



# **Department of Corrections Division of Probation and Parole**

**House Finance Sub-committee  
February 12, 2013**

# **Mission**

The mission of the Division of Probation and Parole is to enhance community safety. We utilize proven practices and effective supervision to improve the successful community reintegration of probationers and parolees.

# **Structure**

The Division of Probation & Parole (DPP) has three regions with thirteen field offices, and each region is supervised by a Chief Probation Officer.

**Region I:** Bethel, Dillingham, Kenai, Kodiak, and Palmer

**Region II:** Barrow, Fairbanks, Kotzebue, Nome, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka

**Region III:** Anchorage

# **What is Probation**

- When an offender is sentenced for a felony offense, the judge can order the offender be placed on probation supervision in the community, following release from incarceration or in lieu of incarceration
- The behavior/performance conditions are supervised by probation officers

# **What is Parole**

- Parole lets the offender serve the last third of a sentence in the community supervised by a probation officer
- Rather than releasing inmates without controls, parole provides the gradual reintegration of the offender into the community, subject to conditions set by the Parole Board

# **What does a Probation/Parole Officer do**

- Oversees all supervision activities involving or relevant to a probationer or parolee who is on supervision
- Assists the offender reintegration back into society in a way that will positively impact public safety
- Works closely with the Division of Institutions, local law enforcement agencies, treatment providers including mental health, substance abuse, sex offender treatment and management, the Court System, the Parole Board, and various other agencies

# **Technical Assistance**

- In 2012, DPP sought technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections for guidance toward “evidenced based practices”
- DPP conducted a system-wide review of its current practices, data, and researched information to learn how to better increase public safety, reduce recidivism, and enhance the efficiency of the division

# What Works

- Research demonstrates that punishment and deterrence-driven approaches used in isolation have negligible impact; no impact; or negative impact
- These deterrents must be delivered with programming, education, consistency, and swiftness to be impactful
- When offender supervision efforts are paired with pro-social or rehabilitation-oriented interventions (e.g., treatment, education)
  - Recidivism rates are reduced significantly
  - Re-arrests are as much as 20 percent lower

# **What Does Not Work**

- Punishment, sanctions, or incarceration
- Specific deterrence, or fear-based programs
- Military models of discipline and physical fitness
- Shaming programs
- Intensive supervision or drug education programs without treatment
- Drug prevention classes focused on fear or emotional appeal
- Non-action oriented group counseling

# **Three Principles of Effective Correctional Intervention**

## **Principles**

## **Description**

### **Risk Principle** **(The Who)**

**Devote time, energy and resources to moderate and high risk cases**

### **Need Principle** **(The What)**

**Target the criminogenic needs of moderate and high risk offenders (i.e. the dynamic risk factors that, when changed, will change the probability of an offender's recidivism)**

### **Responsivity Principle** **(The How)**

**General: Design efforts around behavioral and cognitive-behavioral techniques**  
**Specific: Tailor efforts to the client's abilities (strengths), style, culture, and personality**

