The Allen County ReEntry Court

ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

Presented by:
Judge John F. Surbeck
and
Sheila Hudson

May 27, 2004

The “ReEntry” Opportunity

- 1999 *Community Transition Statute* passes the Indiana General Assembly (IC11-12-10)
- Allows each county to develop its own Community Transitions Program
- Community Corrections becomes the vehicle for early release
- Potential for up to 180-day time cut for non-violent offenders

The “ReEntry” Review

- Judge John Surbeck, Allen Superior Court Criminal Division
- Sheila Hudson, Executive Director of Allen County Community Corrections
- Terry Donahue, U.S. Department of Justice
- Graham Richard, Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne

The “ReEntry” Need

Allen County recidivism rates mirrored the national statistics

- 30% of offenders are rearrested for new charges within 6 months of their release
- 45% of offenders are rearrested for new charges within one year of release
- 59% of offenders are rearrested for new charges within two years of release
- 67% of offenders are rearrested for new charges within three years of release

The “ReEntry” Pilot

- Two-year pilot project
- Voluntary 12-month “ReEntry Court” *(Controlled ReEntry)*
- Provide direct access to assistance for returning offenders and families
- Targeted to the Southeast Quadrant of the City of Fort Wayne

The “ReEntry” Mission

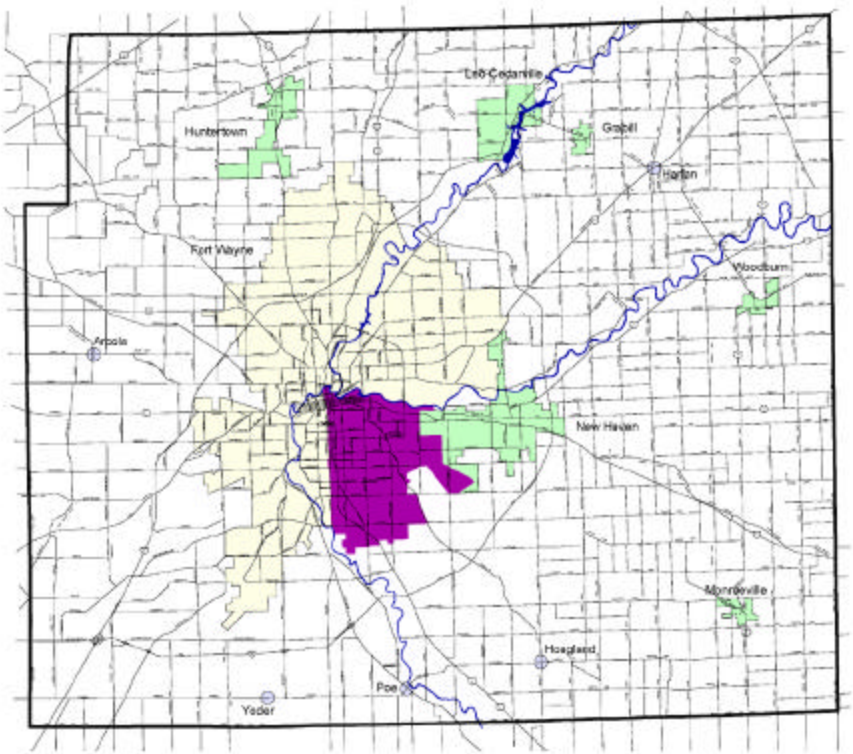
The mission of the Allen County ReEntry Court is to enhance the reintegration of offenders into the community through the provision of necessary services to those returning offenders while protecting the safety of the community.

Refocus of Efforts

- Establish ***Fact*** – Not ***"Perception"***
- Make no decisions without supportive data
- Graphically display the data for ease of understanding
- Present raw data, do not attempt to analyze all of the issues

Allen County, Indiana

- Allen County
  - 331,849 persons
- City of Fort Wayne
  - 220,497 persons
- Quadrant 4
  - 49,878 Persons
    - 22% of Fort Wayne population
    - 15% of Allen County population

