

DHS Prison Re-Entry

Presenter: Robert Nibbs
Director of Strategy Planning and Execution

Presentation to: DHS Board of Directors

Date: March 19, 2014



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.

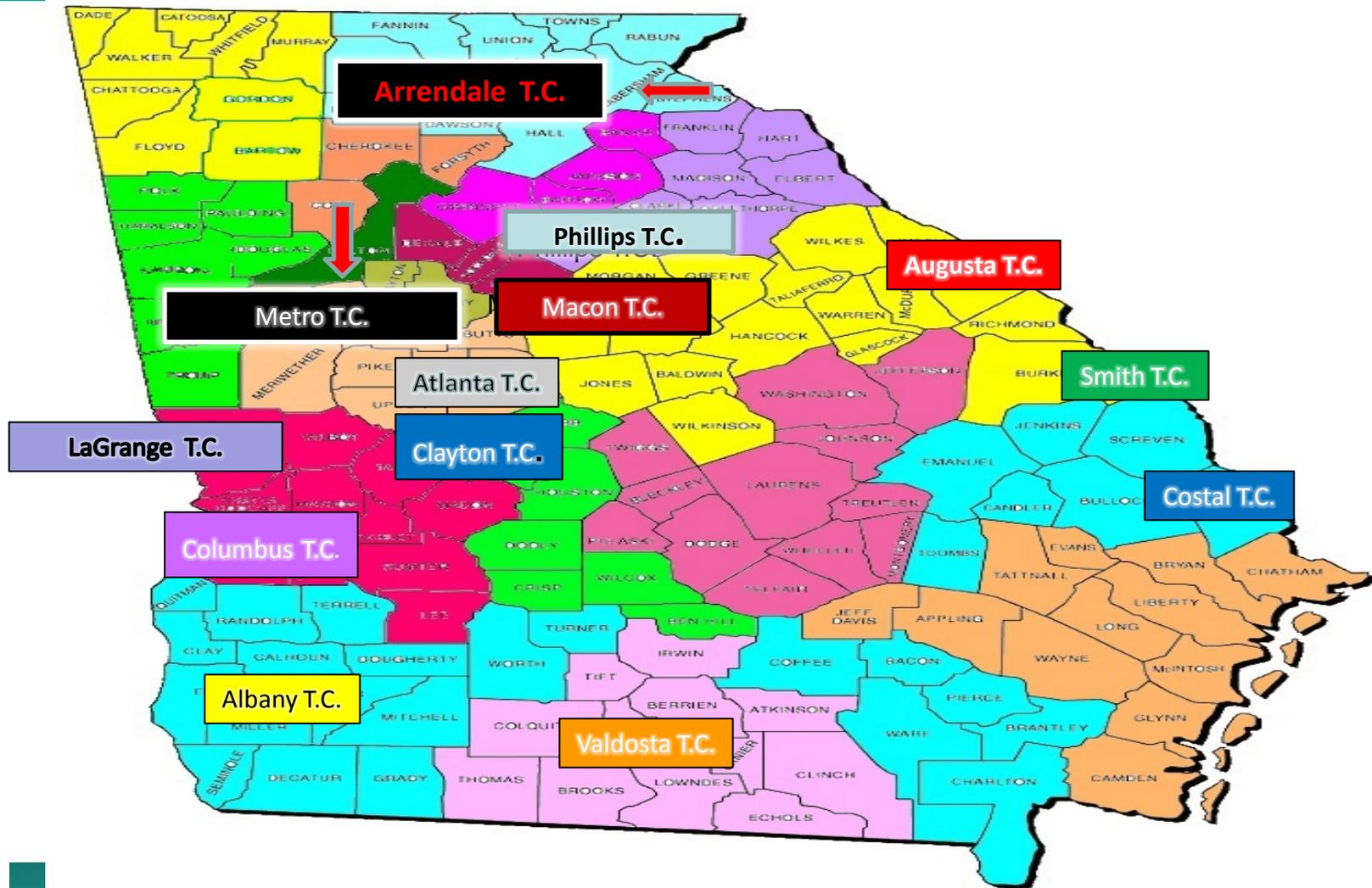
Core Values

- **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



Background

- **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.**

Continued-Background

- **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

Strengths

- Serving men and women in Georgia
- Reconnecting Families/Children
- Focused on reducing recidivism
- Pardons and Parole gives participation credits
- Provides paternity testing(17-20% exclusion)
- GSU positive evaluation in 2012

Weaknesses

- Need more quantitative data
- Low participation in some areas
- Not mandatory participation at all Centers (TC's)

Opportunities

- Identified as a critical initiative by Governor Deal
- Greater collaborations, work/jobs
- Grade Level Reading...children breaking the cycle

Threats

- Funding
- Lack of exposure/education on program importance
- Potential programs cut back if funds not secured

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)

DHS Prison Re-entry

Questions?