

# A Report to the Legislature

## Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6157



January 13, 2009

## Executive Summary

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During the 2007 legislative session, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6157, also known as the “Reentry Bill”, was passed into law effective July 22, 2007. Section 301 of the bill states that: *“Washington’s Work Release centers be transformed into Residential Reentry Centers with the capacity to provide or connect offenders with the full range of reentry services to achieve measurable outcomes.”*

Included in this legislation was the formation of a Work Release Work Group (Work Group) to review and make recommendations for changes to Corrections law and policies to ensure that Work Release facilities are transformed into Residential Reentry Centers where participants are provided with a combination of reentry services. These services must conform to evidence-based, research-based or promising practices as identified by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP).

In November 2007, WSIPP published a report which contained a review of Work Release programs to determine effectiveness in both cost savings and recidivism. The report concluded there is a cost benefit of \$3.82 per dollar of cost and reduces recidivism by 2.8%.

The recommendations of the Work Group are included in this report. The following is the work group’s definition of Residential Reentry Centers.

The primary purpose of Work Release is for offenders to obtain real-world work experience. This should continue to be the main goal of Residential Reentry Centers. The programming envisioned in this report should be subsidiary to this primary mission. Work release provides an opportunity to fine-tune programming that begins in prison, as an adjunct to real-world work experience. For example, it would be permitted to continue addiction-related programming in Residential Reentry Centers, if a significant beginning to the programming has been made in prison.

# Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6157

## Overview

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### Background

The Washington State Legislature took action in 1967 and created the state's Work Release program. In 1970 the first community-based Work Release opened in downtown Seattle. This was the first sign of recognition that inmates needed a structured transition to the community. Since that time the state has established 14 additional programs throughout the state. The last program to be sited was Peninsula Work Release in Port Orchard in 1996. Currently, the State of Washington is funded for 674 beds, for both male and female offenders. Many of the facilities have specialized programs to aid offenders in their transition to the community, while the emphasis in all programs remains on employment and self-sufficiency.

The offenders housed in Work Release facilities have progressed from total confinement to partial confinement. These offenders are required to find and maintain employment in the community and contribute to the cost of their room and board. Work release facilities are designed to ensure offenders have employment and housing plans when they are released to communities. Facility specific information and policies are located on the Department of Corrections website:  
<http://www.doc.wa.gov/community/workrelease/overview.asp>.

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### Legislative Direction

ESSB 6157 bill states that these services will be based on a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of residential reentry centers and Work Release facilities by the Washington Institute for Public Policy.

- *“The institute should identify what services or combination of services should be provided to participants of residential reentry centers and the length of time services should be provided to optimize the successful transition of an offender back into society.”*
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## Overview, Continued

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### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to *make recommendations for changes to correctional law and policy* to ensure that:

- a. A plan is identified to ensure that Residential Reentry Centers are distributed throughout the state.
  - b. Residential Reentry Centers are of a size consistent with evidence-based, research-based, or promising practices and appropriate to the community in which they are located.
  - c. Communities are given meaningful avenues for ongoing consultation regarding the establishment and operation of Residential Reentry Centers in their area.
  - d. Victim and community safety concerns are given priority when determining appropriate placement in Residential Reentry Centers for individual offenders.
  - e. Eligibility time to participate in Residential Reentry Centers is sufficient to make it a meaningful experience for offenders.
  - f. Programs have the necessary performance measures needed to effectively monitor the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the programs.
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# Reentry Services

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Residential Reentry Centers are of a size consistent with evidence-based, research-based, or promising practices and appropriate to the community in which they are located.

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**Recommended Factors**

The recommendations of the Work Group for providing a combination of reentry services at Residential Reentry Centers are based on these factors:

- Continue the research-based programming that began in prison.
  - Identify services that should be offered at Residential Reentry Centers.
  - Ensure a continuum of services at all Residential Reentry Centers.
  - Strive for continuity of services at all Residential Reentry Centers.
  - Achieve cost efficiencies by having more services at Residential Reentry Centers rather than having services scattered throughout the community.
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**WSIPP Involvement**

WSIPP is requested to perform a more in-depth review of successful Work Release programs to determine which effectively reduce recidivism.

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**Education**

In order to be successful, every offender needs to have a GED upon release from total or partial confinement.

<b>Current</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult Basic Education &amp; GED programming is offered to incarcerated offenders based on assessed needs.</li> <li>• GED Materials are available at Community Justice Centers and/or offenders may attend local community colleges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Residential Reentry Center has stand-alone computer(s) which would allow offenders to work independently.</li> <li>• Encourage offenders to apply to community colleges and seek work study and financial assistance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase GED software (\$2,000) and computers (\$,1090 plus maintenance)</li> </ul>

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## Reentry Services, Continued

### Reentry Planning

Planning for reentry should be a continuous process, from incarceration to release.

