

History of Reentry

Reentry emerged as a top priority for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (WIDOC) in late 2005 through a strategic planning effort with the Center for Effective Public Policy. By 2007, the unit began to take shape with the recruitment of a Reentry Director, followed shortly thereafter with project manager and coordinator positions. The Reentry Executive Team, was also formed at this time, consisting of the Reentry Unit staff, Office of the Secretary staff, and Administrators from each WIDOC Division. The Reentry Unit, located within the Office of the Secretary, provides agency-wide technical assistance, training support, and funding to cross-divisional partners within the WIDOC.

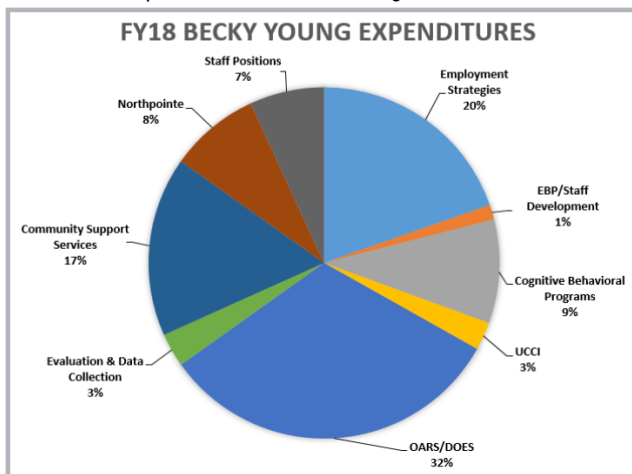
Reentry Business Plan

The work of the WIDOC Reentry Unit has been guided by a Reentry Business Plan, our roadmap to implement evidence-based strategies for reducing recidivism. The Reentry Business Plan is organized into the six priority areas:

1. Organizational Philosophy
2. Data/Information/M Measurement
3. Assessment
4. Case Management System
5. Interventions, Programs, and Services
6. Continuous Quality Improvement

Becky Young FY18 Expenditures

In FY18, the Reentry Unit collaborated with WIDOC adult divisions to expend funds in the following areas:



Recidivism and Reincarceration Data

WIDOC defines recidivism as committing a new offense within a three year follow-up period that results in a new sentence to either prison or probation (following a release from prison). Reincarceration is defined as an admission to prison within a specified follow-up period for either a revocation, a revocation with a new sentence, or a new sentence (following a release from prison).

Programs and Initiatives

Becky Young Appropriation 112 is the primary funding source for recidivism reduction programming administered by the Reentry Unit. Annually, the Reentry Unit, in collaboration with the Reentry Executive Team, plans and executes the expenditure of \$11.4 million. Programs funded through Appropriation 112 are both institution and community based. These programs are working toward achieving the goal of recidivism reduction by primarily supporting on those who are medium to high risk to reoffend.

Pre-Release Medicaid Application Assistance

Since January 20, 2015, offenders have been authorized to apply for BadgerCare Plus the month prior to release from prison. Offenders facing challenges to successful application are screened for additional assistance with the application phone call. In the five facilities releasing the highest numbers of these populations, offenders meeting criteria are referred to Legal Action of Wisconsin (LAW) benefits specialist paralegals. WIDOC staff also assist with applications for releasing inmates at facilities where contracted staff are not available.

During FY18, 67.5% of the 9,238 offenders releasing from incarceration applied for and were enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, Wisconsin's Medicaid program. A total of 28% of the inmates did not apply, and 4% were denied eligibility for various reasons.

FY18 Inmate Medicaid Eligibility			
Timeframe	Inmates Released	Inmates Eligible	Percentage Eligible
FY18	9,238	6,239	67.5%

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academies

WIDOC offers several short-term CTE training opportunities to better prepare releasing inmates (and offenders on DCC supervision) for employment in high-demand fields. WIDOC contracts with local Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) colleges to provide these training academies, which often occur on-site at the college and culminate in the individual earning a technical diploma or certificate within the span of approximately 2-4 months. In FY18, 151 individuals were served through 14 Reentry CTE academies in areas such as welding, computer numerical control (CNC), industrial/mechanical maintenance, construction, and dairy worker training.



Disabled Offender Economic Stability (DOES)

The DOES Project promotes public safety by helping offenders with disabilities establish economic security through more rapid and increased access to state and federal benefits. Legal Action of Wisconsin (LAW) currently holds the DOES contract. DOES benefit specialists provide services to 13 WIDOC facilities. DOES benefits specialists lawyers work with WIDOC staff and community providers to ensure that disabled offenders receive and keep benefits. The attorneys follow their clients into the community and continue advocacy until benefits are attained or appeals are exhausted. During FY18, DOES Project attorneys secured benefits for 255 individuals (58% success rate) and closed cases for 480 clients supervised by WIDOC.

Opening Avenues for Reentry Success (OARS)

The OARS program is managed by the Reentry Unit in partnership with the Department of Health Services (DHS). It was developed to enhance public safety by supporting the successful transition, recovery, and self-sufficiency of offenders with mental health needs as they return to the community. Participants are enrolled six months prior to their release and may continue in the program for up to two years after release.

