

# Nevada Department of Public Safety Division of Parole and Probation



PAROLE AND PROBATION RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

# Agency Collaboration



- Beginning in December 2012 and into 2013, Division of Parole and Probation, Nevada Department of Corrections and Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners personnel jointly attended training conducted by the National Institute of Corrections on "Systems Approach to Organizational Performance".

# Agency Collaboration

- ▶ This training resulted in a collaborative effort to improve re-entry services for the parolee population in Nevada.
- ▶ Numerous post-training planning sessions were held and our current services are the result of that planning and implementation.

# Pre-Release Unit

## ▶ Personnel:

- ▶ DPS Lieutenant (1)
- ▶ DPS Sergeant (1)
- ▶ Parole and Probation Specialist III (1)
- ▶ Parole and probation Specialist II (10)

# Las Vegas Personnel

## ▶ Parole Unit:

- ▶ DPS Lieutenant
- ▶ DPS Sergeants (2)
- ▶ DPS Officers (10)
- ▶ Specialist III (1)
- ▶ Administrative Assistant IV (2)

# Offender Supervision

- ▶ The Parole Unit is responsible for the supervision of offenders who have been granted release from prison by the Parole Board of Commissions and have a viable placement plan.
- ▶ Offenders are supervised by the Division while they complete a term of community supervision under their rules of parole.
- ▶ Supervision of offenders is granted to the Division of Parole and Probation under NRS Chapters 176, 176A, 209 and 213.

# Statistical Data

- ▶ On average the Division of Parole & Probation receives approximately 350 approved parole grants from the Board of Parole Commissioners each month.
- ▶ Of those, approximately 300 inmates are released on parole each month, leaving approximately 50 inmates who have been approved for release, but were not released for various reasons.

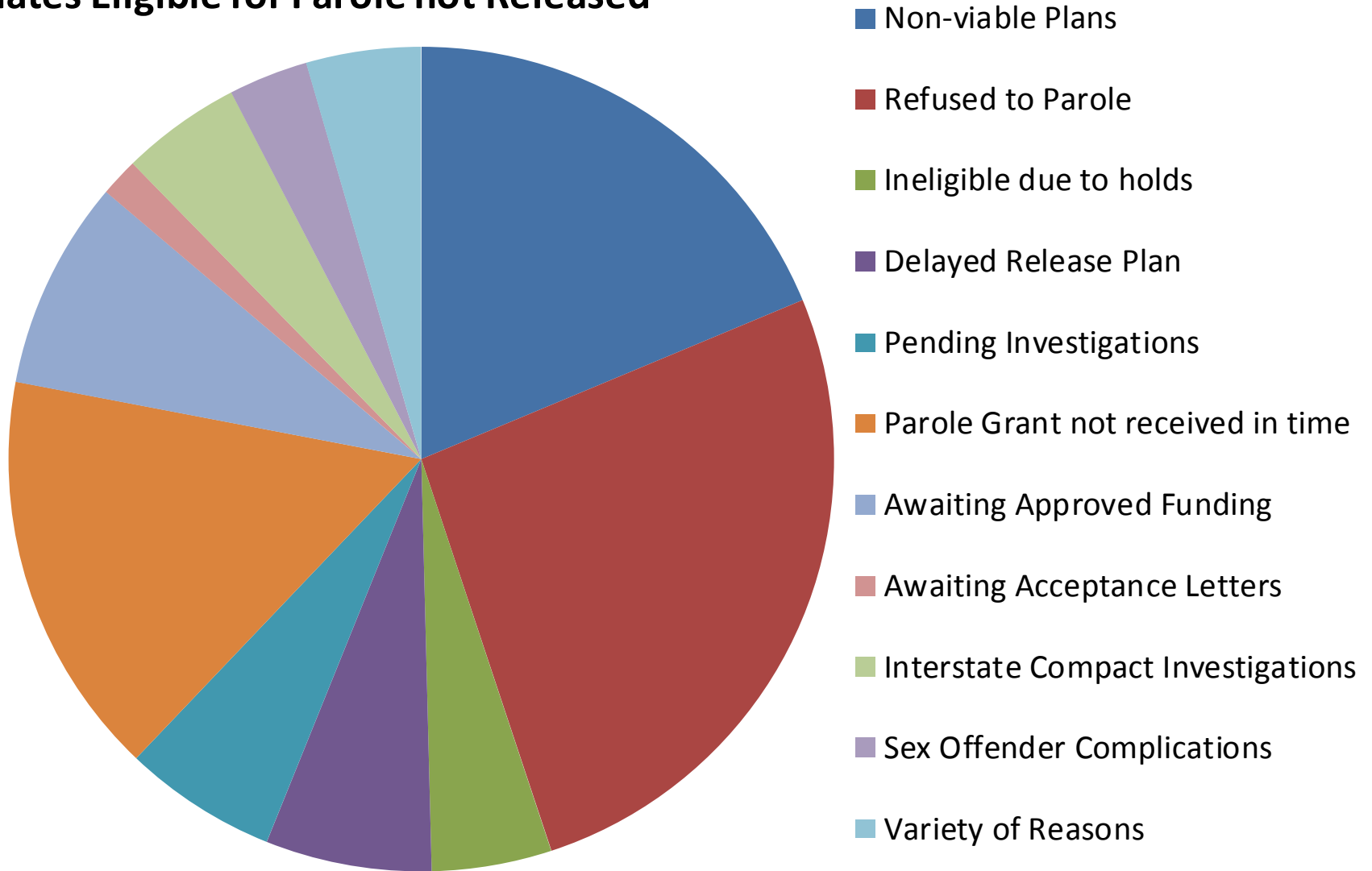
# Parole Grant Approved – Not Released

- ▶ For the month of May 2014, the Division of Parole and Probation, Pre Release Unit recorded 357 inmates as “approved” for an upcoming parole release to community supervision.
- ▶ In contrast to this number, 321 inmates could not be released from prison despite having current parole grants.
- ▶ Of the 321 inmates not released from the custody of NDOC to parole supervision, the following slides provides the reasons the inmates were not released.



# Statistical Data

## Inmates Eligible for Parole not Released



# Statistical Data

- ▶ Approximately 26.2% of offenders approved for parole refuse or refused to submit a parole plan;
- ▶ Approximately 18.7% submitted a non-viable plan, or their plan was denied during the investigation;
- ▶ Approximately 6% were waiting for the investigation of their plan to be completed;
- ▶ Approximately 15.9% did not receive their parole grant in time to complete release process prior to parole eligibility date.
- ▶ Approximately 1.5% were waiting on acceptance letters to parole to a residential program;

# Statistical Data

- ▶ Approximately 4.7% were ineligible for release due to a detainer being in place from another jurisdiction;
- ▶ Approximately 4.7% were not released due to a pending investigation by another state as the inmate has requested to transfer their parole to another state.
- ▶ Approximately 6.5% were delayed because they were awaiting a release plan;
- ▶ Approximately 8.2% had an approved plan, but were awaiting on approved funding.
- ▶ Approximately 3.1% encountered placement complications due to their sex offender status.
- ▶ Approximately 4.5% fell into a variety of complications category.

# Approved Parole Grants

- ▶ Once received by the Board of Parole Commissioners, the approved parole grants are entered into the Division's Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) by our support staff.
- ▶ Upon entry, a criminal history records check is run on every offender to determine if there are any valid warrants and/or detainers.
- ▶ If a warrant is found and a detainer is placed on an inmate from another jurisdiction, the inmate will still be paroled, but their release will be delayed pending the resolution of the warrant or detainer by the other jurisdiction.

# Approved Parole Grants

- ▶ If there are no warrants or detainers, the approved parole grants will be assigned to a P&P Specialist who will determine if the offender falls under certain immediate release criteria.
- ▶ For instance, if an inmate has no history of violence or convictions for a sex offense, they can parole to an approved halfway house facility without a field investigation being completed.
- ▶ If the inmate does not meet this criterion due to the offender's criminal history, the P&P Specialist will forward the approved parole grant to the appropriate Parole & Probation field office for an investigation by a sworn officer.

