

Parolee Survey Results

2012

Survey Methodology

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) created a 6-question survey for individuals on parole to determine how their parole officers have helped them or could better assist them, and to provide context for ongoing policy discussions regarding reentry reform. We especially sought feedback to inform an interim charge by the Texas House Committee on Corrections to review parole supervision strategies.

TCJC administered the surveys through face-to-face interviews with parolees in July 2012. Questions were both open-ended and closed-ended, including scaled and ordinal questions. Ultimately, 277 participants provided responses.

The majority of the questions are reprinted below; questions not included here were strictly demographic.

TCJC thanks the survey respondents for providing thorough feedback.

Survey Questions

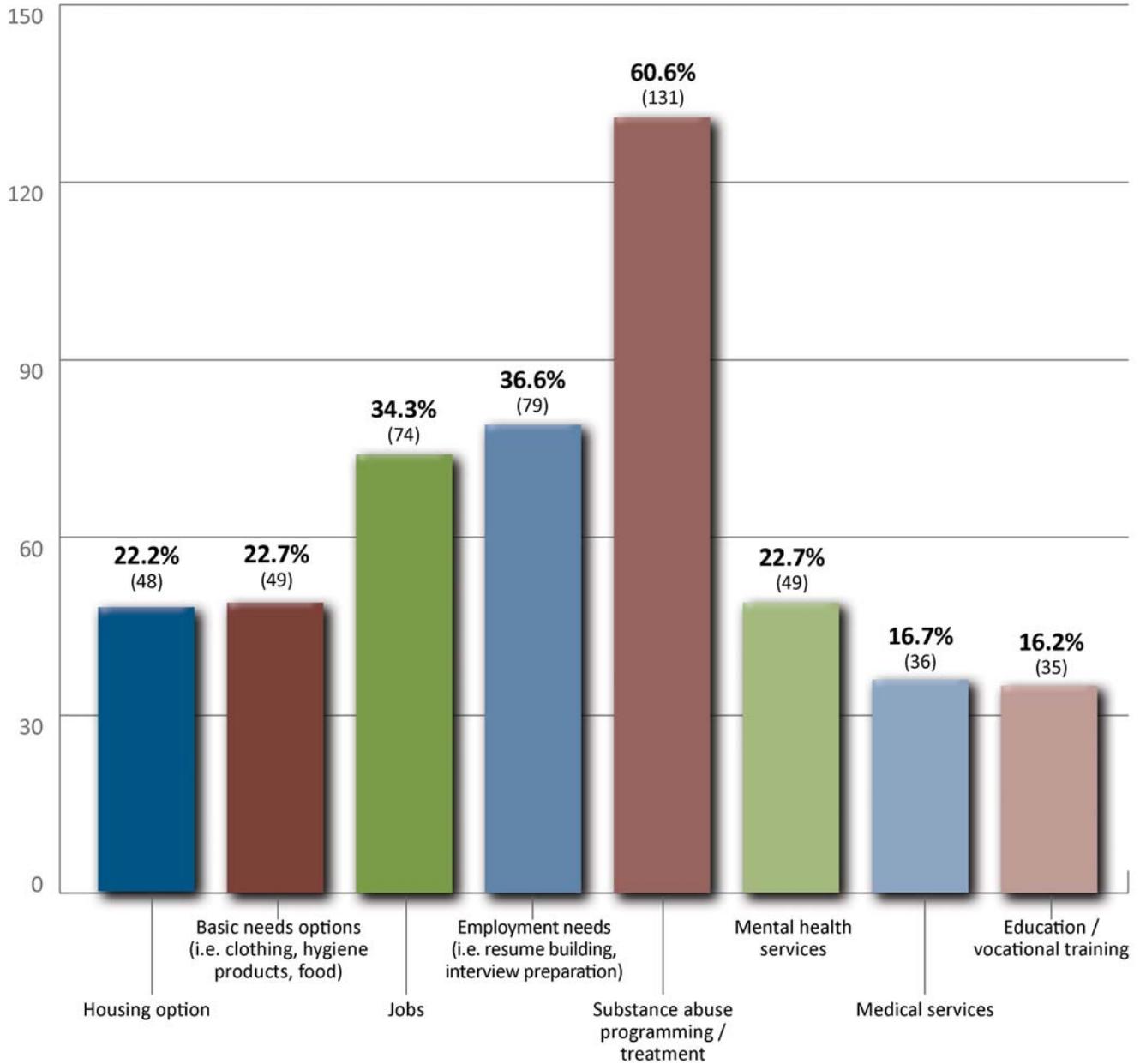
- 1. What do you feel are the most needed resources after release on parole? Rate the following resources from the most needed (1) to least needed (7).**

Resources	Rating Average
Employment options	2.50
Housing options	2.83
Employment services (i.e. resume building, interview preparation, job search classes, and workshops)	3.63
Education/vocational training	3.79
Medical services	3.83
Mental health services	4.57
Substance abuse programming/treatment	4.92

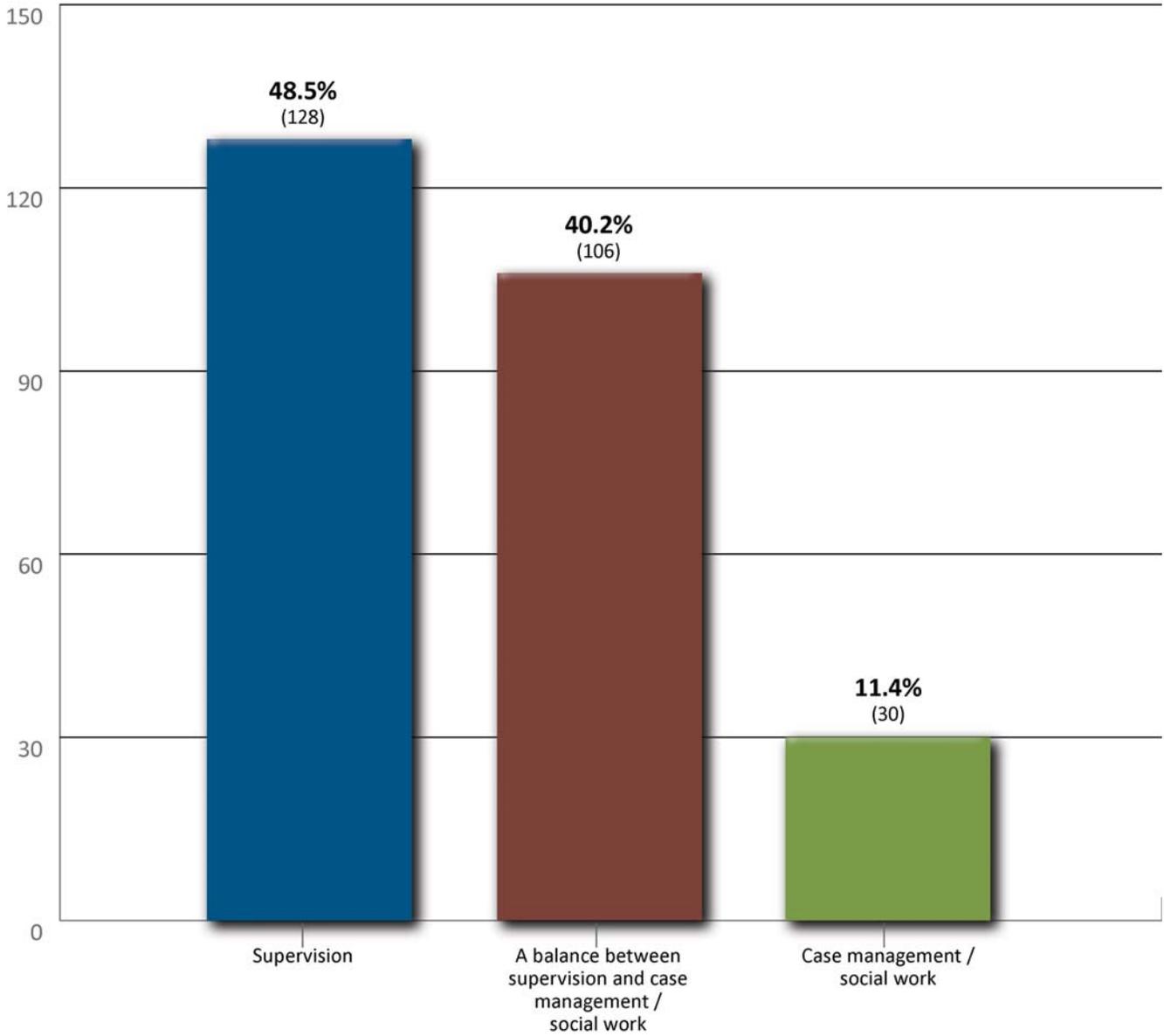
Based on the above information, we can conclude the following:

- Parolees believe the most needed resources upon release are employment options (2.5 average rating) and housing options (2.83 average rating).
- Other important resources include: employment services (3.63 average rating), educational/vocational training (3.79 average rating), and medical services (3.83 average rating).

