

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

**2007-08**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on  
Corrections and  
Courts  
(AC-CC)

(Form Updated: 07/24/2009)

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

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**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE  
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

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(companion bill: \_\_\_\_\_)

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\*\* **07hr\_AC-CC\_Misc\_pt03a**  
(03/22/2007 hearing)

3-22-07 - International Hearing

Pt. 01





STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JOSEPH PARISI**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

48th DISTRICT

January 16, 2006

State Representative Gary Bies  
Room 125 West  
State Capitol

Dear Representative Bies:

I am writing to request that the Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts hold an informational hearing on the re-entry process for individuals being released from incarceration.

Among the possible speakers, I believe it would be helpful to have DOC provide an overview of the current process, including DOC's analysis of the effectiveness, strengths and weaknesses of current practices, and an overview of their current initiatives to improve the process – both short term and long term;

It would also be informative to hear from organizations such as Milwaukee's Project Re-entry and Madison's Operation Fresh Start, which work with individuals who have been released from incarceration. Included in their testimony should be information concerning recidivism rates among their participants.

Others from whom the committee could benefit could include a representative of probation and parole officers, formerly incarcerated individuals, and any others from whom the committee chair would like to hear.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe".

JOE PARISI  
State Representative  
48<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



## **Nowlan, Andrew**

---

**From:** Pertl, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2007 9:36 AM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Cc:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** Joint Hearing

Andrew,

These are the folks that Sen. Taylor would like to have invited to our joint hearing. I believe Pastor McCullough is already on your list.

1. **Judge Carl Ashley**  
Deputy: Karen Kroupa  
Branch 33, Children's Court, Room 2410 CCC  
Phone: (414) 257-7121
2. **June Perry**  
New Concepts  
Phone: (414) 444-1952 x 7858
3. **Rev. Martin Childs, Jr.**  
Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church  
3737 North Sherman Boulevard  
Milwaukee, WI 53216  
Phone: (414) 873-1045  
[pastormartin@childsmail.com](mailto:pastormartin@childsmail.com)
4. **Pastor CH McCullough**  
Word of Hope Ministries (included above)  
Phone: (414) 447-1965

Jeff Pertl  
Legislative Assistant  
(608) 266-5810 Phone  
(608) 267-2353 Fax  
[jeff.pertl@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:jeff.pertl@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Office of Sen. Lena Taylor  
4th State Senate District  
Room 415 South  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882



## Nowlan, Andrew

---

**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2007 1:51 PM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Are the other folks going to be coming?

Andrew Nowlan  
Research Assistant  
Office of Rep. Garey Bies

---

**From:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Sent:** Friday, February 23, 2007 12:01 PM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Good Morning Andy,

I was trying to catch you before you started contacting people. Judge Carl Ashley can not attend on the 22nd. By the way, any news on the room?

---

**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2007 5:07 PM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Alright, I'll contact them to get more information then.

Andrew Nowlan  
Research Assistant  
Office of Rep. Garey Bies

---

**From:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2007 4:54 PM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Andy, just saw your email and I feel your pain on the sick stuff.

As it relates to the speakers, yeah the answer was not probably all that you were looking for. Senator Taylor, when asked about their specific involvement with reintergration, did not feel the need to elaborate on what everyone's role was specifically. She stated she felt their testimony was extremely relevant and didn't provide me with anymore information. Hence, my lack of detailed response to your question.

You know how it goes....just telling you what was told to me.

PS. By the way, I spoke to McCullough and he's on board and interested.

Michelle

---

**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2007 3:45 PM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing



I know all about illnesses! My home has been a level 3 bio-hazard lab for the last few weeks!

Yes, I figured they were involved and that's why the Senator suggested inviting them! We'd just like to know something about how it is they are involved as we would like to have diverse presenters and try to limit repetition.

We have speaking so far:

DOC  
City of Racine  
New Hope Project

I've left two messages for Word of Hope (McCullough) but have not been able to connect  
Rep. Parisi is contacting Operation Fresh Start. Operation Fresh Start is a group that works with released individuals to develop work skills and training.

**Andrew Nowlan**  
**Research Assistant**  
**Office of Rep. Garey Bies**

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**From:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 20, 2007 1:14 PM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Subject:** Speakers for joint hearing

Hi Andrew,

Sorry, I've been out of the loop for the last couple of days. Germs and sickness prevailed! The folks that Sen. Taylor have stated that she wants to testify are all involved in working directly with reintegration programs.

