, and why is this such a high priority for the agency?

*Kevin A. Carr, Secretary*



# Panelist Q+A

Can you share your experience participating in the ERP program? At what point in your sentence were you admitted into the program?

*Michael Claus, ERP Graduate*

# Panelist Q+A

What is the DOC doing to prevent people from coming into the system in the first place? With the option of early release pending, what kind of help is available after release for a person with substance abuse issues from not relapsing? Are there resources to assist individuals in their healing from any lifetime trauma?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*

# Panelist Q+A

What do you think is the most valuable skill you learned in the ERP program that has led you to be successful in the community? What advice would you give to incarcerated individuals who are enrolled in or awaiting participation in ERP?

*Michael Claus, ERP Graduate*

# Panelist Q+A

What is the current capacity for the earned release program? What is the goal capacity once changes are made? Will this expansion cause more people to have their bed date or start date moved to a later date, or encounter delays?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*

# Panelist Q+A

Is there a proposed timeline for when changes will be made to ERP and where do things stand today?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*

# Panelist Q+A

Will the Department of Corrections collect and display data on the earned release program once changes are made? What performance metrics will be tracked to understand if these changes are having the desired impact?

*Kevin A. Carr, Secretary*

# Panelist Q+A

With DOC set to combine Earned Release and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) programs, will those who have already completed the SUD program be considered for a shorter program?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*

# Panelist Q+A

How does the completion of ERP affect the supervision level of individuals on community supervision post-release? Are the EBRV sanctions going to be used, and will the offender's supervision level modify the determined level of risk on the violation's matrix?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*



# Panelist Q+A

Have you been able to use any of the skills you learned in ERP to remain successful in the community, and on community supervision? What are some of the challenges you continue to face?

*Michael Claus, ERP Graduate*

# Panelist Q+A

Currently, there are four SUD groups going on at OCI. Three of them are ERP only and one is non-ERP. By combining the ERP/Non-ERP at the facility, it will be taking the ERP beds down from 30 to 20. Why each facility is treated the same with blanket policies when it can actually limit our earned release potential?

*Lisa Reible, Office of Program Services*

# Next Steps

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