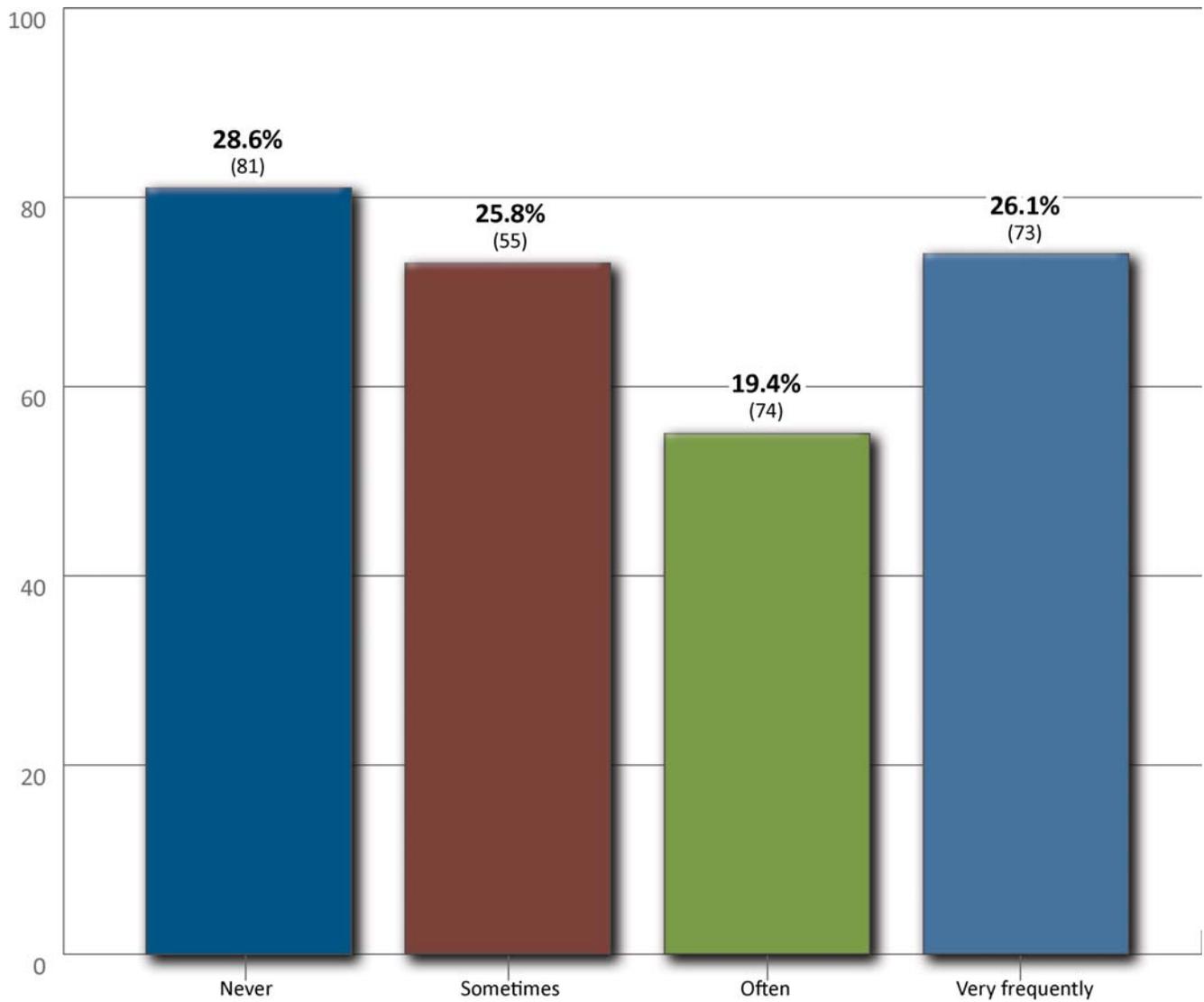
**2. Which of the following has your parole officer referred you to?
(Select all that apply)**



3. What do you see as the primary job function of your current parole officer?



4. How often do your parole conditions conflict with your ability to find or keep a job?



5. Write any additional comments regarding additional resources that would be beneficial for parole officers.

***NOTE:** In an effort to categorize the general comments provided by current parolees, we have classified each comment under particular sub-headers below. Some comments may have been placed under more than one sub-header, if applicable.*

Parole Officers: Attitude, Responsiveness, and Ability to Assist Parolees

Positive Experiences with Parole Officers

- Again, if more parolees were more like me and offices like [mine] there would not be no more violations to send parolees back to prison. I thank God for putting [my parole officer] in my path, I can't say enough.
- Generally everything is fine, everyone is understanding about your work schedule just notify them ahead of time.
- I always had a very good experience when on parole. My parole officers were exemplary individuals whose main concern was helping to return to "real life", and become a productive citizen. Were I offered a choice between being on probation or going to prison and being on parole again, I'd chose the latter; God forbid I ever have to make that choice.
- I believe the parole division is ran good and gives us parolees a fair opportunity.
- I find that all services applied to me are acceptable.
- I have found the parole officer helpful
- Parole seems very understanding
- The parole division of Headway Circle is superb on most accounts of supervision. My individual dilemmas cause my own devise.
- They are pretty helpful.

Need for Improvement

- #1 care more about the parolees! Just as well the people's safety ask we people too!
- Be fair. Communicative, not vindictive and two faced. Straight down to the point; and should look at case to case bases. Help us find stabilities and be helpful.
- Conditions include past offense not current on parole for duplicate treatment: SO [sex offender] programming for old offense. Only state 1/2 way houses on list from PO. Struck on waiting list in prison. PO threatened me for B.S. all the time. Had to go above him to complain. Retaliated against by PO. POs treat you like dirt Digression are mandatory supervision devalues good time. POs go beyond supervision, they police people. Will come out and wake people up to make sure people are there. Arbitrarily. I've had to take initiative myself. They don't steer me into anything. I find things myself. 1/2 way house in Beaumont locked down. Could not keep regular hours at job. Know employers who are willing to give jobs. Parole got in way. There are some good POs but on a whole they need better training to improve communication skills, always talking sown to you it's hard to get by on parole if you have a PO who is delivering threats. Followed by PO (not my PO).

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- Doesn't get enough free time to effectively find work or hold down a job (6 hrs of free time a day, spends 4 hours on a bus), doesn't know how to operate a computer, individual time is needed. PO seems to care about quota not people. Has to go to another PO to get time, doesn't see his PO.
- Don't yell at parolees like they're still locked up.
- Good parole officers are willing to help you with your transition back into the free world, not try to hurt you by sending you back and not trying to work with you like mine did; making things personal instead of being professional about their jobs.
- Hiring more parole offices so their case loads aren't so heavy and they have time to assist their clients
- I came up positive on my first bad UA and I was told that I was going to be placed in "clean investments". Later I asked my PO why I haven't been enrolled in it and he said "I'm going to sweep this under the rug, I'm just too busy right now to get the paper work done, just stay out of trouble." Really! Maybe I wouldn't be here at jail for another positive UA if he had done his job and helped me get the help I needed. I wish I would have had the chance to go to clean investments just like everyone else who comes up positive on their 1st UA.
- I do not like parole officers that are mean and rude and ugly to clients.
- I feel that most parole officers do not identify with the parole. They do not try to help us. It's do this or go back to jail with them.
- I found my on transitional housing without any help from the parole division. My parole officers only input was to recommend AA.
- I have a guaranteed job with I get out with my Dad [name redacted]. I would also like to change my parole officer please.
- I see none, just maybe to recognize when people actually, truly do change and become responsible people in our communities
- I strongly believe that if there were more of a balance between supervision and case management/ social work parolees would be more successful.
- I think parole officers should be more helpful by giving us more information so that we can adjust and succeed in society.
- I think that parole officers should be more like case-managers and should balance their supervision like a social worker etc...I feel the reason lots of parolees fall short is because they can't relate to or trust their parole officer. Communication is a must.
- Less interrogation, no forcing self incrimination, no forced polygraph, less restricted movement, no restricting internet use, no restricting computer use, no housing restrictions.
- List are old. Workforce has up to date list offender workforce development program. No one will hire because of monitor box. Project Rio had temporary Insurance. POs don't do any investigation into jobs, who will hire people, etc. Conditions conflict with medical services, educational training: trades & ACC. Parole visit get in way of keeping a job. Job leads are old (that come from POs) POs have checklist for interviews. Gone through 4 POs in a little over a year (Part of training programs for POs). Need to treat folks individually.