Thanks, Michelle



## Nowlan, Andrew

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**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2007 8:54 AM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Is that a different New Concepts group?

**Andrew Nowlan**  
**Research Assistant**  
**Office of Rep. Garey Bies**

---

**From:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2007 6:31 PM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Hi Andy,

Thanks for the update on the room. Yes, I have had contact and got feedback. I just need to check my notes and see which group said yes and the other I think I'm still waiting on. By the way, Senator Taylor wanted to add June Perry to the list. She was the founder and President of New Concept Self Development. She is huge on the service delivery in the Milwaukee Area, particularly with reintergration efforts.

I have been in meetings all day, it's about 6:30pm and I am just going through email. I will get back to you in the morning with the specifics.

Michelle

---

**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 06, 2007 9:43 AM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Hey Michelle,

Okay first, I have our room, the GAR Hall (413N)

Second, were you able to get a response from New Concepts or Pilgrim Rest Missionary?

**Andrew Nowlan**  
**Research Assistant**  
**Office of Rep. Garey Bies**

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**Andrew Nowlan**  
**Research Assistant**  
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Thanks, Michelle



## Nowlan, Andrew

---

**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 08, 2007 4:11 PM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Michelle,

Please let me know tomorrow if your folks are coming. I want to get the hearing notice out Monday morning.

**Andrew Nowlan**  
**Research Assistant**  
**Office of Rep. Garey Bies**

---

**From:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2007 10:43 AM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

Shouldn't be. June was the founder and former president, but it's now headed by Vanessa Keys.

---

**From:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 07, 2007 8:54 AM  
**To:** Bryant, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Speakers for joint hearing

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**Andrew Nowlan**  
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Thanks, Michelle



## Nowlan, Andrew

---

**From:** Whitmore, Lori  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2007 11:45 AM  
**To:** Nowlan, Andrew  
**Subject:** Corrections Hearing

Just wanted to let you know - Connie Ferris Bailey from Operation Fresh Start is confirmed for the hearing on Thursday. We are trying to verify who will be coming from Project Return, and will let you know when we have that information.



**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Matthew J. Frank**  
Secretary



Mailing Address

600 W. Walnut St. (South).  
Milwaukee WI 53212  
Telephone (414) 265-7760  
Fax (414) 265-7750

**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Corrections**

---

Date: March 21, 2007  
To: New Hope Project  
From: Susan Wundrow  
State Probation/Parole Agent # 30409  
Subject: DOC Contacts With New Hope Project

---

My name is Susan Wundrow and I am employed by the State of Wisconsin as a Probation and Parole Agent.

I first became aware of the New Hope Project in February 2006 when one of our offenders told me that he was working with New Hope and they were assisting him in obtaining employment. This offender had found the program on his own. The New Hope Project was able to assist this offender in obtaining employment. The offender spoke very highly of the program. I also had telephone contacts with the person working with him.

Since February 2006, I have other offenders working with the New Hope Project and have been very impressed by the willingness of the staff to work with offenders that have numerous barriers to employment. The staff does an excellent job. The offenders that I am supervising that are working with the New Hope Project also speak very highly of the staff and the program.

I just recently had an offender that worked with the New Hope Project obtain employment at Super Steel, located at 7900 West Tower Avenue in the City of Milwaukee. This offender also found the program on his own and began participating in the program around April 2006. New Hope placed this offender at the Urban Ecology Center which is a Transitional Job Site that partners with New Hope. New Hope continued to work with him to be eligible to attend school for welding. The offender attended school at the Children's Outing Association while maintaining his employment at the Urban Ecology Center until he was able to pass the test for welding.

The offender then participated in the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership program through Big Step and the DOC correctional program CCEP and completed the course in welding. The offender was very pleased that Rob Ruzanic from the New Hope Project attended his graduation from MATC. Employment at Super Steel

began after graduation. New Hope loaned the offender \$115 for welding supplies to begin work. He is earning \$13.50 hourly.

I look forward to having the New Hope Project work with offenders in the future. I have been very impressed by all of the efforts made on behalf of New Hope for offenders to obtain employment.

Sincerely,

---

Susan Wundrow  
State Probation and Parole Agent # 30409



Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
Reentry Presentation  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Corrections  
Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts  
March 22, 2007

### Introduction

Good morning Chairperson Taylor and Chairperson Bies, and thank you for your interest in the important topic of prisoner reentry.

