

### ***WORKING TOWARD A SOLUTION: STUDENT HANDOUT 3***

**Note to Students:** Review the following terms before engaging in your task force mission:

**Conditional Release:** The release of an inmate from prison to a period of community supervision, typically with a standard set of conditions he or she must abide by in order to remain on parole or post-release supervision. These conditions may include regular reporting, maintenance of a known residence, drug testing, compliance with a curfew and other such conditions. Violation of the conditions of supervision may result in the imposition of sanctions. Such sanctions may be community-based or may result in the revocation of supervision status and a return to prison.\*

**Halfway House:** A highly supervised residential environment designed to help individuals returning to the community from prison, or to provide housing for individuals awaiting trial. Less than one-half of 1 percent of all inmates released in 1999 were reportedly served by halfway houses.\*

**Mental Health Court:** A special court that deals with defendants with mental illnesses. Such courts may insist that offenders participate in court-supervised treatment, place them in supervised housing and set a path to "graduate" from the court upon successful completion of mandated treatment.\*

**Probation:** Conditional freedom granted to an offender by the court after conviction or a guilty plea with requirements for the offender's behavior, and which any violation of such requirements may result in revocation of the probation. Supervision is usually by a probation officer.\*

**Recidivism:** The reoccurrence of criminal behavior by prior offenders. The term also refers to a tendency to return to criminal behavior by offenders previously in the criminal justice system. Studies of criminal behavior consistently show that after intervention by the criminal justice system -- arrests, convictions, punishments and correctional programs -- some offenders return to crime.\*

**Re-entry:** The process of transitioning from prison or jail to the community.\*

**Supervised Release:** Transferring an individual from the custody of a correctional facility into community supervision.\*

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♦ *From Prison to Home*, <http://www.fromprisonhome.com/glossary.html>

♥ Reentry, National Media Outreach Campaign, <http://www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/pdfs/glossary.pdf>

\* Bureau of Justice Programs/U.S. Dept. of Justice, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/MentalHealthCtFS.pdf>

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### **County Task Force Mission:**

What options can your county pursue to mitigate the problems you identified when mentally ill offenders re-enter communities with limited mental health care? You will be advising your county government with at least *two* recommendations that represent a consensus of your task force. You need to consider at least two consequences of each recommendation. (Use the back of this sheet if you need more space.)

### **Recommendation #1:**

Consequence A:

Consequence B:

### **Recommendation #2:**

Consequence A:

Consequence B: