Overview of Georgia Re-Entry and creation of the Department of Community Supervision

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Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform

Created in 2011 – Identified 4 Phases:

1. Adult System
2. Juvenile System
3. Re-Entry
4. Felony Probation
Governor’s Office of Transition Support and Reentry (GOTSR)

• GOTSR created in 2013
• Intended to bridge reentry gap between GDC, Probation and Parole
• Goal: Reduce recidivism over three-year period
• To develop & implement GA Prisoner Reentry Initiative (GA-PRI)
Georgia Prisoner Reentry Initiative (GA-PRI)

• Targeting offenders already eligible for release based on GA law – NOT an early release program.
• For those classified as medium to high risk of committing a new felony offense
• Develop Community Coordinators, In-Reach Counselors, & Housing Coordinators
• Goal: reduce recidivism for those released from prison
• 6 month program, establish pre-release connections with post-release referral services through in-reach coordinators
• Act as an access point for referrals
• Work as liaison to other agencies and community stakeholders serving returning citizens
• Develop local reentry coalitions and pilot sites
Department of Community Supervision (DCS)

- Created by law in 2015 from House Bill 310
- To supervise offenders in the community, who are serving a probated sentence or granted a parole
- The goal – to coordinate resources to improve offender supervision, raise successful completions, strengthen public safety, and increase governmental efficiency
Governor’s Office of Transition Support and Reentry (GOTSR) ➞ Reentry Services Unit

- In 2015, GOTSR integrated & reorganized into DCS, renamed *Reentry Services Unit*
- GA-PRI further developed using reentry based policies and procedures, with continuous improvements
- DCS staff placed into prisons to provide GA-PRI
- Expand Reentry Partnership Housing (RPH) beds from 200 to 300
- Train all DCS supervision officers in Enhanced Supervision Program (ESP), including self evaluated and peer reviewed videos
The Future of Community Supervision

A holistic approach to offender supervision

In practice:
Don’t go back to prison; if never been – *don’t go!*
Questions?