

From: Prell, Lettie [DOC] [mailto:Lettie.Prell@iowa.gov]

Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 3:36 PM

To: Lenstra, Beth [LEGIS]

Cc: Baldwin, John [DOC]; Savala, Michael [DOC]; Scaletta, Fred [DOC]

Subject: LSA Response: Defining Success in Corrections

Your question was -- How do we define success in the corrections system?

Several ways. We regularly monitor recidivism. The return rate to prison within three years is an annual performance measure, as is the post-release recidivism rate for persons discharging all correctional custody/supervision. Other than recidivism, we look at reducing risk of offenders as measured by our assessment instruments (such as the LSI-R). Offenders not re-offending -- or less serious re-offending. Attitude changes and behavior changes of offenders go hand-in-hand with this. Ensuring our intervention programs are evidence-based, and are showing positive outcomes are also very much related.

L.

11/7/2007