Current	Recommendation	Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Corrections uses a facility plan for offenders in prison or Work Release and a separate offender supervision plan in the field.</li> <li>• Limited programming is available to help offenders prepare for release; this is now done with one-on-one counseling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Corrections develop a single “living” offender reentry plan. This plan will begin after the offender has been sentenced to prison; is started during their stay in the Reception Unit, and follows them as they transition from prison to a Residential Reentry Center and into the community.</li> <li>• WSIPP identifies which research-based programs reduce recidivism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be addressed if the Department of Corrections receives continued funding for OMNI updates.</li> </ul>

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## Reentry Services, Continued

### Health Care

Continuity in health care services, and/or lack of access to mental health services is a significant barrier to successful reentry. Additionally, this population becomes a drain on public health resources and emergency rooms services. It is a detriment to successful transition to the community as offender's resources are quickly depleted for the cost of services.

The Department of Corrections has only one Work Release facility that serves offenders with identified mental health issues and for developmentally disabled offenders.

Current	Recommendation	Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Release offenders are required to pay for their own medical, dental and mental health needs.</li> <li>• Only Rap House/Lincoln Park Work Release has a specialized program providing mental health services and limited medical services.</li> <li>• In most cases, offenders transfer to Work Release with a 30 day supply of medications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide medical, dental and mental health services to include prescriptions during the first three months at a residential reentry center.</li> <li>• Primary medical treatment is completed prior to placement at a Residential Reentry Center.</li> <li>• Expand specialized programs for mentally ill offenders and developmentally disabled offenders.</li> <li>• Provide onsite medical staffing at each facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with other government agencies to complete necessary applications for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Basic health plan</li> <li>– General Assistance Unemployable (GAU)</li> <li>– General Assistance with Expedited Medicaid (GAX)</li> <li>– Social Security benefits</li> <li>– Medicaid prior to release</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Offenders transfer to Work Release with a 90 day supply of medications.</li> </ul>

### Proposed Law/Policy Changes Related to Offender Participation in Room and Board

The Work Group recommends the following:

- In order to be aligned with the increases in minimum wage, rent, and social services; the cost of room and board would increase to \$15.00 a day, with a mandatory 10% housing deduction from their income.
- To ensure adequate employment services and training, a suspension should be placed on collection of room and board during the first two weeks of the program, allowing for access to orientation, Work Source support and acclimation to the community.

# Meaningful Employment

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**Re: Section 301: 4b**

*Residential Reentry Centers lead to meaningful employment for offenders participating in the program.*

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**General**

While employment is the most important factor in transitioning to a community release plan, meaningful employment is the key. The primary purpose of Work Release is for offenders to obtain real-world experience. This should continue to be a main goal of the Residential Reentry Center.

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**Current Practice**

Most employment programming begins in prison as an adjunct to real world experience. This programming includes:

- Vocational skill programs
- Class 1 (contracts with privately owned and operated businesses) and Class 2 (state owned and operated businesses) industries employment
- Job readiness training
- Employee Security Department Offender Employment Services

All Work Releases provide for offenders to meet with Employment Security or similar programs to aid in the development of employment opportunities.

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**Proposed Changes**

Residential Reentry Centers will:

- Continue research based programming that began in prison.
  - Identify appropriate apprenticeship programs for qualified offenders.
  - Encourage community-based education programs for vocational services.
  - Create partnerships with employers to use skills offenders learn in prison.
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**Job Skills Training**

Vocational skills are one of the primary factors which allow offenders to gain sustainable employment above the minimum wage and to contribute to their ability to provide for themselves and their families.

***Recommendations:***

- Align job skills development training with market needs.
  - Begin job skills training in prisons; offer refresher training in the Residential Reentry Centers.
  - Ensure that job skills training in prisons includes:
    - Training via community college programs.
    - Training via technical colleges.
  - Use community based vocational education programs, where available.
  - Identify apprenticeship programs for qualified offenders
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## Meaningful Employment, Continued

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### On-the-job Training

On-the-job training programs provide real-world work experiences.

**Recommendations:**

- On-the-job training through Class 1 and Class 2 industries.
    - Dramatically expand Class 1 industry program capacity in prisons from 150 jobs to 2,000 jobs.
    - Partner with private industries to develop needed work space in prisons and new Residential Reentry Centers.
    - Offer long term contracts to Class 1 industries.
    - Assure accessibility of offender workers for Class 1 industry work.
    - Involvement of CEOs and Secretary of DOC in expansion planning (*an implementation factor*).
  - Emphasize on-the-job training in Work Release and pre-release phase of incarceration (i.e. the last year prior to Work Release).
  - Significantly increase emphasis on placing Work Release residents in labor apprenticeship programs.
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### Job Readiness Training

Continue job readiness training that begins in prisons with refresher training available at Residential Reentry Centers.

**Recommendations:**

- Increase resources available through the Offender Employment Services office of the Employment Security Department to offer training in prisons and Residential Reentry Centers.
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### Employment

Residential Reentry Centers provide offenders with assistance in finding meaningful, sustainable employment and real-world work experience.

**Recommendations:**

- Expand the resources of Employment Security Department Offender Employment Services expanded to include:
    - Analysis of jobs available in local markets throughout the state.
    - Call center promotions program to obtain job interviews for Work Release residents with emphasis on:
      - Specific skills, training
      - Tax credit benefits to employers
      - Disclosure of relevant criminal history
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## Meaningful Employment, Continued

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### Licensing

#### *Recommendation:*

- Develop agreement with Department of Licensing to allow offenders to gain licenses for barber shop, cosmetology and other trade programs.
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### Proposed Law/Policy Changes

The Work Group recommends:

- A moratorium should be placed on the collection of room and board during the first two weeks of the program to allow access to orientation, Work Source support and acclimation to the community.
  - Suspend Residential Reentry Center daily room and board charges during any brief refresher training needed to enhance job readiness skills.
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## State Distribution Plan

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**Re: Section  
301: 4c**

*A plan is identified to ensure that Residential Reentry Centers are distributed throughout the state.*

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**Current  
Practices**

Currently there are 15 Work Release facilities statewide with a capacity of 674 beds. A plan has been identified to ensure that Residential Reentry Centers are distributed throughout the state, under section 302 of ESSB 6157. This plan, presented to the Legislature in January 2008, includes siting 600 new Work Release beds by 2017.

The distribution is based on a county's population to determine the level of need for transition Residential Reentry Centers, and a priority for those counties that lack a current program.

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**Proposed  
Change**

The Work Group recommends:

- Accelerate the siting of the 600 beds by 5 years to 2012 to ensure reentry services are available to all eligible offenders. Once siting is finalized, The Department of Corrections will need funds for the operations for the facilities to include staffing.
  - Further studies supported by WSIPP are necessary before recommendations can be made identifying the optimum size of a Residential Reentry Center.
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**Proposed  
Law/Policy  
Changes**

The Work Group recommends the following additions to RCW 72.65.200:

- Section 2: (a) Included in the *public notification* shall be a description of the basic offender supervision philosophy; programs being contemplated or phased in; and why the programs are necessary to the success of the reentry program.
- Section 2: (a) (iii) The local chamber of commerce, local economic development agencies and other local organizations that request such notification from the Department; local Law and Justice councils; DOC websites *be added*.

# New Centers Capacity Plan

**Re: Section 301: 4d**

*Residential Reentry Centers are of a size consistent with evidence-based, research-based, or promising practices and appropriate to the community in which they are located.*

**Current Practice**

Based on historical data the prison population has a significant pool of inmates that have the custody classification allowing referral to a Work Release program but are never assigned to a Work Release location.

- Washington State has 674 Work Release beds.
- Current Work Release facilities range in size from 23 to 99 beds.
- Average length of stay is 96 days.
- The current staffing ratio of offenders to Community Corrections Officers is 30:1.

**Capacity Needs**

The following table includes end of fiscal year snapshots of offenders who have a custody classification of Minimum 1 and housed in the general prison population. Only offenders with Minimum 1 classification are eligible for Work Release.

Fiscal Year	Current Custody Classification as of June 30, FY			Percentage Breakdown	
	Male	Female	Total	Male %	Female %
2000	883	188	<b>1,071</b>	82%	18%
2001	1,032	207	<b>1,239</b>	83%	17%
2002	1,000	191	<b>1,191</b>	84%	16%
2003	118	18	<b>136</b>	87%	13%
2004	1,202	256	<b>1,458</b>	82%	18%
2005	1,235	283	<b>1,518</b>	81%	19%
2006	1,302	285	<b>1,587</b>	82%	18%
2007	1,333	327	<b>1,660</b>	80%	20%
2008	1,350	304	<b>1,654</b>	82%	18%

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## **New Centers Capacity Plan, Continued**

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### **Proposed Changes**

- The Work Group recognizes that there is a need for additional staffing in order to increase services. The current ratio of offenders to Community Corrections Officers is 30:1. This staffing level does not allow for increased case management attention such as: clearing old warrants, developing plans to pay past due child support and securing housing and services. Adding Community Corrections Officers and offering programs in each of the facilities is a cost that needs to be factored into the transition of Work Releases to Residential Reentry Centers.
  - A longer length of stay for offenders would provide a better opportunity to participate in evidence-based services that are proven to reduce recidivism.
  - Increase the number of referrals from prison staff, while ensuring offenders referred are time and custody eligible.
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# Community Involvement

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**Re: Section  
301: 4e**

*Communities are given meaningful avenues for ongoing consultation regarding the establishment and operation of Residential Reentry Centers in their area.*

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**Current  
Practice**

By policy there are certain criteria or prohibitions that would restrict placement such as an out of state release plan or felony detainer. Referrals are generated based on county of origin criteria in relationship to the catchment area served by a facility.

Screenings differ at each facility; some facilities have a committee that is made up of community members, law enforcement, prosecuting attorneys etc. In other facilities screening is facilitated by the Work Release Supervisor.

There continue to be communities, at the time of siting, during community initiatives and contract negotiation, that are resistant to Work Release due to community concerns.

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**Proposed  
Law/Policy  
Changes**

- SSB 6400 – requires that an Oversight Committee develop a comprehensive interagency plan to provide voluntary, nondenominational moral and character-building residential services and supports for offenders who are incarcerated in prison. It is recommended that this plan apply to both residential reentry centers as well as prisons.
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## Victim/Community Concerns

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**Re: Section  
301: 4f**

*Victim and community safety concerns are given priority when determining appropriate placement in Residential Reentry Centers for individual offenders.*

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**Current  
Practices**

One concern often noted is the safety of the community while an offender transitions through a Work Release program. The true test of community safety is criminal activity while in Work Release. Department data shows:

- 19 new felony convictions by offenders in Work Release facilities between July 1, 2004 – October 30, 2008.
  - 16 offenders found guilty of escape from a Work Release during Fiscal Year 2008.
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**Victim  
Concerns**

The committee recommends that the Secretary of DOC and the Legislature work together to expand victim notification services to crimes victim(s) of any offender under the supervision of DOC to include:

***Recommendations:***

- Make every reasonable effort to use new technology and programs such as the current Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) system, supported by Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), to notify victims of offender transfers or release.
  - Contact victims when offender is first in prison.
  - Consult with victims and victim advocates about offender placement.
  - Assure victims of physical distance from the offender.
  - Give victim and community safety concerns priority when determining appropriate placement in Residential Reentry Centers.
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**Community  
Concerns**

***Recommendations:***

Communities are given avenues for ongoing consultation regarding the establishment and operation of Residential Reentry Centers in their area.

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**Proposed  
Law/Policy  
Changes**

- Make every reasonable effort to use new technology and programs such as the current VINE system, supported by WASPC, to notify victims of offender transfers or release.
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## Eligibility Participation Time Frames

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**Re: Section  
301: 4g**

*Eligibility time to participate in Residential Reentry Centers is sufficient to make it a meaningful experience for offenders.*

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**Current  
Practices**

WAC 137-56-040.1.b states the current length of stay is within the offenders last 180 days of their confinement. The current average stay is approximately three months.

The 2006 ACA Operations Inspection Report indicated there was consensus that less than 2 months in a Work Release program is counter-productive.

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**Length of stay**

It is generally agreed that many residents would benefit from a longer average length of stay in a Residential Reentry Center. Within the current length of stay, the resident's primary focus on obtaining employment, rather than participating in other programs that change thinking and behaviors. A longer length of stay for some offenders would provide a better opportunity to participate in evidence-based services that are proven to reduce recidivism.

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**Proposed  
Changes**

***Recommendations:***

- Increase the average length of stay in Residential Reentry Centers in order to offer more programming.
    - Consult with WSIPP to determine the “best” length of stay.
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## Program Performance Measures

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**Re: Section  
301: 4h**

*Programs have the necessary performance measures needed to effectively monitor quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the programs.*

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**Current  
Practices**

The Department of Corrections is committed to preparing each offender for successful reentry into the community by investing in a portfolio of evidence-based and cost-effective intervention programs and services. These programs and services are essential to help offenders learn the skills and self-control necessary to avoid future criminal behavior. Many of these programs are funded by Offender Betterment Funds. (See Appendix D)

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**Program  
Performance  
Measures**

The 2006 WSIPP report found that some evidenced based programs do reduce crime but others do not.