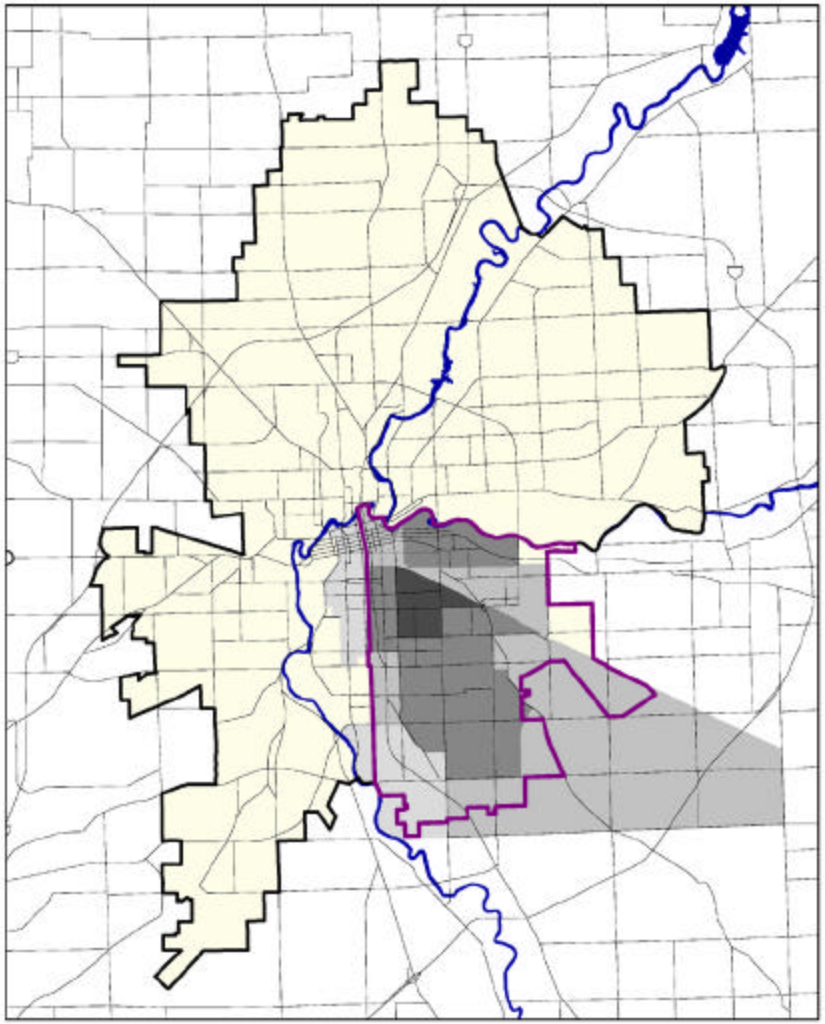


Concentrated Minority Population

Percent Minority Population

- 21%-40%
- 41%-60%
- 61%-80%
- 81%-100%

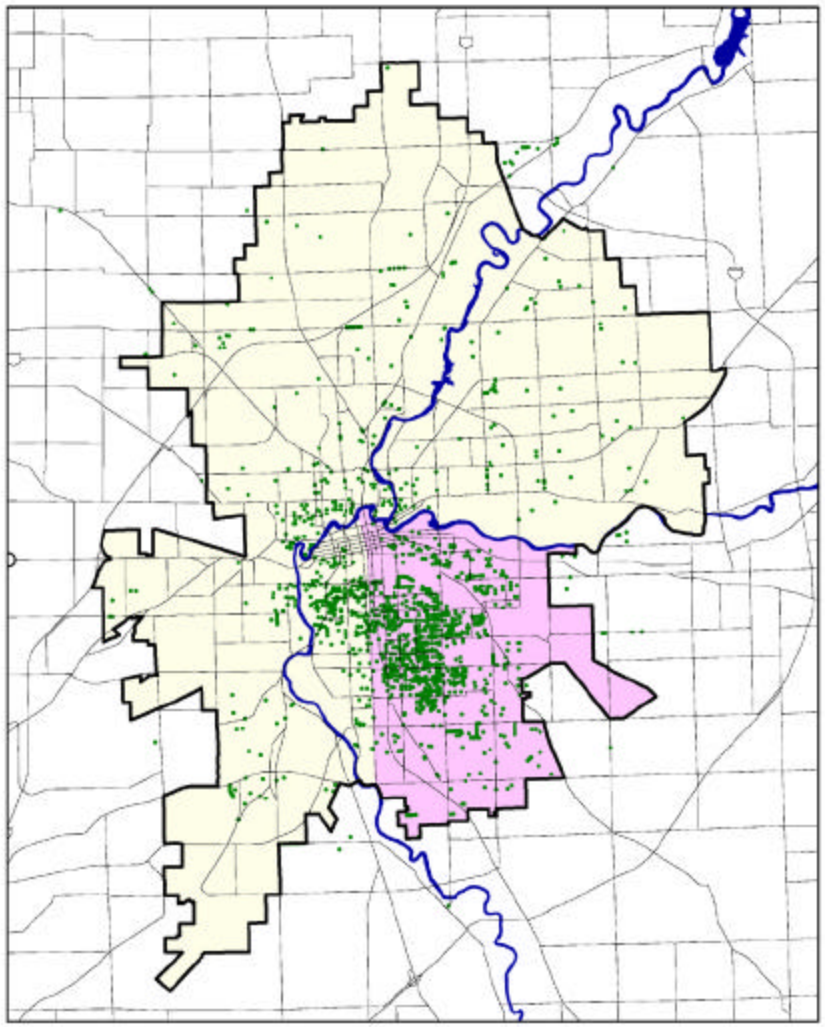
Allen County: 16.9%
Fort Wayne: 24.5%
Quadrant 4: 65.2%