# Pre-Parole Investigation

- ▶ The investigation conducted by the assigned sworn officer will include verification of the residence, the suitability of the occupants and the location, if applicable.
- ▶ It will also include verification of employment, or verification of placement into a counseling program if required by the Board of Parole Commissioners as a condition of parole.

# Investigation Completion

- ▶ Upon completion of the investigation by the sworn officer, the P&P Specialist will coordinate and process the release of the inmate with the Release Coordinator at the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC).
- ▶ If the placement is denied, the P&P Specialist will work with the NDOC caseworker, Division Re-Entry Coordinators and the inmate to obtain another viable plan.

# Pre-Release Responsibilities Cont.

- ▶ The Pre-Release unit is also responsible for the tracking of approximately 1,775 institutional parole cases and 200 institutional probation cases.
- ▶ These cases involve an inmate with multiple parole and/or probation cases where the underlying prison sentences are consecutive to each other. In these situations an inmate may be approved for a parole grant on one case, but will then begin serving their sentence on a second or subsequent case, therefore, they will not physically be released from custody even though they have been granted parole on the first case.



# Pre-Release Responsibilities Cont.

- ▶ The Pre-Release unit will continue to monitor and track these types of cases until either the inmate is eligible for release on all of their cases, or a specific case is discharged, whereupon the P&P Specialist will process the appropriate discharge paperwork and the inmate will be discharged on that particular case.

# Re-Entry Program

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators are responsible for working with inmates who have been approved for parole, but are still incarcerated past their parole eligibility date due to difficulty in obtaining adequate funding and/or difficulty in obtaining viable placement in the community.
- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators are the liaisons between inmates and the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC), the halfway houses, the treatment programs, the Veterans Affairs programs, the Nevada Re-Entry Coalition and the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

# Re-Entry Coordinators

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators visit prison facilities on a regular basis to meet with inmates one on one to develop suitable residence plans for release on parole.
- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators will contact halfway houses and treatment programs in regards to accepting the inmate into their program and assist them to fill out application requests;

# Re-Entry Coordinators

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators will contact perspective employers in an attempt to obtain employment for inmates.
- ▶ Conduct group inmate meetings in the prison to educate the inmates on various residence plans, interstate compact issues, and Veterans Administration (VA) programs.

# Available Funding

- ▶ The inmate will also be notified about any indigent funding that may be available and they are provided with the Parole & Probation approved facility list that can help them find suitable halfway houses willing and able to accept them. Also specific education on sex offender specific residences, halfway houses and treatment programs are relayed to any inmate with a conviction for a sex offense.

# Veteran Inmates

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators work with the Veterans Administration program and assists veterans currently incarcerated in prison.
- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators assists veteran inmates fill out various forms necessary to enroll them in a VA program if not already approved.

# Coordination with NDOC

- ▶ Lastly, Division Re-Entry Coordinators and the Re-Entry staff at NDOC meet on a regular basis and work with other state agencies.
- ▶ They discuss available resources to help place inmates into approved state licensed programs and to specifically help any mentally ill inmates with their release plans.

# Las Vegas

## Inmate Transition to Parole Procedures

- ▶ Since October 2013, Re-Entry Coordinators from the Division of Parole and Probation, Southern Command have participated in a joint effort with various Nevada Department of Corrections facilities in Southern Nevada to assist a parolee's transition from a life of incarceration to a successful life out of custody.
- ▶ Southern Command Re-Entry Coordinators have been conducting orientation programs and informational seminars at the women's and men's prisons, as well as prison work camp sites.



# Las Vegas

## Inmate Transition to Parole Procedures

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators will conduct an orientation and informational seminar at the Florence McClure Correctional Center located in North Las Vegas.
- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators will conduct orientations and informational seminars at the Southern Desert Correctional Center, Three Lakes Conservation Camp and High Desert Correctional Center. These facilities are located at Indian Springs, located approximately 40 miles from Las Vegas.
- ▶ This orientations and informational seminars occur monthly within each facility.

