



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 07-05

GOVERNOR'S RE-ENTRY COUNCIL

Pursuant to my authority as Governor of the State of Oregon, I find that:

Due to the tremendous increase in the incarceration rate in Oregon over the past fifteen years, record numbers of prison inmates who have served their sentences are now being released to return to Oregon communities.

Ninety-seven percent of prison inmates will return to community living at some point in their lives. Over 4,000 inmates will be released from state prisons to Oregon's communities in the next year. Many thousands more will be released from jails.

Offenders are spending longer periods of time incarcerated, yet treatment and educational programs have not kept pace with the growing population. Few inmates receive treatment services that would reduce their risk of re-offense upon release and make Oregon's communities safer.

The recidivism rate for offenders released from prison has remained virtually unchanged for the last ten years. One out of every three people released from prison commits a new felony crime within three years of release.

In order to reduce recidivism and its costs to society and crime victims, Oregon must focus resources on inmates as they are released from prison and return to the community. The success of the re-integration of offenders into the community is directly related to public safety.

Effective management of this high risk group will reduce recidivism, thereby reducing victimization and future incarceration costs. Local law enforcement, county jails, courts, prosecutors and victim and social service agencies all share the savings gained from reducing recidivism.

Successful reintegration of offenders returning from prison and jail requires the efforts of multiple state and local agencies. No single agency can accomplish this goal. Our long-term commitment to public safety requires that we address this issue through focused leadership and action.



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NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Governor's Re-Entry Council (the "Council") is established as a statewide leadership group to work collaboratively on improving the success and safety of incarceration to community transition.
2. The Council shall consist of 19 members as follows:
 - a. The Governor, who shall serve as chair;
 - b. The Director of the Department of Corrections, who shall serve as vice chair;
 - c. The Chair of the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision;
 - d. The Director of the Oregon Youth Authority;
 - e. The Director of the Department of Human Services;
 - f. The Director of the Employment Department;
 - g. The Director of Oregon Housing and Community Services;
 - h. The Director of the Veteran's Department;
 - i. The Administrator of the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Transportation;
 - j. The Director of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development;
 - k. The Governor shall appoint one member to represent each of the following:
 - i. The House of Representatives
 - ii. The Senate
 - iii. The Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors
 - iv. The Oregon State Sheriffs Association
 - v. The Oregon District Attorneys Association
 - vi. The Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
 - vii. The Oregon Judicial Department
 - viii. The Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police
 - ix. Social service providers that concentrate on offenders transition from incarceration to the community
 - l. The Governor may appoint additional members as the Governor deems appropriate.
3. The chair shall establish an agenda for the Council and provide leadership and direction for the Council. The chair may appoint and approve the creation of subcommittees of the council.



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4. A quorum for Council meetings shall consist of a majority of the appointed members. The Council shall strive to operate by consensus; however the Council may approve measures and make recommendations based on an affirmative vote of the majority of the quorum present.
5. The Council is responsible for planning, developing, implementing and overseeing a multi-agency transition approach for Oregon. The Council shall map the transition process and identify the impact of each state agency. The Council shall:
 - Create a common vision for transition and reentry;
 - Provide coordination at the executive level of reentry initiatives across the state;
 - Conduct a thorough review of existing policies and practices and make specific recommendations for system improvement;
 - Create an implementation plan for improvements in policy and practice and monitor the plan;
 - Establish regular and continuing communication among stakeholders;
 - Remove or minimize barriers that impede successful transition and re-integration;
 - Review agency budgets and priorities and make recommendations to align them with evidence based practices and policies supporting successful transition;
 - Recommend changes in funding to further support the reformed transition process;
 - Review policies relating to institutional case planning, institutional transition planning and preparation, information sharing, continuum of services following release, social services in the community, housing and employment; and
 - Establish work groups to implement system reform and make the required changes in the procedures and practices of state and local agencies involved in the reentry process.
6. The Council shall define state level performance goals and create a system for measuring state level performance. The Council shall develop system-wide agreement on what is to be accomplished at the state level as a result of improving the prison to community transition. The Council shall regularly monitor its performance measures and report to stakeholders, policy makers and practitioners.



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7. The Department of Corrections shall staff the Council. If the Council requests assistance from any other executive branch agency of the State, that agency shall provide such assistance.
8. Council members are not entitled to reimbursement of expenses or the per diem provided in ORS 292.495.
9. This Order shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 14th day of May, 2007.


GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


Deputy SECRETARY OF STATE