Governor Doyle, as you know, is a former District Attorney and the state's longest serving Attorney General. He has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public safety and holding offenders accountable for their crimes. I have had the privilege of working for him for many years on these issues.

As a prosecutor for many years with the Attorney General's Office, I believe that violent offenders who pose a risk to public safety need to be locked up for a very long time, some for life. Holding offenders responsible for their crimes is at the very heart of the criminal justice and corrections systems.

The reality, however, is that the vast majority of prisoners will one day return to communities across Wisconsin. This is what we call prisoner reentry. The public is best served if offenders are not only held accountable for their actions, but also have the opportunity to become law abiding and successful members of the community when they are released. Prisoner reentry is a crime prevention strategy. By improving prisoner reentry, our goal is crime reduction, fewer new crime victims, reduced state and local criminal justice costs, and most importantly, safer families and communities.

The Department's reentry initiative is a change in philosophy and a change in how we do business. It means that for most inmates, we start focusing on their return to the community not just before they leave prison, but the day they enter prison. We must engage inmates as early as possible and challenge them, motivate them, and encourage them to change. It means that we need to make sure that our education, treatment, and employment programs reach as many inmates as possible *before* they are released.

*After* they are released we need to continue to hold them accountable, and if public safety requires it, use revocation to return them to prison. Effective prisoner re-entry includes quality risk assessment and strong supervision practices proportionate to the level of risk to the public safety. But we also need to focus on key factors that help ex-offenders succeed and become law abiding citizens—including employment, alcohol and drug treatment, housing, and positive support from families and organizations.

Personal responsibility is first and foremost. Offenders must want to make a change in their lives. But when they do, it is in the interest of long term public safety to help them succeed once they are returned to the community.

At the same time, we know that the Department of Corrections cannot create community safety on its own. That's why we have forged strong relationships with critical partners around the state, including law enforcement agencies, community and faith-based groups, treatment providers, employers, victim advocacy organizations and many others to support prisoner reentry initiatives.



### By the numbers

To help illustrate the importance of successful prisoner reentry and the scope of our task and challenges, I want to provide you with some key statistics.

We have more than 22,600 inmates in our prison system, more than 73,000 offenders under community supervision and approximately 600 youth in our juvenile institutions.

In our adult institutions, 47 percent of our inmates lack either a high school diploma or its equivalent, 49 percent read below the ninth grade level, and 74 percent perform math below a ninth grade level.

In addition, 70 percent of inmates entering our adult prison system have alcohol or drug addictions. We see similar numbers in our community corrections population.

Mental health care has been a major focus in the Department. Our agency is the largest provider of mental health services in an institutional setting in the state.

Approximately 8 to 10 percent of inmates are seriously mentally ill, with conditions such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and major depression. Approximately 24 percent of inmates are on clinical monitoring for mental health needs.

At our women's prison, Taycheedah Correctional Institution, approximately 30 percent have serious mental illness and about 40 percent have other mental health conditions requiring monitoring and treatment. *70% Total?*

We are learning that there are more co-occurring disorders- offenders with substance abuse problems also may be suffering from mental illnesses.

These problems do not disappear when an inmate finishes their prison sentence and returns to the community. Ninety-seven percent of all of our inmates will one day serve out their court-imposed prison time and be released back into the community. A 2005 Wisconsin Sentencing Commission report estimated more than 80 percent of the offenders sentenced to prison in 2003 and 2004 received sentences of five years or less.

Just as our prison population has increased, the number of adult offenders *released* from our prisons has increased four-fold over the past 13 years.

The Department has conducted a study on recidivism for offenders released from prison during the period of 1980 through 2003. The data showed that more than 38 percent of those offenders committed a new crime, resulting in a new conviction, within 3 years of their release from prison.

In 2006, more than 8,900 offenders were released from prison to the community.

Our recidivism data shows that if nothing changes, thousands of these offenders will commit new crimes, create new crime victims, further damage our communities, and return to prison at a great cost to our taxpayers. Conversely, when ex-offenders succeed in becoming law abiding citizens, the threat of crime to potential victims and the community is reduced. And instead of costing the taxpayer over 26,000 to house them in prison, successful ex-offenders become workers who contribute to our economy, pay restitution to crime victims, and pay taxes.

## Launching Reentry – Changing the Way We Do Business

Prisoner re-entry has been one of the Department's top priorities since I became Secretary in 2003.

