

## 2011 Program Report Card: Community Residential Services (Department of Correction)

*Quality of Life Result:* All adults involved in the criminal justice system lead productive lives free from crime.

*Contribution to the Result:* This program contributes to the Quality of Life Result above by (1) using evidenced-based services that address the primary needs of offenders, (2) providing opportunities for reintegration into the community, and (3) maintaining a structured network of services to support successful reintegration. According to a 2010 study by the Office of Policy and Management, offenders completing a community residential program were 8 to 12% less likely to recidivate (the tendency to relapse into criminal behavior) than those releasing from prison directly to the community.

<i>Actual SFY 10 Total Program Expenditures:</i> \$30,160,433	<i>State Funding:</i> \$30,160,433	<i>Federal Funding:</i> \$130,000	<i>Other Funding:</i> \$0
<i>Estimated SFY 11 Total Program Expenditures:</i> \$31,309,762	<i>State Funding:</i> \$31,309,762	<i>Federal Funding:</i> \$0	<i>Other Funding:</i> \$0

*Partners:* Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Social Services, Board of Pardons and Paroles, Department of Labor, Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division, Contracted Nonresidential Providers, Faith-Based Community Providers, City Government, Law Enforcement (federal/state/local), Social Service Providers, Local Employers

### **Performance Measure 1:**

Obtaining sustained and meaningful employment.

#### **Story behind the baseline:**

This indicator will measure the effectiveness of community residential programs with assisting offenders in obtaining meaningful employment that can be sustained once the offender has discharged from the program. Measurements include program success in development of job banks, average hourly wage of offenders in the program, number of offenders enrolled in school and balance of offender's savings account at discharge. Due to the recent massive restructuring of CTDOC's residential programming, this measure is still in the data development stage.

#### **Proposed actions to turn the curve:**

CTDOC will continue to develop internal initiatives to provide inmates with identification prior to release to community programming which will expedite their job search. CTDOC will also further collaboration between its Job Centers and contracted community programs.

### **Performance Measure 2:**

Reducing/eliminating utilization of illicit substances.

#### **Story behind the baseline:**

This indicator is designed to determine the extent to which community residential programs are monitoring offenders for use of drugs/alcohol and assisting those offenders with substance abuse needs by providing access to or direct treatment for the offender. Measurements include number of drug tests performed, number of positive drug tests and number of offenders testing positive more than once within a reporting period. Due to the recent massive restructuring of CTDOC's residential programming, this measure is still in the data development stage.

#### **Proposed actions to turn the curve:**

CTDOC has recently implemented a new model of treatment for substance abusers. It requires a 30-45 day length of stay in an intensive treatment program in the community; once this program is successfully completed, offenders in need of additional housing or employment services are relocated to a residential work release program to assist with meeting their needs. CTDOC will monitor this 'step-down' model to determine its effectiveness.

### **Performance Measure 3:**

Efficient and informed allocation of funding to reduce recidivism.

#### **Story behind the baseline:**

The average cost of housing an offender in the community is traditionally lower than that of housing an offender in a correctional institution. In the somewhat difficult economic times faced by Connecticut, the availability of affordable programming that reduces the likelihood of recidivism is an essential component to not only offender reentry, but also to fiscal prudence. Based on the current number of community beds under contract with CTDOC, the availability of community housing results in a significant annual savings to the state, while also reducing an offender's likelihood of recidivism.

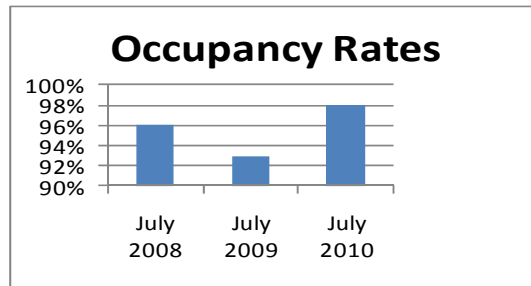
#### **Proposed actions to turn the curve:**

Because CTDOC is not a social service agency, a reduction in funding to the Community Support Services line item would cause CTDOC to revert from a socially-positive reentry model to a confinement model, in which offenders are incarcerated for their entire sentence and released with no community supports available through CTDOC.

