

This event is co-sponsored by the following:
Center for Mental Health Studies and Criminal Justice Research, Rutgers University
Coalition of Community Corrections of New Jersey
Family Justice, Inc.
Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
New Jersey Department of Corrections
New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission
New Jersey Public Policy Research Institute, Rutgers University
New Jersey State Parole Board
Policy Research Institute for the Region, Princeton University
Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs, Rutgers-Camden
School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University
The Police Institute, Rutgers University
The Violence Institute, University College of Medicine and Dentistry
Volunteers of America of the Delaware Valley

Understanding Prisoner Reentry in New Jersey:

A Conference on Connecting
Research and Public Policy

Friday, October 1, 2004 • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Understanding Prisoner Reentry in New Jersey

New Jersey, like the rest of the nation, has seen a growing interest on the part of state policymakers in developing a smart response to the dramatic growth in the number of individuals re-entering the community from the state's prisons, jails, and juvenile facilities. As long as there have been prisons, people have returned home, but the size of the current prisoner reentry population poses unprecedented challenges for public safety, community and family stability, state and local resource expenditures, racial equity, and the health of our civil society. Smart policy and programming choices rely on good information and sound research, but there is much that is not known about reentry in New Jersey. This one-day conference will bring together policymakers, researchers, and other key stakeholders to develop a shared and effective reentry research agenda.

Agenda

9 a.m. Welcome

Leslie W. Kennedy, Dean and Professor, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice and
Kenneth Zimmerman, Executive Director, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice

Morning Keynote Address

Reginald Wilkinson, Director, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections

10 to 11:30 a.m. Panel 1: Collaboration Between Researchers and Policymakers:
Examples from around the nation.

Faye Taxman, Virginia Commonwealth University;
Bruce Western, Princeton University;
Nancy LaVigne, The Urban Institute and **A.T. Wall**, Rhode Island Department of Corrections; and
George Kelling, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice

11: 30 a.m. – 1p.m. Panel 2: Current Reentry Research in New Jersey

Johnna Christian, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice;
Carol Shapiro, Family Justice;
Mercer Sullivan, Rutgers School of Criminal Justice;
Cynthia Blitz and Nancy Wolff, Center for Mental Health Services & Criminal Justice Research,
Rutgers University; and
Melinda Schlager, New Jersey State Parole Board.

1-2 p.m. Luncheon Keynote Address

Keynote: **Michael Jacobson**, John Jay College

2-4 p.m. Panel 3: What Should New Jersey's Reentry Research Agenda Be?

Part 1: Policymakers' Perspectives

Part 2: Plenary Discussion

Devon Brown, Commissioner, New Jersey State Department of Corrections;
Hon. John D'Amico, Chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board;
Peter Harvey, Attorney General, State of New Jersey;
Charlene Holzbaur, Director, New Jersey Office of Management and Budget; and
Sheila Oliver, New Jersey State Assembly.

**The program and participants are subject to change and substitution.*