



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

HAROLD W. CLARKE
DIRECTOR

Department of Corrections

P. O. BOX 26963
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261
(804) 674-3000

September 14, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Janet D. Howell
Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations

The Honorable Barry D. Knight
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Robert Mosier
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Michael Maul
Director, Department of Planning and Budget

FROM:  Harold W. Clarke

SUBJECT: Report on Services to Promote Family Integration in Intensive Reentry Programs
Item 404.K

Attached please find the FY 2022 legislative report on Family Integration operated by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC). The report is authorized by Item 404.K of the Budget Bill and is due October 15th of each year. The report is to be submitted to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and the Department of Planning and Budget on the status on overcoming obstacles to reentry and to promote family integration in the correctional centers designated for intensive reentry programs.

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

FY2022 Report



Harold W. Clarke, Director

October 15, 2022



Enabling Authority: Appropriation Act - Item 404 K.

Description: Annual status report on Services to Promote Family Integration in Intensive Reentry Programs.

Purpose: By October 15th of each year, the Department of Corrections shall provide a status report on overcoming obstacles to reentry and to promote family integration in correctional centers designated for intensive reentry programs to the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, and to the Department of Planning and Budget on the use of this funding.



Authority

This report has been prepared and submitted to fulfill the requirements of the Appropriation Act Item 404.K of the Acts of Assembly of 2022. 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 and throughout the Department. 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 minor children. The VADOC recognizes that family reintegration enhances the quality of life for inmates prior to release and once the inmate 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 curriculum 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 researching 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*. However, the VADOC has implemented another evidence-based curriculum, *Partners in Parenting*, at all locations. 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 those incarcerated with 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. Virginia Correctional Center for Women served as the initial pilot site for Circle of Parents peer-led groups. The groups offer meaningful dialogue to help deepen parent-child relationships. Multiple sites were trained in this model but plans to facilitate future Circle of Parents refresher trainings are underway. The sessions will provide curriculum updates since the initial training and allow for a question and answer segment.

Building Family Bridges Project: In 2018, the VADOC was awarded a Second Chance Act Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for VADOC's Building Family Bridges project. As a result of the grant, an advisory committee was established to enhance community collaboration regarding parenting services with the agency. The advisory committee reviews and suggests revisions on the protocols, procedures, and practices of VADOC pertaining to family reunification. 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 ongoing at the three pilot sites: St. Brides Correctional Center, State Farm Correctional Center, and Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women. 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 VADOC is requesting general funds to cover costs associated with the Building Family Bridges Coordinator position due to pending completion of the grant. This position will continue parenting efforts initiated by the grant. An evaluator from the College of William & Mary is incorporated into the grant to review the sustainability of grant efforts. To foster family connections, the Building Family Bridges grant continues to allow parent inmates in the program the opportunity to create video messages to their children, and offers free video visit opportunities.

Child Friendly Visitation Experiences Grant: In 2021, based on the success of the Building Family Bridges project, the VADOC was awarded the *Child Friendly Visitation Experiences Grant* from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The primary focus of the grant is to expand visitation room remodels to ensure 15 additional facilities offer a child-friendly visitation experience.

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. 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 Prison Nursery Program: The VADOC is actively developing a Nursery Program at Virginia Correctional Center for Women (VCCW). Expectant mothers who enter VADOC custody, and who meet strict eligibility criteria, may choose to apply for participation in the Nursery Program. The program provides parenting education to ensure quality time to strengthen the mother-infant bond during the initial months after the infant's birth. This program gives the inmate mother an opportunity to bond with her infant and be an integral part of their early childhood development. The mother and baby will both be released together better prepared and educated to their families and community. The program maintains a strong reentry focus; ensuring resources are made available to expectant mothers so they may maintain custody of their newborn infant in a safe, therapeutic environment that promotes positive growth. The prison nursery program will promote healthy parent-child bonding by using an evidence-based early childhood parenting curriculum, coaching/mentorship, and wellness education that will ultimately take aim at breaking the cycle of generational crime and further victimization. With only a handful of such programs operating across the country, the VADOC remains at the forefront of implementing innovative evidence-based practices and programs to improve inmate reentry success and address the needs of the population under its purview.

Family Reunification Program/House: During the spring and summer of 2020, renovations were made to a vacant house on the property of the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. In 2022, in partnership with Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI), the home was remodeled with a trauma informed design. This space will be utilized during day visits for inmates in the family reunification program, with the potential for overnight visits in the future. The intent of the program is to educate, build, and maintain the mother and child bond. The program will be dedicated to guiding inmate mothers to successful parenting experiences that teach by example in as much of a homelike environment as possible.



Gender-Responsive: VADOC continues 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. Virginia Correctional Enterprises designed and distributed inmate clothing to the women’s institutions specifically designed for females. Career and Technical Education continues to maintain training opportunities for women inmates in non-traditional and living wage employment fields such as welding, electrical, HVAC, graphic communication and design, and business software applications. Agribusiness opportunities for women 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, teaches women 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 Career and 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.



Fluvanna Correctional Center 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. In 2021, Fluvanna Correctional Center (FCCW) began to offer the evidence-based program for women entitled *Beyond Violence*, which helps women who are both victims and perpetrators of violence/trauma understand and learn new ways of coping, healing, and interacting with others. FCCW also began offering an evidence-based, six-session brief intervention for women with trauma histories entitled *Healing Trauma*. FCCW continues to offer *Seeking Safety Seminars* as well for women with histories of trauma and substance abuse. VADOC continues utilizing best practices through the incorporation of *Helping Women Recover* and *Beyond Trauma* curriculums in the Cognitive Therapeutic Community Program at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. The Chesterfield Women's Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP) increased gender-specific women's programming, including expansion of the *Helping Women Recover* curriculum used in the women's cognitive therapeutic community program, 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.