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- Mainly to be tolerable to help get back on your feet. More voucher programs and in my case medical and tools even at my age more education, vocational, job listings of places that are willing to hire ex-offenders.
- Make sure they fully receive what programs apply to each parolee instead of just putting parolees in any classes or programs.
- Monitor for 1yrs- No jobs hire with monitor (Jobs require people to move around.) No violations. Not doing anything. Need help- not giving us anything but a bunch of talk about doing right. Doing best we can. Forget to reset monitor - causes possible violation. parolee will have to call & tell. paperwork slows down process. POs big caseload. Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs. Prison programs are irrelevant- have to retake them out here. PO tells too much info to possible employees. Conditions get in way of relationship with family. Have elderly mother, no exceptions to visit her. All I'm asking for is a chance.
- More communication
- More help finding jobs, less focus on AA Classes or Drug Classes. A little more lenient on paying fines and job search. And above all more understanding that we are starting from scratch we get out, we often don't have anything at all. But from the jump we must pay this, say that, do this, do that-I ask you-with what? We don't have anything at all.
- My parole office didn't even know on my certificate I had a "p" stipulation...hmmm
- ONCE ONE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED A PAROLE OFFICER AND COMMUNICATION ESTABLISHED THERE IS NO NEED TO KEEP BANGING A PERSON, ESPEC. IF THEY ARE FOLLOWING THE RULES AND REPORTING IN AS INSTRUCTED.
- Parole officers are out to put you back in prison. If a job interferes I have been told quit the job!!
- Parole officers should let it be known that offenders have help and be able to find it.
- Provide parolees with a "Resource Guide" for all of that area, where assistance can be provided.
- Screening of parole officers. They believe they get to relax, become lazy and are truly helping me in no way.
- Some/not all parole officers could work harder to help the parolees, instead of just sitting and waiting for the parole to mess up so they can lock them back up. In my case I was incarcerated for 22 years and re-entering the world is very hard and my parole officer has done nothing to help me. She locked me back up for a technical violation when in fact all I was doing was my job.
- Sometimes the level of care or concern for the Parolee is absence. Would like to see more help in getting established in the community and away from previous friends.
- Stop forcing things on you that you don't need, you need someone to talk with when things are going wrong. Before they get out of hand cause people are hard on parolee and don't want to give them a second chance or a good job.
- There needs to be a coalition and a comprehensive/holistic approach.
- To be honest with parolees be on time themselves. Don't judge. Do job and quit taking it personal. If you don't like job quit.

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- ❑ To give more leeway to get a job. I myself is on a monitor with a 7-7 curfew and lock-down on weekends. I can't go anywhere without writing a route which must be approved. That in itself takes time, time that could cause me to lose that job opportunity. Have a sheet or resource guide to hand new parolees. Kind of like a help sheet, with all sorts of resources.
- ❑ Training parole officers to make them more customer service focused and less institutionalized. Feels like parolees are only a number.
- ❑ Understanding about making payments by being patient because it's hard sometimes finding employment with job barriers!
- ❑ Well, I've been out on parole for over 2 years. I came out of prison on Super Intensive Supervision Parole (SISP), and had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 15 months. During those 15 months, I could not work on the jobs I found because of the inflexible rules of the ankle monitor. So I lost 15 months, of which greatly set me back on my plans to by now have a decent job and be settled. Because of the GPS ankle monitor I had to stay 7 1/2 months in a state-run halfway house, and would probably have had to remained there during the entire 15 months of my having to wear the GPS ankle monitor, if it were not for a church that went out of its way to help me to get into a privately run halfway house. I'm still having to reside at the privately run halfway house (with 3 roommates) because I cannot afford to move into an apartment or home. People that are required to wear monitors, especially GPS monitors NEED specialized help because the GPS monitors make it close to impossible to get a job. If you happen to get a job with the GPS monitor on, you are likely to lose it because of the inflexibility of the monitor's rules and the indifference of the parole officers who have the GPS monitors caseload. Jobs, healthcare, and housing are the primary things people on parole (especially people having to wear ankle monitors) need help with. Oh by the way, I spent 23 of the last 27 years in prison.

Positive and Negative Experiences

- ❑ It's all good. But the Richmond office need a makeover with staff.
- ❑ The Parole Division does the best it can with what it is given to work with. The same goes for parolees, we are given the ... requirements and the smallest window of opportunity to meet the needs of ourselves, our families, the people who supervise us and the acceptance of society in which we seek to become productive members with once again. In an ideal structure our parole officers could evaluate each individual according to their mental, psychological, and physical level of behavior, criminal history and association. And then determine where the individuals will exhibit past backgrounds and behaviors that fail to show the individuals effort and therefore time and resources could be ... to those who show hope, determination, aspirations, and motivation by grasping what knowledge they can during their time of misfortune. And showing it in their efforts consistently, which parole officers know for the most party who's working the system and who's cheating.
- ❑ The system has changed drastically for the better the last decade, but it has not been without many sacrifices made by myself and others. I was initially released in 2000 and within a week was speaking to hundreds of people at the TIFA annual convention in Austin that year. I continued to speak to groups and advocated for reform, even was a member of the Coalition's inceptual steering committee. After accompanying the mother and widow of Aubrey Hawkins who was gunned down by George Rivas & Co, testifying about conditions within the prison system before the Senate Criminal

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Justice and House Corrections Committees in 2001, a warrant was issued for my arrest due to my activities speaking out against the system regarding CID officers' daily neglect of security guidelines resulting in beatings, rapes, murders, and the subsequent escape of the Connally Seven and their murder of Officer Hawkins. After my success in getting the warrant canceled on March 26, 2001, by making phone calls to legislators I had met with and provided information to in the previous weeks, Fort Worth District III Parole Supervisor Karen Chapman assured me that she would soon show me who was in charge. Three more parole violation warrants were issued and Mrs. Chapman was successful in ruining my life, robbing me of a promising career I had in I supervised over 150 people in a 14-state region. Her actions and those of her underlings eventually resulted in my initiating suit in federal district court. Karen Chapman and three of her cronies were immediately removed from their positions. I have since written letters of accommodation to current parole officials in Tarrant County, regarding the way in which paroles offices are operated today. The Assistant Regional Director even gave me permission to pass out questionnaires at all three Tarrant County offices for work on my masters thesis. Whereas I once saw police waiting in the parking lot to arrest parolees reporting to their officers at least once every couple times I reported, I have not seen this occur but maybe once in the last 3+ years. My officer has treated me with the most respect, enabling me to reschedule my report time/date when and if necessary for my jobs or school-related activities. The attitude of officers and the environment within the parole is much more conducive to the future success of those under supervision, including myself.

- Try and help each parolee any way possible. Parole officers do as much as they can and most of them are real good at their jobs so I applaud those that are. Thank you.