Over the past four years we have launched a number of initiatives related to prisoner re-entry, with the Governor's support in the Department's biennial budget and with bi-partisan approval from the legislature. We have also commenced many initiatives without requesting additional budget dollars by refocusing existing resources and practices within the Department, and by leveraging resources by working with other governmental and community-based partners.


We have focused our efforts on evidence-based strategies that are supported by research as to what works in corrections. Coupled with a strong system of community supervision, we know that employment, alcohol and drug treatment, housing and positive support from family and mentors reduces recidivism when inmates return to the community.

Beginning in 2003, we were able to return all inmates from out of state to Wisconsin. Maintaining strong family connections when our inmates were in states like Oklahoma and Tennessee was very difficult. By 2005, we had returned all inmates to Wisconsin.

We expanded the capacity of our correctional center system where inmates who have earned their way to minimum custody levels have the opportunity to be employed and gain valuable work experience and build employment history. To accomplish this we doubled the capacity of the Winnebago Correctional Center and opened the Sturdevant Transitional Facility, which includes a work release center.

To increase the number of offenders who receive alcohol and drug treatment prior to leaving prison, we opened the Chippewa Valley Correctional Treatment Facility, the first state prison primarily dedicated to alcohol and drug treatment. We also created the earned release program, designed to give another sentencing option to judges who require offenders to successfully complete an alcohol and drug treatment while providing an incentive for the offender to participate.

Through a review of our prison system we observed that we release more prisoners from our medium security prisons than any other type of institution. To improve in this area, we launched an initiative to create re-entry units at those prisons to assist offenders in preparing for their release from prison and their return to the community. We now have re-entry units at many of our medium security prisons.

We also determined that annually the Department releases hundreds of inmates from maximum security prisons directly to the community. While our internal classification system rates these prisoners as maximum risks to prison security, because they have completed their prison sentence, the Department is nevertheless required to release them to the community. We are addressing this public safety concern by deploying additional probation and parole agents to  closely supervise these inmates and work closely with law enforcement to protect community safety.

Without any additional education resources, our teachers and education staff have done an excellent job increasing the number of inmates who have obtained their high school equivalency diploma and the number obtaining additional vocational training. Between 2002 and 2006, the Department has seen a 10.6 percent increase in school enrollments, a 19 percent increase in high school equivalency diploma (HSED) completions and a 54 percent jump in graduations from vocational education programs certified by the Wisconsin Technical College System.

These achievements play an integral role in our agency's goal to protect public safety. Studies have shown a positive correlation between the educational gains of offenders while incarcerated and their success upon returning to the community. Conversely, recidivism has been shown to be higher among inmates who have not completed educational and vocational programs while in prison.

One of the barriers to successful re-entry we have identified is the sheer size of our system and the distance between our prisons and the communities inmates will be returning to. To address this, we are expanding video-conferencing capability to connect probation and parole agents to offenders prior to their release from prison.

We are also working on a project with the Department's Security Threat Group program to provide local law enforcement with advance information about the release from prison of offenders who have been identified as gang members.

With support from the Governor and legislature, the Department has also invested additional support for community-based programs to provide more tools for our probation and parole agents to hold returning inmates accountable as well as to help them to succeed. We have expanded these resources statewide, including opening day reporting centers, adding additional half-way house and temporary living placement beds, and expanding funding for community-based alcohol and drug treatment and batterers treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence.

Our Department's Division of Juvenile Corrections has really been a leader in the area of reentry. In 2003, we began piloting the Going Home Project through a three-year, \$2 million federal grant, to promote the successful return of high-risk youth back into the community from our state juvenile institutions.

Under this project, specialized plans for each juvenile emphasize education, employment, housing and other supportive services and assistance from Department staff, community providers and others to assist youth during this critical time. Dozens of youths successfully moved through all phases of this program.

In addition, we've been working to get parents more involved in their child's rehabilitation and successful return to the community. The Division added a parental component, called Families Count, to its cognitive intervention program for youths. The goal is to expose parents to the skills their child is learning at a juvenile institution, so they can be a strong support system for youths when they leave the institution.

We have established a partnership with the Milwaukee Boys and Girls Club, who opened a club at Ethan Allen School, encouraging juveniles to stay connected to the club when they return to the community.

In October 2005, we convened 250 DOC employees for a conference entitled "Community Safety through Successful Offender Reentry." This conference was made possible by a prisoner reentry training grant from the United States Department of Justice.

USDOJ chose the Department as the first corrections agency in the country to receive this grant and work with the Center for Effective Public Policy to improve prison reentry.