# Effective Supervision

## Focuses on Change

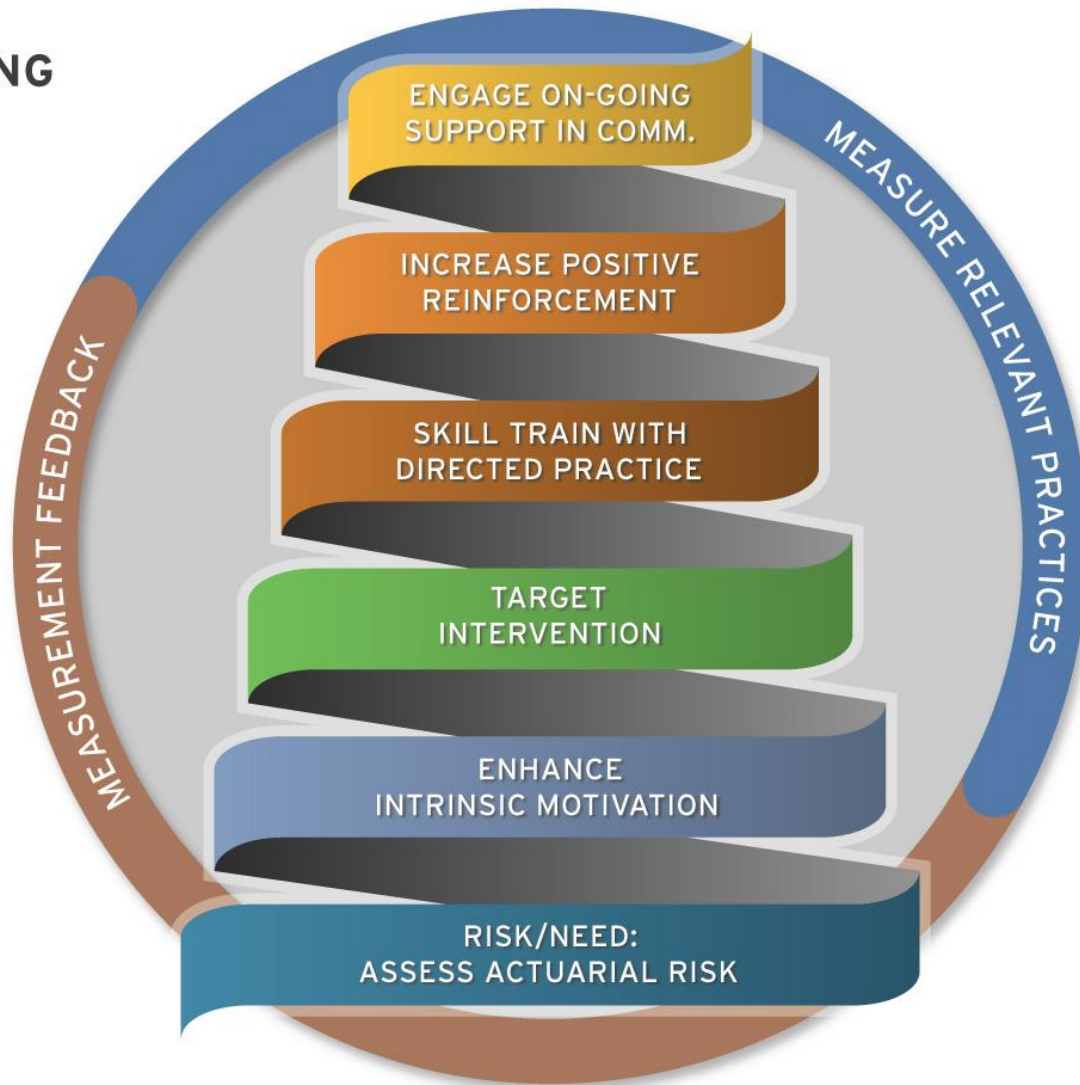
### FROM

- Custody/monitoring
- Agency isolation
- Unproven methods
- Measuring inputs
- Offender failure

### TO

- Behavior change
- Collaboration
- Using what works
- Measuring outcomes
- Offender success and improve public safety

