

Timely Quotes

"I think we can all agree that successful re-entry decreases recidivism and promotes public safety. Simply put, successful re-entry reduces crime. So there is a very tangible result to successful re-entry programming, from both a criminal justice and economic standpoint.

We now *know* - not *think* ... **know** - that a returning offender's ability to adjust to life outside prison is linked to his or her success in obtaining housing, securing employment and dealing with drug or alcohol dependency and other health-related issues. Conversely, the inability to procure these necessary resources can increase the risk of recidivism."

-Denise O'Donnell, Commissioner of NYS DCJS

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"We dropped 8,000 inmates, and guess what? Recidivism rates didn't change. We sent a lot of people home early and only the same number of people came back. Not every inmate needs to be in jail as long as they are. Those who stay in longer do not necessarily do better than those who get out early.

If I could have a legacy, it would be to add more college programs to New York State prisons. I don't think anyone disagrees; anyone with more education is less likely to have a problem in the community. We used to have TAP funds. I can speak up for it, but we need voice."

-Brian Fischer, Commissioner of NYS DOCS

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"Chairman Alexander has personally been engaged to make sure every member of our agency understands that our agency is the division of reentry. We are the people charged with trying to ensure the successful reentry of persons released from facilities."

-Felix Rosa, Executive Director of NYS Parole

Restorative Justice

is not a new idea. It stems from basic tenets of many faiths going back thousands of years.

Fair Punishment & Compassionate Rehabilitation.

To restore all people to wholeness, follow The Golden Rule

which is found in the Hindu, Christian, Islamic, Jainism, Confucian, and Judaic Scriptures.

the *HEART* of The Coalition Platform

- A. Fair and Equal Justice for All.**
- B. Knowledge / Employability:
job-oriented education/training;
decent work for a decent living.**
- C. Health / Transformation:
addiction treatment; personal
worth; anger management.**
- D. Incentives / Motivation:
the profit motive; reward effort.**
- E. Transitional Community Help:
a helping hand in reentry.**

***Help convince New York State legislators
and other New York State officials
that this platform reduces crime,
saves millions of dollars,
and restores thousands to wholeness.***



Restorative Justice Platform of the Coalition for Rehabilitation & Reentry

*A product of thirty-three justice
advocacy organizations at the
September 25th, 2007 gathering
in Menands, New York*

Free the inner spirit.

the **Twelve-Part Restorative Platform** of the **Coalition for Rehabilitation and Reentry**

to foster reentry with employability, holistic health, incentives, and transition aids

Find full descriptions via <www.bestweb.net/~cureny/Co_plea.htm>

A. Fair and Equal Justice for All:

1. EXPANDED PRE-TRIAL SERVICES

- Available to all indigent offenders
- Quality risks and needs assessment

2. FAIR REPRESENTATION

- Insure indigent defense and recovery plans
- Fair legislative representation

B. Knowledge; for employability;

3. JOB-ORIENTED EDUCATION

- Vocational training
- Job-oriented post secondary education
- Job preparation/placement-assistance

C. Health | Transformation

4. DRUG LAW REFORM

- Judicial discretion in addiction treatment

5. TRANSFORMATION PROGRESS

- Quality treatment for addiction and mental health
- Evaluate and replicate transformative programs such as:
 - AA, NA, Alternatives to Violence Project
 - Merle Cooper Program, Network
 - Rehabilitation through the Arts
 - Victim Awareness Panels
 - Victim-Offender Mediation
 - Victim Restitution/Compensation Program

6. PRISON HEALTH SERVICES

- Oversight by NYS Department of Health
- Policies regarding HIV, AIDS, and Hepatitis
- Early release for qualified old and ill incarcerated persons

D. Rehabilitation Incentives

7. MERIT TIME

- Incentive-based rehabilitation plan for a reentry process that begins at conviction
- Available to most incarcerated persons, including "long termers"
- Conditioned on rehabilitation fulfillment
- Vested in six-month intervals

E. Transitional Services

8. PAROLE

- Full compliance with Executive Law 259-i
- Statutory guidelines for recognition of rehabilitation
- Modern risk assessment technology
- County Parole Advisory Councils to aid reentry
- Referrals and counseling for reentry
- Division of Parole latitude in merit termination of parole
- Restructure Parole Board Composition

9. WORK RELEASE

- Expanded work release facilities
- Available to most incarcerated persons, including "long termers"

10. REENTRY SUPPORT

- Mentoring guidelines, training, and reimbursements
- Half-way (step-down)houses
- Funding for community-based reentry assistance
- County-based reentry resource and referral centers

11. FAMILY SERVICES

- Improved visiting services
- Educational sessions on families, corrections, & community assistance
- Family reunion programs at all major facilities
- Family-connection programs

12. LONG-TERMERS, LIFERS PROGRAMS

- Late-career-development programs
- Canadian LifeLine Program for NYS
- Lifers on Parole assisting other Lifers during and after incarceration
- Partnerships with community agencies to aid re-integration