Source: U.S. Census 2000

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families *(TANF)*

- 1,734 City Wide
- 1,073 in Quadrant 4
  - **62%** of Total



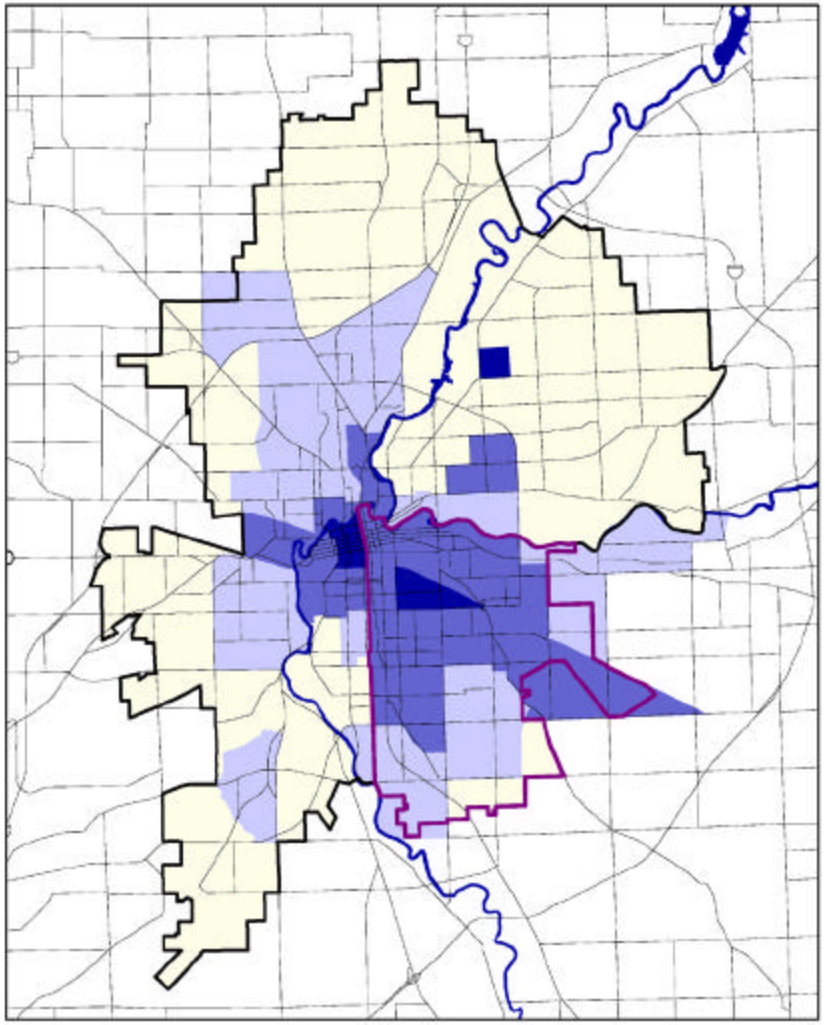
Source: Indiana Department of Family and Children Services

Median Family Income

Median Household Income

- $0 – $18,259 (0-50% of Median)
- $18,260 – $29214 (50-80% of Median)
- $29215 – $36518 (80-100% 0f Median)