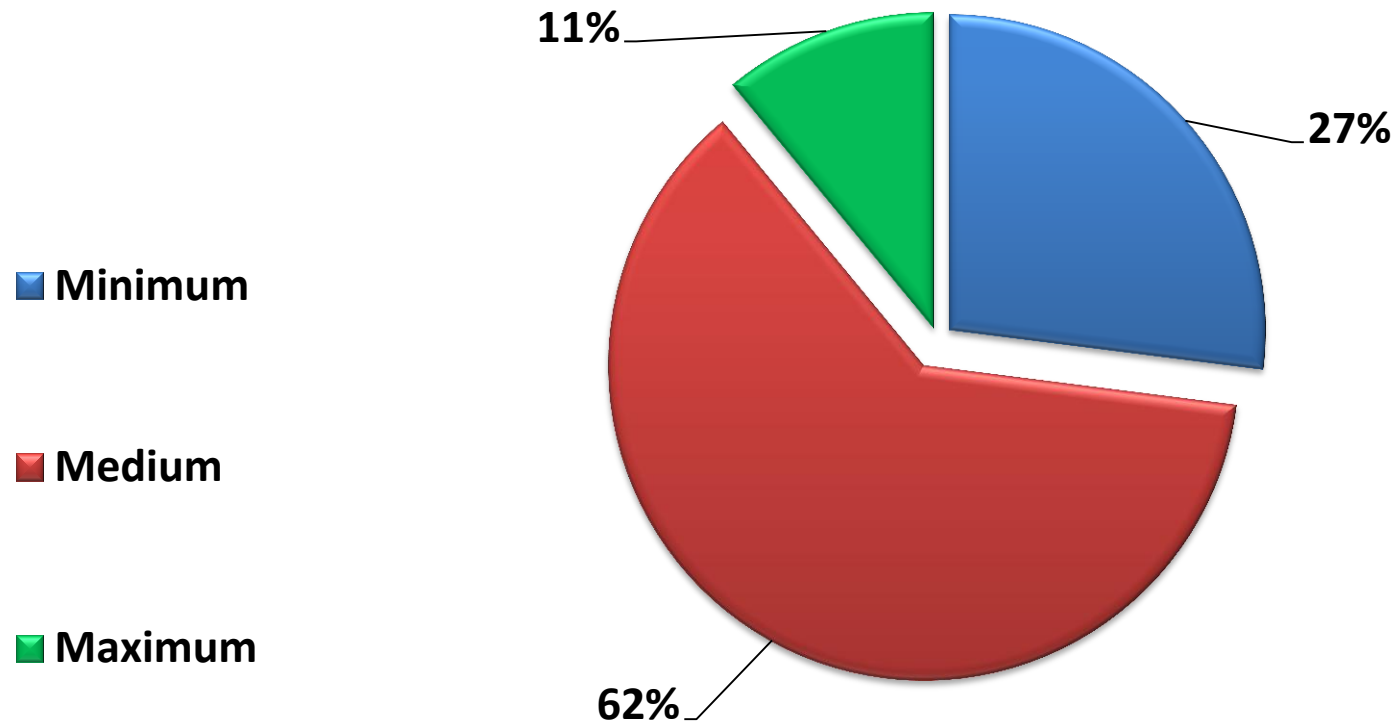
**EIGHT GUIDING  
PRINCIPLES  
FOR RISK/  
RECIDIVISM  
REDUCTION**



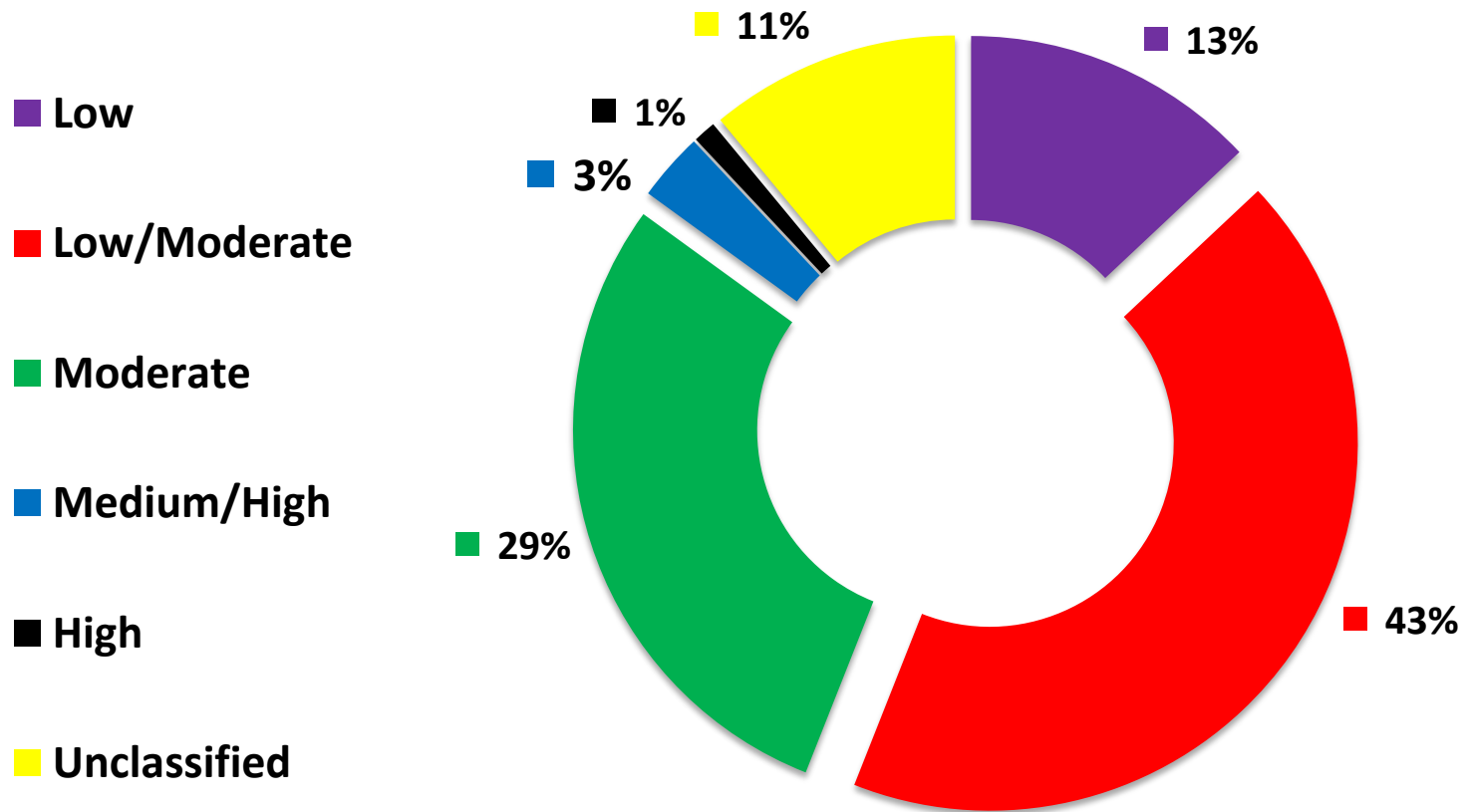
# **Risk Assessment**

- Research indicates that utilizing risk assessment tools, matching supervision and treatment strategies to probationer's risk and needs produces the best outcomes
- DOC uses the Level of Services Inventory – Revised (LSI-R)
  - Developed by Canadian researchers – Andrews & Bonta.
  - Objective, quantifiable instrument that provides consistent, valid method of predicting risk to reoffend and behavioral change over time.
  - Comprised of 54 items that can assist in the allocations of resources, as well as probation supervision strategies.

# Current LSI-R Profile



# Future LSI-R/LSI-SV Profile



# **Criminogenic Needs: “The What”**

- Risk factors can be divided into those that are static (e.g., age at first arrest; priors) and dynamic (e.g., substance abuse, criminal peers)
- The dynamic factors that are most directly linked to criminal behavior are called criminogenic needs. Targeting these criminogenic needs influences the risk for recidivism. Needs tell us what services to provide the offender

