

Implementation of the Transition Accountability Plan Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2009

Required by the Legislature pursuant to Section 403.8 in the FY2009 appropriations law

Introduction

The following is a status report on the implementation of the Transition Accountability Plan (TAP) as required by the Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations law. These requirements from the Legislature pertaining to standards are found in Section 403.8 and state as follows:

Sec. 403 (8) The department shall ensure that each prisoner develops a transition accountability plan at intake in order to successfully reenter the community after release from prison. Each prisoner's transition accountability plan shall be reviewed at least once each year to assure adequate progress. The department shall develop a plan to implement this section and shall report quarterly... on the progress of the implementation of the plan.

The lynchpin of the MPRI Model is the development and use of Transition Accountability Plans (TAPs) at key points in the prisoner transition process. The TAP succinctly describes for the prisoner or former prisoner, corrections and field staff, and the community exactly what is expected for a successful re-entry process. Under the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) Model, the TAP is prepared with each prisoner at reception as part of the prison intake process then it is updated based on his or her progress as part of the parole decision process as the prisoner approaches his or her Earliest Release Date or ERD. When the prisoner re-enters the community and when the former prisoner is to be discharged from parole supervision, the TAP is again updated based on the new expectations and current progress.

TAP contains the Needs, Goals, Tasks, and Activities for each offender:

- **Needs** are the criminogenic factors that contribute to risk and are individually assessed using the COMPAS risk assessment instrument.
- **Goals** are designed to mitigate each criminogenic need.
- **Tasks** are developed with each offender to meet the goals defined in the plan.
- **Activities** are created with each offender to break down each task into manageable steps.

Figure 1. SAMPLE Transition Accountability Plan

Need: Criminal Thinking

Goal: Decrease Aggressive/Assaultive Behavior; Enhance Anger Management Skills

Task: Enroll in Cage Your Rage

Start Date: End Date:

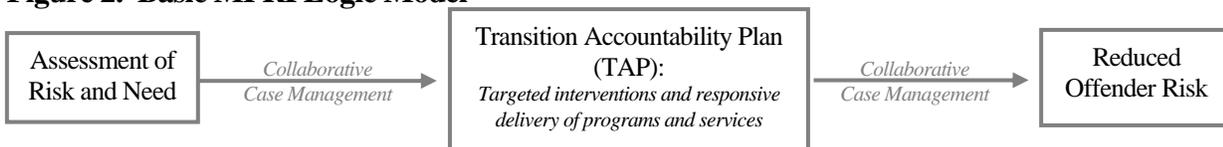
Completion Code:

Service Provider: Case Manager Atkins

Activity: Send correspondence to Classification Director Jones requesting entry into program

The TAP is developed with each individual offender by designated case managers who have been trained in Collaborative Case Management to enhance their engagement skills which enhance the intrinsic motivation of the offender.

Figure 2. Basic MPRI Logic Model



The TAP integrates offenders' transition from prison to community by spanning phases in the transition process as well as agency boundaries. The TAP is a collaborative product that at any given time may involve prison staff, the prisoner, the parole board, parole field agents, human services providers (public and/or private), victims, neighborhood and community organizations, and the offender's social support network. The objective of the TAP process is to increase both overall community protection by lowering risk to persons and property and by increasing individual offender's prospects for successful return to the community.

Transition Accountability Plan

Figure 2. MPRI Process Flowchart and Progress Snapshot – March, 2009

Getting Ready Phase— Incarceration Phase

Offender enters MDOC under sentence



Institutional Assessment & Classification



TAP: Dynamic and changing based on objective risk and need assessment. TAP in this phase describes the tasks and activities that must be completed during incarceration as part of the risk reduction strategy for each offender.

PROGRESS SNAP SHOT:

All offenders start a TAP at Intake. As evidence-based program capacity is expanded in the Getting Ready Phase, TAPs will become more robust.

Going Home Phase— Transition to Community

2 Months – 1 Year
Prerelease

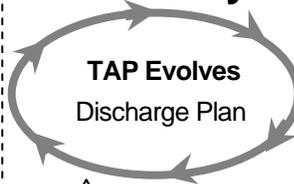
TAP: Changes as details of parole plan are verified. Includes input from community-based providers and agents in the form of Transition Team meetings.

In-Reach: Prisoners are assigned to in-reach facilities located nearer to their home by the Parole Board based on the risk and needs of each returning prisoner.

PROGRESS SNAP SHOT:

Currently, about 60% of all returning prisoners transition through an In-Reach Unit and are designated eligible for MPRI Staying Home Services. Working with an Institutional Parole Agent and MPRI Transition Team, each MPRI-designated offender develops a TAP in the 60 days prior to release.

