

Justice Center Briefing Sheet

Sheet 3, June 2005

Programs for Correctional Intervention

Portage County has a long history of supporting programs for offenders living in the community. We recognize that criminal behavior must not only be sanctioned, but also addressed through correctional interventions designed to change behavior and reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence. These programs provide a range of different services depending on the needs of the offender. Services can include residential support, chemical dependency counseling/education, sex offender treatment, employment, financial management, educational development, and testing for chemical usage. These services encourage offenders to address the issues they face and change the course of their lives and the lives of their family.

Providing these services involves a strong partnership between many agencies in Portage County. The Department of Corrections, Ministry Behavioral Health Services, CAP Services, Lutheran Social Services, UW Extension, Job Service, Mid State Technical Institute, Prism, Justiceworks and private services providers work together to develop, deliver and assess the network of programs. The following are a list of key programs and their primary funding source...

Department of Corrections:

Portage House- Portage County receives funds to provide a 10 bed halfway house for adult male offenders who are in need of support/structure. Staff monitors their behavior and facilitates their efforts to establish independent living.

Transitional Living Program-Lutheran Social Services receives funds to support residential services for up to 5 offenders who are in need of housing with routine structure and staff support.

Turn the page to learn more about the programs...



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Sex Offender Programming-Offenders who have been convicted of sexual assault may be required to attend group sessions which encourage accountability and behavior change to reduce the likelihood of a repeat offense.

Portage County:

Day Report-Attic Correctional Services is funded to provide face to face contacts with offenders for the purpose of testing for the use of drugs/alcohol and monitoring daily activities and compliance with ordered conditions. Offenders may report infrequently or up to twice a day depending on their need for structure and surveillance.

Community Service Work Crews- Attic Correctional Services is funded to provide supervised crews of up to 10 offenders and provide labor to over 15 governmental/non profit agencies in Portage County. Crews operate primarily on weekends. Offenders may earn credit toward their jail sentence and/or financial obligations (as allowed by law and the court).

Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Program - Offenders who have a history of one or more OWI offenses may be ordered to participate in the program as a condition of bond or home detention. While in the program, they are assessed for the level of risk they present to the community. Based on the assessment, they are referred for day report, treatment, or other forms of community based programming. Compliance with the program is considered by the court at the time of sentencing.

Other State/County/Private:

Chemical Dependency Counseling-Portage County contracts with various community agencies for assessment and treatment of chemical abuse. Treatment may involve placement in a residential program, day treatment, or weekly groups. Participation in support programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous is encouraged.

Mental Health Treatment-Portage County provides mental health assessments and services to offenders experiencing situational or on-going issues. Services can include placement in a structured program, individual counseling sessions, and/or medication.

Financial Counseling- the Portage County Financial Wellness Program works with offenders in need of budgeting and financial planning assistance. This is one of many ways that community volunteers provide skill training to offenders in the community.

Employment Services-The Wisconsin Job Center, CAP Services, Portage County Health and Human Services support offenders in finding and improving their employment status.

Housing Assistance-Salvation Army, CAP Services, Stevens Point and Portage County Housing Authority and Operation Bootstrap assist offenders with emergency and sustained housing based on their resources and family needs.

Batterers Intervention Program-CAP Services provides facilitated groups for offenders who are ordered or volunteer to address abusive behaviors with domestic partners.

Parenting Skills-The Family Connections Program provides workshops, mentorship, and other forms of education and support to help offenders improve their parenting skills.

These services and how well they meet offender needs in Portage County is a key concern in the criminal justice system needs assessment. Programs may need expansion, reduction, elimination or alteration to improve their effectiveness and efficiency. Additionally, these services give offenders the opportunity to make needed life changes. Some offenders will take advantage of these opportunities, some will not. We are wise to support and encourage positive change and at the same time, respond swiftly and decisively to continued criminal behavior. A full range of programs can best promote the safety our citizens' demand and the high quality of life that our citizens deserve.



Justice Center
project
information is
available on the
web at

www.co.portage.wi.us

click on the
Justice Center
Planning
Project link.



UW
Extension