

# ACCELERATED COMMUNITY ENTRY (ACE)

A program designed to increase the success of high risk offenders returning to the community from prison

Western District of Michigan

## WHY?

- Statistics for returning offenders to prison after release nationally is 60%
- The first 6 to 12 months are most critical
- Incarceration is costly and does little to change high risk offender behavior
- There is evidence that certain community supervision strategies will change high risk offender behavior and reduce recidivism

## ACE

- Changing the way post conviction supervision is successfully accomplished by incorporating evidence based practices
  - Using the community supports
  - Using rewards to change behavior
  - Using sanctions in a timely and proactive way
  - Holding offenders accountable for behavior change
  - Creating a unified court environment that encourages success

## ACE

ACE is a problem solving court serving high risk offenders returning to specific communities, a reentry court program

- ACE is a collaboration between
  - U.S. District Court
  - U.S. Probation Office
  - U.S. Attorney's Office
  - Federal Defender's Office
  - Federal Bureau of Prisons
  - local community service providers

## ACE

- The roles for the ACE team are defined for each member and the group acts as a team working toward the same goal of long term success for the offender

## ACE

- Court hearings conducted by a magistrate judge and a district judge

Each participant addresses goals with the court

- Rewards and sanctions for behavior are addressed
- Goals for next month are made with participant

## ACE

### ■ Participant Selection – Mandatory

- Residence

- to involve the community and resources where the offender lives (one officer provides consistency)

- Risk prediction- high (RPI 6 to 9)

## ACE

- Participants earn a monthly reward when they have made significant strides toward goals set with the judge and the team at each hearing.
- Twelve monthly rewards earn graduation to a more “traditional” supervision.
- After an additional year of success, early termination of supervision is sought.

## ACE

- Participants are expected to create and maintain law abiding self sufficient lifestyles
  - Abide by all conditions of release and treatment programming
  - Involve their support system in the program
  - Be gainfully employed
  - Provide suggestions for goals
  - Communicate effectively with the Court and the probation officer
  - Complete the program no matter how many attempts (as available by law)

## By-products of ACE

- Court involved in successful outcomes, not just supervision failures
- Community and family involvement in the supervision of offenders
- All are learning about the strategies most effective in the behavior change in the high risk offender
- Increased collaboration and understanding among parties involved with offender