***Recommendations:***

- WSIPP perform a more in depth review of successful programs to determine what each one is doing to effectively reduce recidivism of their client population.
  - Incorporate these options into public policies in order to yield a positive outcome.
  - Implement a moderate-to-aggressive portfolio of evidence-based options in treatment, education and family consistently offered statewide, throughout prisons, Residential Reentry Centers and at the regional Community Justice Centers.
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**Proposed  
Changes**

***Recommendations:***

- Continue the research-based programming that began in prison.
  - Identify services that should be offered at Residential Reentry Centers.
  - Ensure a continuum of services at all Residential Reentry Centers.
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## Appendix A – Work Group

### Membership

The following table identifies the members of this work group.

<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>
Secretary of Department of Corrections	Anne Fiala, Department of Corrections
Appointed by Governor	John Lane, Governor's Office
Community Corrections Officer	Norm Hill, Department of Corrections
Prosecuting Attorney Association	Ed Holm, Thurston County Prosecutor's Office
Superior Court Judges Association	Judge John Hickman, Pierce County Superior Court
Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	Ric Bishop, Clark County Sheriff's Office
Association of Washington Counties	Mark McLain, Kittitas County Commissioners Office
Association of Washington Cities	Nancy McLaughlin, Spokane City Council
Contract Work Release	Larry Fehr, Pioneer Human Services
State-run Work Release	Debra Prichard, Department of Corrections
Nonprofit Organization	Frank Boulet, Rebuilding Families, Inc.
Crime Victim's Advocate	Jim Huffman, Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims
Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development	Annie Conant, Washington Community, Trade and Economic Development

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## Appendix A – Work Group, Continued

### Meetings

When developing the meeting schedule, the Work Group identified several Work Releases where the meetings would be conducted. Work Group members also participated in tours and were given presentations from the staff at each Work Release location. The meetings were open to the public and press releases notifying the media were sent out prior to the meetings. The following table identifies the dates and locations of the Work Group meetings.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 28, 2008	Department of Corrections HQ, Tumwater
May 20, 2008	Tacoma Community Justice Center and Progress House Work Release, Tacoma
June 24, 2008	Clark County Work Release, Vancouver
July 22, 2008	Peninsula Work Release, Port Orchard
August 19, 2008	Brownstone Work Release and Eleanor Chase Work Release, Spokane
September 16, 2008	Longview Work Release, Longview
November 18, 2008	Criminal Justice Training Center, Burien

### Education

The Work Group determined that they were in need of some education regarding the current practices in Work Release. The following table identifies the dates, topics, and presenters of the education provided to the Work Group.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
June 24, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does Participation in Washington’s Work Release Facilities Reduce Recidivism?</li> <li>• Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Future Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates.</li> </ul>	Elizabeth Drake, WSIPP
August 19, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New risk and needs assessment tool for classification</li> <li>• American Correctional Association Work Release Certification</li> </ul>	Lin Miller, DOC

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## Appendix A – Work Group, Continued

**Subcommittees** The Work Group felt that the review of the overall program was too broad and needed to be broken down into focused Subcommittees. Four target areas were identified to be broken into smaller Subcommittees. The Subcommittees were comprised of Work Group members along with contract and state Work Release staff that were identified as subject matter experts on current practices and programming.

The factors each group considered included:

- Identifying the services that should be offered at Work Release facilities.
- Ensuring a continuum of services at all Work Release facilities.
- Striving for continuity of services at all Work Release facilities.
- Achieving cost efficiencies by having more services at Work Release, rather than having services scattered throughout a community.
- Importance of employment and other evidence-based practices.

The following table identifies the target area, chairperson, and mission for each subcommittee.

<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Mission</b>
Collateral Consequences and Barriers	Ed Holm	The focus of this subcommittee was to identify any current barriers or challenges that need to be addressed in transforming Work Releases into Residential Reentry Centers.
Evidence-Based Programs and Services	Larry Fehr	This subcommittee focused its efforts on the five major areas of evidence-based practices and promising practices that were identified in the report by the WSIPP, “ <i>Evidence-Based Public Policy Options to Reduce Future Prison Construction, Criminal Justice Costs, and Crime Rates.</i> ” Those five primary areas included Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Substance Abuse Treatment, Specialized Programs for Mentally Ill Offenders, Family-Centered Interventions and Anger/Stress Management.

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## Appendix A – Work Group, Continued

**Subcommittees**  
(continued)

Target Area	Chairperson	Mission
Community Safety and Victims	Ric Bishop	This subcommittee reviewed and made recommendations for changes to corrections law and policies to ensure that: (e) Communities are given meaningful avenues for ongoing consultation regarding the establishment and operation of Residential Reentry Centers in their area; (f) Victim and community safety concerns are given priority when determining appropriate placement in Residential Reentry Centers for individual offenders.
Employment	Frank Boulet	This subcommittee focused their recommendations regarding how Residential Reentry Centers can provide offenders with meaningful, sustainable employment. Ensuring that offenders are connected to a full range of reentry services is a paramount shift toward building successful sustainable Residential Reentry Centers.

