

MEDIA RELEASE

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia

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Offender Reentry and Sanctions Center Center Opens in Washington D.C.

Public Opening on Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

**Process Includes Assessment, Treatment Referral/Placement,
and Follow-Up Services in the Community**

Pilot Program Shows Reduced Arrests

For Immediate Release

Contact Leonard Sipes, 202-220-5616

Washington, D.C.—**The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency**, a federal, executive branch entity providing parole and probation services to Washington, D.C., announces a public opening of the Reentry and Sanctions Center on September 26, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. The facility is located at 1900 Massachusetts Ave, SE, on the grounds of the D.C. General Hospital.

The 102 bed Reentry and Sanctions Center is an innovative 28-day program taking D.C. residents released from federal prison with extensive histories of substance abuse and criminality. The program provides a complete assessment of the reasons for the individual's drug and crime history and results in the development of a long term treatment plan.

Assessment is now seen as an essential ingredient of successful substance abuse intervention. There are many reasons for drug use. Establishing the specific reason(s) and developing a customized plan to deal with treatment

increases successful completions and minimizes re-offending. A fact sheet on successful modalities is available from the National Institute of Substance Abuse (http://www.nida.nih.gov/PODAT_CJ/principles/).

After assessment, a comprehensive substance abuse treatment plan is implemented, generally involving residential drug treatment, intensive supervision and continuing treatment after release.

The program also acts as a sanctions center to address non-compliance seen amongst parolees and probationers already under community supervision.

The facility provides specialized services for pretrial defendants and female offenders.

An article (http://www.csosa.gov/reentry/rsc_crimecontrol.pdf) explaining the Reentry and Sanctions Center is attached to this press release or e-mail. This and additional articles and fact sheets on the center are available at www.csosa.gov, see CSOSA's Reentry and Sanctions Center.

The Reentry and Sanctions Center is modeled after the HIDTA Assessment and Orientation Center (AOC), which operated between 1996 and 2005. Independent research from the University of Maryland indicates significant reductions in re-arrests amongst AOC participants.

Participation in the program is voluntary. It is not a prison or secured facility. Those choosing not to participate, however, will be reported to the U.S. Parole Commission or judge for action they deem appropriate.

Media Notes

Media is encouraged to attend the public opening. Please contact the Len Sipes, Senior Public Affairs Specialist for assistance, related research or to customize reports. Sipes can be reached at 202-220-5616 or via cell at 240-882-8274.

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