

Supporting Juveniles Returning from Confinement and Their Families

Using an Integrated
Cross-system Approach

Making Second Chances Work
A Conference for Grantees
Committed to Successful Reentry
May 26, 2010

Speakers

- David Altschuler, Ph.D., Principal Research Scientist, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- Shay Bilchik, Founder and Director, Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, Georgetown University Public Policy Institute
- Rich Hooks Wayman, Senior Policy Analyst, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Robert Kinscherff, Ph.D., Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology
- Peter Leone, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Special Education, University of Maryland
- Carol Shapiro, Associate Research Scholar, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University

Family Engagement

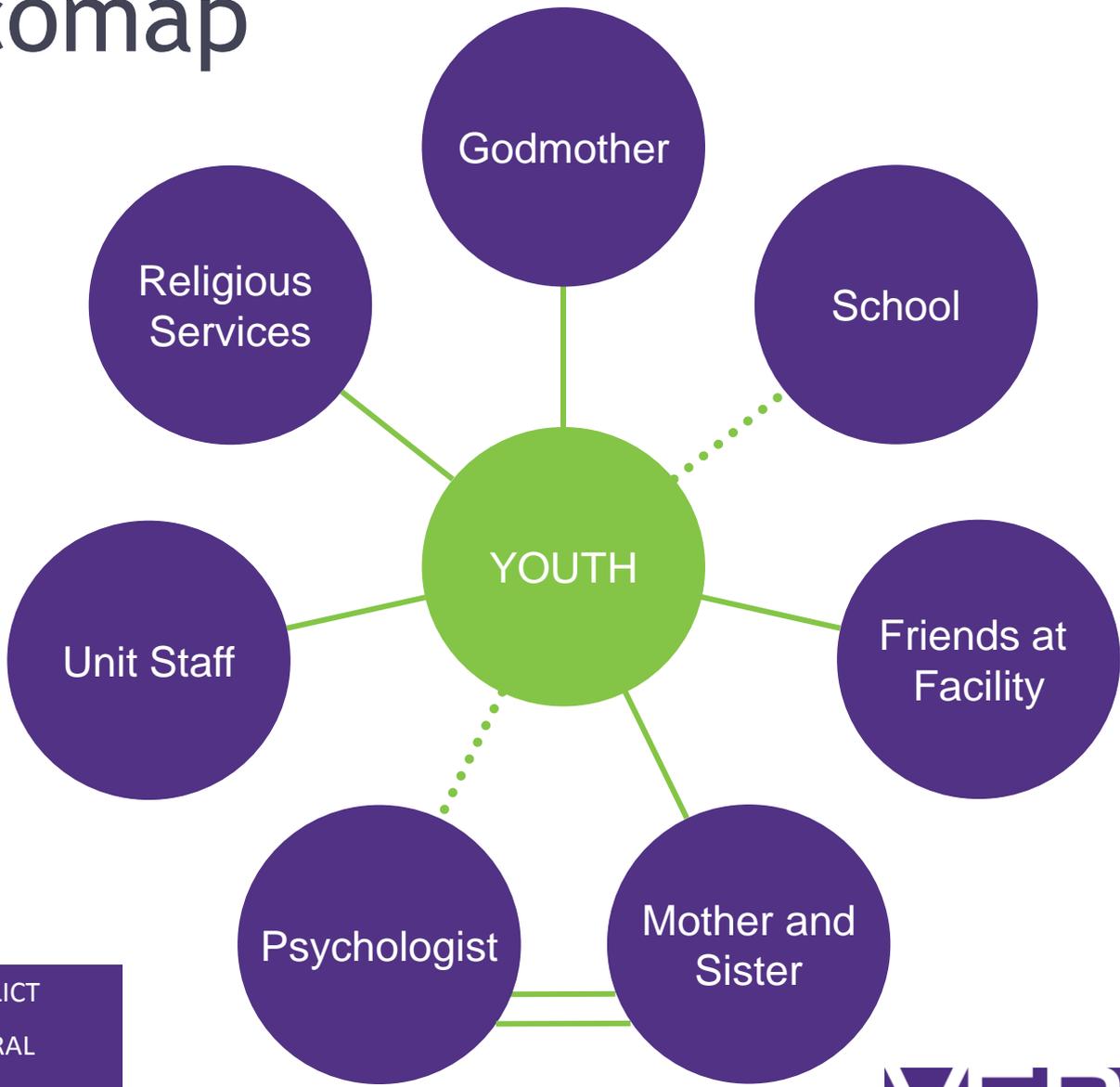
Carol Shapiro

Associate Research Scholar

Institute for Social and Economic
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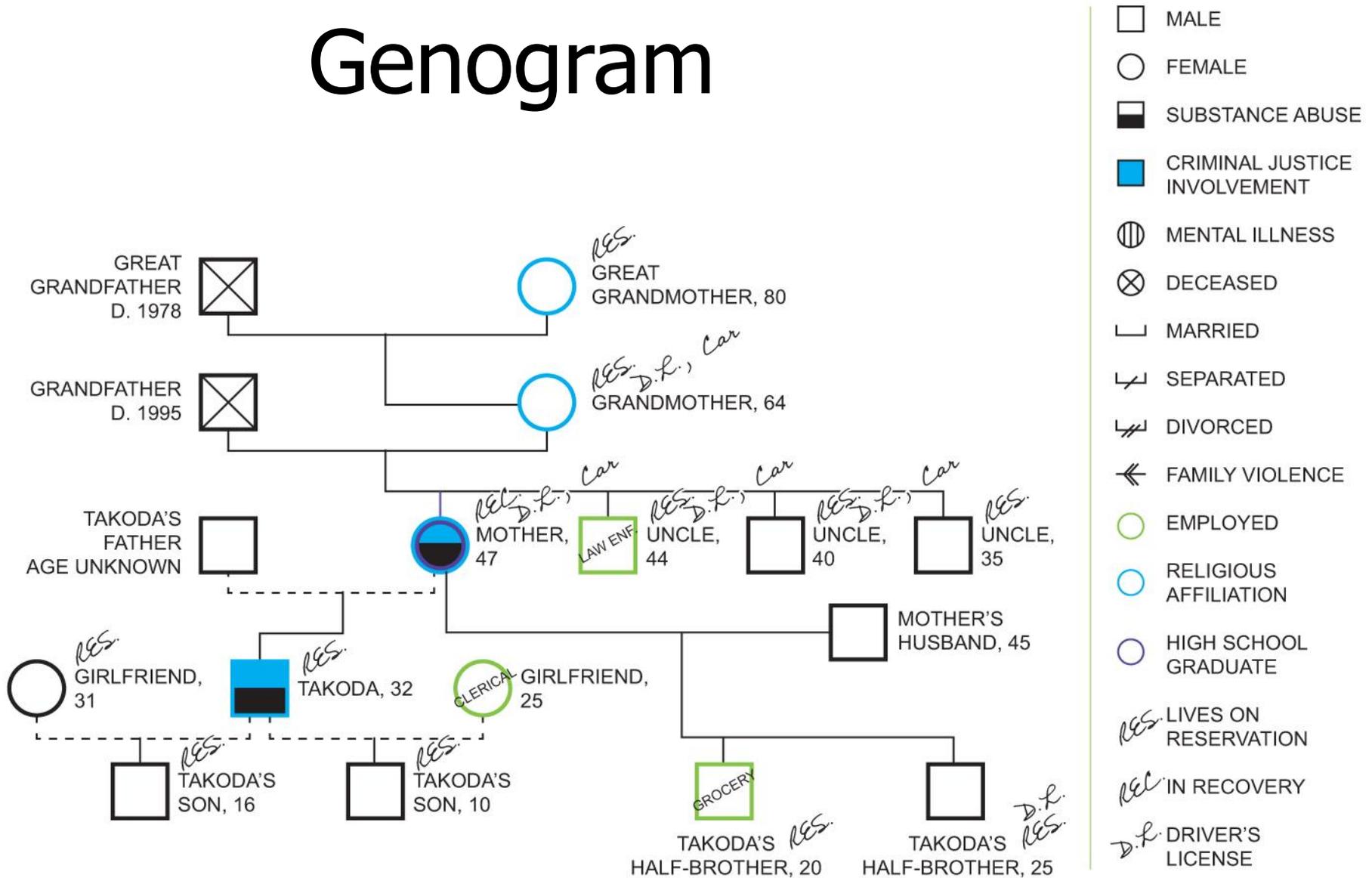
Columbia University

