

Probation Re-Entry Initiative: Transitioning Offenders From Prison to the Community



One of many Arizona prisons Maricopa County Adult Probation Officers interview probationers

transitional housing, Department of Economic Security, treatment programs and homeless shelters.

Each probationer is given a risk to reoffend assessment resulting in a detailed case plan outlining needed services with goals for the supervising officer and probationer. Many probationers who have received reentry services later stated they would have failed had they not had someone invested in their success.

There are over 8,000 offenders in the Arizona Department of Corrections who will return to Maricopa County (Phoenix area) with a consecutive probation sentence.

Through an innovative initiative, Maricopa County Probation has staff go into the Arizona prisons and conduct pre-release planning interviews. Answering questions, letting the inmate know who to contact upon release and assisting them with housing issues has resulted in the absconder rate decreasing over 90%.

The average reentry caseload ratio is 32:1 to allow officers to immediately address each released offender's needs. These reentry officers create a collaboration network by establishing strong working relationships with various agencies such as mental health providers,



Probation Officer Beth Streeter (L) meets with probationer (R) who served over 6 years in prison.