O.A.R.S.
Opening Avenues to Reentry Success
A program offered by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS)

The Becky Young Community Corrections Appropriation 112
Program Vision:

To enhance public safety by supporting the successful transition, recovery, and self-sufficiency of offenders with mental health needs as they reintegrate into the community.
Based on the DHS Conditional Release Program

- Operating successfully since 1993
- Serving the NGI population releasing directly from the courts, WMHI, or MMHI
- Majorly mentally ill forensic patients
- A nationally recognized model for producing low recidivism rates and cost effective, quality mental health services
OARS Program Goals

- To enhance public safety by reducing reconviction and revocation rates
- To improve the continuity of care for offenders releasing from prison to the community
- To encourage offender involvement in structured activities
- To promote offender self-sufficiency
Who the Program Serves

Fiscal Year 2011:
- Legislative mandate to serve 52 male and 36 female offenders, from WRC and TCI (88 participants)

Fiscal Year 2012:
- 142 participants

Fiscal Year 2013:
- Serve as many participants as the budget allows
Criteria for Referrals

Offenders releasing who meet all of the following:

- Have a minimum of six months of supervision upon release
- Have serious mental health and other treatment needs (DOC MH-2)
- Moderate or High Compas risk rating
- Releasing to an OARS territory (county of residence)
- Demonstrates a general motivation and willingness to engage in treatment programming
- Voluntarily consents to participate in the OARS Program
OARS Counties

The OARS Team Concept

- The team works together to develop a comprehensive Individualized Case Plan (ICP) that will be reviewed throughout the release process to help the offenders successfully re-integrate into the community.
The OARS Team Members

- OARS Participant (Offender)
- Institution Social Worker (pre-release phase)
- Community Corrections Agent
- OARS Case Manager
- DHS OARS Program Specialist
- Treatment providers in the community
The Individualized Case Plan (ICP)

- Housing
- Financial Income Support
- Transportation
- Employment/Structured Activities
- Community/Social Interaction
- Family/Marital Relationships
- Supervision
- Cultural Identity
- Physical Health
- Daily Functioning/Self Care
- Attitude/Lifestyle
- Mental Health
- Suicide Risk/Crisis Response
Services Provided

- Assistance finding and maintaining housing
- Assistance obtaining mental health services and medications
- Help finding education and employment resources, or other community structured activities
- Assistance with transportation resources and budgeting finances
- Support and guidance with developing a plan to be successful
Participant Responsibilities

- Attend and participate in mental health services
- Take medication as prescribed by the psychiatrist
- Participate in the development and review of the Individualized Case Plan (ICP)
- Meet with the assigned OARS case manager and community corrections agent
- Follow all rules of supervision
- Be respectful and responsible with regards to any housing that is provided
OARS Program Completion Continued:

The length of time that an offender may be enrolled in the program is between *six months and two years*....
OARS Program Completion Criteria

- Offender is maintaining stable housing independently
- Offender is living without reliance on alcohol or illegal drugs
- Offender is actively engaged in treatment and has transitioned to locally based services in his/her county of residence
- Offender is making healthy decisions regarding recovery and mental health stability
- Offender is financially able to maintain their treatment, housing and basic needs without assistance from OARS
DHS & DOC OARS Program Staff

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