

**Promoting Family Reintegration in
Intensive Reentry Programs
Virginia Department of Corrections**

FY2021 Report



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Authority

This report has been prepared and submitted to fulfill the requirements of the Appropriation Act Chapter 1289 Item 402 Letter K of the Acts of Assembly of 2020. This provision requires the Virginia Department of Corrections report information pertaining to the agency's actions to overcoming obstacles to reentry and to promote family integration in the correctional centers designed for intensive reentry programs to the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and the Department of Planning and Budget on October 15th of each year.

Background

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is committed to helping people to be better through its mission and operations that fosters a healing environment and promotes family reintegration in intensive reentry programs. The VADOC has numerous programs and services that have been developed to assist in the successful reintegration of inmates with their families and particularly, their children. The VADOC recognizes that family reintegration enhances the quality of life for inmates prior to release and once the individual has transitioned to the community. There is also a direct correlation between family reintegration, a decrease in recidivism, and crime victimization.

A primary focus of reentry is to reduce potential barriers to reentry success. Beyond the impact on public safety, the Department acknowledges the positive impact on the lives of the spouses and most particularly, the children of inmates. Reestablishing healthy family relationships, helps prevent the next generation from following in their parent's footsteps into a life of criminal activity. The following describes the programs and curriculums VADOC has implemented for successful family reintegration. Each of these programs offers elements that support healthy family reunification.

Programs and Activities

Parenting Curriculum: In 2010, a pilot initiative was designed to expand family reintegration services for VADOC inmates and their families prior to reentry through the implementation of parenting curriculums. That initiative has expanded over the years with enhancements to programs and family reintegration activities. Originally, the *Inside Out Dads* curriculum was implemented at facilities with male inmates. After recent research of various evidence-based parenting curriculums, *Inside Out Dads* remains the parenting curriculum of choice for male inmates. Female facilities have utilized various curriculums over the years including *Moms Inc.* and *Parenting from Within*. The VADOC has implemented another evidence-based curriculum, *Partners in Parenting*, at all locations. Within the reporting period, staff trainings occurred for both the *Inside Out Dads* and *Partners in Parenting* curriculums to expand group facilitation. Parenting classes are offered on a voluntary basis to the inmate population. These programs are designed to enhance parent-child relationships and strengthen families. The programs educate and empower the inmate and provide new techniques for interacting with their children. While participating in the program, the inmate learns basic parenting techniques, effective communication skills, realistic expectations of children, alternative methods of discipline and co-

parenting skills. Inmates practice providing positive affirmations to their children, stress management skills, and steps to reinforce positive behaviors.

Circle of Parents Peer Groups: Following completion of a parenting curriculum, inmates are offered an opportunity to participate in a parenting peer support group. *Circle of Parents* is a nationwide program designed to provide peer-to-peer assistance based on the principles of family support, mutual self-help, and shared ideas. This program offers 92 lesson plans for parents, as well as a separate curriculum for their children. Recently, the Virginia Correctional Center for Women (VCCW) served as the initial pilot site for *Circle of Parents* peer-led groups. The groups offer meaningful dialogue to help deepen parent-child relationships. Today, multiple sites offer this program to ensure active, parent-led peer groups are being offered within VADOC facilities statewide.

Building Family Bridges Grant: In 2018, the VADOC was awarded the Building Family Bridges Second Chance Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. As a result of the grant, an advisory committee was established to enhance community collaboration regarding parenting services with the agency. Committee members include representatives from Assisting Families of Inmates, Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) and the National Alliance on Mental Health. The committee examines current practices within VADOC that impact family engagement, facility security, child safety, parenting programs, and reentry planning as it applies to family connectivity. Committee members each bring their unique experiences and expertise to the committee.

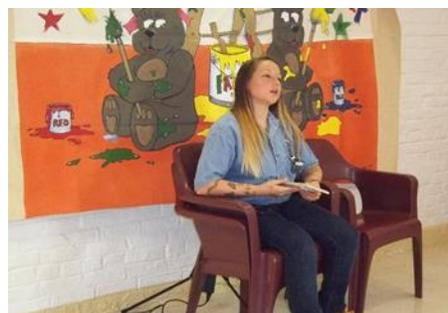
The transformation process of creating a child-friendly visitation environment for children is underway at the three pilot site: St. Brides Correctional Center, State Farm Correctional Center, and Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW). Each facility took advantage of the opportunity to revamp their visitation room making it more child-friendly with colorful artwork throughout the space. Working with inmate parents who are also artists, each facility created their own vision and have been bringing it to life.