## Appendix B – Public Participation

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**April 28, 2008**      **Location:** Tumwater, Washington  
**Public Attendees:** 1  
**Comments:**  
• No comments

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**May 20, 2008**      **Location:** Tacoma, Washington  
**Public attendees:** 11  
**Comments:**

- Comment from former offender – feels Work Release offenders need:
  - Incentives
  - Partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build houses for others
  - Provided with housing options and connection to community
- Offenders should be given tools for success so they have ownership in their future.
- Request incentives for employers to hire offenders
- Work Group should consider:
  - Identifying best practices
  - Creating ideal program design
  - Identifying any barriers
  - Other agencies create roadblocks and may need to change their policies
  - Offenders should be allowed to stay in Work Release for up to twelve months
  - Focusing on communication strategies
  - Gender differences
  - Offenders at the Tacoma Community Justice Center are participating in the *Financial Literacy* program, which is making a difference
  - Establishing a blog site for public input
  - Looking at ways to help prevent youth from getting into trouble

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## Appendix B – Public Participation, Continued

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June 24, 2008

**Location:** Vancouver, Washington

**Public Attendees:** 8

**Comments:**

- Are offenders monitored after release to see if they continue with the programs/treatment they were participating in prior to release?
- The Department follows conditions of Judgment and Sentence; offenders are supervised accordingly.
- Limit Work Release to those offenders that would be successful by using the program.
- By participating in Work Release, it gives them a chance to reintegrate with their families, i.e. learn how to play with their children and get reacquainted.
- There are programs that teach offenders how to act at work, being respectful of others, and being there every day and on time.
- Vocational training or job readiness training is something the group should look at having at the Work Release facilities.
- The time in Work Release should be extended to allow for job readiness skills. The jobs inmates get in prison aren't necessarily what they have when they are in the community, but it is teaching them a work ethic and how to act while at work.

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July 22, 2008

**Location:** Port Orchard, Washington

**Public Attendees:** 9

**Comments:**

- Discussion on how many offenders retain their job when they leave Work Release. It is not always possible as the offender may not be releasing to the same area as the Work Release as many of the Work Releases take offenders from several different counties.
- Educate the public more so that they know 97% of inmates will eventually be releasing.
- Victim issues should take priority when placing offenders in Work Release.
- Members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) would like to have more victim involvement in release planning.
- Members of MADD thanked the Department of Corrections for making this a public meeting and found the information to be very useful.

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## Appendix B – Public Participation, Continued

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**August 19, 2008** **Location:** Spokane, Washington

**Public Attendees:** 23

**Comments:**

- Services available at Spokane Community Justice Center
    - Job Hunter curriculum
    - Work Source Resources
    - Cognitive behavior classes, i.e. Moral Reconciliation Therapy and Thinking for a Change
    - Cooking Class (Washington State University provides)
    - Chemical Dependency Classes
  - 80% of offenders release from jail, not through prisons or Work Release
  - The Community Justice Center has one stop shopping for services
  - Offenders from Work Release participate in programs at the Community Justice Center
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**September 16, 2008** **Location:** Longview, Washington

**Public Attendees:** 13

**Comments:**

- Need more services offered in jails
  - Concern voiced about offenders being released where they are not going to live; i.e. Work Release not located in their community.
  - Recidivism research is based on Department of Corrections offenders and does not include federal or county offenders. May not be completely accurate as it does not capture “all offenders”.
  - Offenders need employment after care once released such as
    - how to retain a job
    - financial training/budgeting
    - affordable housing
- 

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## Appendix B – Public Participation, Continued

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November 18,  
2008

**Location:** Burien, Washington

**Public Attendees:** 10

**Comments:**

- Representative from South Seattle Community College indicated there are educational and vocational scholarships or grants available to assist offenders reentering the community.
  - Department of Licensing has a Work Group looking at licensing issues. The Department of Corrections has a representative on this group.
  - Report should recommend eliminating programs that are not working and replace them with evidence-based programs.
  - Encourage Work Release offenders to make medical appointments for routine care and not rely on emergency room or urgent care services after hours or when they return from work.
  - There should be a separate facility for Department of Corrections, violators. These offenders should not be in Work Release.
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## Appendix C - Offender and Staff Perspectives

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### Interview Comments

This was taken a step further when a separate work group was established in January 2007 to look at the needs of Work Release, both from offender and staff perspectives. Interviews were conducted by the Committee members covering residents in co-ed, female only and male only facilities throughout the state. Consensus was reached in a variety of areas that included:

- Offenders need Work Release to better their chances at successful reentry.
  - The recommended term in Work Release varied, but all felt that less than 2 months was counterproductive.
  - They came to Work Release because they wanted to be closer to family, develop a release address and obtain employment.
  - Although not readily available in all areas, some offenders wanted to be able to enroll in college or trade program.
  - Increased availability of Chemical Dependency programs, especially when nearing release to the community.
  - Many were involved in some form of programming, but offered recommendations for expansion of offered programs.
  - All of the offenders interviewed felt more employment assistance was necessary so that they did not feel “pressured” into menial positions that would not sustain them in the community.
  - Many felt that the cost of room and board needed to be re-examined, to include no charge during employment seeking phase and sliding scale based upon current hourly wage.
  - Decreasing idleness while in the facility.
-

## Appendix D – Current Programs

### Offender Change Programs

The following table describes the current programs offered in Work Releases, their description, type of program and locations served by the program.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location(s) Served</b>
<b>Art Therapy</b>	Uses art therapy to address issues related to sex offenders.	Curriculum Based	Eleanor Chase
<b>D.A.D.S (Divine Alternatives for Dads Services)</b>	The purpose of the D.A.D.S. program is to develop in fathers a sense of responsibility for their children through education and effective parenting skills. They also are involved in child support management. D.A.D.S. also has a number of community based services that those offenders who participate in the program are eligible for.	Curriculum Based Promising Practice	Progress House Bishop Lewis
<b>Financial Literacy</b>	Teaches money management skills	Curriculum Based	Rap Lincoln, Progress House, and Tacoma Community Justice Center
<b>Getting it Right</b>	Offenders learn new ways to cope with difficult situations on a day-to-day basis		Reynolds
<b>Home Free Program</b>	Works with offenders on needs based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs.	Curriculum Based	Helen B. Ratcliff, Reynolds, and Bishop Lewis
<b>Life-Skills-to-Work (South Seattle Community College)</b>	Students enrolled in this nonacademic class are taught everything from managing debt to gaining self-esteem to setting goals.	Curriculum Based	Helen B. Ratcliff, and Madison Inn

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## Appendix D – Current Programs, Continued

### Offender Change Programs (continued)

Program	Description	Type	Location(s) Served
<b>Love and Logic</b>	Allow adults to be happier, empowered, and more skilled in the interactions with children. Allows children to grow through their mistakes and to live with the consequences of their choices. Puts parents and teachers back in control. Teaches children to be responsible. Prepares young people to live the real world, with its many choices and consequences.	Promising Practice	Peninsula
<b>Marriage and Parenting (MA &amp; PA)</b>	Focuses on strengthening the couple's relationship (married or unmarried.) Exploration of parenting attitudes and skills. Engages couples in dialogue. Spouses/partners learn about themselves and each other. Create a shared vision for family life. Helps each couple to develop the attitudes and skills for successful family formation.	Promising Practice Curriculum Based	Brownstone
<b>Money Smart</b>	FDIC created training program to help adults outside the financial mainstream enhance their money skills and create positive banking relationships. Financial education fosters financial stability for individuals, families, and entire communities. Participants are more likely to establish savings, buy homes, and improve their financial health and well being. Helps individuals build financial knowledge, develop financial confidence, and use banking services effectively.	Curriculum Based	All work release facilities have the CD for implementation.
<b>Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)</b>	MRT is a cognitive-behavioral treatment approach designed.	Promising Practice	Eleanor Chase, and Brownstone

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## Appendix D – Current Programs, Continued

### Offender Change Programs (continued)

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location(s) Served</b>
<b>Nurturing Fathers</b>	Equips men to become better fathers by understanding themselves, how they were parented and how this affects the type of father they are or will be.	Evidence Based Curriculum Based	Brownstone, Tacoma Community Justice Center, Progress House, and Rap/Lincoln
<b>Partners in Parenting</b>	Emphasizes building skills Provides support to parents Helps parents understand the needs and abilities of children in different stages of development.	Evidence Based Curriculum Based	Tri-Cities and Clark County
<b>PICK (Premarital Interpersonal Choices and Knowledge) a Partner</b>	The PICK a Partner program helps offenders manage their relationships with greater insight.	Curriculum Based	Eleanor Chase
<b>Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)</b>	Addresses issues of PTSD in offenders.	Curriculum Based	Eleanor Chase
<b>Responsible Renters Program</b>	Responsible Renters Program educates families about the rights and responsibilities of renting and also to connect them with housing subsidies and partnering landlords.	Curriculum Based	Eleanor Chase
<b>Strengthening Families</b>	Caregivers and youth age 9-17 yrs old participate together. Caregivers learn about using love and limits, making house rules, encouraging good behavior, protecting against substance abuse, communication with youth, how to help youth with peer pressure. Youth learn about having goals and dreams, appreciating caregivers, dealing with stress, following rules, handling peer pressure, reaching out to others, handling conflict, communicating with caregivers, and making good friends.	Evidence Based Curriculum Based	Olympia, Rap/Lincoln, Progress House, Eleanor Chase, Brownstone, and Tri-Cities
<b>Stress Anger Management</b>	Works with offenders on how to effectively manage anger and stressful situations.	Curriculum Based	Reynolds Work Release, Longview Work Release