## 2011 Program Report Card: Community Residential Services / Dept. of Correction

### Performance Measure 4:

Number of contracted beds utilized.



#### Story Behind the Baseline:

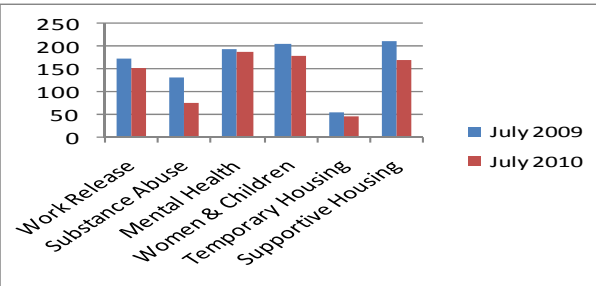
Bed utilization rates are a direct correlation to how CTDOC's **internal** referring processes are operating. High utilization rates are an indication that referral mechanisms are operating efficiently. Over the course of 2008/9, CTDOC and BOPP worked together to develop methods to coordinate release prior to the inmate's voted to parole date (after their parole hearing), in order to satisfy residential stipulations. This process was implemented in 2009, in an effort to streamline the community release process and increase the pool of inmate's eligible for release. July 2010 also saw for the full implementation of CTDOC's redesigned network of services, which standardized programming types in needed geographical locations, as well as simplified the referral process to residential programming.

#### Proposed actions to turn the curve:

As CTDOC and BOPP staff continue to collaborate to standardize internal processes (scheduling parole hearings earlier, community package completion/approval, referral processes, etc.), it is anticipated that bed utilization will increase.

### Performance Measure 5:

Adherence to established programmatic lengths of stay.



#### Story Behind the Baseline:

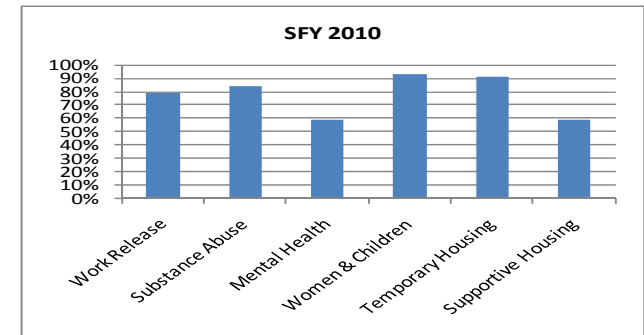
This indicator measures the average lengths of stay in each contracted program type to ensure that offenders do not exceed established lengths of stay. Research has shown that while community residential programs are effective in reducing an offender's likelihood of recidivism, keeping an offender in a residential program for too long actually increases the likelihood of recidivism. To create a balance that allows each offender to establish themselves in the community as well as address their criminogenic needs, CTDOC established standardized lengths of stay for each program type. These timeframes were established in July 2009. As of July 2010, CTDOC has seen a reduction in lengths of stay for all programs. This is a direct correlation to the efforts of BOPP to conduct parole hearings more frequently, the institution of requirements that contracted providers request CTDOC permission for offenders to exceed lengths of stay, and CTDOC staff coordination when transferring offenders to Parole status.

#### Proposed actions for turning the curve:

CTDOC will continue to require contracted programs to develop efforts to reduce lengths of stay, as bed turnover in the community frees prison beds, resulting in a reduction of costs to CTDOC and an increase in the number of offenders served in contracted programs.

### Performance Measure 6:

Successful completion of programming.



#### Story Behind the Baseline:

This indicator measures the successful completion rates of offenders residing in contracted programs. Successful completion is defined as those offenders who discharge from the program with established housing options, savings accounts, access to community programs or referral to higher care without remands to incarceration, escapes or new arrests. This measure delineates the success of programs in providing meaningful programming, as well as detailing to CTDOC what programming components are viable. Because of the restructuring of CTDOC's residential network in July 2009, it is not possible to measure successful completion rates from prior years.

#### Proposed actions to turn the curve:

CTDOC intends to continue to work with contracted providers to develop further initiatives to reduce technical violations and institute graduated sanctions. Because of the restructuring of CTDOC's network, this measure is still in the data development stage, with only one year of data available for analysis.