Meetings with Parole Offices / Hours of Availability

- Doesn't get enough free time to effectively find work or hold down a job (6 hrs of free time a day, spends 4 hours on a bus), doesn't know how to operate a computer, individual time is needed. PO seems to care about quota not people. Has to go to another PO to get time, doesn't see his PO.
- I work full time job 10 hour days, 6 days a week. My only day off is Sunday. My hours are 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. I have to take a day off from work to see my parole officer every (2 times) a month. I work out of the city limits and rely on a co-worker for transportation-the only late hour office visits are on Thursday and until 6 pm only. There is no way for me to make visits without taking off of work a whole day. It would be a help if the late hour days could be extended to 7:00 pm for people like myself.
- If because of transportation problems-or being out of county on a job-you should be able to report to the nearest office to you without being revoked and having a blue warrant issued
- If you have a 10:00 am parole appointment, you should not have to sit there and wait until 11:30 to be seen. It's hard on me and my employer
- I'm in jail for not reporting on time I think. They should give you time to come in (They did not wait a whole month to put me in Jail!) I was to report on the 5th of June. On the 20th they had a warrant for my arrest.
- Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs.
- Less office visits, more job resources

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- Monitor for 1yrs- No jobs hire with monitor (Jobs require people to move around.) No violations. Not doing anything. Need help- not giving us anything but a bunch of talk about doing right. Doing best we can. Forget to reset monitor - causes possible violation. parolee will have to call & tell. paperwork slows down process. POs big caseload. Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs. Prison programs are irrelevant- have to retake them out here. PO tells too much info to possible employees. Conditions get in way of relationship with family. Have elderly mother, no exceptions to visit her. All I'm asking for is a chance.
- Once we find a job they should work within our working hours so that we don't have to miss work because it's hard enough to keep a job without having to take off to come see them during working hours.
- Parole in Texas doesn't work for a person it works against the person. Parole appointments interfere with work. Parole does not help in any way with employment. I was violated on my parole in February for being \$105.00 behind in parole fee's and \$38.00 in group program fee's. I was sent to Henderson ISF in East Texas for 60 days. I was at ISF as NO PROGRAM/NO TREATMENT. So I just sat and wasted my 60 days! I lose my job, house, my tools because I don't have enough money. I just had got a job 2 weeks before I was violated but didn't get my check. What a waste of tax dollars that I.S.S. trip was!!
- PO would help keep job by having flexible hours.
- Quick visits if you have a job! Or giving appointments that don't conflict with your work hours.
- The lack of reporting options has been the biggest obstacle to success on parole. I am required to miss 1-2 days of work every month.
- Time and places to meet for parole.
- UA's and meetings make it hard to keep a job. Have to get off early for classes. Classes need to be on Saturday or Sunday. Food is a big issue. Can't get off work in time to go to the City's soup kitchens. SO no eating sources while looking for work until 1st paycheck came. Then had to use it for back rent. Will probably be in street when Child Support kicks in. Also, had no bus pass to look for work.

Parole Fees

- Being a disabled person with poor health and x-amount of dollars to support one self, I think the fees should be changed back to \$10.50 a month for those who can't work. And remove the crime victim fees where there is no victim.
- I would like to find a job to get my own house so I won't go to a halfway house because it's not the same. So I could work everyday to pay my parole fees.
- More help finding jobs, less focus on AA Classes or Drug Classes. A little more lenient on paying fines and job search. And above all more understanding that we are starting from scratch we get out, we often don't have anything at all. But from the jump we must pay this, say that, do this, do that-I ask you-with what? We don't have anything at all.
- Parole in Texas doesn't work for a person it works against the person. Parole appointments interfere with work. Parole does not help in any way with employment. I was violated on my parole in February for being \$105.00 behind in parole fee's and \$38.00 in group program fee's. I was sent to Henderson ISF in East Texas for 60 days. I was at ISF as NO PROGRAM/NO TREATMENT. So I just sat

and wasted my 60 days! I lose my job, house, my tools because I don't have enough money. I just had got a job 2 weeks before I was violated but didn't get my check. What a waste of tax dollars that I.S.S. trip was!!

- Understanding about making payments by being patient because it's hard sometimes finding employment with job barriers!

Transitional Housing (Halfway Houses)

- As stated above, I have been on parole for 8 years and have no complaints with parole. In fact parole has been very fair with me and except for issues concerning intra-state compact and housing treatment, I have received excellent treatment.
- ATC [Austin Transitional Center] was counter productive in my rehabilitation.
- Austin Transitional Center I feel was counter productive and psychologically unhealthy. They actually fought against parole request.
- Conditions include past offense not current on parole for duplicate treatment: SO [sex offender] programming for old offense. Only state 1/2 way houses on list from PO. Struck on waiting list in prison. PO threatened me for B.S. all the time. Had to go above him to complain. Retaliated against by PO. POs treat you like dirt Digression are mandatory supervision devalues good time. POs go beyond supervision, they police people. Will come out and wake people up to make sure people are there. Arbitrarily. I've had to take initiative myself. They don't steer me into anything. I find things myself. 1/2 way house in Beaumont locked down. Could not keep regular hours at job. Know employers who are willing to give jobs. Parole got in way. There are some good POs but on a whole they need better training to improve communication skills, always talking sown to you it's hard to get by on parole if you have a PO who is delivering threats. Followed by PO (not my PO).
- Don't put us in a transitional center that doesn't allow phones or doesn't offer transportation and limits the ability to go anywhere.
- I found my on transitional housing without any help from the parole division. My parole officers only input was to recommend AA.
- I just got out and was put into a halfway house and was unable to see my family due to the rules of the facility.
- I would like to find a job to get my own house so I won't go to a halfway house because it's not the same. So I could work everyday to pay my parole fees.
- More 1/2 way housing and convincing Company's to hire parolees, even if they have to train us. We need jobs in order to be successful when we're free.
- One problem I had was I was sent to a TC/Halfway house in Houston when I reside in Austin and my family is in Austin
- Parole does not adequately monitor the policies and practices of transitional facilities such as the Austin transitional center (owned by Avalon Correctional Services Inc. from Oklahoma). Many of the transitional facility, policies and practices are abusive and obstructive. Parolees are denied due process rights, such as, arbitrary house arrests and even parole revocations based on flimsy testimony from facility employees on often extremely minor, so called, violations. Case workers are often apathetic to and contemptuous of their parolee clients.

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- Thanks for locking me up. If you idiots had done my interstate compact correctly I would be at home instead of having to leave that crappy jail you call a halfway house.
- They should be able to verify that I was at the ATC [Austin Transitional Center] building to prove my whereabouts to keep me from coming to jail on false charges like the one I am in jail for.
- Well, I've been out on parole for over 2 years. I came out of prison on Super Intensive Supervision Parole (SISP), and had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 15 months. During those 15 months, I could not work on the jobs I found because of the inflexible rules of the ankle monitor. So I lost 15 months, of which greatly set me back on my plans to by now have a decent job and be settled. Because of the GPS ankle monitor I had to stay 7 1/2 months in a state-run halfway house, and would probably have had to remained there during the entire 15 months of my having to wear the GPS ankle monitor, if it were not for a church that went out of its way to help me to get into a privately run halfway house. I'm still having to reside at the privately run halfway house (with 3 roommates) because I cannot afford to move into an apartment or home. People that are required to wear monitors, especially GPS monitors NEED specialized help because the GPS monitors make it close to impossible to get a job. If you happen to get a job with the GPS monitor on, you are likely to lose it because of the inflexibility of the monitor's rules and the indifference of the parole officers who have the GPS monitors caseload. Jobs, healthcare, and housing are the primary things people on parole (especially people having to wear ankle monitors) need help with. Oh by the way, I spent 23 of the last 27 years in prison.
- What would be very helpful to me is for some of us to get reinstated and placed back into Austin Transitional Center halfway House

Other Housing Options

- Generally, especially w/violent offenders, the Parole Division seems a lot more concerned about enforcing restrictions than providing services (e.g. housing, employment)
- Given packet with employment, housing info
- Help parolee more with housing
- Help with medical and housing! These areas I am struggling in!
- I really wish that parolees had more options with housing. We have served our time but still have this held over our heads when it comes to jobs and housing.
- I think that parole should always help a parole inmate with helping her or him with everything parole have for them. Like with basic need housing jobs.
- I think that special programs, such as housing, employers, job training skills, should be made available, not kept a secret from us.
- I think they should help people find jobs and more housing. They should help people get off parole instead of waiting for people to mess up. There should be more rehabilitative services and resources.
- I would like to find a job to get my own house so I won't go to a halfway house because it's not the same. So I could work everyday to pay my parole fees.
- job placement and housing
- Job placement, med services and most of all housing

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- Less interrogation, no forcing self incrimination, no forced polygraph, less restricted movement, no restricting internet use, no restricting computer use, no housing restrictions.
- Let us make bond until convicted, blue warrant “jail” only leads to loss of job and housing due to jail.
- more involvement in public housing issues
- More job referrals and housing options
- Parole should be more active in helping parolees to acquire a first job, getting food assistance (if necessary) and making sure they are in a safe living environment
- They need to do more all around-housing, basic needs, jobs, employment services, education/vocational training
- Well, I’ve been out on parole for over 2 years. I came out of prison on Super Intensive Supervision Parole (SISP), and had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 15 months. During those 15 months, I could not work on the jobs I found because of the inflexible rules of the ankle monitor. So I lost 15 months, of which greatly set me back on my plans to by now have a decent job and be settled. Because of the GPS ankle monitor I had to stay 7 1/2 months in a state-run halfway house, and would probably have had to remained there during the entire 15 months of my having to wear the GPS ankle monitor, if it were not for a church that went out of its way to help me to get into a privately run halfway house. I’m still having to reside at the privately run halfway house (with 3 roommates) because I cannot afford to move into an apartment or home. People that are required to wear monitors, especially GPS monitors NEED specialized help because the GPS monitors make it close to impossible to get a job. If you happen to get a job with the GPS monitor on, you are likely to lose it because of the inflexibility of the monitor’s rules and the indifference of the parole officers who have the GPS monitors caseload. Jobs, healthcare, and housing are the primary things people on parole (especially people having to wear ankle monitors) need help with. Oh by the way, I spent 23 of the last 27 years in prison.
- What would help greatly is fair Housing for parolees. Landlords across Texas will not rent to parolees because of past criminal history. A fair housing act for parolees should be passed. Also food stamps for parolees that have drug convictions.

