

“An important component of Operation Spotlight is the ‘Spotlight Reentry Centers’ initiative for high-risk parolees. These Centers provide a valuable risk-reduction tool for communities....”

– Community Safety and Reentry Working Group, April 2007
“Inside Out: a Plan to Reduce Recidivism and Improve Public Safety”

Illinois targets recidivism reduction, prison overcrowding with community-based alternatives



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Recidivism has dropped from 54.6% to 51.8% over a three-year period, a significant drop that yields millions in savings each year
- More than 750 parolees are reporting daily and attending cognitive behavioral programs at eight Spotlight Reentry Centers
- Annually more than 3,000 parolees will access the Community Connections Resources available at one of the eight Spotlight Reentry Centers
- Illinois monitors more than 2,800 individuals daily with a mix of BI electronic supervision solutions

THE AGENCY

The Illinois Department Corrections (IDOC) is one of the largest state correctional agencies in the nation. The IDOC has a budget of \$1.3 billion and operates 28 adult correctional centers, work camps, boot camps and a mix of community-based programs. The agency supervises nearly 80,000 individuals, including 45,000 inmates and 35,000 parolees. From 1983 through 2005, the prison inmate population tripled from approximately 15,000 to 45,000 inmates, a figure that holds today. Despite an expansion of correctional services, recidivism rates ballooned and hit an all-time high of 54.6% in 2004.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE PRISON

Recognizing that more prison inmates and high recidivism was impacting public safety and costing too much, Illinois established corrections reform as a priority. To slow prison growth, Illinois focused on reducing recidivism. Among other strategies, the IDOC implemented eight community-based cognitive behavioral treatment programs for high-risk parolees. The IDOC called these eight programs Spotlight Reentry Centers. The IDOC selected BI Incorporated to open and operate these programs in neighborhoods with a high concentration of parolees who were at high risk of re-offense or re-incarceration for technical violations.

These innovative Spotlight Reentry Centers deliver programs that tackle negative thinking, conflict resolution, substance abuse and skills for employment and education. These centers are “What Works” environments, where the programs follow the most current body of research and evidence-based practices for changing criminal behavior. The Spotlight Reentry Centers deliver a strict regimen of daily check-ins, breath alcohol testing at each visit, random urinalysis testing and early curfews. Using an objective risk and needs assessment tool, LSI-R, BI addresses criminogenic risk and needs and then develops individual behavior change plans for each

participant. Participants are treated with dignity and respect and are engaged using motivational interviewing. The program rules hold parolees accountable for their behavior as they attend group classes that fall under five main areas: cognitive skills; life skills; anger management; drug and alcohol programs; and employment services.

Changing parolees’ thinking at the Spotlight Reentry Centers is essential since most participants have a serious criminal background that includes multiple, lengthy convictions, youthful offenders, or parolees at high risk of parole failure. In addition to the daily reporting, treatment and training at these eight centers, parolees link to valuable long-term resources in the community through a unique program called Community Connections. Each month, approximately 750 parolees report to the day reporting portion of the program with an additional 320 parolees accessing the Community Connections aspect of the program.

IDOC ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM

For many years, BI has also supplied the IDOC with a range of location monitoring technologies for certain offenders released to community supervision. In fact, today more than 2,800 offenders are monitored with BI technologies now, including:

- BI ExacuTrack® AT and BI ExacuTrack®, two Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies that track where individuals travel within the community.
- BI 9000®, a radio frequency electronic monitoring system that closely monitors curfews and schedules.
- BI Cellular®, a monitoring system that uses cellular technology to monitor curfews and schedules.
- BI GroupGuard® Plus, a monitoring system that allows the agency to monitor groups of offenders living in a half-way home.

THE RESULTS

- Since 2004, the three-year average recidivism rate in Illinois dropped from a high of 54.6% to 51.8%, a change not seen in 20 years.
- Prison population has stabilized since 2005, leveling off at 45,000 inmates today.
- More than 750 individuals report to a Spotlight Reentry Center for cognitive behavioral treatment classes and counseling each month.
- The Spotlight Reentry Center programs have gained attention from national experts and organizations focused on community corrections.
- The average number of participants employed while involved at a Spotlight Reentry Center was 54%—very high considering the poor work history of many of the program participants.
- Reentry center participants logged 8,324 community service hours in a two-year period.
- More than 30 Transition Celebrations (graduations from the program) have been held, recognizing the success of the parolees marking a positive step toward community integration.
- More than 2,800 offenders are monitored with electronic supervision technologies each day. As a result, supervising officers can monitor compliance to curfews, schedules and additional conditions of release.

TECHNOLOGY & PROGRAMS:

- BI Parolee Reentry Program
- BI Parolee Revocation Program
- BI ExacuTrack® AT
- BI ExacuTrack®
- BI 9000® Series
- BI Cellular®
- BI GroupGuard® Plus



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