The Ecomap



..... CONFLICT
—— NEUTRAL
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Genogram



Institutional Ecomap



Youth Engagement Housing & Homelessness

Richard A. Hooks Wayman
Senior Youth Policy Analyst
National Alliance to End Homelessness

What is youth engagement?

Intentional, meaningful and sustained involvement of young people in decision-making activities.

PART OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: Opportunity to belong and opportunity for skill building ('fully prepared is not fully engaged')

- Adult perceptions of youth are positive – relationship building
- Youth are seen as resources to develop, not problems to be fixed.
- Youth engagement teaches life skills – a chance to practice.
- Young people need a variety of meaningful *roles* to contribute to their world.

Roles of young people



Engaging Youth

Benefits

- Youth can provide a fresh and “real” perspective
- Young people can help to improve service delivery
- Young people likely to stay engaged and comply with services
- Young people become fully engaged in their own development, in organizations, and their communities
- Young people bring energy and creativity

Challenges

- Youth need adequate preparation to contribute effectively
- Youth and staff need support to work cooperatively
- Recruitment and retention of youth can be difficult

Where to start?

Learn from other programs/systems

Look at your organization's resources

Collaborate with other youth organizations

Juvenile Justice & Youth Homelessness



- Each year approximately 100,000 young people exit formal custody of the juvenile justice system.
- Some youth enter the juvenile justice system as homeless and other youth become homeless upon release from detention.
- Reentry far too often results in homelessness:
 - In a recent survey of homeless youth (10-17) the Wilder Research Center (MN) found that 46% had been in a correctional facility,
 - The Covenant House in New York (shelter) reports that 30% of the youth they serve have a history of incarceration or detention,
 - Runaway shelters in the state of Washington found that 28% were currently involved with the juvenile justice system.

Factors Leading to Youth Homelessness

- Factors contributing to high mobility and homelessness include:
 - severe and unresolved conflicts with parents,
 - abuse from parents,
 - homeless parents,
 - overcrowding,
 - lack of rental history,
 - income levels insufficient to afford market rate rent,
 - criminal history, and
 - deficits in independent living skills

