

From: Phongam, Viruth  
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 3:55 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Community Corrections' Mission

Dear Staff,

The Mississippi Department of Corrections, Community-Corrections Division exists to: provide for public safety, promote opportunities for positive behavioral change in the offenders under its supervision, secure provisions for community based assistance and services needed by the offenders, decrease criminal behavior and recidivism and serves as an alternative to incarceration.

When I read the above statement I believe some of staff in the Community Corrections Division is not following our mission by making their own mission and that is costly to the Agency and the State of Mississippi. Please review MDOC Commissioner Christopher B. Epps's statement concerning this matter, "While these 80 inmates are being released on House arrest will help. Please know we are growing at the rate of 65 inmates per month. Beginning July 01, 2012 our count was 21,327, today it 21,912. This is a difference of 585. When you divided 585 by 9 = 65. We were not budget for this growth. Let's do everything we can to lower this number without hurting Public Safety!"

I did not see the word arrest, lock up, and/or incarceration anywhere in Community Corrections' Mission. As Community Corrections staff, we have got to do better to keep offenders out of prison. A large number of these offenders are at the Institutions today because Community Corrections staff sends offenders back to institutions due to

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technical violations. DCCC Jerry J. Williams does a great job in reviewing the RVR's on ERS and ISP offenders and return these offenders back to Community Corrections to resume their supervision again. The Parole Board is also doing a good job to release offenders on parole and does not issued many reintake warrants except for major violation.

As Community Corrections staff we need to work with offenders by finding the resource available for them. We also need to refer offenders to Program Coordinators for their assistance to help with the offenders' problems.

Effective today, immediate supervisor has to review and approve all RVR's and violation reports before they impose punishment especially for offenders that transfer to major institutions. Listed below is how to deal with the technical violations:

**1<sup>st</sup> technical violation; positive drug test, arrest for misdemeanor (case by case basic) and etc....**

- o Probationer; issue violation report, refer to Program Coordinator and continue to supervise offender
- o Inmate status (ERS and ISP); issue informal resolution and enter in CX (With or without penalty upon discretion on supervising officer) and refer to Program Coordinator and continue to supervise offender.
- o Parolee; issue violation report, refer to Program Coordinator and notify Parole Board.

**2<sup>nd</sup> technical violation; handle the same way as the 1<sup>st</sup> technical violation but please make sure to mention that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> violation.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> technical violation;**

- o Probationer; complete violation packet and refer to the court.
- o Inmate status (ERS and ISP); complete RVR packet and contact institution personnel for transportation.
- o Parolee; contact parole board for further action.

We have to try our best to keep offenders out of prison. We are not soft on crime but we are trying to manage offenders with the cost effective way. Our salary depends on how we do our business.

If more information is needed, please advise.  
Have a nice day.

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