



### Other Environmental Pressures

- Changing Public Attitudes
  - 1994 Pew 29% of national survey respondents said crime most important problem for local communities
  - □ 2001 Pew 12% gave the same answer
  - 2005 Gallup 2% of Americans say crime most important problem
  - □ 1994 Gallup 49% said crime top problem
- Low Crime Rates
- State Budget Pressures

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#### **State Policy Responses**

- Diversion Statutes
- Reducing Mandatory Minimums for Drug Offenses
- Strategies to Reduce Overcrowding
- Re-entry and Transitional Planning
- Interagency Planning and Analysis



### Policy Response #1 Diversion Statutes

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#### Pennsylvania (SB 217)

- Establishes State Intermediate Punishment
- Provides for offender assessment prior to sentencing
- 24-month duration
  - Mandatory 7-month period of incarceration
  - □ 2-months treatment in a community-based therapeutic community
  - □ At least 6 months of treatment at an outpatient addiction treatment facility;
  - □ Supervised reintegration into the community.
- Signed by Governor in November 2004



#### Maryland (SB 194)

- Parole Commission to consider drug or alcohol evaluation
  - □ "Amenable" inmates may be released for treatment before serving ¼ of sentence
- Prosecutorial Options
  - □ Structured diversion for non-violent offenses
  - □ Charges dismissed on successful completion of treatment
- Substance Abuse Fund with \$3 million FY05 appropriation

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#### **Others**

- Hawaii
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Texas
- Washington



# Policy Response #2 Reducing Mandatory Minimums for Drug Offenses

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#### Delaware (HB 210)

- Decreased mandatory minimum sentences for trafficking in illegal drugs
- Increased minimum weight of cocaine needed for trafficking conviction
- Increased sentences for six violent offenses



#### Colorado (SB 318)

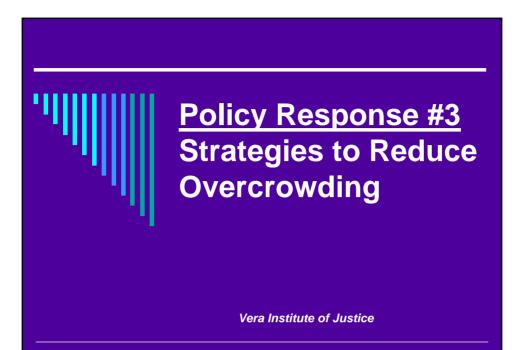
- New, lesser offense for use and simple possession of 1 gram or less of any controlled substance (no intent to sell)
- Judicial discretion to sentence to probation, county jail, or community corrections rather than prison
- Provides at least \$2.2 million per biennium for treatment
- Estimated to save the state \$7.8 million in next five years

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#### **Others**

- Maine
- Michigan
- New York
- Washington





### **Increasing Sentence Reduction Credits**

- Indiana (SB 482)
- Maine (LD 1903)
- Mississippi (HB 686)
- Nevada (AB 105)
- New York (S 1406-B/A 2106-B)
- Washington (SB 5990)

Jon said to re-write description about IN - SB 482, but how? Nomi Maeyama, 5/24/2004NM1



### Administrative Acceleration of Parole Release

- Alabama (HB 3B)
- Connecticut (HB 5211)
- New York (S 1406-B/A 2106-B)

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#### **Connecticut HB 5211**

- Expands eligibility for parole to certain offenses previously barred
  - Facilitates release of inmates by requiring parole hearing for those who have served a required percent of their sentence
  - ☐ Allows release of certain inmates without a hearing
- Parolees may be transferred to treatment center 18 months prior to release
- Authorizes pre-trial release with conditions (such as treatment) by DOC for those charged with misdemeanors and most D felonies.

Jon said to re-write description about IN - SB 482, but how? Nomi Maeyama, 5/24/2004NM3



### Easing Truth-in-Sentencing Requirements: Iowa

- SF 422 (2003)
  - □ Decreases the amount of time violent offenders are required to serve from 85% to 70%
  - □ Requires motion of prosecutor to trigger retroactive application.
- SF 2275 (Expands Applicability of SF 422)
  - Signed by governor in May 2004
  - Retroactive
  - □ Eliminates provision where offender could only be paroled by prosecutor's motion

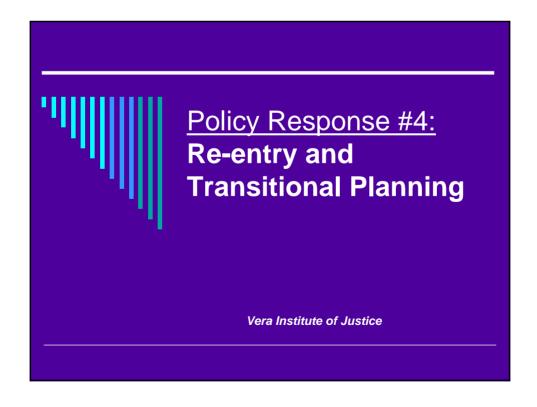
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### **Approaches to Technical Violators**

- Colorado (SB 252)
- Connecticut (HB 5211)
- Delaware (SB 50)
- Washington (SB 5990)







#### Re-entry and Transitional Planning

- Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative (SVORI)
- Revised Second Chance Act in Congress
- State Activity
  - Arizona (SB 1291)
  - Delaware (HB 210)
  - □ Idaho (HB 464)
  - Missouri (SB 5)
  - Nevada (SB 264)
  - Oklahoma (HB 1061)
  - □ Virginia (HB 2245)
  - Washington (SB 5990)
  - Wyoming (SB 17)

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#### Arizona (SB 1291)

- Transition program for drug offenders
- Provides rehabilitation and training before and after release
- Allows participants to be released three months earlier than their prior earliest release date
- Funded by reinvesting the savings derived from early releases and by deductions of 8% from wages earned by drug offenders while incarcerated



# Policy Response #5 Interagency Planning and Analysis

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#### **Recent Efforts**

- Illinois CLEAR Initiative: Criminal Law Edit, Alignment and Reform Commission
- Iowa Criminal Code Revision and Controlled Substance Studies
- Indiana Sentencing Policy Study
- Kansas Criminal Code Recodification
- Maine Commission on Sentencing
- New Jersey Commission on Sentencing
- Vermont Governor's Corrections Overcrowding Commission
- Wisconsin Sentencing Commission
- Model Penal Code ALI
- ABA Justice Kennedy Commission



### Why Are States Turning to This Approach?

- Public Safety
- Political Viability
- Objective Data as Policy Basis
- Resource Management
- Proportionality
- Disparity

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#### What's Next?

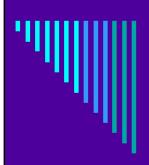
- Probation and Parole Violators
- Risk Assessment Instruments
- Treatment Alternatives for Non-Violent Offenders
- Re-Entry
- Continued Blakely & Booker Fallout



### What's Needed for Successful Reform?

- Participation of All 3 Branches and Key Constituencies
- Active Involvement in Policy Deliberation and Formulation
- Recognition of the Political Dimensions
   Sentencing and Incarceration Policy
- Recognition of Importance of Data

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## Recent National Trends in Sentencing & Corrections

**Dan Wilhelm Vera Institute of Justice** 

Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Sentencing and Pardons and Parole and Probation Las Vegas, January 2006