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## Appendix D – Current Programs, Continued

### Offender Change Programs (continued)

<b>Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location(s) Served</b>
<b>WSU Food \$ense</b>	Learn to create great affordable meals in one skillet. Sample the meal and supplies are provided by the facilitator.	Promising Practice	Yakima, Rap/Lincoln, Progress House
<b>D.A.D.S (Divine Alternatives for Dads Services)</b>	The purpose of the D.A.D.S. program is to develop in fathers a sense of responsibility for their children through education and effective parenting skills. They also are involved in child support management. D.A.D.S. also has a number of community based services that those offenders who participate in the program are eligible for.	Curriculum Based Promising Practice	Progress House Bishop Lewis
<b>Financial Literacy</b>	Teaches money management skills	Curriculum Based	Rap Lincoln, Progress House, and Tacoma Community Justice Center
<b>Getting it Right</b>	Offenders learn new ways to cope with difficult situations on a day-to-day basis		Reynolds
<b>Home Free Program</b>	Works with offenders on needs based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs.	Curriculum Based	Helen B. Ratcliff, Reynolds, and Bishop Lewis
<b>Life-Skills-to-Work (South Seattle Community College)</b>	Students enrolled in this nonacademic class are taught everything from managing debt to gaining self-esteem to setting goals.	Curriculum Based	Helen B. Ratcliff, and Madison Inn

## Appendix E – Employment Programs

**Offender Change Programs** All Work Releases have opportunities for offenders to meet with Employment Security or similar programs to aid in the development of employment opportunities.

<b>Work Release</b>	<b>Employment Program</b>
<b>Ahtanum View</b>	Residents are referred to Job Hunter at the Yakima Community Justice Center when they arrive at Work Release. Act Now offers on-call employment. They Utilize Work Source, Goodwill Industries and Salvation Army offer employment-related services.
<b>Bellingham</b>	Residents utilize the services of Work Source.
<b>Bishop Lewis</b>	Employment specialist from Pioneer Human Services comes in weekly. Offenders have access to Work Source at the Seattle Community Justice Center and the one downtown. Various community organizations assist offenders such as AARP, the Center for Career Alternatives and Farestart.
<b>Brownstone</b>	Offenders utilize Work Source at Goodwill. All offenders attend and complete Job Hunters at Spokane Community Justice Center prior to beginning their job search.
<b>Clark County</b>	Offenders are sent to the Employment Counselor through Work Source at the Community Justice Center.
<b>Eleanor Chase</b>	Offenders utilize Work Source at Goodwill. All offenders attend and complete Job Hunters at Spokane Community Justice Center prior to beginning their job search.
<b>Longview</b>	Goodwill Industries comes to the facility once a week. During the first week at Work Release offenders are sent to Work Source; on Thursday afternoon they take the Job Fit test and on Friday they return for their interview.
<b>Madison Inn</b>	An employment specialist from Pioneer Human Services come to the facility and provides hot jobs and referrals to other work opportunities in King County. Residents also utilize Work Source.
<b>Olympia</b>	A Work Source Specialist comes in to the facility weekly.
<b>Peninsula</b>	A Work Source Specialist comes in weekly.
<b>Progress House</b>	A Work Source comes to the facility once per week.
<b>Rap House Lincoln Park</b>	Offenders utilize the Community Justice Center where Work Source participates in programs, and they go to Work Source.

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## Appendix E – Employment Programs, Continued

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### Offender Change Programs (continued)

Work Release	Employment Program
<b>Helen B. Ratcliff</b>	Employment specialist from Pioneer Human Services in weekly and provides hot jobs and referrals to other work opportunities in King County. Residents also utilize Work Source and our approved employer list.
<b>Reynolds</b>	Employment specialist from Pioneer Human Services comes to the facility every Friday to assist the residents.
<b>Tri-Cities</b>	Offenders are given application to employment services at Goodwill. Once the application is turned in, the offender is interviewed by Goodwill and assigned an Employment Specialist. Once the offender gets a job, a Job Retention Specialist from Goodwill continues to track them. Goodwill provides assistance with bus passes and vouches for work clothes. Offenders can also participate in Job Hunter X being offered in the local field office.



## Appendix F - References

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