During the post-release phase, case planning focuses on orienting participants toward psychiatric stability and promotes decisions that enhance mental health and recovery from addiction. This process starts with creative, intensive case management, monitoring, and treatment immediately following release to the community. As the participant positively adjusts, the level of monitoring and services may gradually decrease. The OARS team then works toward transition to financial independence through education, employment, or needed county-based services.

The OARS Program is available in 44 Wisconsin counties and served 306 participants in FY18. The program's Average Daily Population (ADP) was 164 participants this fiscal year. While more study is required, it appears that the OARS program may also have a positive impact on recidivism rates among participants. Participants in the OARS Program continue to demonstrate lower rates of recidivism than individuals with similar characteristics not participating in the program.

OARS Recidivism and Reincarceration Data			
Release Year (FY)	Participants	One-Year Recidivism Rate	Two-Year Recidivism Rate
2014	60	11.7%	18.3%
2015	73	11.0%	15.3%
2016	136	16.2%	---

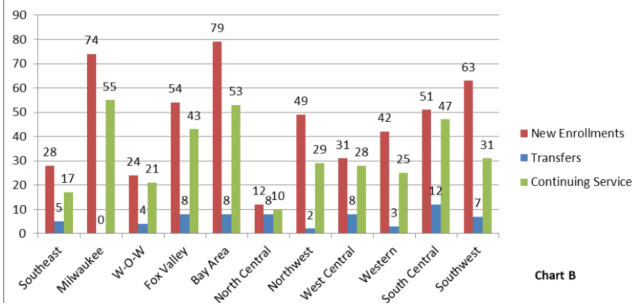
Programs and Initiatives

Windows to Work

Windows to Work is a pre- and post-release program designed to address criminogenic needs that can lead to recidivism. DOC contracts with each of Wisconsin's eleven Workforce Development Boards (WDB) to provide, or subcontract to provide, a Windows to Work Program at selected state correctional institutions or county jail facilities in each workforce development area (program sites below).

The mission of the Windows to Work Program is to promote self-sufficiency for individuals returning to the community through the development of constructive skills and the modification of thought processes related to criminal behavior. This program currently operates out of thirteen DAI Institutions and five County Jail

FY18 Data Analysis by
Workforce Development Board Areas



During FY18, 261 Windows to Work participants were either released from incarceration (DAI program; N=261) or began a jail-based program (N=64). Of these, 255 obtained employment. This data includes employment episodes found through August 2018 to account for individuals releasing late in the fiscal year, and were job searching into FY19. As a result, some data will likely be overlapped in the next year's data set. In total, 78.5% of the Windows to Work participants, who were either released from incarceration or began a jail-based program during FY18, obtained employment.

Windows to Work Reincarceration Data

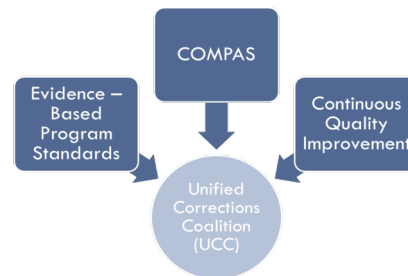
	1-Year Follow-Up		2-Year Follow-Up	
	Total Releases	Reincarcerated	Total Releases	Reincarcerated
FY14	128	10.2%	126	31.7%
FY15	150	14.0%	150	31.3%
FY16	134	17.2%	133	41.4%
FY17	167	16.8%	---	---
Total	579	14.7%	409	34.7%

Motivational Interviewing (MI) Training

During FY18, MI training continued to roll out in the Divisions of Juvenile Corrections, Adult Institutions, and Community Corrections. Staff who have previously completed MI training attend a refresher course and then participate in a Peer Learning Group. Staff training consists of an initial two-day basic MI followed up by a one-day training a month later. Staff will also attend monthly peer learning group sessions to practice their MI skills. During FY18, 193 DAI, 403 DCC, and 16 DJC staff received training.

Unified Corrections Coalition (UCC)

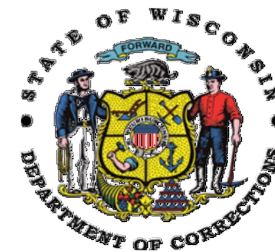
The mission of the Unified Corrections Coalition (UCC) is to operationalize the WIDOC Offender Lifecycle by implementing a single statewide risk & needs assessment and case management system, with an emphasis on evidence-based program standards and continuous quality improvement. The UCC includes staff from the WIDOC and the Office of State Courts, while the decision maker is the WIDOC Reentry Director.



University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute Partnership

The University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) provides ongoing technical assistance to the WIDOC through a contracted partnership. Evidence-based alignment activities include: Corrections Program Checklist (CPC) Training; Curriculum Development and Training; Program Redesign/Realignment Projects; and Staff Professional Development/Coaching/Training.

The activities support the ongoing development, implementation, and evaluation of the Evidence-Based Program Standards.



Reentry at a Glance

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Reentry promotes offender success from admission through discharge through the application of evidence-based practices.