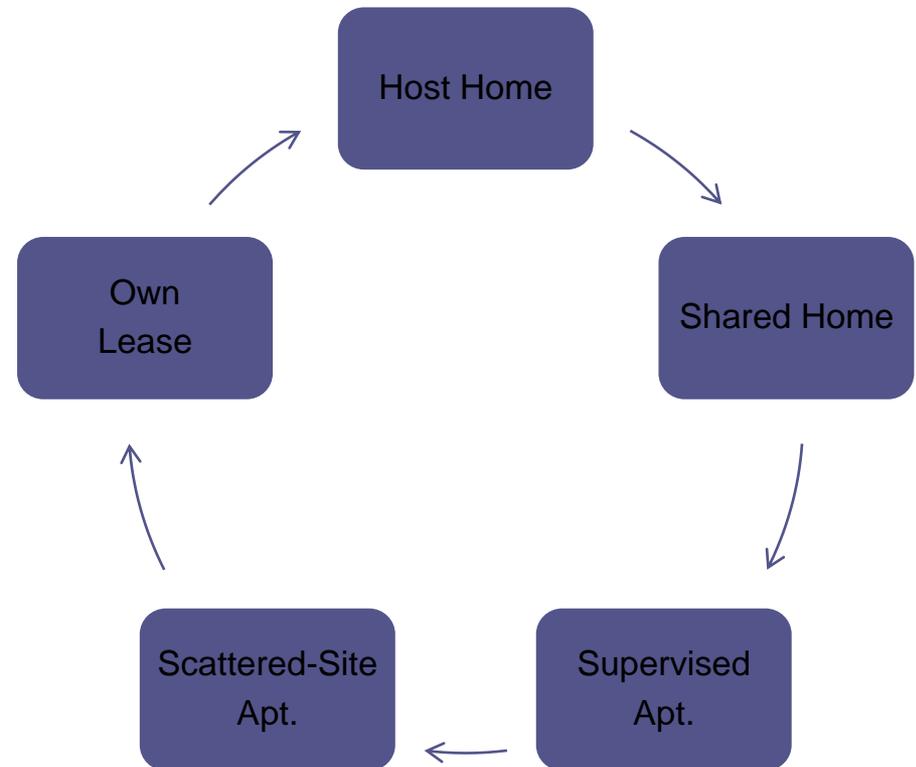


YOUTH HOUSING PROGRAMS AND MODELS

- COMPONENTS OF A TYPICAL YOUTH HOUSING PROGRAM:
 - Rental Assistance (subsidy)
 - Supportive Services (Case Worker)
 - Positive Youth Development Approach
 - Small residential settings (single site or scattered)
 - Focus on residential stability, education/employment

Housing Models

- Match housing and support services with proficiencies
- Potential Solutions
 - Shallow Subsidies
 - One-time financial assistance
 - Family and kinship housing options



Housing Resources



- **Housing and Urban Development**
 - **Family Unification Program**
 - **HOME**
 - **Community Development Block Grants**
 - **Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP – ARRA)**
 - **McKinney Supportive Housing Program**
 - **McKinney Shelter Plus Care**
 - **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)**
- **Department of Health and Human Services**
 - **Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs (TLP and Basic Center Host Homes)**
- **Department of Labor**
 - **YouthBuild**

Approaches to Access Housing Resources

Collaborate – it is the quickest, most efficient way to create a range of housing options

Explore a wide array of funding streams

Start the housing discussion early

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

- Overview of Youth Housing Models – National Alliance to End Homelessness
www.endhomelessness.org
- Technical Assistance – Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (Univ. of Oklahoma) -
<http://www.rhyttac.ou.edu>
- Coalition for Supportive Housing – www.csh.org

Attending to the Educational Needs of Youth Returning to the Community

Peter Leone, Ph.D.

Department of Special Education

University of Maryland

Issues and Concerns

- **Prior School Experience**
 - Academic performance
 - Involvement in school disciplinary system
- **Academic Performance**
 - Low number of credits
 - State mandated high-stakes testing
 - Skill deficits and learning problems
- **Interests, Aspirations, and Possibilities**
 - Linking youth interests to opportunities
 - Developing interests through structured activities
 - Identifying skill sets associated with both short-term and long-term aspirations
- **Transfer of Records and Credits**

