

News Release

Douglas County Jail Serves as National Model for Reentry Program 10-13-08

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Douglas County Jail Serves as National Model for Reentry Program

The Douglas County Jail will be teaching other institutions in the country how to successfully transition inmates back into the community. The jail has been selected as one of two sites in the U-S for the "Transition from Jail to Community Project." The project-launched by the National Institute of Corrections- is an initiative that involves the development, implementation, and evaluation of a model for jail to community transition.

Douglas County Jail Reentry Director Shannon Murphy heads the Transition from Jail to the Community program..."Nationwide 12 million people cycle in and out of jail and I think that has been an overlooked population of trying to find effective community safety services- so it shows where we've been so far in the forefront of working on reentry efforts locally. We can be replicated because of our size, characteristics, and the design of our facility," Murphy says.

Murphy says Douglas County Undersheriff Kenny Massey served on the National Institute of Corrections Advisory Board for more than a year- where he emphasized the differences between jail versus prison reentry programs- building a model off of a community based jail-like Douglas County. General statistics show two-thirds of inmates return to jail within three years after being released. Murphy says several methods the Douglas County Jail uses show how a reentry program can be successful...

"The type of facility we have is ideal- we have space and pods for programs- we have well over one hundred volunteers to help inmates with skills they need BEFORE they get out- waiting until they get out is too far back on the spectrum," says Murphy.

A facility in Denver Colorado was the other site chosen for the project. Murphy says both the Denver site and the Douglas County Jail will participate in the model program for two years- and will mentor and set the foundation for four other facilities that will be chosen for the program next year.