

## Corrections Education: CHSVT

### House Appropriations

January 21, 2015

#### A. Guiding Principles:

##### a. Agency of Human Services- Challenges for Change Outcomes:

- i. 1. Children, families and individuals are engaged in and contribute to their community's decisions and activities.
- ii. 5. Children live in safe, nurturing, stable, supported families
- iii. 9. Families and individuals live in safe and supportive communities.
- iv. 10. Adults lead healthy and productive lives.
- v. 12. Families and individuals move out of poverty through education and advancement in employment. (Act 68, 2010).

##### b. Governor Shumlin's Strategic Plan

- i. Reducing recidivism and investing in quality educational opportunities from early childhood to continuing education and workforce training (Shumlin, 2012).

##### c. DOC Mission

- i. In partnership with the community, we support safe communities by providing leadership in crime prevention, repairing the harm done, addressing the needs of crime victims, ensuring offender accountability for criminal acts and managing the risk posed by offenders (VTDOC, 2014)

##### d. Community High School of Vermont Mission

- i. Community High School of Vermont assists adult students by maintaining campuses throughout the state to develop personalized learning plans and provide coordinated learning opportunities that address educational and criminogenic needs to strengthen skills in living, learning, and working.

#### B. Cost data

##### a. Results First (Lavery & Greenewalt, 2013)

- i. \$22,147 per student FTE in facilities
- ii. \$56,186 per student FTE in probation sites
- iii. Options listed:
  1. Increase participation in CHSVT programming in order to reduce the actual costs per full-time-equivalent student.
  2. Reduce expenses in CHSVT programming in order to reduce the actual cost per full-time-equivalent student.
  3. Redesign the focus and substance of the curriculum to fulfill the statutory purpose of the program at a lower cost.

##### b. FY 2015 fiscal and enrollment data

- i. \$24,311 per student FTE in facilities (including fixed costs)

- ii. \$27,028 per student FTE in probation sites (including fixed costs)

**C. Return on Investment Data**

- a. **Return on Investment for Correctional Education in Florida (FL DOC, 2014).**
  - i. 2 Year ROI for every \$1 invested = \$1.95-\$3.53 depending on subgroup
- b. **Corrections Education in Utah: Measuring Return on Investment (Fowles, 2012).**
  - i. \$3.00 ROI in corrections education on police, courts, and corrections
  - ii. Over \$6.00 ROI when tangible victim costs are included.
- c. **Return on Investment: Evidence-based Options to Improve Outcomes (IA DOC, 2012).**
  - i. Used the Results First Model to analyze cost and benefit
  - ii. In prison programs-yield ROI of \$2.91 for Correctional Education and \$4.12 for Vocational Education
  - iii. In community yield ROI of \$5.02 for Employment Training/Job Assistance

**D. Conclusions**

- a. Corrections Education has been shown to be effective at reducing recidivism in national and state studies (WDP etc)
- b. Reducing recidivism through attention to criminogenic needs that affect living, learning and working address all guiding principles above.
- c. Benefit analysis is missing for Vermont correctional programs
- d. Data suggests ROI of \$2-6
- e. CHSVT is an evidence-based program that experiences barriers to be as effective as possible:
  - i. Not fully utilized within system
  - ii. Newly implemented information system
  - iii. Comparison to secondary and adult education
    - 1. Similar to both, but reduction of recidivism and related services unique to corrections education
- f. Not responding to criminogenic needs adequately makes realization of CFC outcomes unlikely
  - i. Incarceration alone does not reduce recidivism