To ensure sustainability, the grant also provides an evaluator from the College of William & Mary to review the sustainability of grant efforts as the program expands. To foster family connections, the Building Family Bridges Grant continues to allow parents in the program the opportunity to create video messages to their children, and offers free video visit opportunities.

The Messages Project: The Messages Project is an award-winning program designed to allow both male and female inmates to prepare a video message for their children while in custody. The DVD, accessible through a television or computer, is sent home for the child to view, and may include the inmate reading a special children's book or delivering a heartfelt message of encouragement to their child. In 2008, VADOC staff, Carolyn LeCroy, was honored as one of 10 International Heroes by CNN for her creation of the Messages Project and her contribution to inmate family reintegration. The Messages Project is available at almost all VADOC facilities. Most recently, inmates in the Western Region of Virginia were able to take advantage of the program including those at Red Onion State Prison, Wallens Ridge State Prison, Keen Mountain Correctional Center, and River North Correctional Center. This program promotes child-parent engagement while allowing inmates to creatively communicate with their kids utilizing innovative forms of communication. For example, in the past, parents have sung child-friendly songs, helped with challenging homework, and even taught their child how to dribble a basketball through video. VADOC recognizes that when parents meet their children where they are, family bonds and healthy relationships are established.



VADOC Correctional Nursery Reentry Program: The VADOC is seeking to establish a Correctional Nursery Reentry Program for eligible state-responsible expectant female inmates. Eligible inmates and their child(ren) born to them while in the custody of the Department may reside together at the VCCW facility. By keeping mothers and infants together, this program will aid in the prevention of foster care placements. The Correctional Nursery Reentry Program will allow for the formation of maternal/child bonds during the critical period of an infant's development; as well as, cultivate an environment where mothers can learn vital parenting skills that will better equip them for successful reentry back into the community with their child(ren). The program will utilize an evidence-based early childhood parenting curriculum, and embrace a holistic family-focused approach towards reentry by responding to the needs of our incarcerated female inmates with children, encouraging positive parent-child engagement, and fostering an environment that promotes proper child development. The program will maintain a strong reentry focus by requiring that participants to have no more than 24 months left on their sentence to serve at the time of labor and delivery. This ensures that the inmate is released from custody with her child(ren). The Correctional Nursery Reentry Program will increase mother-child attachment; thereby, improving parenting efficacy, and likely reduce participant recidivism. This program directly aligns with the Department's mission of enhancing the quality of life in the Commonwealth by improving public safety through the reintegration of sentenced women in our custody and care by providing effective programs and reentry services that foster positive change and growth.

Family Reunification Extended Visitation Program: During the spring and summer of 2020, renovations were made to a vacant house on the property of the Virginia Correctional Center for Women to be used for a family reunification visiting program. The intent of the program is to allow a quasi-private, extended period for incarcerated women to visit with their children who live with caretakers in the community. This creates the opportunity for the mother and child(ren) to build and maintain a successful relationship. The program will allow incarcerated mothers to practice parenting in preparation for reentry and full time parenting in the future.



Gender-Responsive: As an agency, VADOC continues the commitment made in 2019 working towards the goal of using a gender-responsive, trauma-informed approach to the custody and care of all individuals in our women's facilities. In 2020, Virginia Correctional Enterprises designed and distributed inmate clothing to the women's institutions specifically designed for females. Correctional Technical Education continues to offer training opportunities for female inmates in employment fields such as welding, electrical, HVAC, graphic communication and design, and business software applications. Agribusiness opportunities for women were expanded to include certifications such as forklift operation and beef quality assurance, allowing women returning to rural communities additional qualifications that potentially create self-support and family sustainability. The Transitional Women's Work Release Program at State Farm Work Center offers employment in community-based settings combined with classroom instruction to increase the likelihood of employment stability upon release from incarceration. The "Greener Pastures" program, located at State Farm Work Center, transitioned to an all-female work program in the fall of 2019. Women are taught valuable skills such as caring for horses, and in this process, learn to care for themselves and others. They also, if chosen, gain teaching skills as trainers, and gain equestrian skills that can be transferred to self-sustaining jobs post-release. These opportunities provided through Correctional Technical Education, Agribusiness, Work-Release, and Equine skills are provided with the long-term goal of fostering financial independence and the ability for women to live with their children and families as the primary wage earner.

In 2020, the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, which, in addition to being an Intensive Reentry site, is the primary intake site for females, refined their procedures to create a more gender-responsive, trauma-informed approach to intake services. The Women's Risk and Needs Assessment is used at all female facilities at intake and throughout incarceration to identify needs specific to females that reduce the likelihood of recidivism upon release from incarceration.

Women have unique pathways to crime and therefore unique program needs, such as increased need for substance abuse, mental health, and trauma services. Although programming at all VADOC facilities was greatly reduced in 2020-21 due to COVID-19, VADOC continued to engage in training opportunities for staff designed to develop a gender-responsive approach to programs and services. In November of 2020, The Center for Gender and Justice provided virtual training to our counseling services staff at the FCCW. In *Beyond Violence*, a curriculum designed for criminal justice-involved women who are both perpetrators and victims of violence, participants learn cognitive restructuring steps and grounding skills to manage trauma triggers. On June 29, 2021, the Center for Gender and Justice, also, provided a learning session via Zoom to executive teams at all women's facilities on the *Gender Responsive Policy and Practice Assessment (GRPPA)*. The assessment is a process designed to provide guidance to facilities on implementing research-based gender-responsive and trauma-informed policies, procedures, programs and services. Topics covered included change readiness, staffing, programs and services, intake and assessment, environment, and quality assurance. VADOC continues utilizing best practices by incorporating *Helping Women Recover and Beyond Trauma* curriculums in to the Cognitive Therapeutic Community Program at the VCCW. The Chesterfield Women's Community

Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) is engaging with program vendors to increase gender-specific women's programming to those who will be returning to their families and communities, with the goal of providing a greater understanding of the unique factors that led to their involvement in the criminal justice system and skills to reduce future recidivism.

VADOC continues to ensure that staff is trained in trauma informed care practices. A four-hour Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Gains Center Training titled, "Being Trauma Informed" has been incorporated in all Basic Skills training for institutional counselors and probation and parole officers. E-Learning modules in Gender Responsivity and Trauma-Informed Care are now available to all employees. In 2020, VADOC Mental Health Services changed their name to Mental Health and Wellness Services, to emphasize health and wellness. Mental Health and Wellness Services provide programming to women in areas such as trauma resolution, dialectic behavioral therapy, emotional regulation, and coping and stress. As women return home to roles as primary caregivers for children and families with a better understanding of themselves and the impact of their experiences, these approaches create resiliency in women and opportunities for generational change.

Wellness Program: Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women has successfully implemented a Wellness Program to provide gender-responsive, evidence-based, and trauma sensitive services. This program was designed to increase self-awareness and mind-body integration, while utilizing collaborative ways to help inmates develop the skills of self-compassion and self-efficacy. This program focuses on mindfulness based activities to include Yoga, Mindfulness Meditation, Mindful Gardening and Health Education. One of the most prominent components to the program is the "Mothering From Within" Program, which focuses on identifying pregnant inmates upon intake to offer them multiple support and educational services to increase the chances of a healthy pregnancy, delivery, and prevent premature birth. The established services include specialized instruction in lactation and breastfeeding, on-site birth support, preparation for separation, and child custody planning. Partnership with a community-based doula (birth partner) has been created to support these services.

MILK (Mothers Inside Loving Kids): MILK is another parenting curriculum delivered at the FCCW and the VCCW. In the MILK program, female inmates meet regularly with staff and volunteers to discuss issues regarding their children, learn effective parenting and communication skills, and plan for special visits that are designed to be child-centered and family oriented. After completing the educational component, the participants are observed interacting with their children and provided feedback and coaching from staff and other participants. This program has operated in VADOC for many years and has strong support among the participants. Prior to the pandemic, the MILK participants had the opportunity to invite their children to the facility for a special visit. The event included holiday décor, age-appropriate activities, games, and lunch with their children.

Family Reunification Curriculum: Since 2011, Family Reunification Seminars have continued to expand in urban and rural localities across the Commonwealth of Virginia. State probation districts have collaborated with various local stakeholders to educate, engage, and empower families of inmates to be better prepared to support their loved one as they return to the

community. Unique approaches have included multi-agency events where partnering agencies share resources on topics like pre-employment services and healthcare options. This, along with families learning about supervision expectations from the probation district better prepares inmates. Family reunification seminars in the community are held at churches, libraries, and the community partners' offices. This change of venue has enhanced the level of engagement for the family members and corrections staff.

