

**MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM**

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities

**MAJR releases the Reentry Roundtable Report**

Nearly 4,000 people are released from correctional facilities and return to communities across Maryland each year. Almost half return to Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Of those that return home, some experience challenges obtaining an education, employment, healthcare, and other social or support services, preventing a seamless reentry process.

Realizing the reentry challenges that returning citizens in Maryland face MAJR, with the help of the Abell Foundation, organized a conference to highlight these issues. Dr. Crystal Francis led over 100 stakeholders at a Roundtable Forum to identify solutions to problems impacting reentry in Maryland. The participants comprised 30 government employees, 30 community-based reentry service providers, 30 policy advocates, and 22 returned citizens.

The Roundtable discussions focused on the following themes:

- intake, risk assessment, and data sharing;
- reentry preparation for prisoners;
- designing an individual reentry plan;
- measuring progress;
- and post reentry success.

With the completion of the 2019 Maryland Reentry Roundtable report, MAJR calls on the State, local governments, and community stakeholders to join in the formation of statewide and local **Reentry Councils** to decide and collaborate towards the practical next steps for improving our Maryland's reentry resources.

The final report has been published and you can [read it here](#).

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## A Look Forward with 2020 Vision

Together we began a movement towards reducing mass incarceration in Maryland with our state's 2016 Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA). But gaps in all parts of our criminal justice system remain which we seek to correct each year. Mental health was our major focus area in 2019 and reentry may be our major focus area in 2020.

**Our 2020 plans-in-progress:** MAJR's executive committee recommends a half-dozen initiatives to continue our campaign for a more just and effective Maryland criminal justice system.

- To improve **prison education programs** proven to substantially reduce recidivism (passed Senate 2019)
- To permit **citations, rather than arrest**, for simple possession of drugs (passed House 2018), when neither overdose nor other concerns are present
- To depoliticize **parole for Life** cases (passed House 2018)
- To further reduce Maryland's overuse of **solitary confinement** that endangers inmates mental health (some measures passed 2019)

Another new initiative under discussion addresses Maryland's outdated **"felony-murder doctrine."** Today that doctrine threatens an accomplice with a life sentence for homicide committed by another person, even if the accomplice didn't approve or participate. Currently, we estimate hundreds of "Lifers" convicted as juveniles sit in Maryland prisons at a cost of over **\$45,800** per inmate per year due to this doctrine. The doctrine has now been abandoned in Great Britain (where it originated), Canada, Wales, Northern Ireland, and a number of U.S. states.

See all our **2020 Initiatives**.

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MAJR is a nonpartisan association of over fifty community organizations and churches with members in every part of the state, formed to support justice reinvestment. Individual supporters include judges, attorneys, corrections professionals, as well as returning citizens, victims, and service providers.

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