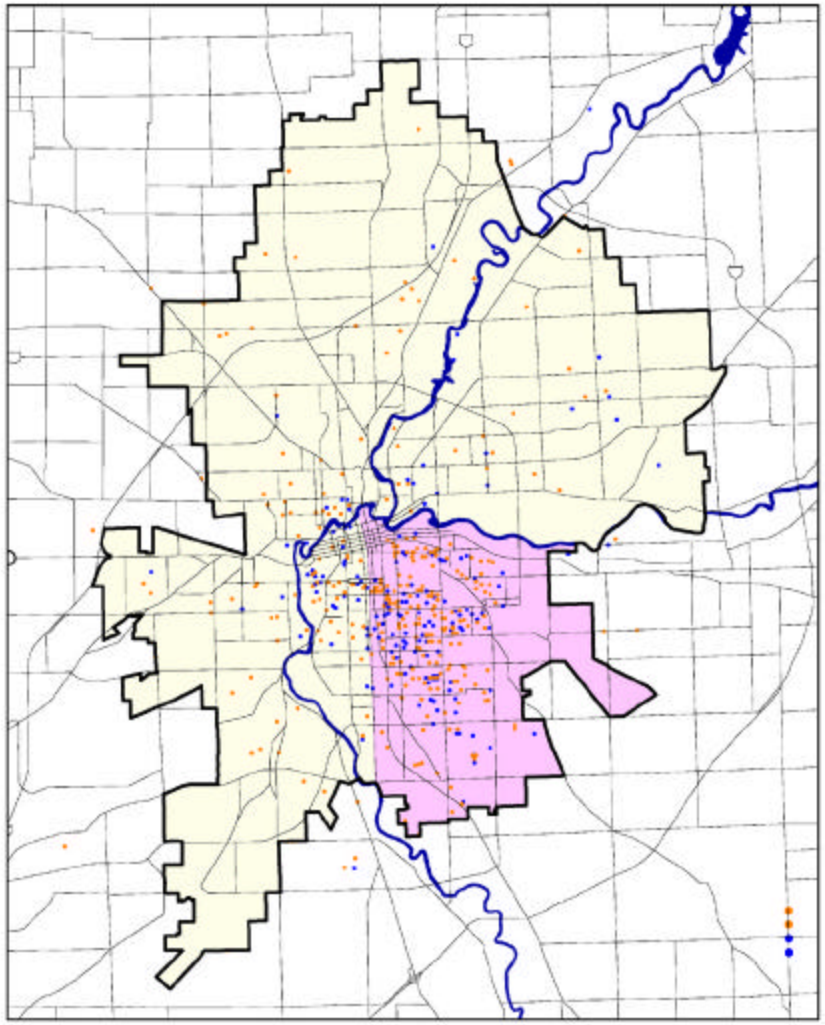
Allen County:	$42,671
Fort Wayne:	$36,518