On the facility level, pre-release seminars continue to focus on the reentry process and programs that were provided to inmates in preparation for release. Seminars also include information and materials on the transition phases and adjustment to release from incarceration, along with upcoming supervision requirements. The late Dr. Joyce Byron, a renowned family therapist, developed the curriculum used for the seminars that engages family members in the reentry process. Overall, the agency is working to incorporate families as a vital part of reentry success.

On-site Visitation and Video Visitation: Each intensive reentry site allows for visitation of family members at predetermined days and times. Low cost transportation is provided by several non-profit organizations, enabling families who cannot afford transportation to rural prisons to visit their loved ones. Regular contact between inmates and their families is helpful in maintaining strong family connections. VADOC has also installed video visitation technology allowing inmates to both talk and see family members for a small fee without requiring travel to the prison site. VADOC partners with a non-profit organization, AFOI (Assisting Families of Inmates), to facilitate access to video visitation in the community. Since the expansion in facility access to video visitation in 2020, video visits have increased by over 440%. To support the video visitation, activity packets were prepared for inmates as a guide to allow for more productive visits with their children.

Family Information Seminars: These Seminars are held at the intensive reentry program sites, probation & parole districts, and virtually to help family members understand reentry programming and issues that their incarcerated family member will encounter upon their return to the community. Often, inmates may not accurately share the details of their specialized reentry programs with family members. Many family members have requested more information regarding services their incarcerated family member has received while in the intensive reentry program. The forum is a safe space to ask questions and learn more about the VADOC. The Family Information Seminars are unique in that they provide that opportunity for family members to meet directly with institutional and community staff working in reentry services.

Community Sponsored Events: Each year the agency continues to work to help families and build stronger communities. Several district offices held special back to school drives in collaboration with various institutions, local state agencies, and community partners to provide backpacks and school supply giveaways for the children of inmates/probationers. These events ensured that children started school with items needed to foster a positive learning experience. Districts have also held special events to serve families of those involved in the criminal justice system by hosting donation drives of food, toys and coats during the holidays and sponsoring summer camp enrollment for children. These events are consistent with our mission to promote lasting public safety and reduce generational patterns of crime.

Special Parenting Events: All correctional facilities are encouraged to be innovative and resourceful, creating special parenting events throughout the year. Around Mother's Day, the inmates at the VCCW created vision boards highlighting what parenting means to them. The boards were hung in the cafeteria throughout the month for all to view. Events like this allow inmate parents an opportunity to show their creativity, while focusing on the importance of being an active parent.

Anger Management: The Department continues to offer an anger management curriculum using additional modules from *Thinking for a Change*, the evidence-based curriculum from the National Institute of Corrections. *Aggression Alternative Skills* is a cognitive based program offering an additional thirteen skills provided at the end of the *Thinking for a Change* curriculum that focus on appropriate ways to deal with aggression. The VADOC also offers *Anger Management* by SAMHSA for inmates/probationers who have identified needs in the areas of negative social cognitions as well as mental health and/or substance abuse needs. These programs assist inmates/probationers with skill development to strengthen family relationships and parenting.

Substance Use Disorder Services: Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (*CBI-SA*) is a research-based program that provides a structured approach for treating justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders. This curriculum developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, relies on a cognitive behavioral approach to teach participants strategies for avoiding substance abuse. Emphasis is placed on skill building activities to assist with cognitive, social, emotional, and coping skill development. The Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) approach is most effective with substance use individuals involved in Corrections. The curriculum includes pretreatment (optional), motivational enhancement, cognitive restructuring, emotional regulation, social skills, problem solving and relapse prevention. Specific modules offer skills that will enhance the family reintegration process. Such topics include finding support, communicating your needs, having a conversation and understanding the feelings of others. For inmates with less intense substance use disorder needs, *Recovery Route* is also offered as an alternative program.

The VADOC has expanded substance use disorder services to offer medication assisted treatment (MAT) at pilot locations which assist those returning to their communities manage their recovery. Currently, the VADOC has regional recovery support navigators to coach inmates/probationers enrolled in MAT two months prior to release from incarceration through the first year of probation. Navigators also connect individuals to community MAT providers to maintain their naltrexone injections and treatment needs.

Making It On Supervision: Seminars are offered throughout the state by Senior Reentry Probation Officers to ensure that inmates are prepared with the knowledge needed to be successful on probation and parole. These seminars review the conditions of probation and parole. In addition, the inmates are able to gather detailed information on their personal case regarding sentencing orders, fines, special conditions, etc. This collaboration prior to release is contributing to a decrease in anxiety for both the inmate and their family regarding the transition process.

