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How did you hear about Missouri CURE?  
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## What's new with reentry? TAP and THU!

~ Tammy Gillespie

At the current time, reentry is a very popular discussion topic at the national, state and local level. Of course just talking about an issue does not ever help anyone. However, I do believe that Missouri agencies, including the Department of Corrections, are making a sincere effort to help prepare offenders for reentry after release.

As one of about 10 states to take part in the Reentry Process, the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) is working in partnership with five state agencies to carry out the goals of the Missouri Reentry Program (MRP). Those agencies include: Economic Development, Health and Senior Services, State Courts Administration and Mental Health. University of Missouri Extension is also being seen as an important resource for offenders and their families.

The long term goal of MRP is to help offenders make a smooth and successful transition from prison in to communities. Since 96% of offenders reenter communities at some time, cooperation and communication with other agencies makes sense. Perhaps more people are realizing that crime is not just a corrections issue, but a community issue.

It will be several years before the impact of the MRP is seen, especially because working across agency "lines" can be a slow process. There are 35 steps that MRP has planned, with an anticipated goal of a 9-10 percent reduction in recidivism.

One of the first action steps to be implemented is the development of transitional housing units (THUs) at five institutions (i.e., Algoa, Boonville, Pacific, Vandalia and St Joseph). The THUs house individuals who are three to four months away from release.

Each offender living in the THU has a Transition Accountability Plan (TAP). The TAP serves as an assessment and evaluation for what the person needs to accomplish while in the THU to prepare for a successful release. Intensive training and resources are provided to THU residents, with a significant amount of time focused on employability and life skills. Programs may vary slightly from facility to facility. For example, Algoa's THU residents are given a key to their own cell, giving them opportunities to gain independence and trustworthiness.

Future THU sites are expected to be launched in Spring 2006 at the Chillicothe Correctional Center, Farmington Correctional Center, Tipton Correctional Center, and Western Missouri Correctional Center.

Learn more by logging on to the March 2005 issue of the *Horizon*, (<http://www.corrections.state.mo.us/Horizon/horizonmain.htm>). Additional information on reentry can be found on the National Institute of Corrections web site: [www.nicic.org](http://www.nicic.org).

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### ANGELA'S VOICE

Hello all, I hope that you are finding the joy of this holiday. Even where you are joy can be found as joy comes from within. I know by now many of you have heard of the MOSOP changes that have been made in the program. They are now going by a point system. This will allow you to complete the program within a 9 month span or if you are not getting your points quick enough, you can progress at up to a 12 month rate. This is eliminating the excessive termination that a lot of you are worrying about. This is great news. Please, as always, work your hardest when your time comes for the MOSOP program and WORK YOUR PROGRAM.

Best wishes and may God bless you,

~ Angela Adams, Vice Chairman and MOSOP Coordinator

### Missouri CURE

P.O. Box 1212  
 Fenton, MO 63026

missouricure@hotmail.com

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