Source: U.S. Census 2000

State Prisoners Eligible for Early Release

- 590 City Wide
- 377 in Quadrant 4
  - **63%** of Total



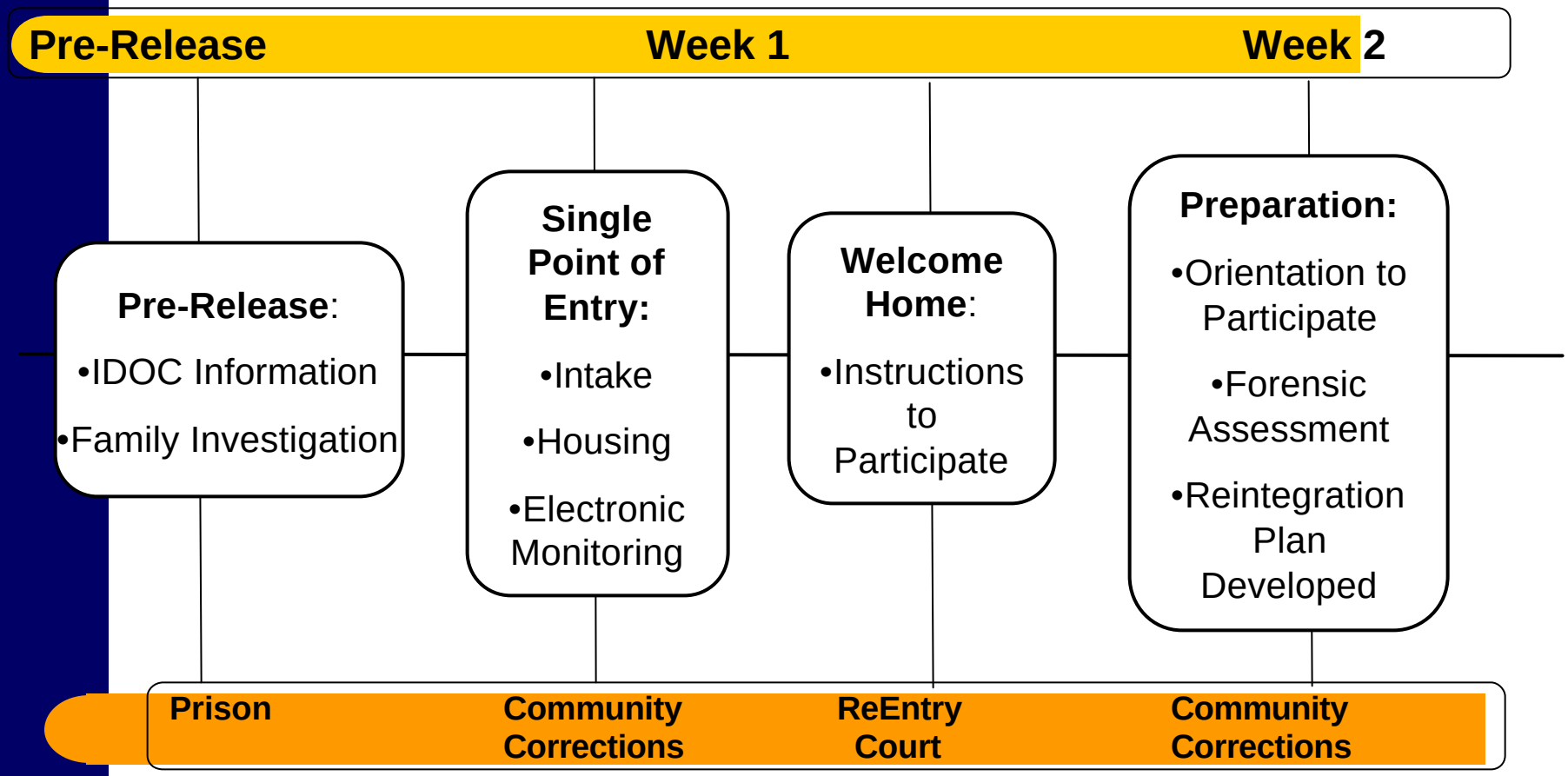
Source: Indiana Department of Correction