PREPS (Preventing Recidivism by Educating for Parole Success): PREPS was developed by a former inmate who experienced first-hand the challenges of reentry. The program is designed to help prepare the inmate in multiple life areas for the reentry experience and stresses that will occur. One goal of the program is to expose inmates to the realities of readjustment and to prepare the inmate for the risks involved in returning to society. Other program goals include increasing the inmate's awareness of areas needing improvement, enhancing the inmate's coping strategies and skills, and assisting the inmate in developing appropriate skills to handle daily stressors and situations. Emphasis is placed on reentry into the household and how family relationships may be affected.

Reentry Resource and Employment Fairs: The purpose of these fairs is to introduce returning inmates to community organizations and agencies that provide post-release assistance and potential job opportunities. Linkages with critical service providers and employment have been shown to be key components associated with successful reentry. Reentry Fairs also provide an opportunity for service providers and employers to understand reentry programming in corrections and become more amenable to providing inmate with post-release assistance and employment opportunities. Reentry Resource and Employment opportunities are held twice per year at each intensive reentry program. Events have transitioned to virtual throughout this reporting period.

Resources for Successful Living: This program assists inmates with identifying and utilizing resources for successful reentry. The curriculum includes chapters on coping skills, family reunification, compliance with probation supervision, maintaining health, developing pro-social relationships, meeting special needs through community resources, and developing reentry plans. The program offers opportunities to practice through role-playing typical situations that the inmate will encounter after release.

Road to Success: The goal of the *Road to Success* is to provide reentry and transitional services and programming to inmates who are currently at VADOC minimum security facilities including work centers and field units. The program requires that inmates near release complete 12 sessions of reentry programming during a four-month cycle. While work centers and field units typically house inmates with a lower security risk, most still have significant gaps in knowledge and experience that create problems for them post-release. The Road to Success curriculum targets the specific needs of this population. VADOC uses materials developed by The Change Companies that promote cognitive restructuring, problem solving skills, and job skills preparation. A Senior Reentry Probation Officer and Workforce Development Specialist each provide informational sessions on how to succeed on probation, how to create an effective resume, and how to apply for employment.

Thinking for a Change: The *Thinking for a Change* (T4C) program is designed to teach inmates social skills, problem-solving strategies, and appropriate cognitive restructuring techniques, which subsequently may impact risk factors. The goal is to decrease criminal thinking through cognitive behavioral changes and skill development in the group participation. The T4C

curriculum is widely used in correctional settings across the country and is supported by the National Institute for Corrections as an evidence-based program.

Veterans Programming: This programming enables participants to become aware of veteran benefits, access to programs, skills on enhancing self-esteem, steps to improve relationships with family and others, and identify available resources upon release. It provides a support system for inmates with unique experiences, perspectives, and needs as a result of their service in the U. S. military. Using a peer support group process with staff assistance, this program provides information and access to veteran services and benefits; such as medical and mental health, disability, and housing. VADOC has forged close ties with the Virginia Department of Veteran Services (DVS) as well as other veteran support groups like American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and U.S. Bureau of Prison. These groups meet quarterly in the Veterans Stakeholders Meeting with staff to address common issues and concerns. Through partnerships, DVS staff and representatives from other veteran agencies provide onsite services to all VADOC institutions meeting with incarcerated veterans and assisting them in benefit applications. Currently, there are 13 veteran housing units within our facilities enabling veterans to be housed together allowing them to be with other inmates with similar experiences to assist them in coping with veteran specific issuers. VADOC has a Veteran Programs Manager to oversee VADOC veteran concerns. In addition, a Veteran Advocate Position was filled in 2020 to enhance services for veterans specifically surrounding veteran benefits.

Healthy Relationships: The goals of this curriculum is to teach inmates to stop violence towards intimate partners and prevent the occurrence of future violence. Inmates are taught to identify abusive behaviors; identify alternatives to violence; and explore the impact of violent and abusive behavior on intimate partners, children, and others. The cognitive aspects of this program helps inmates examine the beliefs they hold about violence so that this new awareness can begin to motivate change in behavior. This program was developed from the Virginia Standards for Batterer Intervention Programs (Responding to Male Violence against Women).