# Parole Eligibility Orientation (LV)

- ▶ During these sessions, the inmates are provided an orientation of the pre-release process. The Pre-Release plan is discussed as well as the importance of supplying caseworkers with two solid release plans.
- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators also discuss the option of declining to parole, as appropriate.

# Parole Eligibility Orientation (LV)

- ▶ The inmates are then walked through the release process from the time they are released from the prison and delivered to the parole and probation office to the time they are released from parole.
- ▶ A sample parole agreement and all the rules of parole are reviewed and the most common special conditions are discussed.

# Parole Eligibility Orientation (LV)

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators review the good time credit process and what is required of parolees to keep their original Parole expiration dates.
- ▶ The parolees are also instructed as to their requirements if they are paroled to a hold.

# Parole Eligibility Orientation (LV)

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators discuss other important topics with inmates such as the Interstate Compact process for inmates desiring to parole to another state.
- ▶ The Parole Unit's philosophical approach to supervision of parolees along with detailed behavioral expectations and what is required from them in order to successfully complete parole.

# Orientation (Las Vegas)

- ▶ What happens when they encounter law enforcement.
- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators discuss how Division detainers are placed on offenders. These detainers are placed when offenders are involved in new criminal activity and/or violate their supervision conditions.
- ▶ The procedure for requesting a travel pass and when inmates are eligible to apply for a travel pass.

# Social Service and Personal Development Programs (LV)

- ▶ Re-Entry Coordinators provide an overview of re-entry, social service and personal development programs such as:
  - ▶ Hope for Prisoners
  - ▶ The Foundation for Independent Tomorrow (F.I.T.) and
  - ▶ Urban League
  - ▶ One Stop Shop
  - ▶ Shade Tree Women's shelter
  - ▶ Department of Veteran's Affairs
  - ▶ Las Vegas Urban League
  - ▶ Westcare

# Services Provided by Programs (LV)

- ▶ These programs offer services for:
  - ▶ Pre-Vocational Training
  - ▶ Mentoring
  - ▶ Leadership Training
  - ▶ Job Development
  - ▶ Basic Computer Training and Skills Development
  - ▶ Housing and Rental Assistance
  - ▶ Substance Abuse Counseling Services as well as many other services designed to assist the parolee with the daunting task of obtaining the assistance needed to comply with the terms of parole as well as becoming an asset to the community as a whole.



# Question and Answer Opportunities (LV)

- ▶ Finally, a review of the information shared with inmates is completed.
- ▶ Inmates are provided a list of the most common counseling programs available in the Las Vegas.
- ▶ During closing and wrap up of the orientation program, the room is opened to the inmates for question and answer time.

## Offenders without Appropriate Release Plans (LV)

- ▶ Additionally, in an effort to assist offenders who could not secure appropriate release plans, the Parole Unit voluntarily researched local residential complexes that would be willing to accept parolees as residents.
- ▶ That research led to an agreement with an extended stay residential complex with multiple locations throughout the state who agreed to accept those troubled inmates.

# Offenders without Appropriate Release Plans

- ▶ Additionally, this company (Siegel Suites) has now become a vendor with the Nevada Department of Corrections, which allows for the company to be paid directly by the Nevada Department of Corrections and for the inmate to be released to these residences upon his or her parole grant.

# Program Response and Effectiveness

- ▶ Upon completion of the orientation/information seminars many parolees have been thankful for the information provided and were less anxious upon release having received the information provided at the seminars.
- ▶ This response serves as proof that our concerted efforts are paying off. By being able to centralize operations and deal with the inmates directly, once paroled, these offenders are equipped with the knowledge they need in order to get off to a good start.
- ▶ By working directly with the inmates who are not released during the month for whatever reason, the Division's Re-Entry Coordinator has been able to get an average of 25 inmates per month released to a viable placement plan who would have otherwise remained incarcerated.

# Questions?

