

## The Potter County Re-Entry Program Concept

More than 95 percent of county jail inmates will eventually return to the community. If mental health and substance abuse issues remain untreated, they are very likely to cycle back into the system through the county jail, again and again.

Statistics suggest that as many as 65 percent of Pennsylvania's county jail inmates have a substance abuse disorder. In addition, 10 to 30 percent suffer from mental illness, and up to 14 percent have serious mental illness. The growing opioid epidemic continues to exacerbate the issue.

Caring for the damaged and weak in our communities simply is the right thing to do and has permanent positive effects on the lives of everyone touched by those who overcome mental illness and dependency on drugs.

A more effective use of our limited resources is to safely provide treatment and support to those with mental health and substance abuse issues to enhance the possibility of them becoming productive members of society, sustaining families, building safer communities, and reducing the rate of recidivism.

## Re-Entry Program Goal

The concept of the re-entry program hinges upon providing individuals within the criminal justice system who suffer from mental health issues and substance abuse problems re-entry services to include: housing, education, life skills, employment, etc., while they are located at the Potter County Jail, NW9 Forensic Facility and State correctional facilities. This service will continue to monitor the individual for six months to a year after release.



### Phase One: Institutional Phase

1. Individual Programming: The case manager will complete an assessment to determine the risk of the individual, assess the current and future needs, and build on the person's strengths.

2. Handbook: Each individual will be provided with the Potter County Re-Entry Handbook. The individual will work with the case manager to complete the required information and begin preparing them for release.
3. Services: The individual, in conjunction with the case manager and service providers, will begin treatment to meet the person's needs.

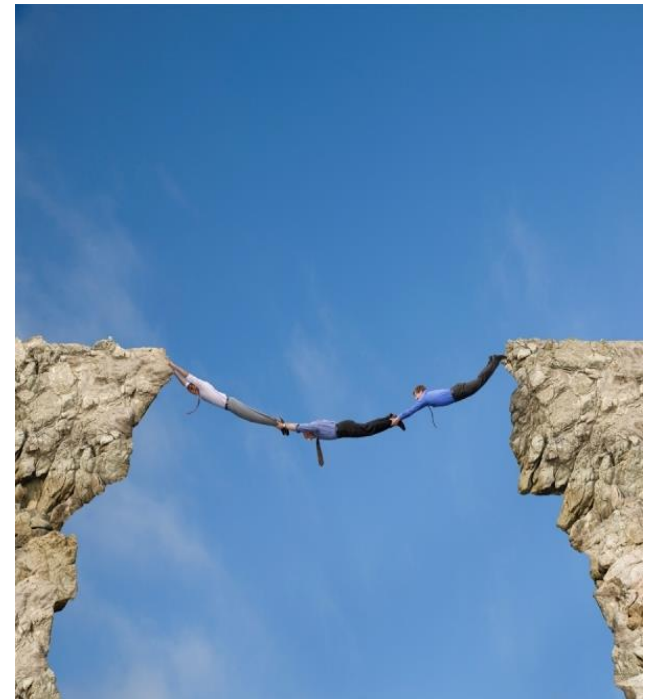
**Phase Two:** Transitional Phase. This phase is usually initiated after sentencing, within 40 days of release, or reviewed as a result of a probation/parole violation that has led to incarceration.

1. Individual Release Preparation and Re-entry Plan: Develop strong, public safety-conscious release plans that establish task orientation during the time spans of the first 24 hours of release, the first week after release, and the first month of the plan.
2. Revised Re-entry Planning: Conducted at the periodicity of 30, 60, and 90 days; 6 and 9 months after entry into the community

**Phase Three:** Community Phase. This phase is a seamless progression of action steps established from phase one through phase two. This will include, at a minimum, biweekly sessions during the first 60 days, as well as monitoring the coordination of services as established in the re-entry/revised re-entry plan.

# THE POTTER COUNTY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

## Spanning the Boundaries



A service provided by  
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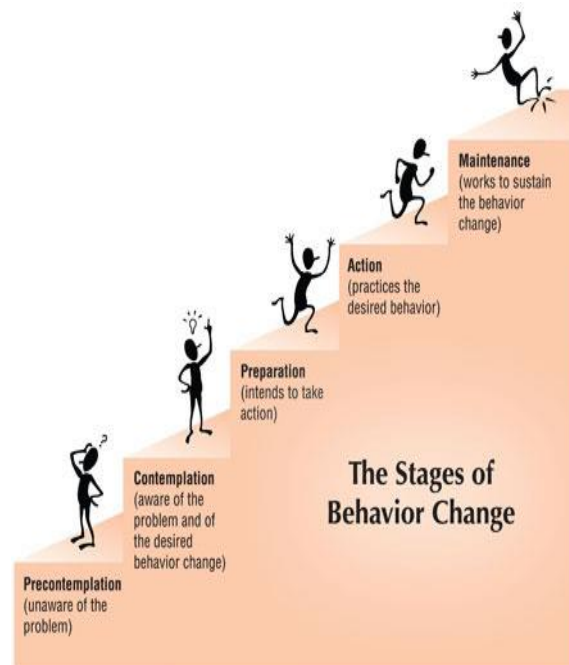
## Forensic Re-Entry Program Path

The individual, in conjunction with the case manager and service providers, will begin treatment to meet the individual's needs and to aid their understanding and actualization from starting a change process toward maintenance of those changes.



## Service Focus

Re-entry programming can reduce the recidivism rate of the individuals released from jails and institutions by providing them with a number of treatment alternatives and services so that they can remain in their communities and become productive citizens.



Sources: Grimley 1997 (75) and Prochaska 1992 (148)