Ready to Work: To prepare inmates for the transition back to their communities and to assist them in securing employment, this group is offered prior to release. The group offers skill-building sessions focused on interviewing, professional dress, work ethics, employment legalities, and additional workforce development areas. All participants are afforded an opportunity to develop a resume and cover letter, and participate in mock interview sessions. In addition, the Virginia Bonding Program is explained to the participants and they are released from incarceration with a personal Virginia Bonding Program Eligibility Letter. This group emphasizes the importance of workforce development and the financial responsibilities of caring for a family. Participants are eager to attend since it provides them with skills to financially support a family and contribute to their children's needs.

Drive to Work: The VADOC partners with a non-profit organization, Drive to Work, to deliver "How to Get Your License Back" seminars to assist inmates in restoring their driving privileges. These seminars address driver's license restoration and offer a review of their personalized driving compliance summary. Drive to Work has expanded to include online driver improvement

clinics. This program offers participants a second chance to restore a much-needed privilege. Driving is often critical for work and caring for a family. The “How to Get Your License Back” seminar and clinics affords inmates a new opportunity, which assists them with employment, family reintegration, and community involvement.

Reentry Documents: To ensure parents released from incarceration are prepared, the VADOC works with each inmate to assist them in securing their birth certificate and social security card. Through a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the VADOC is able to provide DMV IDs for inmates prior to release. In 2020, Real IDs were also made available, along with veteran indication on the ID cards. The DMV also ensures inmates are provided DMV Compliance Summaries to assist them in securing their driver’s license. During this reporting period, the VADOC extended efforts to assist probationers/parolees with securing the DMV IDs by hosting DMV Clinics at Probation and Parole District Offices throughout the state.

Pandemic Response

In response to the COVID19 pandemic, during FY 2021 the VADOC suspended programs to operate under modified lockdown conditions to ensure safety for both staff and inmates. Even though in-person programming could not be held, programs and activities have been adapted to ensure that reentry services are provided within parameters set by the Governor and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Modification to services included:

- Parenting resources continue to be distributed statewide, addressing topics such as stress management and tips to talking to children about COVID19.
- While in person programming was put on hold, parenting self-study packets were created to allow parents to continue to learn from the *Inside Out Dad* and *Partners in Parenting* curriculum.
- Virtual train-the-trainers were created to train additional staff on the *Inside Out Dad* and *Partners in Parenting* curriculums
- Inmate parents enrolled in the *Building Family Bridges Parenting Program* are able to record messages for their children and send them home in preparation for the upcoming reunification.
- Inmates enrolled in the *Building Family Bridges Parenting Program* are provided free video visitation with their children.
- The VADOC provides every inmate at the time of release a Reentry Resource Packet. This packet has also been uploaded to the VADOC public website. The packet contains resources and information including DMV ID requirements, interviewing guidance, restoration of rights, and tips to staying safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interactive evidence based journals are given to inmates during reentry, including *What Got Me Here*, *Reentry Planning*, and *Money Smart* from The Change Companies.
- Reentry videos addressing financial management and the Virginia Bonding Program are shown.
- Senior Reentry Probation Officers worked to deliver seminars on supervision to the incarcerated population virtually with the assistance of institutional staff.
- The VADOC and DMV continue to work together to provide DMV ID cards prior to release for those who are currently in the DMV system. In addition, DMV has held

- special visits to probation and parole districts to assist individuals on supervision secure DMV ID cards. In person visits by DMV resumed in 2021.
- Inmates with opioid dependency, stimulant dependency, and alcohol dependency continue to be offered medication assisted treatment.
 - The Virginia Bonding Program video was made available through the inmate JPay System so inmates can watch the training video on their personal devices. The video is available through the VADOC website for probationers/parolees.
 - The VADOC developed a Wellness Channel, a video based “channel” that can be played for inmates on housing unit televisions. The channels offer a rich assortment of videos replacing group trainings that include reentry planning, former inmate success stories, healthy relationships and fighting germs. The information is available on DVD and shown through the facility’s close circuit TVs or housing unit televisions.

Conclusion

During FY 2021 and in spite of the COVID 19 pandemic, the VADOC has moved strongly forward to provide family reintegration services to inmates in correctional centers. While the pandemic limited in-person programming, innovative solutions were found to continue providing services to inmates. This included utilizing video visitation, printed packets, taped videos and interactive independent journaling. Family ties have been demonstrated to be a critical factor for success of released individuals. The VADOC will continue to support family services in the new normal during FY 2022.