# Criminogenic Needs

**Antisocial Attitudes**

**History Antisocial Behavior / Low Self-control**

**Antisocial Peers**

**Criminal Personality Makeup**

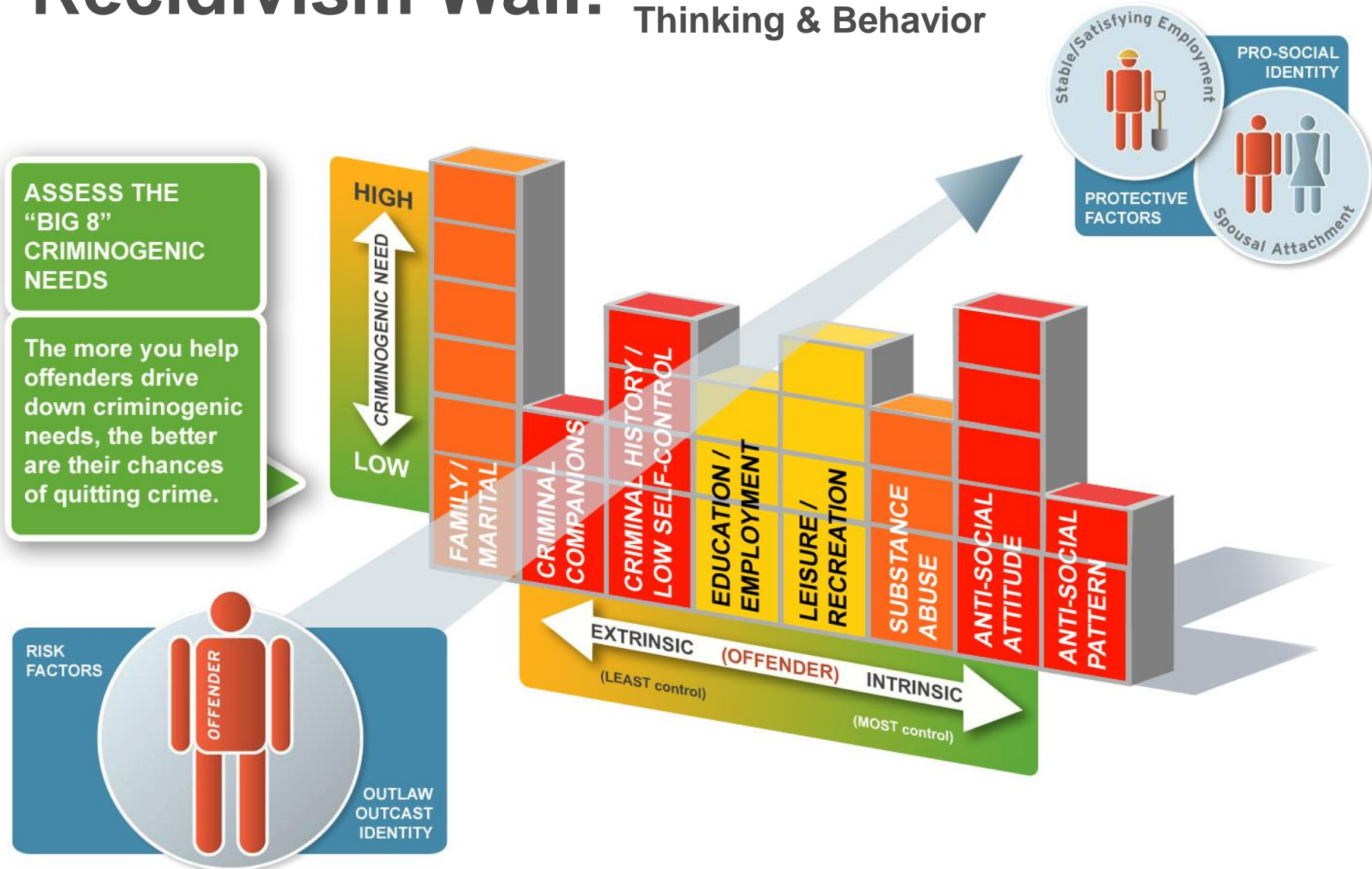
**Dysfunctional Family Relations**

**Substance Abuse**

**School/Work**

**Leisure/Recreation**

# Recidivism Wall: Impediment to More Pro-social Thinking & Behavior

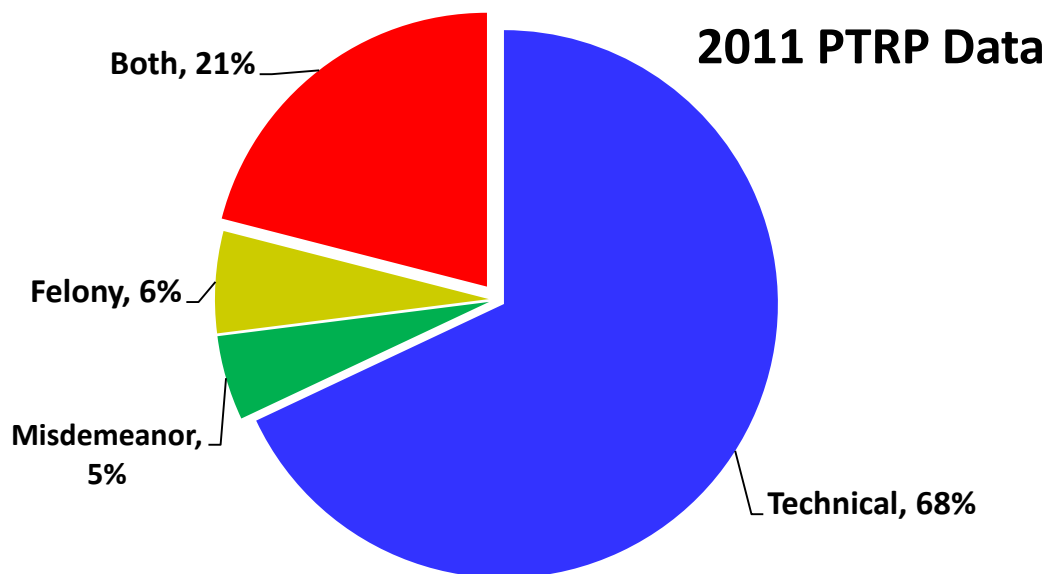


# **Responsivity: “The How”**

- Programs that have cognitive-behavioral components appear to achieve better results with offenders
- Programs should be responsive to issues such as learning ability/style, motivation, culture and gender
- Develop an incentive and sanction matrix for POs to use for appropriate and swift actions and interventions
- Focus the Court System and Parole Board violation responses and supervision conditions on the criminogenic needs

# Probation Violations

- Jail admissions for probation violations increased from 1,641 in 2002 to 2,737 in 2011
- Probation caseloads increased over 20% during the same time frame
- In 2011, more than 50% of the 6,000 probationers had a Petition to Revoke Probation filed



# Rehabilitative Programs

PROGRAMS	SERVED FY12	COMPLETED FY12
<b>Substance Abuse</b>		
