

## STAFF IN THE THU

Staff members in THUs are highly skilled in their fields and work closely in unit teams with offenders to develop reentry plans and portfolios. Their goal is to ensure that those who live in our THUs receive the support and services necessary for positive and stable community reintegration.

THU staff includes:

- Unit Manager
- Reentry Specialist
- Treatment Specialist
- Reentry Parole Agent (RPA) or Assessment, Sanctioning, and Community Resource Agent (ASCRA) Agent
- Corrections Classification Program Manager (CCPM), as needed
- Corrections Officers

To help facilitate workshops and other reentry services, staff from the following multiple departments, as well as from community agencies and organizations, are included as part of our extensive THU support system:

- Activities Department
- Educational Department
- Psychology Department
- Medical Department
- Chaplaincy Department
- Counseling Services

## WHAT ABOUT PAROLE?

Facts about parole and the THU:

- Participation is not mandatory for parole.
- It does not increase an offender's chances for parole.
- Parole is not delayed due to unfinished workshops.
- It is designed to prepare offenders for when they are paroled.

## FOR INTERESTED OFFENDERS

Offenders who wish to participate in the THU should send a request slip to their assigned counselor or unit manager and ask to be staffed for the THU.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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# PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## Transitional Housing Units and Reentry Services Offices

JOHN E. WETZEL, SECRETARY  
PA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## REENTRY SUPPORT

After an offender is assessed and determined to qualify for transfer to a THU, recommendations are made for individualized reentry planning, based on unmet needs. Most offenders do not have the most crucial materials for successful reintegration, such as identification documents, dependable transportation, housing, and health services. RSOs are centrally located in an SCI, providing workshops, reentry support, and a comprehensive case management system for streamlining the reentry process. All of these services are also offered in the THU.

Reentry staff ensure that each individual has the tools, services, and ID documentation they need to live independently in the community, creating customized Reentry Portfolios and connecting the offender with community agencies who can help.

## REENTRY SERVICES

Reentry support includes numerous services, many of which are available through a referral to the Bureau of Community Corrections (BCC) and can continue after offenders are released:

- Housing Assistance
- Replacement/Processing of Identification Documentation
- Mental Health
- Outpatient Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Treatment
- Day Reporting
- Family Reunification
- Domestic Violence
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Mentoring
- Workforce/Employment

## WHAT IS A THU?

Transitional Housing Units (THUs) house qualified, parole-ready offenders in a designated area of an institution in order to best prepare them for release to its surrounding counties. THUs target individual need areas, strengthen reentry foundations, lay the groundwork for success, and further help to reduce recidivism.

THUs provide the tools offenders will need to live day to day within their communities, and reentry support services are provided in the THU for every individual about to be released. A THU allows those who meet required eligibility criteria to receive even more individualized, needs-based support from within a residential unit reserved for this purpose. THUs and Reentry Services Offices (RSOs) function as a collaborative effort with the PA Department of Corrections (DOC) and the PA Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP).

## BENEFITS

A THU is uniquely different from most general population housing units and provides numerous added benefits:

- Progress monitoring, Unit Team reviews, and customized Reentry Portfolio.
- More opportunities for an individual to participate in services and workshops that would otherwise be unavailable.
- Offers enhanced, needs-based programming and addresses unmet needs.
- Specialized vocational services to target job-related needs.
- More services from community agencies and organizations.
- Reentry Parole Agents serve as part of offenders' unit teams, which increases support of reentry goals.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be assessed and qualify for placement in a THU, an individual must fulfill the following criteria:

- Release date is approximately eight to nine months away.
- Prescriptive programming has been completed.
- Favorable recommendation for parole has been made.
- Custody level is 2, 3, or 4.
- Mental health status must be stable.
- If applicable, able to be released to the local area surrounding the institution.
- Exceptions may be permitted.

## WORKSHOPS

THUs offer workshops that address each offender's needs. These workshops provide the information and life skills necessary for successful and permanent community living:

- Orientation
- Stay on Track (SOT)
- Victim Awareness
- Parenting
- Relationships
- Healthy Living
- Mental Health
- Living Under Supervision (Parole)
- Money Smart
- Renter's Education (PREP)
- Vocational Certifications
- Employment