

# Summary of Policy Options and Considerations for October 12, 2021, Justice Reinvestment II Working Group Meeting

## Policy Options for Deliberation by the Working Group

### 1) Parole for Older Adults

**Option 1:** Recommend that the legislature adopt a parole policy for older adults to allow release consideration for eligible individuals on a case-by-case basis.

- Establish eligibility criteria based on age and time served.
- Include victim notification and input requirements.
- Consider offense carveouts.

**Option 2:** Recommend that the legislature consider modifications to the existing medical parole statute to ensure it encompasses the totality of the population that Vermont would like to be eligible for compassionate release consideration.

- This could include adding eligibility based on age and/or an age-related illness. For example, Wyoming statute allows medical parole for someone “incapacitated by age to the extent that deteriorating physical or mental health substantially diminishes the ability of the person to provide self-care within the environment of a correctional facility.”

**Option 3:** Recommend the legislature not pursue the development of a parole policy for older adults and instead explore other options for addressing the needs of the aging incarcerated population in Vermont.

**Option 4:** Report the results of the working group’s study of a parole policy for older adults to the legislature without a consensus recommendation for legislative action or inaction.

### 2) Reinvestment Funding Recommendations

**Option:** Recommend the legislature consider reinvestments and/or up-front investments in the following areas when seeking to appropriate funding in support of Justice Reinvestment II efforts:

- **Domestic violence intervention programming** through the Vermont Council on Domestic Violence to ensure ongoing sustainability
- **Data collection and analysis capacity**, including additional changes to DOC’s Offender Management System as needed
- **Community-based mental health and substance use services and criminogenic interventions** for people with complex needs on community supervision
- **Housing-related** needs for people on or transitioning to community supervision