Mental Health and Wellness Services provides programming to women in areas such as trauma resolution, Dialectic Behavioral Therapy, Emotional Regulation, and Coping and Stress. These approaches are designed to create resiliency in women and opportunities for generational change as many women return home to roles as primary caregivers for children and families with a better understanding of themselves and the impact of their experiences.

VADOC ensures that staff are trained in trauma informed care practices. A four-hour SAMHSA Gains Center Training titled, "Being Trauma Informed" has been incorporated in all Basic Skills for institutional Counselors and Probation and Parole Officers. E-Learning modules in Gender Responsivity and Trauma-Informed Care are available to all employees.

Wellness Program: Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women (FCCW) has successfully implemented a Wellness Program known to provide gender-responsive, evidence-based, and trauma sensitive quality assurance. 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. These programs integrate into the new Nursery Program and will be replicated for those participants residing in the nursery unit.

MILK (Mothers Inside Loving Kids): MILK is another parenting curriculum delivered at Fluvanna Correctional Center and the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. 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. In 2019 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, and games. MILK members topped the day off with a delightful 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 partner 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 and enables 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. 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.

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 providing 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. During the month of June, staff at State Farm Correctional Center hosted a fatherhood event with guest speakers and curriculum centered on topics such as fatherhood and trauma, coaching the fatherless, parenting after incarceration, and co-parenting. Events like this allow inmate parents the opportunity to interact with and ask questions of formerly incarcerated parents as well as professionals.

Victim Impact Program: *The Victim Impact: Listen and Learn* curriculum was piloted nationally in 2006 with Virginia as one of the four pilot states. Since 2006, it has continued to run in Virginia and is now in 25 prison facilities. In 2018, VADOC expanded the program into Probation and Parole. As of 2022, the program is operating in 2 Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs) and 18 probation and parole districts. This 13-week education/awareness curriculum is focused on sensitizing inmates to the impact that crime has on victims, families, and the community. The program is structured to hold inmates accountable for the harm they caused and to help foster a level of empathy toward crime victims and survivors.

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.

Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA): *CBI-SA* is a research-based program that provides a structured approach for treating justice-involved clients with substance use disorders (SUD). This curriculum, developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute, is designed for individuals that are moderate to high need in the area of substance use and well suited for justice-involved populations. The curriculum 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 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: rethinking resistance, clarifying values, recognizing risky situations, controlling emotions, asserting oneself, problem solving skills, and staying on track.

The VADOC has expanded substance use disorder services to offer medication assisted treatment (MAT) at pilot locations which assist those with opioid use disorder (OUD) or alcohol use disorder (AUD) manage their recovery once released. MAT is considered to be the gold standard of treatment and best practice in treating OUD. The VADOC has regional recovery support navigators (RSNs) who provide support and coaching to inmates/probationers for up to three months pre-release and up to twelve months post release, while the individual is on state-responsible supervised probation/parole. RSNs also connect individuals to community MAT providers to maintain their long acting injectable naltrexone medication and treatment needs.

The VADOC continues to offer continuation of oral buprenorphine at Community Corrections Alternative Programs (CCAPs), which is a pilot program that was initiated the previous year. Additionally, the VADOC continues to maintain a Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) initiative that offers peer led recovery support groups from peers with lived experience in SUD recovery. The groups are available throughout Community Corrections including CCAPs and probation and parole Districts. These groups can provide recovery tips, life skills, and social supports to parents who are struggling with addiction.

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 inmate is 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 a Reentry Resource and Employment Fair 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 been both virtual and in-person during 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* 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 *Thinking for a Change* (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, ways to access programs, skills to enhancing self-esteem, and 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 a 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.

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. The Drive to Work program 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.



Child Support Changes: Pursuant to legislation passed during the 2022 General Assembly session, incarceration for 180 or more consecutive days no longer constitutes involuntary employment or underemployment. Inmates who meet the criteria are afforded the opportunity to request a review and adjustment of any active child support orders through the Division of Child Support Enforcement within the Department of Social Services. This information was disseminated through VADOC facilities and is currently provided at initial intake.

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 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 provides Compliance Summaries to assist the inmate 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 Connect Services at Probation and Parole District Offices throughout the state.

Pandemic Response

Due to COVID-19, programming remained greatly reduced through fall, winter, and early spring of 2021-2022, with in-person programs returning in April of 2022. In-person programming cycles continue to be interrupted/delayed if COVID-19 outbreaks are identified as the health and safety of inmates and staff remain a top priority. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the VADOC continues to modify programs and activities as necessary during periods of outbreaks to ensure reentry services are provided in accordance with CDC guidelines. Modification to services have included:

- Distribution of parenting resources statewide, addressing topics such as stress management and returning to school in person. 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 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 within 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 in person and virtually with the assistance of institutional staff.
- The VADOC and DMV continue to partner, providing 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.
- Inmates with opioid dependency, stimulant dependency and alcohol dependency continue to be offered medication assisted treatment.
- The Virginia Bonding Program video is 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 operates a Wellness Channel offering a rich assortment of videos 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.

Report Summary

The Virginia Department of Corrections remains committed to helping people be better. Through sound security practices, programs, education and reentry services, incarcerated parents are provided opportunities to enhance their lives and strengthen engagement with their family support system. Through trauma informed care practices, a healing environment is created for inmates, probationers and parolees. Through these efforts the generational cycle of incarceration is interrupted, creating safer communities and healthier families.