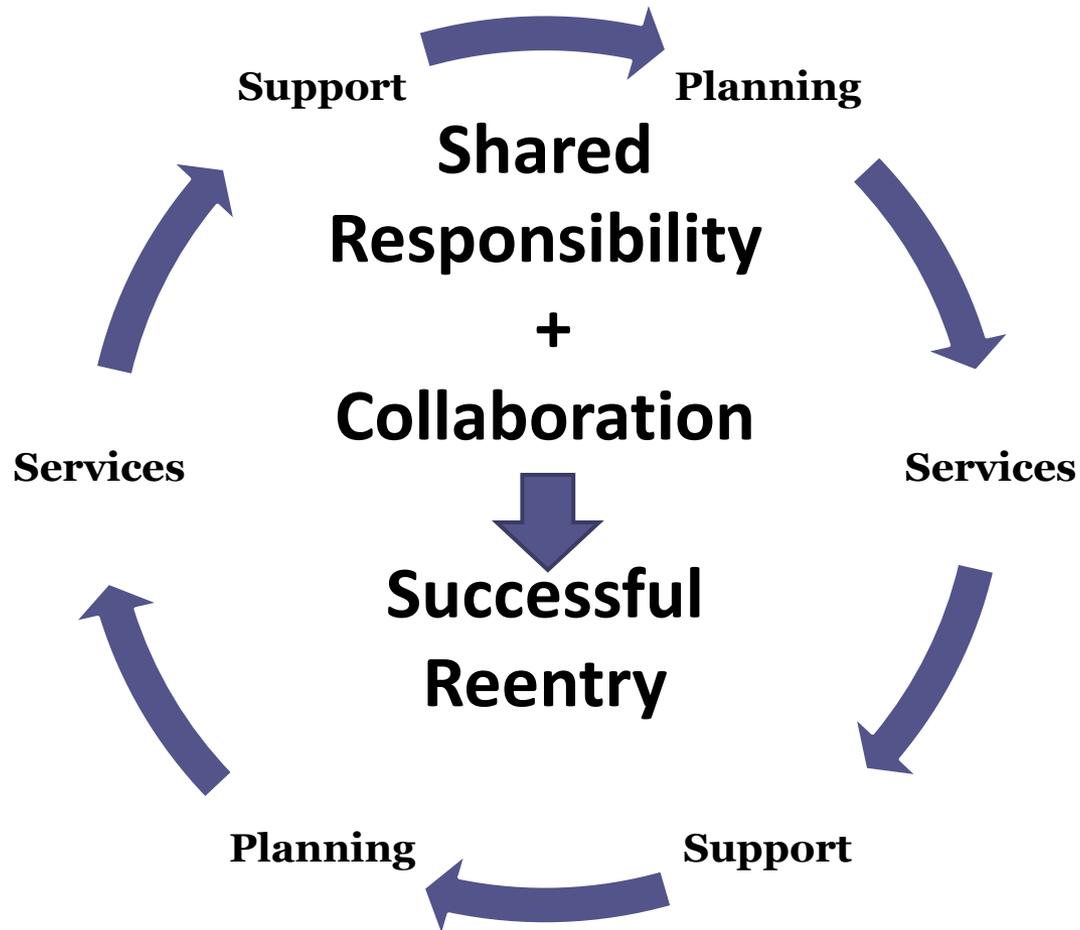
Preparation: Students and Their Families

- Understanding the link between academic achievement and adult outcomes and opportunities
- Involving youth and families in exploring options and developing transition plans for education
- Addressing special needs and circumstances in transition planning

Removing Barriers to Participation in Education at Reentry

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Planning
- Addressing Concerns –
identifying responsibilities
- “Make the process personal”

Addressing Educational Needs: Promoting Successful Re-entry



Juveniles with Mental Health Needs

Robert Kinscherff, Ph.D.
Massachusetts School of
Professional Psychology



Juveniles with Mental Health Needs and Successful Reentry

Critical Issues

1. Large numbers of juveniles have mental health needs
 - 70% meet criteria for mental health disorders
 - The majority also have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder
 - Over a quarter of them have problems serious enough to require immediate and significant treatment

2. Mental Health Services in Juvenile Facilities are Often Inadequate

- Poor staff training
- Insufficient clinical services
- Inappropriate use of medication

3. Combination of Mental Health Needs and Inadequate Treatment May Result In:

- Unnecessary retention and delays in release
- Greater risk for re-offending

4. Strategies for Enhancing Successful Reentry

- Establish linkages with community-based mental health services
- Make connections as early as possible prior to release
- Ensure continuity and management of medication
- Facilitate access to Medicaid

Overarching Case Management

David Altschuler, Ph.D.
Principal Research Scientist
Institute for Policy Studies
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Reentry Defined

