



## **Comprehensive Planning and Phase III Quality Assurance Workgroup Summary**

Beginning in January 2008, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) began an extensive process of evaluating the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative's (MPRI) comprehensive planning and community development system in order to improve the quality of Phase III of the MPRI Model. A stakeholder survey and focus groups were conducted with key leaders of MPRI representing all 18 community sites, administrative agencies, co-chairs, and community coordinators. Following the collection of this data, Director Caruso formed a Comprehensive Planning and Phase III Quality Assurance Workgroup. The purpose of the *Comprehensive Planning and Phase III Quality Assurance Workgroup* was to review the data collected through the survey and focus groups and provide ideas to MDOC to improve MPRI's comprehensive planning and community development system.

The workgroup met on March 10 and March 21, and a summary of the ideas generated from this workgroup is included below:

- **Idea 1:** MPRI Phase III should focus on three core activities:
  1. The delivery of effective, community-based services
  2. Extensive, cross-discipline collaboration
  3. Systematic public education and outreach
- **Idea 2:** Performance measures should be developed for each of the three core activities.
- **Idea 3:** The process of MPRI Phase III comprehensive planning and community development should be written into MDOC policy and procedure.
- **Idea 4:** The fiscal and program management and oversight of MDOC's contracts with Administrative Agencies need to be fortified, and the infrastructure and capacity for this work need to be enhanced. There are 3 coordinating relationships for which MDOC is responsible:
  1. Fiscal integrity and oversight
  2. Policy and procedure within MDOC to enhance partnerships (CFA/FOA, MDOC/community)
  3. Community development and building the capacity of local teams to invest in quality services and effective partnerships

Performance measures for each area must be clearly defined and a monitoring plan needs to be developed to track these measures and provide feedback to local teams.

- **Idea 5:** The role of the Steering Team needs to be better defined. MPRI-funded providers should not be Steering Team members in order to protect MPRI from conflict of interest allegations.
- **Idea 6:** All MPRI community sites need to have 4 co-chairs including the Administrative Agency, the In-reach Facility Warden or designee, the FOA Area Manager or designee, and a Community Leader. The roles of each co-chair need to be defined and clarified.
- **Idea 7:** MDOC needs to train MDOC co-chairs to be effective community leaders and strong co-chairs. This includes providing training for MDOC staff that are appointed to serve on the board of administrative agencies.
- **Idea 8:** One integrated data system needs to be established as both a case management tool and as a performance measurement tool for MDOC and community partners.
- **Idea 9:** Role of the Community Coordinator is critical, but the responsibilities for this position must be more clearly defined in the following areas:
  1. Community collaboration and brokering.
  2. Quality assurance
  3. Public outreach and education
  4. Leveraging formal and informal resources to support and expand Phase III.
  5. Building community capacity and willingness to take responsibility for reducing offenders' risk.
- **Idea 10:** Develop a local governance structure that enhances and supports the roles of the four Co-Chairs, the Steering Team, the Community Coordinator, the Advisory Council, and the community at large.

### ***Summary and Next Steps***

These ideas represent the synthesis of many discussions with community partners and other MPRI stakeholders as part of a continued focus on increasing the quality of MPRI to improve offender outcomes. Deputy Director Dennis Schrantz will use these ideas to inform his recommendations to Director Caruso for improving MPRI's comprehensive planning and community development system.