We have also established a Department Reentry Steering Committee to evaluate and coordinate the Department's reentry efforts. Last month, I announced the appointment of Mary Kay Kollat as the Department's first Reentry Director to coordinate and oversee our reentry initiatives.

Although we have accomplished a lot, there is much more to do. We have identified a number of key policy areas to target for further improvement: expanding partnerships, staff development and training, employment readiness and placement, female offenders, standardized pre-release programming, web-based resources and information, crime victims and restorative justice, unified case planning, AODA continuity of services and mental health.

### **Reentry Partnerships**

We know that one agency cannot create community safety on its own. That's why we have enlisted the help of critical partners, and built upon on the relationships we have forged around the state, with law enforcement agencies, community and faith-based groups, treatment providers, employers, and many others. We also collaborate with other government agencies, from federal to municipal, to promote enhanced safety through successful offender reentry.

One example is the Racine Reentry Project, which targets high risk offenders returning to Racine after their release from prison. The project is designed to reduce crime and victimization, build stronger neighborhoods, respond to offender needs, and ensure offender accountability.

Partners in the project include the Department of Corrections, the Racine Police Department, the Racine Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, the Mayor, the County Executive, Neighborhood Watch, the Racine faith-based community, Racine County Workforce Development, private sector employers, the United Way of Racine County and others.

The Department is working with state agency partners such as the Department of Workforce Development and the Department of Health and Human Services in critical areas such as training and employment, alcohol and drug treatment, mental illness, housing, parenting and other areas.

We partner with DWD to provide employment training to released youth offenders and have coordinated with DWD to provide apprenticeship opportunities to incarcerated inmates. DWD and DOC are providing funding to the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership based in Milwaukee that offers job placement in the manufacturing and construction trades industries. Through the Oskosh, Jackson and Prairie Du Chien Correctional Institutions, we are working with Regional Workforce Development Boards on employment opportunities for ex-offenders.

We work with the Social Security Administration and DHFS to assist eligible incarcerated offenders in processing applications for disability and medical benefits to permit receipt of benefits immediately upon release from prison.

We have collaborated with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Workforce Development to assist offenders who are eligible veterans to access benefits and services.

We've teamed up with the Department of Workforce Development and community employers on job and transition fairs at Kettle Moraine, Jackson and Oakhill Correctional Institutions. The Department of Workforce Development has made JobNet available for inmates at these fairs, as well as at a number of our prisons.

We've partnered with DWD and the technical college system on vocational training and apprenticeship programs.

Through federal grants from the United State Department of Justice and the Department of Labor, the Department is collaborating on a Prisoner Reentry Initiative focused on Milwaukee. Our partners in this effort include Word of Hope Ministries, Wisconsin Community Services, Milwaukee House of Corrections, and Milwaukee Behavioral Health Division. The goal is to provide pre-release life skills training, alcohol and drug treatment, job placement, coaching, mentoring and case management services to male and female offenders.

In partnership with the Joyce Foundation, Project Return and the Kaiser group, the Department is working with The New Hope Project to link ex-offenders with steady work experience and skills training in the Milwaukee area. The Governor's proposed budget for 2007-2009 includes \$500,000 annually for this project.

With appropriations from the legislature in our last budget, the Department is partnering with Project Return, Madison Urban Ministries, and Word of Hope Ministries to provide pre and post release assistance in education, mentoring and vocational needs and job placement.

We are part of the coalition working on the Project Safe Neighborhood Anti-Gang Grant funded by the United State Department of Justice. The initiative is led by the US Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin and includes the state Office of Justice Assistance, the Milwaukee Anti-Gang Task Force, Law Enforcement, and Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Services to be provided to offenders pre-release include needs assessments, pre-release assistance in job skills and treatment. Post-release includes intensive supervision, case management and monitoring.

In partnership with the Department of Health and Family Services and Milwaukee County, with some funding from the United States Department of Health and Social Services, we created a Female Reentry-Program which provides pre and post release case planning, pre and post release visitation and mental health services to children, and post release referral's to housing, treatment and mentoring services.

Circles of Support have been established in Winnebago, Outagamie and Brown County- Circles of Support are groups of community members, individuals released from prison, and their family members, meeting monthly to support the released person. Circles of Support promote positive social interaction and accountability, develop relationships with the community, and jointly develop a plan to support the released person as they become a productive citizen.

