DHS Prison Re-Entry

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Presentation to: DHS Board of Directors

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Georgia Department of Human Services
Vision, Mission and Core Values

**Vision**
Stronger Families for a Stronger Georgia.

**Mission**
Strengthen Georgia by providing Individuals and Families access to services that promote self-sufficiency, independence, and protect Georgia's vulnerable children and adults.

**Core Values**
- Provide access to resources that offer support and empower Georgians and their families.
- Deliver services professionally and treat all clients with dignity and respect. Manage business operations effectively and efficiently by aligning resources across the agency.
- Promote accountability, transparency and quality in all services we deliver and programs we administer.
- Develop our employees at all levels of the agency.
DHS-Re-entry Goals

• Help prisoners reconnect with their children & their financial responsibilities.

• Help prisoners successfully transition back into society & reduce recidivism.

• Help promote self sufficiency, independence and work/job.
Transitional Centers Map

- Arrendale T.C.
- Phillips T.C.
- Augusta T.C.
- Macon T.C.
- Smith T.C.
- Costal T.C.
- Clayton T.C.
- Columbus T.C.
- Valdosta T.C.
- Albany T.C.
- LaGrange T.C.
- Metro T.C.
- Atlantic T.C.

[Map of Georgia showing different transitional centers]
Since 2010 DHS and DOC have collaborated to offer a Re-entry Program at 13 Transitional Centers in Georgia.

DHS contracted with DOC to oversee the Re-Entry Program and the PAVE (Parent Access Visitation Education) curriculum taught to Transition Center residents.
• **Highlights includes:**
  - 1,022 Graduates
  - 614 Graduates with Child Support Cases
  - 549 Graduates left Transitional Centers and entered the DHS Fatherhood Program for Non-Custodial Parents

• **Recidivism rate for DHS program participates versus the national/state average is excellent.**
  - National - 25.8%,
  - Statewide - 15.3%,
  - DHS Re-Entry Program - 3.8%
# Program SWOT: DHS Re-entry Program

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Serving men and women in Georgia</td>
<td>• Need more quantitative data</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Reconnecting Families/Children</td>
<td>• Low participation in some areas</td>
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<td>• Focused on reducing recidivism</td>
<td>• Not mandatory participation at all Centers (TC’s)</td>
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<td>• Pardons and Parole gives participation credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Provides paternity testing(17-20% exclusion)</td>
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<td>• GSU positive evaluation in 2012</td>
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<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
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<td>• Identified as a critical initiative by Governor Deal</td>
<td>• Funding</td>
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<td>• Greater collaborations, work/jobs</td>
<td>• Lack of exposure/education on program importance</td>
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<td>• Grade Level Reading...children breaking the cycle</td>
<td>• Potential programs cut back if funds not secured</td>
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DHS - Re-entry Updates

• Re-entry named a critical strategic initiative of Governor Deal
• DHS Re-launch Date: March 17, 2014
• Funding Sources:
  ➢ Division of Child Support Service (DCSS)
  ➢ Division of Family And Children Services (DFCS)
• Contractors:
  ➢ It Takes a Village Inc. (11 men sites and 3 sub-contractors)
  ➢ Ropheka R.W.M Inc. (2 women sites)
Questions?