

## **Virginia Reentry & Community Collaboration Councils**

Virginia Reentry and Community Collaboration Councils are addressing key community issues facing localities and implementing a collaborative reentry approach unique in its integration of human services and public safety.

In participating localities, Councils bring together human services, public safety and other public agencies along with private agencies, non-profits, law enforcement, the courts, businesses, community-based service providers and faith-based organizations.

Community Collaboration Councils address reentry and other community issues such as housing, employment, behavioral health, substance abuse, family services, positive youth development, benefits and food assistance. They identify community assets and service gaps and they focus on reentry by addressing reentry barriers and coordinating reentry related services and resources.

Collaboration Councils also maximize effective use of existing resources. They do not impose any requirements on institutions or on local government agencies and their community partners. Rather, councils are individuals, agencies and organizations coming together to address community needs through effective collaboration.

The goals of the reentry approach implemented through local Reentry & Community Collaboration Councils are to increase public safety through reduced recidivism, to maximize opportunities for former offenders returning to the community and to support family and community reintegration for persons previously incarcerated.

This reentry collaboration approach is developed around four primary principles: pre-release planning, interagency coordination, integrated service delivery and support of family and community reintegration, including development of positive links to the community.

Local Reentry & Community Collaboration Councils place emphasis on adoption of evidence-based programming by community service providers, on access to employment and workforce development services, on reentry coaches to support responsible decision making, on development of positive work habits, on formation of healthy relationships and on use of positive parenting practices.

Community Collaboration Councils allow communities across Virginia to address locality specific issues, needs and asset in a planned and coordinated way. They also address reentry issues and barriers using a common vision based on shared principles and a collaborative community-based reentry approach.