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To: Wardens, Deputy Wardens, Education Directors, and Program Supervisors

From: Silvia Jackson, Reentry Director *SJ*
Autumn Lacy, Director of Program Services *AL*

Date: October 27, 2015

Subject: Pre-Release Modules

I would like to express many thanks to everyone for their dedication and hard work implementing the Pre-release Curriculum these past several years. The information provided within these modules is notably beneficial and very important for some inmates. The potential impact on a successful return to the community is undeniable and the integration of this material into case planning and release planning is essential.

The current practice for sharing this information outlined in DAI Policy 300.00.14 Standardized Pre-Release Curriculum is however under revision. The department continues to move forward with efforts to align our treatment programming with evidence-based practice. The Office of Program Services in collaboration with the Reentry Unit in the Office of the Secretary and the Division of Community Corrections has reviewed the value of delivering these materials. We believe that we can significantly modify the means by which we share this information and address significant workload issues, as well as increase our capacity to address a growing need for more cognitive-behavioral-based programming across criminogenic need areas.

This revised process calls for an end to most formal classroom delivery and stresses the value of sharing module information (videos and pamphlets etc.) in a resource room or library to be checked out by inmates that would benefit from the information. Education department staff will continue to provide health, wellness, and employability course work as needed to meet requirements for the HSED. In addition, the financial literacy program is standardized content and may continue to be delivered if it addresses an identified need in an inmate's case plan. Our new approach will eliminate the DOC-2363 and 2363A Competency Checklists as tracking tools. This has been recognized as a workload issue for some time.

There are currently two related policies undergoing revision to address this change in practice - DAI Policy 300.00.15 Development and Use of Inmate Portfolio, and DAI Policy 302.00 11 Risk Reduction Sentence. Policy changes will be reflected in WICS, COMPAS, and Virtual Folders accordingly, as well as in the inmate portfolio and during the intake process. When these policies are officially revised and published, formal classroom delivery of the pre-release curriculum will be discontinued.

We understand that this may free up many invaluable staff resources that have been allocated to delivery of pre-release modules. Our interest is in supporting local efforts to focus more on targeting individualized criminogenic needs, emphasizing a greater priority on primary program delivery, and release planning. As an example, focus may be placed on addressing anti-social cognitions associated with an offender's risk to re-offend through the delivery of Thinking for a Change. The WIDOC trained 350 facilitators of this evidence-based curriculum during FY15 and will continue to offer training and booster sessions in this area.

We look forward to providing on-going training and support to those individuals taking on these new priorities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send them to Autumn Lacy.