LSSAT	781	420
RSAT	140	110
Aftercare	270	106
<b>Education</b>		
Adult Basic Ed/GED	970	251
Vocational Ed	1,935	1,347
<b>Faith-Based Programs</b>		
Faith-Based Programs	108	46

# **Probationer Accountability with Certain Enforcement (PACE)**

# PACE

- Pilot program began in Anchorage Superior Court in July 2010
- Expanded to Palmer, and misdemeanor domestic violence program in Fairbanks
- Provides swift, certain and proportionate sanctions to **70 high risk felony** probationers
- **Results:** Alaska Judicial Council 9/16/11 Preliminary Evaluation shows
  - Appears to be successful at reducing positive drug tests, 66% of the PACE probationers were free of any positive drug tests during their first three months
  - In contrast, prior to their enrollment in PACE, only 20% of those probationers were free of positive drug tests

# **Prisoner Re-entry Task Force**

# **Prisoner Re-entry Task Force**

## **Purpose**

- To reduce Alaska's recidivism rate and thereby improve public safety and the overall health of Alaska's communities

## **Workgroups**

- Misdemeanor Workgroup
- Substance Abuse Workgroup
- Employment work group

## **Regional Re-entry Coalitions**

- Anchorage
- Kenai
- Mat-Su Valley
- Dillingham
- Juneau

# The End