



# Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act: Evidence-Based Public Safety

Commissioner Paul Schnell and Research Director Grant Duwe, Ph.D.

Mission:

*Transform Lives for a Safer Minnesota*



Over **95%** of those incarcerated will return to our communities, with few incentives to work on rehabilitation before they do.

Accountability and transformation helps to ensure fewer victims and greater public safety.

# Minnesota Rehabilitation & Reinvestment Act: Evidence-Based Reform

- **Current System:** People serve the first 2/3 of their sentence in prison and the remaining 1/3 on supervised release (i.e., community supervision)
  - Individuals generally leave prison at the 67% mark regardless of how much they work or complete programs; and they serve the final 33% on community supervision regardless of what they do (or don't do) in the community
- **MRRA: Incentivizes rehabilitation through participation in programming**
  - **Earned** release from prison can come as early as the 50% mark **as long as** recommended programs, interventions and services are completed
  - **Earned** early discharge from community supervision provided **as long as** conditions of supervised release followed
- **Result: Reduces the risk of reoffending.** Fewer victims. Safer prisons. Safer and Healthier Communities.

# MRRA: Four Components

**1. Individualized Rehabilitation Plan.** Each person receives a robust assessment that is used to set concrete, personalized rehabilitation goals.



# MRRA: Four Components

**2. Earned Release.** Earlier release can be earned by participating in rehabilitation prescribed by their plan, such as substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, domestic abuse programming, vocational skills training, and education.



# MRRA: Four Components

**3. Earned Supervision Abatement.** On supervision in the community, if further goals are met, the term of community supervision can be shortened. Examples of these tailored goals include maintaining employment, chemical health aftercare programming and mental health follow-up counseling, and positive family and community reintegration.



# MRRA: Four Components

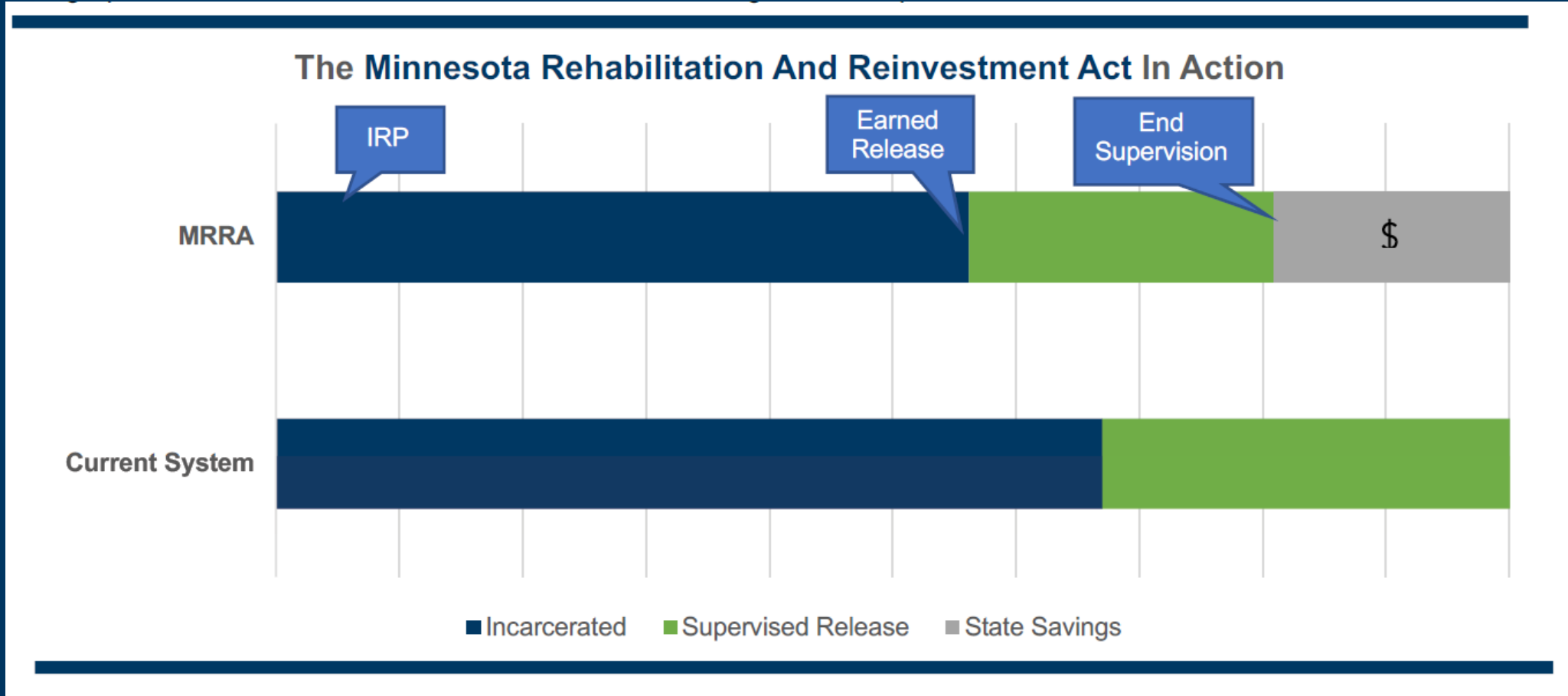
**4. Justice Reinvestment Fund.** Savings will be reinvested equally across four areas:

1. Victim support services
2. Crime prevention and intervention initiatives
3. Reinvestment in community-based correctional programs
4. General fund





# Focus on How People Use Their Time in Prison



It's time to move our focus  
from *how much time* people  
spend in prison, to ***how  
they spend their time.***

# MRRA Community Support



# By the Data: Why the Need for the MRRA?

- **Recidivism rates have not shifted significantly in decades**
  - Currently, the five-year rearrest rate is almost **80%**
- **Cost of reducing crime: 1% reduction in the 3-year reimprisonment rate would**
  - An estimated **\$5.4 million** in costs avoided to the DOC
  - An estimated **\$57.7 million** in costs avoided to the state and society
- **Prison can be criminogenic; it can cause people to be more likely to commit crime after release**

# By the Data: Prison Can Becomes the Devil's Workshop

- **Warehousing is criminogenic:** MN study found it increased the likelihood of recidivism by 13%
- **What's "warehousing"?** When people in prison are idle and do not work or participate in programs, interventions and services
- **How prevalent is warehousing?** 20% of releases from Minnesota prisons since 2010 were idle for the entirety of their confinement period in prison
- **Approximately half of time in prison is spent idle** and not working or participating in programming, on average.



# By the Data: Idleness Increases Safety and Health Risks

- **Idleness in prison increases the risk for frequent and violent misconduct in prison**
- **Exposure to violence significantly increases stress for correctional officers and exacerbates mental and physical health outcomes**
  - Stress measures much higher at MCF-Stillwater than at MCF-Faribault or MCF-Shakopee
    - Idleness is higher in MCF-Stillwater
- **The increased risk and related stress is harmful for the incarcerated individuals who reside in prison 24/7 and the staff that works there 24/7**

# By the Data: Outcomes of Participation in Programming and Work

- **Reduces Recidivism:** Results are consistent across data points – as involvement in work/programming increases, the likelihood of recidivism decreases
  - One intervention = 12% recidivism reduction
  - Two interventions = 26% recidivism reduction
  - Three interventions = 30% recidivism reduction
- **Increases Post-Release Employment:** Participation in work/programming while in prison improves the likelihood of finding a job in first year after release
  - Going from 0% (warehousing) to 50% would increase odds of post-release employment by 15%
- **Reduces Risk of Death Upon Release:** Increasing the percent of prison time involved in work/programming reduces the risk of mortality
  - Going from 0% (warehousing) to 50% would lower risk by:
    - 15% for all-cause mortality
    - 10% for unnatural deaths

# Quality of Programming is Key

- Quantity/dosage is important but so is the **quality** of the intervention
- The DOC is prioritizing investments in rehabilitative programming
- Positive post-release outcomes reflect the impact of interventions that MnDOC research has proven effective
  - Challenge Incarceration Program (CIP)
  - Education programming (adult basic and higher education)
  - EMPLOY
  - Minnesota Circles of Support and Accountability (MnCOSA)
  - Prison Fellowship Academy (PFA)
  - Sex Offender Treatment
  - Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment
  - Visitation
  - Work Release





A photograph of a prison hallway. In the foreground, the backs of several people are visible as they walk away from the camera. The hallway is lined with brick walls. A large, multi-paned window is on the right side, looking out onto another brick building. In the distance, a person wearing a bright orange cap and a blue uniform is visible. A sign on the wall to the left reads "LIBRARY".

1% of the population is accountable for 63% of all violent crime convictions.\*

\*Falk O, Wallinius M, Lundström S, Frisell T, Anckarsäter H, Kerekes N. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatric Epidemiol. 2014 April.

We expect the corrections system to not only enact punishment, but also reform. It's in the name. It also needs to be in our practice.

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