



# Creating a System for Success

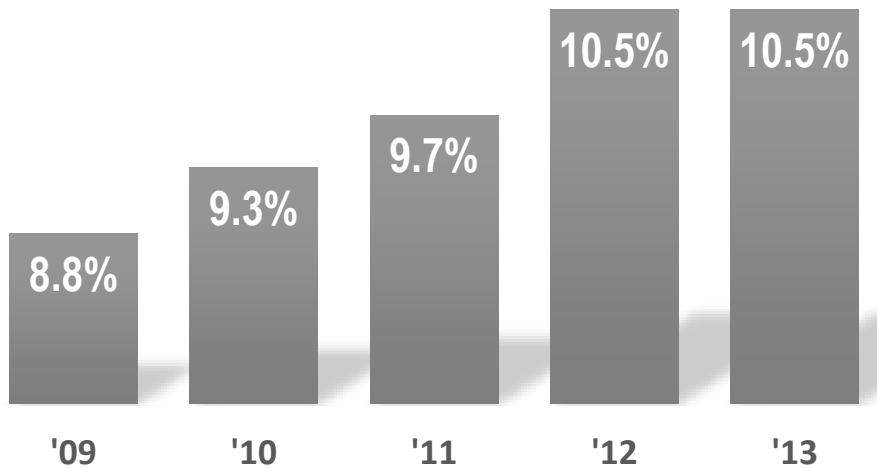
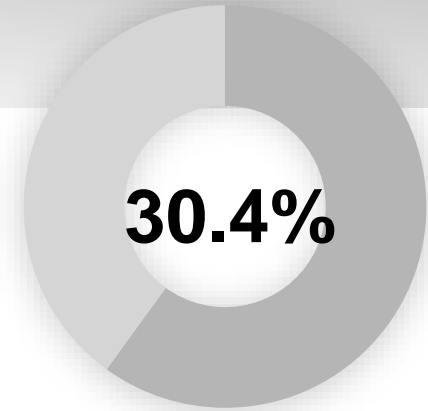
Dan Pacholke and Devon Schrum

# During the last few decades...

- We have incarcerated more people per capita than any other country in the world
- Have more black men in prison today than were under slavery in 1850
- House the parents of almost 3 million of our communities' children
- Have become the largest mental health provider in the country

# Recidivism Facts

- Roughly 3 out of 10 offenders released in CY2011 readmitted to a Washington State prison within three years.



- The rate of readmission during the first year after release has been trending up over the past five years.



imagine a different future

# Focus on Reintegration

The Reentry Unit is charged with working across divisions and with local jurisdictions to define and shape DOC's reentry work into cohesive and measurable outcomes in collaboration with our community partners.

More importantly, this unit is tasked with developing a system focused on what it means to reintegrate.

- Community Engagement
- Resource Navigation
- Community Support Systems
  - i.e. Post Prison Education and WDVA
  - Family Services
  - Local Business and Service Partners

# Offering Opportunities – Employment *and* Education

- Correctional Industries – Offender Workforce Development Specialists
- Post Release Employment Partnerships:
  - FareStart
  - Goodwill
- Education Navigators
- Transition Specialists
- Innovative Technology and Pilot Programs
  - Pre-Release Video Conferences
  - Peer Support/Mentorship
  - Video Visitation

# High Risk/High Need Individuals

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act Demonstration Grant
  - Task Force Meeting held in January 2015
- Targets offenders who are assessed as:
  - High risk to recidivate
  - Likely to release homeless
  - Moderate to high behavioral health needs:
    - Chemical Dependency
    - Mental Health
- Intervention begins at 6 months to prior to release and last at least 6 months following reentry
- Transition Specialists – “Care Coordinators”

# Resources for Individuals Releasing Prison

## What is:

- Monroe Correctional Complex ID Card Pilot
- Increased Access to Housing Voucher Program
- Increased Job Skills and Readiness from participating in Correctional Industries jobs while incarcerated to a larger population

## What could be:

- Monetization of success



# Enabling Individuals for Success

## Basic Needs

- Housing
- Clothing
- Food
- Identification
- Pro-social Relationships

## Pathways to Employment

- Documented work experience
- Education and Vocational Training

## Access

- Job seeking skills and resources
- Transportation
- Technology

## Health and Wellness

- Medical
- Dental
- Behavioral Health
- Coping with Rejection
- Attitudes and Beliefs



# Promising Practices: Reentry WA State

- If Project
- Correctional Industries
- Post Prison Education Project
- Faith Based Community
- KC Reentry Partnership
- Black Prisoners Caucus

more small pilots

# Current Strategies

- Increasing availability of safe and stable housing
- Increasing access to services are available to support health and wellness of the individual
- Working with Communities and Non-Profits to identify and address barriers to successful transition
- Meeting basic needs
- Increasing opportunities through education, vocational, connectedness to pro-social support
- Addressing our own barriers...

# Can we Imagine this Future?

A future in which:

- Washington State will lead the nation; having the lowest rate of incarceration.
- Washington communities have experienced lower crime rates which increases public safety.

These are not opposing qualities

# Current Headlines

How to Lock Up Fewer People

Mauer and Cole, The New York Times, May 23, 2015

Mass Incarceration: The Silence of the Judges

Rakoff, The New York Review of Books, May 21, 2015 Issue

Can Bipartisanship End Mass Incarceration?

Ford, The Atlantic, Feb 25, 2015

End Mass Incarceration Now

Editorial Board, The New York Times, May 25, 2014

The New Jim Crow Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

Alexander, The New Press, Jan 16, 2012

Imagine the Headlines 10 Years from Now...

**The New York Times**

**The Atlantic**

**Seattle Times**

**Associated Press**

it is up to us