Staying Home Phase— Community & Discharge Phase

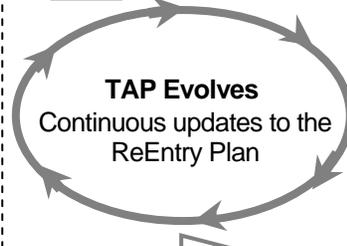
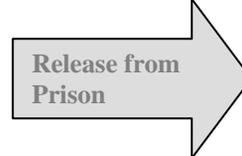
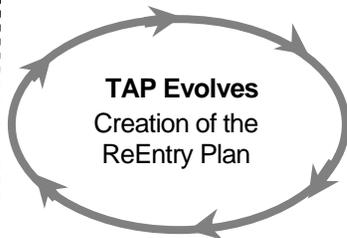
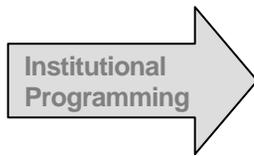
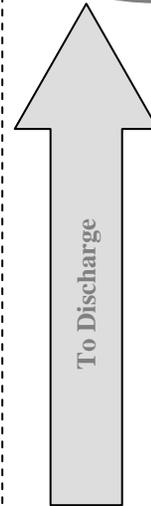


TAP: As offenders approach discharge from parole supervision, the TAP evolves to include the responsibilities of the returning citizen and his or her community-based partners and social support network.

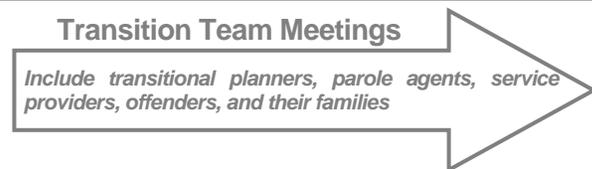
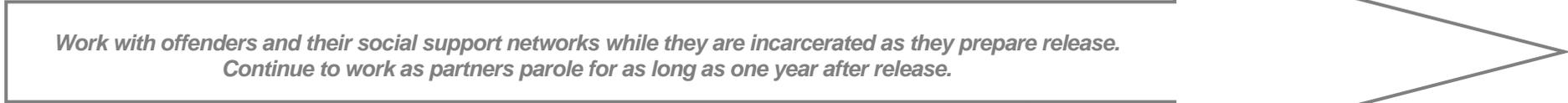
PROGRESS SNAP SHOT:

As MPRI-designated parolees transition home, their TAP is updated by parole agents at least once a year or when tasks and activities have been completed.

Prior to parole discharge, the TAP is updated and prepared to “hand-off” to the ex-offender and his or her community support system.



NOTE: Over 90% of all releases are to community supervision.



Principles that Guide the Transition Accountability Plan Development Process

1. The TAP process starts during intake soon after their admission to prison and continues through (and beyond) their discharge from community supervision.
2. TAPs define programs or interventions to modify individual offender's dynamic risk factors that were identified during the objective assessment process; address the prisoner or former prisoner's needs and build on the identified strengths of each individual. Thus, the prisoner is at the center of the TAP process.
3. TAPs are sensitive to the requirements of public safety and to the rational timing and availability of services. In an ideal system, every offender would have access to programs and services to modify dynamic risk factors. In a system constrained by finite resources, officials need to rationally allocate access to services and resources, using risk management strategies as the basis for that allocation.
4. Appropriate partners should participate in the planning and implementation of individual offender's TAPs. These include the prisoner or former prisoner, prison staff, parole board, parole agents, victims, offenders' families, human service agencies, and volunteer and faith-based organizations. While corrections staff lead the Transition Team, community representatives are vital partners in the process. The design of the TAP is a collaborative process.
5. Individual TAPs delineate the specific responsibilities of prisoners and former prisoners, correctional agencies and system partners in the creation, modification, and effective application of the plans. The TAPs hold them accountable for performance of those responsibilities.
6. The TAP developed in the Going Home Phase is the first TAP that is developed during "prison in-reach" – a process that brings community representatives into the prisons to interact with the prisoners. **Prison In-Reach is a major distinction between the way business has been done in the past and the way it is improved and the single most important innovation of the MPRI Model.**
7. TAPs provide a long-term road map to achieve continuity in the delivery of treatments and services, and in the sharing of requisite information, both over time and across agencies. This is particularly essential during the Going Home Phase when the boundaries between agencies are literally fences and brick walls. The TAP must serve as more than a plan – it must serve as a highly specific schedule of events beginning as soon as the prisoner is released and must include the expectations of how the returning prisoner will spend his or her time in the community.
8. A collaborative case management process is used to arrange, advocate, coordinate, and monitor the delivery of a package of services needed to meet the specific offender's needs. During the prison portion of the TAP process, prison staff function as case managers. As offenders prepare for release and adjust to community supervision, their parole agent becomes the case manager. When they are successfully discharged from supervision, a staff member from a human service agency may assume case management responsibilities for former prisoners who continue to need services and support.