

DOC Perspective:

Addressing the needs of individuals in DOC custody awaiting an Act 248 placement or subsequently returned to DOC custody upon the alleged commission of a new offense

Josh Rutherford, Director of Classification

Colleen Nilsen, Chief of Mental Health Services



- In the last two years, DOC is aware of three individuals pertinent to our discussion today.
 - Person 1 was on an ACT 248 in the community and was found incompetent to stand trial due to a developmental disability. This person spent 248 days in DOC custody waiting for an appropriate DAIL community placement.
 - Person 2 is on an ACT 248 in the community and was found incompetent to stand trial due to a developmental disability. This person spent 100 days in DOC custody waiting for an appropriate DAIL community placement. This person was released from DOC custody and was subsequently returned to DOC custody, was again found incompetent to stand trial due to a developmental disability. This person is still in DOC custody.
 - Person 3 is on an ACT 248 in the community and was just incarcerated. This person is awaiting a competency evaluation and is currently in DOC custody.

Challenges to addressing the needs of this population within DOC

- DOC's mission: The Vermont Department of Corrections is the government agency in the state of Vermont charged with overseeing correctional facilities, supervising probation and parolees, and serving in an advisory capacity in the prevention of crime and juvenile delinquency.
- Treatment
- DOC staff training and lack of specialization in this area
- Environment
- Vulnerability within a prison



Joshua.Rutherford@vermont.gov

Colleen.Nilsen@vermont.gov

Thank you