## **Social Support Systems**

Maintaining positive relationships is essential to assist inmates with reentry. Studies have shown that continued contact with family members during and following incarceration can reduce recidivism and foster successful reentry to the community. By fostering positive relationships, we can also make progress in breaking the intergenerational cycle of crime and incarceration.

Inmates need to include their families when preparing for release. Families are greatly affected by the inmate's incarceration. The family navigates the challenges of the inmate re-entering the community and reintegrating with the family, just as the inmate does.

Our Female Reentry Program, which I mentioned earlier, provides enhanced reach-in services to women with dependent children who are being released from prison.

As a partner in implementing Governor Doyle's KidsFirst Agenda, we are working closely with community organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, Madison Urban Ministries, Girls Scouts and other organizations to connect kids of incarcerated parents with adult mentors and other support services.

We're also working to enhance parenting education efforts for both male and female inmates. We are looking to expand our fatherhood programs. Family ties are crucial to success. Maintaining these connections is important for kids, and also can give incarcerated mothers and fathers hope, and a reason to be successful upon their return to the community.

## **Conclusion**

The Governor's 2007-09 budget includes a number of targeted investments to continue moving our reentry initiatives forward. We look forward to working with the legislature to continue the progress we have made as the budget process moves forward.

We are focused on how we can promote safer communities through the work that we do every day with offenders. For those offenders who have accepted responsibility and want to make a change in their lives, we should do everything that we can to help them succeed once they are released into their communities. Coupled with accountability, strong supervision for ex-offenders and in partnership with law enforcement and community organizations, we are dedicated to building a bridge to success for ex-offenders.

Ex-offenders who are gainfully employed, with stable housing, access to treatment, and with family, faith, or other community-based support, are less likely to commit new crimes and create new victims. Improving prisoner re-entry promotes safer communities.

This challenge is great, but our opportunity to create even safer communities and prevent new crime is greater. With legislative and public support, I am confident that we can continue to make progress.

Thank you for the invitation to speak at today's hearing. I would be happy to take any questions.





Ellen Mahaley  
Prison Re-entry  
Word of Hope

March 22

2677 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St  
Milwaukee 53210

eww@uwm.edu

<b>PHONE CALL</b>	FOR	Andrew	DATE	3/5	TIME	4:02 P.M.
	M	Ella Mahaley - word of hope				
	OF	Ministries				
	PHONE/ MOBILE	414-447-8804	FAX			
	MESSAGE	Re: Info. Mtg. on 22nd. What time should they be here? Can leave message on her				
	SIGNED	Machine.				
		<input type="checkbox"/>	TELEPHONED			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED YOUR CALL				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	CAME TO SEE YOU				
	<input type="checkbox"/>	WANTS TO SEE YOU				



Info Hearing

3-22 (2007)

Prisoner Re-Entry

DOC to get us data on breakdown on recidivism

DOC to get us mental health info

DOC to get numbers on recidivism on youth program

## Word of Hope

Individual case management to place released prisoners into the workforce. 317 since 2003.

Provide job placement, health services, social support, housing support, family support. Also cooperate with educational orgs including MATC.

-> Has info that their programs are successful

2.2% return to prison w/in 6 mo

6.3% return w/in 12 mo

These numbers are 50-60% better than a similar population not in the program. Office of Bureau Statistics

- A big barrier to success is whether or not the individual has a drivers license.

- Referrals come almost entirely from DOC

DOC to get info on release procedures

### Racine

The more high risk offenders that are worked with the greater impact to the community. The Racine program targets higher-risk individuals.

### High Risk Offenders

Only 32% fail. Under half the nation-wide rate for recidivism for high-risk offenders. Total recidivism rate nation-wide is 66%.

Job-subsidy program?

### Operation Fresh Start

On-the-job training with newly released offenders working to rehabilitate a house, which is then sold to a low-income family.

- 7 crews in Madison. Most of the members are under supervision.
- 7,000 young people have gone thru program and 70% are self-sufficient, in community and not on public assistance.
- 17 communities throughout state now in cooperation with Dept. of Commerce.
- Emphasizes everyday living skills

Op. Fresh Start

11% recidivism rate for juveniles

13% recidivism rate for adults (20-25% in Madison)

New Hope Project

To get individuals to develop responsibility and provide access to job opportunities and training.

Has a job center to help indiv find work and if necessary provide a transitional job. But then continue to work to find person an unsubsidized job.

New study will review the impact that the use of ~~the~~ transitional jobs may have.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church.