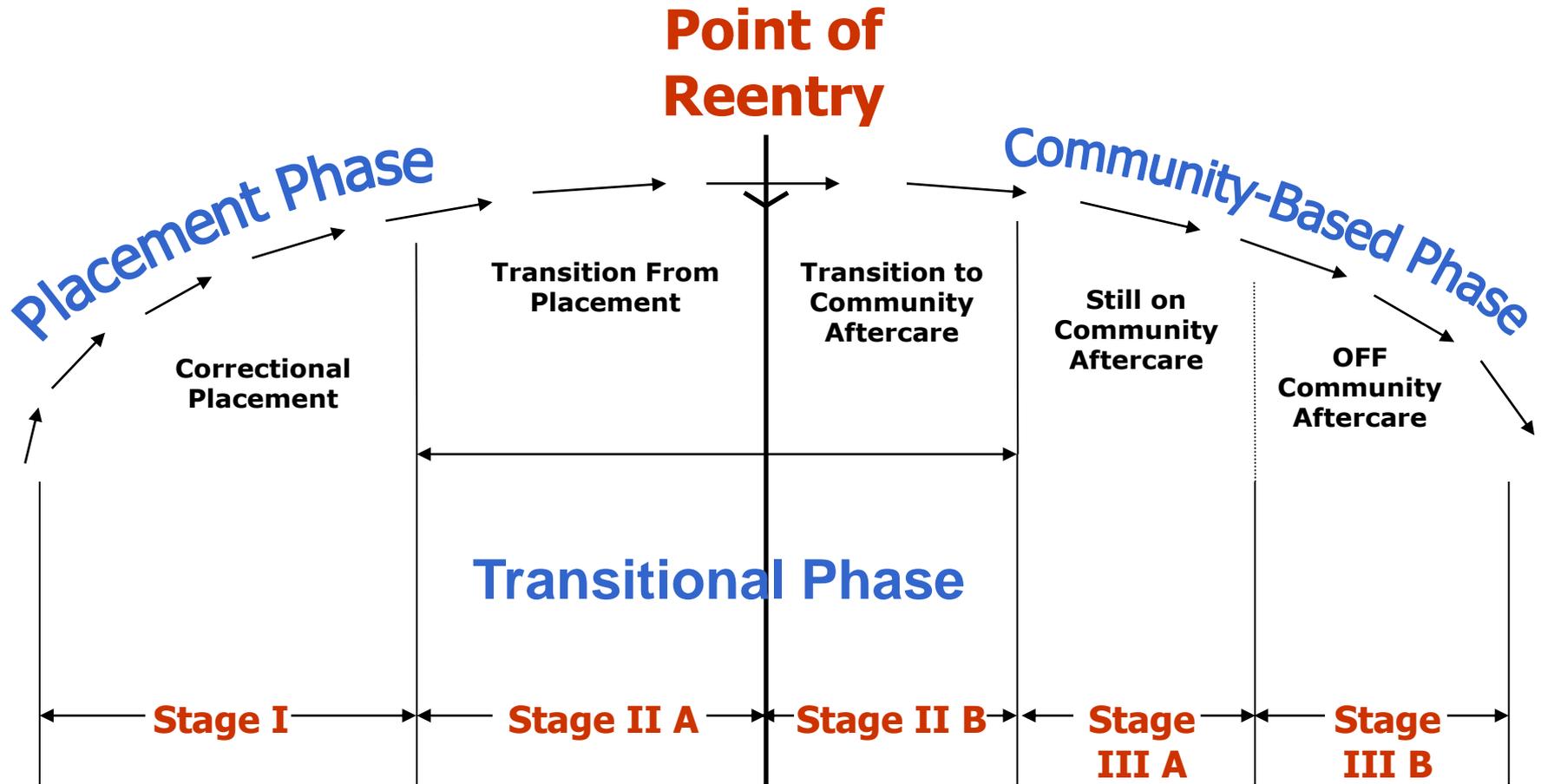
Key Dimensions of Promising Practice

Reentry refers to those activities and tasks that:

- Prepare out-of-home placed juveniles for reentry into the specific families and communities to which they will return
- Establish the necessary arrangements and linkages with the full range of public and private sector departments/organizations and individuals in the community that can address known risk and protective factors
- Ensure the delivery of prescribed services and supervision in the community

**As this definition implies,
the residential facility and the community
have a critical role to play in reentry.**

Reintegration Continuum



Case Management: 5 Components

- Assessment and Classification
- Individual Case Planning
- Surveillance/Service Mix
- Incentives and Consequences (Graduated Responses)
- Brokerage and Linkages