Job Options, Employment Services, and Vocational Training

- Aftercare really conflicts with our availability to get a steady job and live a productive life.
- Allow a parolee to make bond in order to hold jobs and keep their career going. In some cases like mine for example.
- Be more seriously involved in helping individuals who really want to succeed. Have more resources on hand. Positive family/peer support, a job, and transportation are very important.
- Being on parole is a problem. Not necessarily the felony. Need more employment resources. More training programs.
- Better ways to get a job. And better treatment classes to attend
- Conditions include past offense not current on parole for duplicate treatment: SO [sex offender] programming for old offense. Only state 1/2 way houses on list from PO. Struck on waiting list in prison. PO threatened me for B.S. all the time. Had to go above him to complain. Retaliated against

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by PO. POs treat you like dirt Digression are mandatory supervision devalues good time. POs go beyond supervision, they police people. Will come out and wake people up to make sure people are there. Arbitrarily. I've had to take initiative myself. They don't steer me into anything. I find things myself. 1/2 way house in Beaumont locked down. Could not keep regular hours at job. Know employers who are willing to give jobs. Parole got in way. There are some good POs but on a whole they need better training to improve communication skills, always talking sown to you it's hard to get by on parole if you have a PO who is delivering threats. Followed by PO (not my PO).

- Day labor conflicts. Eliminate DMS [discretionary mandatory supervision]
- Doesn't get enough free time to effectively find work or hold down a job (6 hrs of free time a day, spends 4 hours on a bus), doesn't know how to operate a computer, individual time is needed. PO seems to care about quota not people. Has to go to another PO to get time, doesn't see his PO.
- Generally, especially w/violent offenders, the Parole Division seems a lot more concerned about enforcing restrictions than providing services (e.g. housing, employment)
- Given packet with employment, housing info
- Help finding work
- Help people find jobs.
- Help with employment suggestions.
- Helpful, concrete employment.
- I believe that before an inmate is released on parole that a job of some kind is in line. Whether it be that parolee's trade before incarceration or a trade that he/she learned while in prison. Whether it is a fast food job, warehouse job etc., a parolee should have a job upon release if they are not disabled. Legislators should be working with businesses to give parolees a chance with employment so that parolees can succeed and be productive citizens of our community and not be discriminated against because they have a felony record
- I believe that the parole division should assist in rehabilitation, jobs, employment services, educational-vocational training. I think family counseling would help. Taking us away from our families for a technical violation only destroys families. Some of us just need help, not prison.
- I have a guaranteed job with I get out with my Dad [name redacted]. I would also like to change my parole officer please.
- I just want to say this about the blue warrant thing. The parole division has already found me guilty before I go to court by holding me in jail where I lose my job, family and other things. By keeping a person in jail he can't work and pay for his own Lawyer. Who is really going to help that person because we all know that a court appointed lawyer is really working for the court not the person.
- I really wish that parolees had more options with housing. We have served our time but still have this held over our heads when it comes to jobs and housing.
- I served 40 consecutive years in TDCJ. When I first got out I had to wear a monitor for 18 months. I literally could not go to the alley to empty the trash. I could not go into the garage to wash the car. I could not even go onto the roof to adjust the t.v. antenna. I was under house-arrest 24-7, my wife is retired, and living in such close proximity strained our relationship. Employers are more reluctant to hire people who wear monitors. The residence one resides in must have a land-line phone. Monitors should be reserved for people like serial rapists.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- I think parole should have a better job program a place where you can go get training for certain jobs for example forklift certification or heavy equipment certification
- I think that parole should find another way to handle cases where an offender has been arrested on a charge that's new. The "blue warrants" keep us from bonding out and effectively fighting our charges. Also, parole should have more options ,or list for obtaining jobs and education for people reentering society.
- I think that parole should always help a parole inmate with helping her or him with everything parole have for them. Like with basic need housing jobs.
- I think that special programs, such as housing, employers, job training skills, should be made available, not kept a secret from us.
- I think they should help people find jobs and more housing. They should help people get off parole instead of waiting for people to mess up. There should be more rehabilitative services and resources.
- I work full time job 10 hour days, 6 days a week. My only day off is Sunday. My hours are 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. I have to take a day off from work to see my parole officer every (2 times) a month. I work out of the city limits and rely on a co-worker for transportation-the only late hour office visits are on Thursday and until 6 pm only. There is no way for me to make visits without taking off of work a whole day. It would be a help if the late hour days could be extended to 7:00 pm for people like myself.
- I would like to find a job to get my own house so I won't go to a halfway house because it's not the same. So I could work everyday to pay my parole fees.
- If you have a 10:00 am parole appointment, you should not have to sit there are wait until 11:30 to be seen. It's hard on me and my employer
- Issues with having felony - job (background check). Take time away when you go back on violation. 22 years on a 20 year sentence; 7 more. Will have 30 years.
- job assistance
- Job placement
- job placement and housing
- Job placement, med services and most of all housing
- Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs.
- JOBS! People on parole NEED jobs so they aren't tempted to do illegal activities to feed, clothe and house themselves. Also why can't I get food stamps?
- Less office visits, more job resources
- Let us make bond until convicted, blue warrant "jail" only leads to loss of job and housing due to jail.
- List are old. Workforce has up to date list offender workforce development program. No one will hire because of monitor box. Project Rio had temporary Insurance. POs don't do any investigation into jobs, who will hire people, etc. Conditions conflict with medical services, educational training: trades & ACC. Parole visit get in way of keeping a job. Job leads are old (that come from POs) POs have checklist for interviews. Gone through 4 POs in a little over a year (Part of training programs for POs). Need to treat folks individually.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- Mainly to be tolerable to help get back on your feed. More voucher programs and in my case medical and tools even at my age more education, vocational, job listings of places that are willing to hire ex-offenders.
- Monitor for 1yrs- No jobs hire with monitor (Jobs require people to move around.) No violations. Not doing anything. Need help- not giving us anything but a bunch of talk about doing right. Doing best we can. Forget to reset monitor - causes possible violation. parolee will have to call & tell. paperwork slows down process. POs big caseload. Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs. Prison programs are irrelevant- have to retake them out here. PO tells too much info to possible employees. Conditions get in way of relationship with family. Have elderly mother, no exceptions to visit her. All I'm asking for is a chance.
- monitors on non sex offenders, non murderers, non drug addict creators creates rage at the system when they hear of non-monitored offenders who given jobs, go swimming, have sex, go to dinner, movies, libraries or congregate at places to do notion but talk. Muslims can't attend services on Fridays. How does working picking up trash while being tracked by GPS harm society?
- More 1/2 way housing and convincing Company's to hire parolees, even if they have to train us. We need jobs in order to be successful when we're free.
- More help finding jobs, less focus on AA Classes or Drug Classes. A little more lenient on paying fines and job search. And above all more understanding that we are starting from scratch we get out, we often don't have anything at all. But from the jump we must pay this, say that, do this, do that-I ask you-with what? We don't have anything at all.
- more job availability
- More job referrals and housing options
- no drivers license, no job
- Once we find a job they should work within our working hours so that we don't have to miss work because it's hard enough to keep a job without having to take off to come see them during working hours.
- Parole in Texas doesn't work for a person it works against the person. Parole appointments interfere with work. Parole does not help in any way with employment. I was violated on my parole in February for being \$105.00 behind in parole fee's and \$38.00 in group program fee's. I was sent to Henderson ISF in East Texas for 60 days. I was at ISF as NO PROGRAM/NO TREATMENT. So I just sat and wasted my 60 days! I lose my job, house, my tools because I don't have enough money. I just had got a job 2 weeks before I was violated but didn't get my check. What a waste of tax dollars that I.S.S. trip was!!
- Parole officers are out to put you back in prison. If a job interferes I have been told quit the job!!
- Parole should be more active in helping parolees to acquire a first job, getting food assistance (if necessary) and making sure they are in a safe living environment
- parole should have more options ,or list for obtaining jobs and education for people reentering society.
- PO would help keep job by having flexible hours.
- Quick visits if you have a job! Or giving appointments that don't conflict with your work hours.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- Should help with transportation to get you in a training program that would pay you as you learn. It's hard to start of when you get out and don't know where to go.
- Stop forcing things on you that you don't need, you need someone to talk with when things are going wrong. Before they get out of hand cause people are hard on parolee and don't want to give them a second change or a good job.
- The lack of reporting options has been the biggest obstacle to success on parole. I am required to miss 1-2 days of work every month.
- The laws are the problem - have a felony on your record makes it difficult to obtain employment
- They need to do more all around-housing, basic needs, jobs, employment services, education/vocational training
- To give more leeway to get a job. I myself is on a monitor with a 7-7 curfew and lock-down on weekends. I can't go anywhere without writing a route which must be approved. That in itself takes time, time that could cause me to lose that job opportunity. Have a sheet or resource guide to hand new parolees. Kind of like a help sheet, with all sorts of resources.
- To receive more job, MHMR, and resources and less on just spending on parolee to TDJC for whatsoever reason.
- UA's and meetings make it hard to keep a job. Have to get off early for classes. Classes need to be on Saturday or Sunday. Food is a big issue. Can't get off work in time to go to the City's soup kitchens. SO no eating sources while looking for work until 1st paycheck came. Then had to use it for back rent. Will probably be in street when Child Support kicks in. Also, had no bus pass to look for work.
- Understanding about making payments by being patient because it's hard sometimes finding employment with job barriers!
- Waste - substance abuse programming. "One size fits all" parole options. Conditions too strict - get in way of finding jobs. Especially for SOs [sex offenders]. Not all SOs should be put in the same category.
- When you have two Narcotics Anonymous classes a week and 1 UA a week it makes it very difficult for someone to find employment, much less keep it
- Well, I've been out on parole for over 2 years. I came out of prison on Super Intensive Supervision Parole (SISP), and had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 15 months. During those 15 months, I could not work on the jobs I found because of the inflexible rules of the ankle monitor. So I lost 15 months, of which greatly set me back on my plans to by now have a decent job and be settled. Because of the GPS ankle monitor I had to stay 7 1/2 months in a state-run halfway house, and would probably have had to remained there during the entire 15 months of my having to wear the GPS ankle monitor, if it were not for a church that went out of its way to help me to get into a privately run halfway house. I'm still having to reside at the privately run halfway house (with 3 roommates) because I cannot afford to move into an apartment or home. People that are required to wear monitors, especially GPS monitors NEED specialized help because the GPS monitors make it close to impossible to get a job. If you happen to get a job with the GPS monitor on, you are likely to lose it because of the inflexibility of the monitor's rules and the indifference of the parole officers who have the GPS monitors caseload. Jobs, healthcare, and housing are the primary things people on parole (especially people having to wear ankle monitors) need help with. Oh by the way, I spent 23 of the last 27 years in prison.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- With the recent cutbacks in the budget the services offered parolees are almost non existent. Project Rio has been canceled, thus making any help finding a job has been reduced to receiving a single sheet of paper with possible 'felon friendly' employers listed on it. As for other services I was lucky enough to not need any help with housing. Substance abuse treatment has been reduced to a reactionary measure that if one relapses your ordered to go to classes once a week for three months. I was given another sheet of paper listing the local aa/na meetings and that was about it.
- Work release for people that are first time violators so they do not have to start from scratch again. Also should not put a blue warrant until a case is finished and found guilty or not guilty.