When there is no intervention when persons are released back into the community, they are likely to return to an institution.

The key is "transformation" → on the inside

## Pilgrim Rest - Process

- S stabilize - concentrate on person
- T transform - change on the inside, see their purpose
- E equip - training
- P productive - to be productive to society
- S sustain -

Capacity of 6 participants. 5 currently in program.



Friske

↳

Feb 19

26

2pm

Staff @ 3pm

Sherrie

Income Tax

Not remitting

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CSC Credit Services

800-392-7816

↳

PO BOX 981222

Houston TX 79998





3/22 9:30am

Sergeant Madsen

Racine Police Dept.

mes 2/14

✓ Com. Re-entry Prog.

262-619-2417

730 Center St.

Racine 53403

Jim Rooney

1500 Michigan Blvd

Racine 53402

mes.  
2/14

Dr. "Ch" ~~Mc~~ McClelland

Word of Hope Ministries Inc.

414 447-1967

click @ newhopeproj.org

- Julie Kerksick

✓ New Hope Proj

(414) 267-6020 ext 222

Pastor Shawn Green-Smith

Faith Partnership Network

(414) 462 9246

(414) 257 6921



Jim Esch  
Doc  
7-0766

Date??

Project Return

How can really help out.

Jonathan Barry - Post release services  
Madison Operation Fresh Start

---

500k/year for New Hope Project

Budget adj for corrections?  
for countries

---

"status of corrections"



Ellen Mahaley - Word of Hope

confirmed

notice mailed <sup>3/12</sup>

Julie Kerkisick - New Hope Proj

email notice <sup>3/12</sup>

Sgt Madsen - Racine Police Dept

mailed notice <sup>3/12</sup>

Madison Operation Fresh Start

Milwaukee Project Re-Entry

Taylor Invitations

Date ??



**Word of Hope Ministries, Inc.  
Dr. C.H. McClelland,  
Founder and President**

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Word of Hope Ministries leadership team:

- Ella Walker-Mahaley, Program Director
- Rev. L. Fuller, Mentor Director
- Dr. D. Mills, Corporate Employment Director
- Orlando Ortiz, PRI Trainer Coordinator

Date: 7/17

# Brief History of Word of Hope Ministries, Inc.

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- In 1996, Word of Hope Ministries was founded and organized as a 501(c) (3) nonprofit faith-based organization. WOHM has been in operation for over 10 years providing services to members of our community.
- In 2002, because WOHM was providing employment services/placement to ex-prisoners, Public Private Ventures chose WOHM to become 1 of 11 Ready4Work National Prison Reentry sites for ex-prisoners. This was a three year national demonstration project to determine if faith-based and community organizations could impact the recidivism rate of ex-offenders.



# Core Re-entry Services

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## EMPLOYMENT

- Ready 4 Work and the Prisoner Re-entry program employment placement rates to date are 317 employed, and 90% of the participants did not have employment entering the program.
- Industries employed: Manufacturing, retail, construction, wholesale, transportation and warehousing, janitorial/maintenance and health care.
- \*Bureau of Justice statistics data on a group of ex-prisoners more similar to the R4W participants' (18-34 years of age, African Americans, non-violent felons) showed that only 2.2% of African American felons participating in the r4w program returned to state prisons within the first 6 months. Only 6.3% did so within one year. These rates are 52-62% lower than those for sub sample of ex-offenders provided by BJS.
- According to P/PV Issue 4 September 2006 Ready 4 Work In Brief, research has shown that ex-prisoners who obtain steady jobs and develop social bonds have much lower recidivism rates, but many find it difficult to obtain stable employment and establish positive relationships.

\* Source: Publicly available incarceration records. BJS = Bureau of Justice Statistics. a. includes participations in Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Jacksonville, Memphis, Milwaukee, New York, and Philadelphia.  
b. As of February 28, 2006

# Core Re-entry Services

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## **MENTORING**

- **WOHM Mentoring participation percentage under R4W and PRI is 57%. R4W participation was 19% greater than the 10 other national R4W sites.**

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

- **WOHM provided case management to 100% of the prison re-entry participants. Case managers assisted participants to eliminate the barriers to employment.**

## **ANCILLARY SERVICES**

**WOHM provides additional services: GED preparation, computer training, weekly orientations/soft skills training, resume workshop, ATODA, health services, social services, child custody intervention, emergency food/clothing, legal service referral, family reunification services, child care referrals, housing referrals, veterans assistance**

