

Indiana Department of Correction and Clay County Sheriff's Department Team Up to Provide New Approaches

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: jahmed@doc.in.gov

Sheriff Michael Heaton

Clay County Sheriff's Department

mheaton@claycountyin.gov

812.446.2535

“We are excited to partner with the Clay County Sheriff's Department to provide intensive training and community resources within Clay County to offenders re-entering society. Sheriff Heaton's efforts to reduce the recidivism rate matches our commitment to help offenders succeed and become productive citizens in Indiana.”

J. David Donahue, Commissioner

Indianapolis, Indiana – (October 20, 2006) – An innovative agreement between the Indiana Department of Correction and the Clay County Sheriff's Department will help prepare offenders with successful re-entry.

Twenty-four beds at the Clay County Justice Center will be used to launch the Clay County Re-Entry Program (CCRP), the first of its kind in the state.

“We are excited to partner with the Clay County Sheriff's Department to provide intensive training and community resources within Clay County to offenders re-entering society,” said Commissioner J. David Donahue. “Sheriff Heaton's efforts to reduce the recidivism rate matches our commitment to help offenders succeed and become productive citizens in Indiana.”

Offenders sentenced to the Department of Correction from Clay and surrounding counties within 18-months of release will be given priority consideration for participation in the program.

The goal of the close-to-home program is to reduce recidivism by providing literacy, job training and placement, temporary food and housing, life skills and other social service needs. The CCRP will provide a seamless, comprehensive network of services to the offenders, during the incarceration period and after their release to the community.

Among services offered through the CCRP include education, employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, medical and mental health treatment, family counseling, housing, community support referrals and mentoring assistance.

Clay County Sheriff Michael Heaton says he wants to stop the cycle of Clay County offenders returning to jail time and time again.

“Having them closer to home strengthens family ties and brings them in touch with local agencies and resources needed to be contributing members of the community,” said Sheriff Heaton.

The program curriculum will include: Anger Management, Budgeting and Personal Finance, Cognitive program: “Thinking for a Change,” Communicable Disease Awareness, Community Assistance Programs Domestic Violence, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Health and Wellness, Life Skills, Resumes, Cover Letters and Interview Skills, Self-esteem and Stress Management.

The Indiana Department of Correction has entered into a two-year agreement with the Clay County Sheriffs Department to coordinate the re-entry effort and will pay Clay County \$35.00 per day for each DOC offender in the program.

Commissioner J. David Donahue will join with Sheriff Heaton to discuss the exciting new program. A news briefing and tour is scheduled on Wednesday, October 25th at 2:30 p.m. (EST) at the Clay County Justice Center, 611 East Jackson Street, Brazil, Indiana.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

© 2005 Indiana Department of Correction
Content Last Updated:
October 20, 2006