Education Assistance

- I believe that the parole division should assist in rehabilitation, jobs, employment services, educational-vocational training. I think family counseling would help. Taking us away from our families for a technical violation only destroys families. Some of us just need help, not prison.
- I think that parole should find another way to handle cases where an offender has been arrested on a charge that's new. The "blue warrants" keep us from bonding out and effectively fighting our charges. Also, parole should have more options ,or list for obtaining jobs and education for people reentering society.
- List are old. Workforce has up to date list offender workforce development program. No one will hire because of monitor box. Project Rio had temporary Insurance. POs don't do any investigation into jobs, who will hire people, etc. Conditions conflict with medical services, educational training: trades & ACC. Parole visit get in way of keeping a job. Job leads are old (that come from POs) POs have checklist for interviews. Gone through 4 POs in a little over a year (Part of training programs for POs). Need to treat folks individually.
- Mainly to be tolerable to help get back on your feed. More voucher programs and in my case medical and tools even at my age more education, vocational, job listings of places that are willing to hire ex-offenders.
- parole should have more options ,or list for obtaining jobs and education for people reentering society.
- They need to do more all around-housing, basic needs, jobs, employment services, education/ vocational training

Treatment / Rehabilitative Programs

- A way out for women with/or in an abusive relationship without having to go ISF.
- Any optional resources possible to help assist drug programs instead of sending back to prison
- As stated above, I have been on parole for 8 years and have no complaints with parol. In fact parol has been very fair with me and except for issues concerning intra-state compact and housing treatment, I have received excellent treatment.
- ATC [Austin Transitional Center] was counter productive in my rehabilitation.
- Better ways to get a job. And better treatment classes to attend

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- Condition is therapy session, repetitions of therapy at Hightower unit. Already has certificate of completion. Didn't consider what you did inside. Waited 2yrs to get in program inside Federally funded but not efficiently being utilized. Paying for it in free world.
- Conditions include past offense not current on parole for duplicate treatment: SO [sex offender] programming for old offense. Only state 1/2 way houses on list from PO. Struck on waiting list in prison. PO threatened me for B.S. all the time. Had to go above him to complain. Retaliated against by PO. POs treat you like dirt Digression are mandatory supervision devalues good time. POs go beyond supervision, they police people. Will come out and wake people up to make sure people are there. Arbitrarily. I've had to take initiative myself. They don't steer me into anything. I find things myself. 1/2 way house in Beaumont locked down. Could not keep regular hours at job. Know employers who are willing to give jobs. Parole got in way. There are some good POs but on a whole they need better training to improve communication skills, always talking sown to you it's hard to get by on parole if you have a PO who is delivering threats. Followed by PO (not my PO).
- Getting drug treatment is the biggest thing for me because I go straight back to using.
- I believe that the parole division should assist in rehabilitation, jobs, employment services, educational-vocational training. I think family counseling would help. Taking us away from our families for a technical violation only destroys families. Some of us just need help, not prison.
- I came up positive on my first bad UA and I was told that I was going to be placed in "clean investments". Later I asked my PO why I haven't been enrolled in it and he said "I'm going to sweep this under the rug, I'm just too busy right now to get the paper work done, just stay out of trouble." Really! Maybe I wouldn't be here at jail for another positive UA if he had done his job and helped me get the help I needed. I wish I would have had the chance to go to clean investments just like everyone else who comes up positive on their 1st UA.
- I feel low risk nonage offenders should be removed from the registration requirement. Also I believe in many instances the system does more damage to families and society than good the way it is currently structured. I believe that non violent offenders and their families, in most cases, would benefit much more if the funds used for incarceration were instead applied to treatment by competent therapist. Most offenders have been abused and prison only makes the psychological pattern worse. Thank You!
- I feel people like myself should be put into drug-treatment programs instead of being sent back. I have been coming to TDCJ and have had 4 different numbers. All my cases are drug-related but I still haven't gotten help with my drug problem. The state just sends me back and expects me to do something differently when I'm released.
- I think we need more help in substance abuse for people who need it instead of sending them straight back to prison.
- I think they should help people find jobs and more housing. They should help people get off parole instead of waiting for people to mess up. There should be more rehabilitative services and resources.
- More help finding jobs, less focus on AA Classes or Drug Classes. A little more lenient on paying fines and job search. And above all more understanding that we are starting from scratch we get out, we often don't have anything at all. But from the jump we must pay this, say that, do this, do that-I ask you-with what? We don't have anything at all.
- More help with substance abuse problems would be nice I guess.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- Parole in Texas doesn't work for a person it works against the person. Parole appointments interfere with work. Parole does not help in any way with employment. I was violated on my parole in February for being \$105.00 behind in parole fee's and \$38.00 in group program fee's. I was sent to Henderson ISF in East Texas for 60 days. I was at ISF as NO PROGRAM/NO TREATMENT. So I just sat and wasted my 60 days! I lose my job, house, my tools because I don't have enough money. I just had got a job 2 weeks before I was violated but didn't get my check. What a waste of tax dollars that I.S.S. trip was!!
- Serious substance abuse treatment
- To receive more job, MHMR, and resources and less on just spending on parolee to TDJC for whatsoever reason.
- Waste - substance abuse programming. "One size fits all" parole options. Conditions too strict - get in way of finding jobs. Especially for SOs [sex offenders]. Not all SOs should be put in the same category.
- When I need help dealing with MHMR
- When you have two Narcotics Anonymous classes a week and 1 UA a week it makes it very difficult for someone to find employment, much less keep it
- With the recent cutbacks in the budget the services offered parolees are almost non existent. Project Rio has been canceled, thus making any help finding a job has been reduced to receiving a single sheet of paper with possible 'felon friendly' employers listed on it. As for other services I was lucky enough to not need any help with housing. Substance abuse treatment has been reduced to a reactionary measure that if one relapses your ordered to go to classes once a week for three months. I was given another sheet of paper listing the local aa/na meetings and that was about it.

