

**OFFENDER RE-ENTRY IN CONNECTICUT
SYMPOSIUM**

February 24, 2009-February 26, 2009

INFORMATION SHEET

**Connecticut Department of Correction
Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development
275 Jarvis Street
Cheshire, CT 06410**

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 200 management and leadership staff from the Department of Correction and the Board of Pardons and Paroles have been selected to participate in this event. Staff from other criminal justice agencies and community-based organizations involved with reentry will also be invited. All attendees will be asked to participate actively in the training, as well as in our continued efforts to move our reentry agenda forward.

COST

There is no registration cost and complimentary continental breakfast, lunch, and breaks will be provided. Parking is also available at no cost.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

As indicated above, the training will be held from Tuesday, February 24 through Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, 275 Jarvis Street, Cheshire, CT 06410

2/24/09	7:30 A.M. –8:30A.M	Registration/Continental Breakfast
	8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M.	Plenary Sessions/ Workgroups Lunch Plenary Sessions/ Workgroups
2/25/09	7:30 A.M. –8:30A.M	Continental Breakfast
	8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M.	Plenary Sessions/ Workgroups Lunch Plenary Sessions/ Workgroups
2/26/09	7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.	Continental Breakfast
	8:30 A.M.- 2:30 P.M.	Plenary Sessions/Workgroups Lunch Plenary Sessions/Workgroups Wrap-up/Concluding Remarks

The three-day training will include plenary and breakout sessions covering material relevant to all participants. It will also include small group sessions where participants will have the opportunity to discuss the information presented, to consider its relevance for their own work, and to assist in the definition of next steps for moving our state forward.

Background

Today, more than ever, it is clear that national correctional practices have not met public expectations in furthering the central goal of community safety through successful offender reentry. National statistics confirm that many offenders returning to the community from prison have significant substance abuse and mental health problems,

lack stable housing, and have few employment prospects. A significant proportion of these offenders fail in their reentry process; many reoffend and are reincarcerated within a few years.

The Department of Correction and the Board of Pardons and Paroles are firm in their commitment to align agency policy and practice around the objectives of public safety and successful offender reentry.

The State of Connecticut has made tremendous strides in creating a focus and commitment to successful offender reentry and exploring how its institutional, releasing, and community supervision practices, policies and resources can be integrated into a coherent effort to enhance the likelihood of offender success following their release from confinement and supervision.

In furtherance of this work, the Department of Correction and the Board of Pardons and Paroles, along with BJA and the Center for Effective Public Policy, are sponsoring this three-day event. You have been invited to participate because our planning team feels that you have a significant contribution to make in moving Connecticut forward on this issue. The event will provide an opportunity for us to discuss national and local efforts to enhance community safety and reduce recidivism through successful offender reentry. More importantly, it will provide participants with the opportunity to be part of shaping our future work together.

SYMPOSIUM GOALS:

Agree upon a unified vision regarding the role of the Department, the Board, and our partners in enhancing public safety through the successful transition of offenders from prison to our state's communities;

- Develop a shared understanding of the critical components of a successful offender reentry process, and of the empirical knowledge on evidence-based policy and practice related to such a process;
- Learn from past and current offender reentry efforts in our state while placing them within a broader national context; and
- Embrace the Statewide Reentry Strategy that has been submitted to the General Assembly by engaging in a collaborative process to:
 - Understand the specific methods that will strengthen efforts of the Department – and its partners – to support the successful management and transition of offenders, and
 - Agree on critical next steps – including necessary policy and practice changes – to support the implementation of the Statewide Reentry Strategy in the months to come.

To this end, the training will highlight national efforts to achieve successful outcomes with offenders and Connecticut's own successful reentry efforts, including the unveiling of Connecticut's Statewide Reentry Strategy. Sessions will include an emphasis on the impact that leadership and collaborative partnerships have in our work, policies and practices that support offender success, best practices in offender assessment and case management, and, most importantly, the roles staff and our community partners can play in reaching these goals.