State Drug Treatment Program

In 2006, Quehanna began accepting offenders into the State Intermediate Punishment Program (SIP). On December 18, 2019, Governor Wolf passed Act 115 of 2019, which changed the SIP program to the State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP). SDTP is designed for individuals convicted of drug-related offenses and offers a step-down approach to their addiction. Under SDTP, the offender will complete 24 months, at least 7 of which will be served in prison [4 of them in a Therapeutic Community (Level I)], a minimum of 2 months in a community-based Therapeutic Community (Level II), and a minimum of 6 months in outpatient substance use treatment (Level III).

See 61 Pa.C.S. Ch. 41 for criteria specifics or contact Jim Stover, JRI2 Coordinator, at 814-761-0076.

All participants in the SDTP will have an individualized treatment plan. As part of the SDTP program, Opioid-specific treatment is offered to those that could benefit from it. Progress through the program is based on the assessed need and attainment of goals established for each individual. If participants successfully complete their treatment goals, they progress to Level II in the community.

If a person successfully completes the SDTP, the remainder of the sentence is considered to be fully served. A person who fails in SDTP due to misconduct or poor progress in treatment may be subject to expulsion from the SDTP, reverting back to their original sentence.

Statistics

Boot Camp
Unofficial percentage rate of offenders that return to state incarceration (as of 1/1/2021):

- Graduation Rate of 80%
- 1 year after release: 12.68%
- 3 years after release: 25.12%
- 5 years after release: 33.21%

From June 1992 to October 2020, Quehanna has successfully graduated over 10,000 offenders.

Cost Savings: $11,431 per participant
Total cost savings from 1999 through 2020: Almost $99 million

SIP (2018 Performance Report):
Of the inmates who appear eligible, only 23% were referred for SIP.
1-yr Recidivism Rate: 17% (vs. 25%)
3-yr Recidivism Rate: 37% (vs. 51%)
Cost Savings: $33,736 per participant

Please note that with the passing of Act 115 of 2019, the State Intermediate Punishment Program (SIP) program has been replaced with the State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP). 61 Pa.C.S. Ch. 41. For more information about each program and criteria, go to www.cor.pa.gov

Each of the areas listed is an overview and in no way represents a complete list of criteria. For specific information on each program, please refer to the statutes.
Pennsylvania legislators realize that standard incarceration is costly, can be ineffective, and is not necessary for certain criminal cases. JRI2 has several goals. The legislation provides alternative programs that are evidence-based and often more effective for certain individuals than standard incarceration. It also provides simplified processes for program admissions and releases to allow the Department of Corrections and the PA Parole Board to work very efficiently to assist offender in reentering society.

The JRI2 legislation also provides for an increase in the automatic deductions from offenders’ accounts for restitution and costs associated with their crime(s).

Ultimately, the goal of JRI2 is to offer a more cost-effective method of incarceration to those who are most likely to benefit from it so that much of the savings can be reinvested into other areas that may prevent crime, reduce recidivism, increase public safety, and better serve victims of crimes. This legislation is expected to save $45 million over 5 years.

What programs are offered under JRI2?

JRI2 consists of three programs specific to individuals incarcerated in a State Correctional Institution. The three programs are Short Sentence Parole (SSP), the State Drug Treatment Program (SDTP), and the Boot Camp Program (BC).

The Boot Camp Program

In 1991, Department of Corrections began operating the Quehanna Boot Camp (QBC) Program. If individuals successfully complete the six-month program, they are paroled. The Boot Camp Program accepts both men and women. The Boot Camp Program uses structure and regimentation similar to that of basic training with US Armed Forces, in concert with cognitive-behavioral therapeutic techniques to address criminal thinking and substance abuse issues. Participants focus on discipline, work ethic, education, and therapeutic issues. There are four phases of the QBC Program. Each Phase requires an increased level of personal effort and personal responsibility. Quehanna holds a very high standard for participants and those that do not meet the standard are sent back to a State Correctional Institution to complete their sentences.

Boot Camp teammates (participants) are required to wake up daily at 0515 hours. They spend their day working, in education classes, completing physical training, developing discipline through military-like activities, working on their character defects through cognitive treatment techniques, and preparing themselves to reenter society as productive, law abiding citizens. At 2130 hours, they prepare for “lights out” and retire to sleep.

All teammates are placed in education courses if they do not have a high school diploma or GED. If they do have a diploma/GED, they are assigned to a work detail. Quehanna is the top facility in the Department for GEDs awarded and Vocational Certifications earned.

The Boot Camp Program has been studied extensively by the PA Sentencing Commission and the Department of Corrections. Both agencies have agreed that the program is highly effective and provides a great alternative to standardized incarceration.

To view a short video on the Boot Camp Program, go to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9W9RnXSz1c.

Short Sentence Parole

Short Sentence Parole may apply to persons committed to the Department of Corrections with an aggregate minimum sentence of confinement of two years or less or a recidivism risk reduction (RRRI) incentive minimum sentence of two years or less, whichever is shorter.

SSP does not apply to persons committed with various offenses. Please refer to 61 Pa C.S. Chapter 61, Subchapter 6137.1 for specific exclusions.

Individuals meeting the established criteria are able to be paroled without requiring a Board Interview as long as public safety is not jeopardized or the rehabilitative needs of the offender are not adversely affected.