Food / Clothing / Basic Needs Assistance

- Food stamps for drug offenders
- I think that parole should always help a parole inmate with helping her or him with everything parole have for them. Like with basic need housing jobs.
- JOBS! People on parole NEED jobs so they aren't tempted to do illegal activities to feed, clothe and house themselves. Also why can't I get food stamps?
- More help in clothing. Less time in monitors
- Parole should be more active in helping parolees to acquire a first job, getting food assistance (if necessary) and making sure they are in a safe living environment
- They need to do more all around-housing, basic needs, jobs, employment services, education/vocational training
- UA's and meetings make it hard to keep a job. Have to get off early for classes. Classes need to be on Saturday or Sunday. Food is a big issue. Can't get off work in time to go to the City's soup kitchens. SO no eating sources while looking for work until 1st paycheck came. Then had to use it for back rent. Will probably be in street when Child Support kicks in. Also, had no bus pass to look for work.
- What would help greatly is fair Housing for parolees. Landlords across Texas will not rent to parolees because of past criminal history. A fair housing act for parolees should be passed. Also food stamps for parolees that have drug convictions.

Medical Services

- Help with medical and housing! These areas I am struggling in!
- Job placement, med services and most of all housing
- List are old. Workforce has up to date list offender workforce development program. No one will hire because of monitor box. Project Rio had temporary Insurance. POs don't do any investigation into jobs, who will hire people, etc. Conditions conflict with medical services, educational training: trades & ACC. Parole visit get in way of keeping a job. Job leads are old (that come from POs) POs have checklist for interviews. Gone through 4 POs in a little over a year (Part of training programs for POs). Need to treat folks individually. (*Raul- parole conditions case lives on Cesar Chavez wrongful conviction.)
- Mainly to be tolerable to help get back on your feed. More voucher programs and in my case medical and tools even at my age more education, vocational, job listings of places that are willing to hire ex-offenders.
- Well, I've been out on parole for over 2 years. I came out of prison on Super Intensive Supervision Parole (SISP), and had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 15 months. During those 15 months, I could not work on the jobs I found because of the inflexible rules of the ankle monitor. So I lost 15 months, of which greatly set me back on my plans to by now have a decent job and be settled. Because of the GPS ankle monitor I had to stay 7 1/2 months in a state-run halfway house, and would probably have had to remained there during the entire 15 months of my having to wear the GPS ankle monitor, if it were not for a church that went out of its way to help me to get into a privately run halfway house. I'm still having to reside at the privately run halfway house (with 3 roommates) because I cannot afford to move into an apartment or home. People that are required to wear monitors, especially GPS monitors NEED specialized help because the GPS monitors make it close to impossible to get a job. If you happen to get a job with the GPS monitor on, you are likely to lose it because of the inflexibility of the monitor's rules and the indifference of the parole officers who have the GPS monitors caseload. Jobs, healthcare, and housing are the primary things people on parole (especially people having to wear ankle monitors) need help with. Oh by the way, I spent 23 of the last 27 years in prison.

Transportation Assistance

- Be more seriously involved in helping individuals who really want to succeed. Have more resources on hand. Positive family/peer support, a job, and transportation are very important.
- Don't put us in a transitional center that doesn't allow phones or doesn't offer transportation and limits the ability to go anywhere.
- I believe the current parole division is the best I've seen since 1968, with the exception of maybe dealing with transportation needs
- If because of transportation problems-or being out of county on a job-you should be able to report to the nearest office to you without being revoked and having a blue warrant issued
- no drivers license, no job

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- Should help with transportation to get you in a training program that would pay you as you learn. It's hard to start of when you get out and don't know where to go.
- Transportation
- UA's and meetings make it hard to keep a job. Have to get off early for classes. Classes need to be on Saturday or Sunday. Food is a big issue. Can't get off work in time to go to the City's soup kitchens. SO no eating sources while looking for work until 1st paycheck came. Then had to use it for back rent. Will probably be in street when Child Support kicks in. Also, had no bus pass to look for work.

General or Miscellaneous Resource/Programming Assistance

- Be more seriously involved in helping individuals who really want to succeed. Have more resources on hand. Positive family/peer support, a job, and transportation are very important.
- Helping with resources in Travis County.
- I feel that the parole division should help more with people who have been locked up for a long time, because we are lost in every aspect.
- I think parole officers should be more helpful by giving us more information so that we can adjust and succeed in society.
- Make sure they fully receive what programs apply to each parolee instead of just putting parolees in any classes or programs.
- Not enough help. If you don't have support you're stuck.
- Parole has no toward ... where is the reentry that is supposed to help us be successful.
- Parole officers should let it be known that offenders have help and be able to find it.
- Provide parolees with a "Resource Guide" for all of that area, where assistance can be provided.
- resource list
- Some/not all parole officers could work harder to help the parolees, instead of just sitting and waiting for the parole to mess up so they can lock them back up. In my case I was incarcerated for 22 years and re-entering the world is very hard and my parole officer has done nothing to help me. She locked me back up for a technical violation when in fact all I was doing was my job.
- Sometimes the level of care or concern for the Parolee is absence. Would like to see more help in getting established in the community and away from previous friends.
- To give more leeway to get a job. I myself is on a monitor with a 7-7 curfew and lock-down on weekends. I can't go anywhere without writing a route which must be approved. That in itself takes time, time that could cause me to lose that job opportunity. Have a sheet or resource guide to hand new parolees. Kind of like a help sheet, with all sorts of resources.
- To receive more job, MHMR, and resources and less on just spending on parolee to TDJC for whatsoever reason.

Family Support

- Be more seriously involved in helping individuals who really want to succeed. Have more resources on hand. Positive family/peer support, a job, and transportation are very important.
- I believe that the parole division should assist in rehabilitation, jobs, employment services, educational-vocational training. I think family counseling would help. Taking us away from our families for a technical violation only destroys families. Some of us just need help, not prison.
- I feel low risk nonage offenders should be removed from the registration requirement. Also I believe in many instances the system does more damage to families and society than good the way it is currently structured. I believe that non violent offenders and their families, in most cases, would benefit much more if the funds used for incarceration were instead applied to treatment by competent therapist. Most offenders have been abused and prison only makes the psychological pattern worse. Thank You!
- I just got out and was put into a halfway house and was unable to see my family due to the rules of the facility.
- I just want to say this about the blue warrant thing. The parole division has already found me guilty before I go to court by holding me in jail where I lose my job, family and other things. By keeping a person in jail he can't work and pay for his own Lawyer. Who is really going to help that person because we all know that a court appointed lawyer is really working for the court not the person.
- If a parolee goes to jail for any reason give it more thought to life the blue warrant so he/she my bond out and be with his/her family until the case gets resolved.
- Monitor for 1yrs- No jobs hire with monitor (Jobs require people to move around.) No violations. Not doing anything. Need help- not giving us anything but a bunch of talk about doing right. Doing best we can. Forget to reset monitor - causes possible violation. parolee will have to call & tell. paperwork slows down process. POs big caseload. Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs. Prison programs are irrelevant- have to retake them out here. PO tells too much info to possible employees. Conditions get in way of relationship with family. Have elderly mother, no exceptions to visit her. All I'm asking for is a chance.
- One problem I had was I was sent to a TC/Halfway house in Houston when I reside in Austin and my family is in Austin

