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Our Blueprint for Helping Youth Succeed

To watch a video version of the *Director's Monthly Brief* on [YouTube](#), please click on the following image.



Today I wanted to talk to you about the [Blueprint](#) that was developed for DYS a couple of years ago. It's an integrated case management model, designed to help us map out a roadmap for our youth from the time they enter from their home community from the court to the time they exit and go out the door.

What I wanted to preface here was that what this does is bring together all the disciplines and all the people who are involved in our youths' lives – from day one, starting with a conversation about where they want to end up when they return home and how we can get them there. We're working backwards from there to give them everything they need to be successful.

The Blueprint is simply a roadmap to success. It requires all of us to integrate: the school, volunteers, parents, the community whenever possible, and parole so that we can imbed this and carry it into the community. It is to make sure that, along the way, we touch every point that makes kids successful and gives us that opportunity. At the end of the day, the roadmap is about success.

We have done some things recently that people may not be aware of in some of our contracted facilities. We have done some releases home and day passes so that we can start reintegration a little sooner. Youth can go back home and use the skills that they have been taught. They return back to the facility, and we debrief and talk about what worked, what didn't, and how we can tweak it. It's been very successful.

Also, we had a young man at Indian River JCF who in working with the facility, education, and parole, was able to get to an employment agency and have his skills assessed to determine what he could do upon release. Following his release, two days later, he was out working a job full-time. These examples are in our roadmap for how we can do things better in the future and how we can make things more successful. At the end of the day, that's why we're here – to be successful and make our kids proud – for us to do the job we have set out to do.

Thank you! Work hard every day because you do matter!