# Ready4Work Program Prison Reentry outcomes

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- In a report from Public Private Venture, Ready4Work in Brief, September, 2006, Issue 4, "Interim Outcomes Are In: Recidivism at Half the National Average" it was reported that Ready4Work program reduced recidivism at half the rate of the national average. This report indicated that it cost American taxpayers more than \$60 billion a year on prisons and jails. Furthermore, it costs more than \$23,000 to incarcerate someone in a Federal Bureau of Prisons for one year and approximately \$3,000 per year for probation, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, June 5, 2006.
- According to P / PV's research report: "Across the Ready4Work sites, Ready4Work's cost per participant/per year of service is approximately \$4,500."**
- Due to the performance outcomes from the R4W program, the Department of Labor funded the (PRI) Prison Reentry program.
- Word of Hope Ministries completed a PRI grant proposal and out of approximately 549 applicants, was awarded one of the 30 DOL grants awarded to applicants throughout the United States.

# Collaborations/Partnerships

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## **WOHM's partners are listed below:**

- Government: Department of Labor, Department of Justice, Wisconsin Department of Correction, Veterans Administration, State of WI Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare.
- Faith-based community: St. Matthews CME, Saint Mary's Baptist Church, Jordan Praise Temple Baptist Church, New Covenant Baptist Church, Parklawn Assembly of God, New Hope MBC, Mason Temple COGIC, Greater Bethlehem Temple Apostolic Church, Ebenezer COGIC, Christ Temple COGIC.
- Educational Institutions: MATC, UWM, Medical College of WI, MPS.
- Wisconsin Workforce Development: Private Industry Council, One-Stop Agencies: Maximus, UMOS, YWCA
- Community-based organizations: HeartLove, New Hope Project, Goodwill Industry, SE, Multicultural, Reconstruct, Milwaukee Wiser Choice Program, Interfaith Conference, Prison Fellowship, and Community Advocates.
- Fundamental Question: Could a program that combines employment services, intensive case management and mentoring for newly released ex-prisoners be successfully implemented by faith and community based organizations? The answer is definitely "YES"

*Success is dependent on the commitment of the Corporate, Justice, Local and National Government community and faith-based organizations.*



Date ??

# BRANCH Out: A Faith Based Partnership to Promote Health and Wellness

Staci Young, Nancy Wynne, Yvonne Greer

Medical College of Wisconsin, Holy Cathedral Church of God in Christ, City of Milwaukee Health Department • Milwaukee, WI



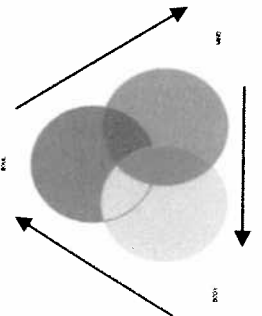
## Background

The purpose of the BRANCH (Building a Rejoiceful Alliance of Neighbors for Change and Healing) Out partnership is to reduce health risk factors related to cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes in African-American church-based communities in Milwaukee. Traditionally, churches have been deeply rooted cornerstones in African-American communities. Churches have a strong tradition of caring for others, providing fellowship, support and education. BRANCH Out builds on the existing relationship between health ministry workers and congregation members to address the social determinants of health.

## Primary Objectives

- † Develop and train Church Health Action Teams (CHATs)
- † Develop and disseminate cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes education materials
- † Develop and implement risk reduction best practices at churches
- † Sustain, evaluate, and expand the program

BRANCH Out operates from the belief that there is a strong connection between mind, body and soul - all must be nurtured to improve health



## Outcomes

25 CHAT members trained from 7 congregations

CHAT members reported increased awareness and knowledge of community health resources

Completed health risk assessments for congregation members

Health resource centers and healthy food demonstrations for congregation members

Training included team building, spirituality and health, nutrition, community resources and goal setting

Hosted a Health Expo for over 100 community members to learn about health improvement and BRANCH Out

Developed education modules for cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes

## Future Activities

- † Develop and sustain exercise groups as best practices for health promotion and disease prevention
- † Conduct follow up health risk assessments of congregation members
- † Identify new partner churches and organizations

- BRANCH Out Partners:
- Center for Healthy Communities,
  - Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin
  - City of Milwaukee Health Department
  - Holy Cathedral COGIC
  - Christ Temple COGIC
  - Ebenezer COGIC
  - Greater Bethlehem Temple Church
  - Mason Temple COGIC
  - New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
  - Parklawn Assembly of God