GPS Monitors

- After 6 times to ISF, you would think that the parole division would finally snap that it is a waste of money. Same thing with ISB monitoring. It is a hindrance.
- I served 40 consecutive years in TDCJ. When I first got out I had to wear a monitor for 18 months. I literally could not go to the alley to empty the trash. I could not go into the garage to wash the car. I could not even go onto the roof to adjust the t.v. antenna. I was under house-arrest 24-7, my wife is retired, and living in such close proximity strained our relationship. Employers are more reluctant to hire people who wear monitors. The residence one resides in must have a land-line phone. Monitors should be reserved for people like serial rapists.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- Less interrogation, no forcing self incrimination, no forced polygraph, less restricted movement, no restricting internet use, no restricting computer use, no housing restrictions.
- Monitor for 1yrs- No jobs hire with monitor (Jobs require people to move around.) No violations. Not doing anything. Need help- not giving us anything but a bunch of talk about doing right. Doing best we can. Forget to reset monitor - causes possible violation. parolee will have to call & tell. paperwork slows down process. POs big caseload. Jobs don't want you to take off to meet w/POs. Prison programs are irrelevant- have to retake them out here. PO tells too much info to possible employees. Conditions get in way of relationship with family. Have elderly mother, no exceptions to visit her. All I'm asking for is a chance.
- monitors on non sex offenders, non murderers, non drug addict creators creates rage at the system when they hear of non-monitored offenders who given jobs, go swimming, have sex, go to dinner, movies, libraries or congregate at places to do notion but talk. Muslims can't attend services on Fridays. How does working picking up trash while being tracked by GPS harm society?
- More help in clothing. Less time in monitors
- Nearly every time I've been incarcerated it was due to either a malfunction in my electric monitoring or some type of alter in the monitoring.
- To give more leeway to get a job. I myself is on a monitor with a 7-7 curfew and lock-down on weekends. I can't go anywhere without writing a route which must be approved. That in itself takes time, time that could cause me to lose that job opportunity. Have a sheet or resource guide to hand new parolees. Kind of like a help sheet, with all sorts of resources.
- Well, I've been out on parole for over 2 years. I came out of prison on Super Intensive Supervision Parole (SISP), and had to wear a GPS ankle monitor for 15 months. During those 15 months, I could not work on the jobs I found because of the inflexible rules of the ankle monitor. So I lost 15 months, of which greatly set me back on my plans to by now have a decent job and be settled. Because of the GPS ankle monitor I had to stay 7 1/2 months in a state-run halfway house, and would probably have had to remained there during the entire 15 months of my having to wear the GPS ankle monitor, if it were not for a church that went out of its way to help me to get into a privately run halfway house. I'm still having to reside at the privately run halfway house (with 3 roommates) because I cannot afford to move into an apartment or home. People that are required to wear monitors, especially GPS monitors NEED specialized help because the GPS monitors make it close to impossible to get a job. If you happen to get a job with the GPS monitor on, you are likely to lose it because of the inflexibility of the monitor's rules and the indifference of the parole officers who have the GPS monitors caseload. Jobs, healthcare, and housing are the primary things people on parole (especially people having to wear ankle monitors) need help with. Oh by the way, I spent 23 of the last 27 years in prison.

Blue Warrant and Bonding Issues

- Allow a parolee to make bond in order to hold jobs and keep their career going. In some cases like mine for example.
- Change, if on parole you get new case, but receive time served in the process, your parole time is over, you should go home, release blue warrant. no hearing.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- I just want to say this about the blue warrant thing. The parole division has already found me guilty before I go to court by holding me in jail where I lose my job, family and other things. By keeping a person in jail he can't work and pay for his own Lawyer. Who is really going to help that person because we all know that a court appointed lawyer is really working for the court not the person.
- I think that parole should find another way to handle cases where an offender has been arrested on a charge that's new. The "blue warrants" keep us from bonding out and effectively fighting our charges. Also, parole should have more options ,or list for obtaining jobs and education for people reentering society.
- If a parolee goes to jail for any reason give it more thought to life the blue warrant so he/she my bond out and be with his/her family until the case gets resolved.
- If because of transportation problems-or being out of county on a job-you should be able to report to the nearest office to you without being revoked and having a blue warrant issued
- Let us make bond until convicted, blue warrant "jail" only leads to loss of job and housing due to jail.
- Work release for people that are first time violators so they do not have to start from scratch again. Also should not put a blue warrant until a case is finished and found guilty or not guilty.

Systemic Issues with Parole Conditions, Violations, Term Lengths, and Other Operational Functions

- Conditions include past offense not current on parole for duplicate treatment: SO [sex offender] programming for old offense. Only state 1/2 way houses on list from PO. Struck on waiting list in prison. PO threatened me for B.S. all the time. Had to go above him to complain. Retaliated against by PO. POs treat you like dirt Digression are mandatory supervision devalues good time. POs go beyond supervision, they police people. Will come out and wake people up to make sure people are there. Arbitrarily. I've had to take initiative myself. They don't steer me into anything. I find things myself. 1/2 way house in Beaumont locked down. Could not keep regular hours at job. Know employers who are willing to give jobs. Parole got in way. There are some good POs but on a whole they need better training to improve communication skills, always talking sown to you it's hard to get by on parole if you have a PO who is delivering threats. Followed by PO (not my PO).
- Day labor conflicts. Eliminate DMS [discretionary mandatory supervision]
- Do away with DMS [discretionary mandatory supervision]
- Generally, especially w/violent offenders, the Parole Division seems a lot more concerned about enforcing restrictions than providing services (e.g. housing, employment)
- Give inmates parole wthey they're supposed to (mandatory supervision date)
- Have been on parole for 20 years. 20 years is too long to keep someone on parole who is older and no longer a threat to the community.
- I believe from experience that if an offender is placed under extreme condition(s) and he continues to do well, it's the parole officers duty to change those conditions to help the offender be more productive, not destructive.
- I believe that those who have completed their street time should not be penalized or it taken away if that time has been successful.

2012 PAROLEE SURVEY RESULTS

- I do feel that having been on parole for nearly 9 years for non-violent charge that any misdemeanor violation by Parolees not be subject to jail time after arrest prior revocation.
- I feel low risk nonage offenders should be removed from the registration requirement. Also I believe in many instances the system does more damage to families and society than good the way it is currently structured. I believe that non violent offenders and their families, in most cases, would benefit much more if the funds used for incarceration were instead applied to treatment by competent therapist. Most offenders have been abused and prison only makes the psychological pattern worse. Thank You!
- I signed reinstatement papers on July 3rd and my state parole hold has not been lifted. What's the problem here?
- I think also that if a 16 year old is accused of rape when these 13 and 14 year old girls are just accusing them because they're mad, I don't believe they should be plea bargained out and then put in the same cages as a child molester and have to sign up as a sex offender. In Oklahoma last year they passed a bill that if an officer or a person with a cell phone catches you taking a piss outside, you not only get indecent exposure charges, you have to sign up as a sex offender. How come we're taking everyone's constitutional rights from them? Are we the people going to start using common sense?
- I think they should not be violating people that violate parole one time
- Issues with having felony - job (background check). Take time away when you go back on violation. 22 years on a 20 year sentence; 7 more. Will have 30 years.
- Need parole transferred
- None or let people go with technical violations
- Reduce time sentences for those who been on parole a min. and been doing good.
- Sex offenders should have conditions based on crime, not a blanket "condition x" for all.
- sometimes one office doesn't know what the other office is doing
- Stop putting people in jail for cases that's not a felony.
- They haven't been to see me I got time serve for failure to ID on June 21, 2012 why they haven't been here?
- very slow with paperwork
- Waste - substance abuse programming. "One size fits all" parole options. Conditions too strict - get in way of finding jobs. Especially for SOs [sex offenders]. Not all SOs should be put in the same category.
- When parolees are re-arrested for felonies and they are incarcerated in county Jails awaiting disposition of there charges but they exceed maximum parole discharge dates, the Board should discharge them.
- Would like comparison between flat-way discharge & no restriction us parolee with restrictions. I think restrictions put too much of a burden. And why does parole put restrictions beyond what law calls for?

Miscellaneous

- Another chance in life
- Been out for 12 years no sanctions/violations what so ever. Owned business with 6 employees, 2 work trucks. Employee left drugs in truck, cops arrested me, 8 months in jail
- Everything.
- I haven't been on parole long enough.
- I wanna go home!
- I was locked up illegally by parole in 2001 costing me thousands of dollars in lost wages, check, and balances committed over parole.
- It is alright sometimes.
- Only been out for a week
- parole sucks
- stay on supervision