Community Support Develops

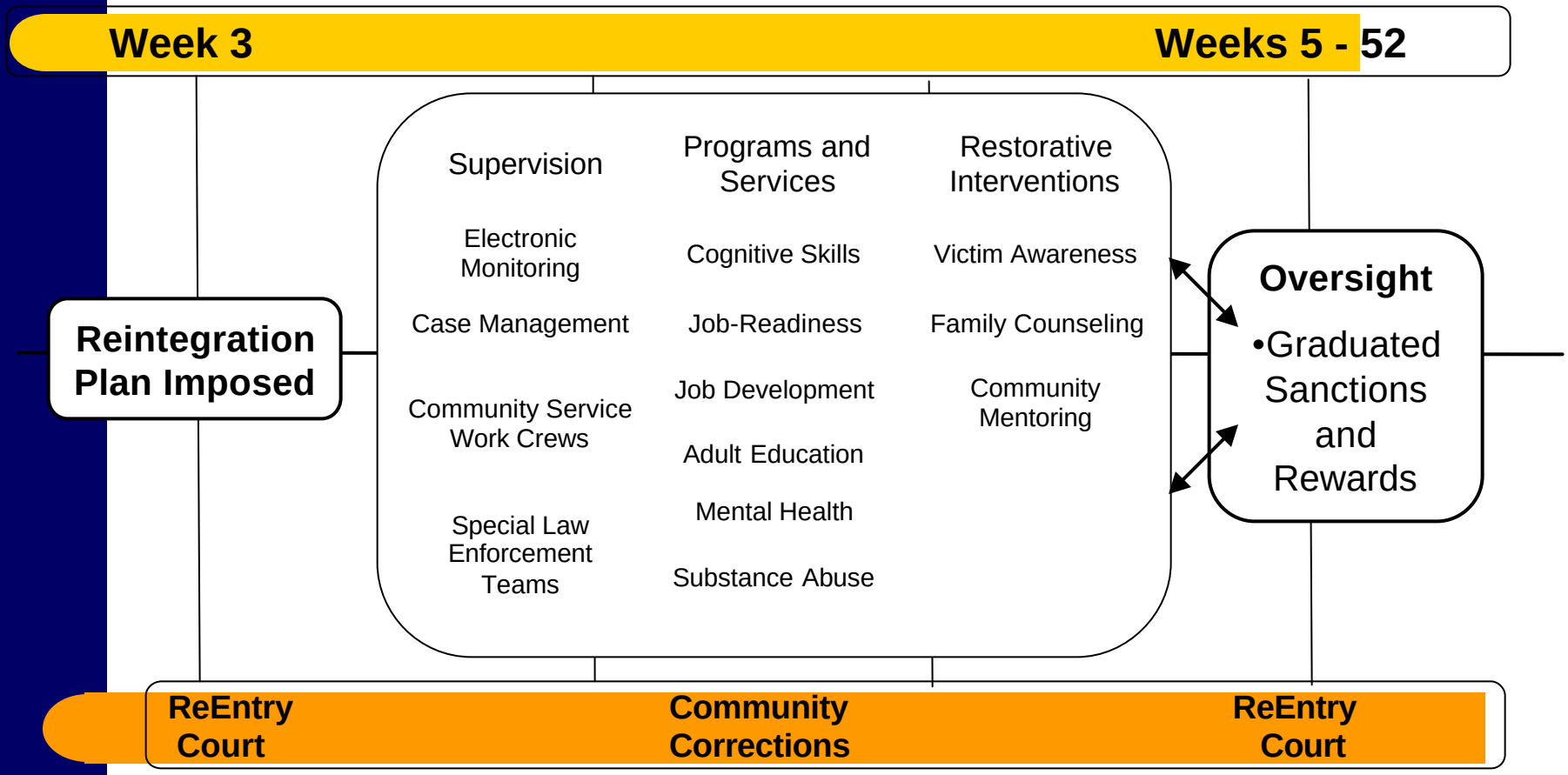
- Residents hadn't understood the magnitude of the problem
- Resistance to the program turned to fear of what would happen if nothing was done

"We don't want them back!"

ReEntry Court



ReEntry Court



Partners Come to the Table

- Allen Superior Court
- Allen County Community Corrections
- City of Fort Wayne
- Indiana Department of Correction
- Indiana Parole
- Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- Park Center Community Mental Health Center
- U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs
- Fort Wayne Community
  - Faith-Based
  - Neighborhoods
  - Universities
  - Business
- Workforce Investment Act Partners
- Allen County Department of Family and Children Services
- Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
- Allen County Prosecuting Attorney

Maps Affect Community Mindset and Public Policy

"Without the maps no one would have understood the significance of the problem!

- TANF/Food Stamp availability
  - Indiana State Legislature amended program policies to allow access to public assistance to pilot participants
- Housing Authority policy change
  - Fort Wayne Housing Authority amended policies that denied public housing to offenders that had drug convictions
- Enhanced workforce development initiatives
  - Partnerships and in-house training and job development
  - Grant awards as a result of effective practice
  - *Nonprofit Incorporation and business leader Buy-in.*

Increased Supervision

- Weekly Review with Judge
- Home Visits
- Increased Drug Testing
- Electronic Monitoring (6 Months)
- Increased Technical Violations
- Increased Public Support

Successful ReEntry Participants

- Number 6 Months Since Completion **56**
  - # Rearrested 10
  - % Rearrested (10/56) 17.8%
  - # Returned to Prison 1
  - % Returned to Prison (1/56) 1.8%
- Number 12 Months Since Completion **42**
  - # Rearrested 10
  - % Rearrested (10/42) 23.8%
  - # Returned to Prison 1
  - % Returned to Prison (1/42) 2.4%

**Statistics are preliminary and awaiting conformation by the Institute for Public Sector Transformation.*

Cost Savings – 24 Months

Expected Cost of Re-offending	$2,372,888
Actual Cost of Re-offending	$619,101
Total Savings To Community	**$1,753,787**