

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**Senator Martin, Chair**  
**Senator Bradley, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
**TIME:** 2:00—3:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** *Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building*

**MEMBERS:** Senator Martin, Chair; Senator Bradley, Vice Chair; Senators Ingoglia, Perry, Pizzo, Polsky, Powell, and Yarborough

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TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation regarding the Regina B. Shearn Corrections Transition Program.		Presented
	Panel participants:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr. Regina Shearn, Director</li> <li>- Troy Martin, Alumni</li> <li>- John Eddings, Alumni</li> <li>- Eddie Fordham, Parolee</li> </ul>		
Other Related Meeting Documents			

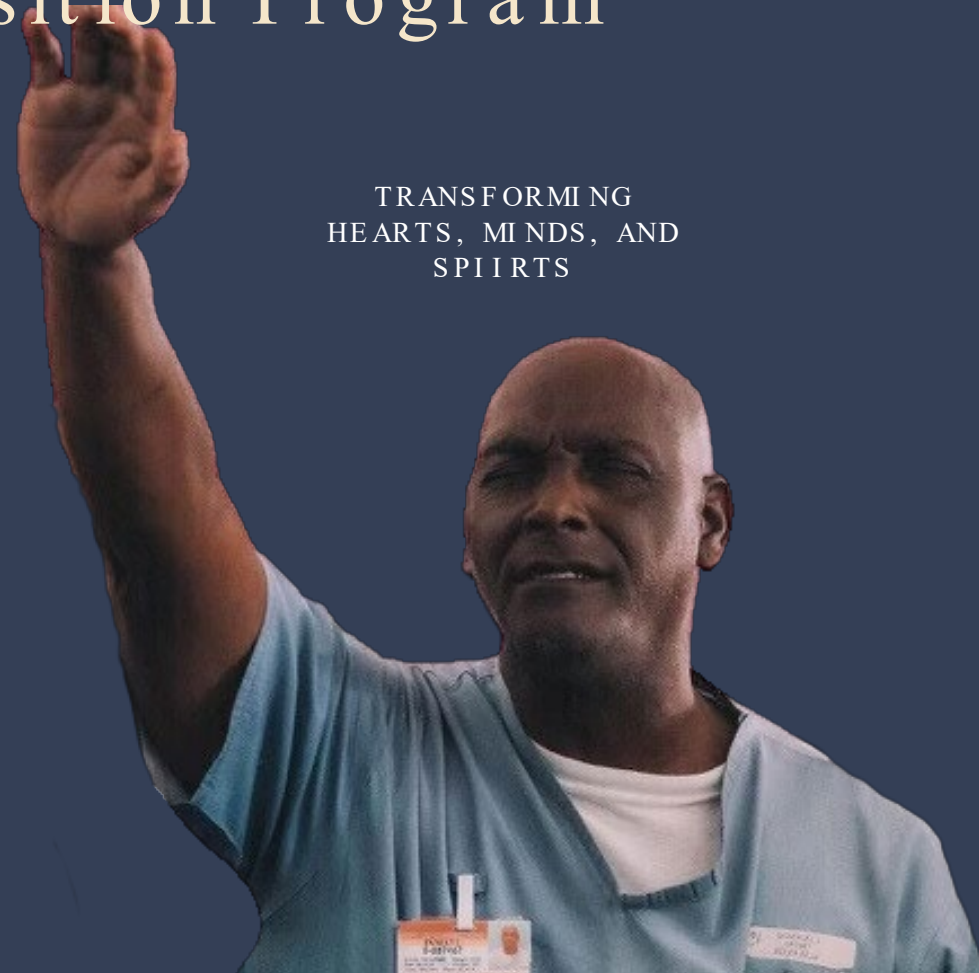
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# The Dr. Regina B. Shearn Corrections Transition Program



PAROLE SUCCESS  
SINCE 1996

TRANSFORMING  
HEARTS, MINDS, AND  
SPIRITS



## THE HIGH COST OF RECIDIVISM

Criminal justice spending in Florida is projected to exceed \$2.5 billion this year alone. This highlights the ongoing issue of mass incarceration and its impact on our communities.

Today, we want to highlight one program in the state that for 27 years has helped parole eligible men make a successful transition to a life of freedom. Led by Dr. Regina B. Shearn, a retired professor of criminal justice from Florida International University, these men have a remarkable story to tell about the redemptive power of grace and mercy. A story that could shift the way lawmakers look at parole.



# PROBLEM

## LIFE SENTENCES

In 1971, Florida implemented life sentences with a 25-year minimum mandatory before becoming eligible for parole.

In 1996, a quarter of a century later, the Florida Commission on Offender Review began considering parole for those who were approaching their 25th year and had spent their entire adult lives behind prison walls.

Conditioned by decades of institutionalization, the question became, "What will happen when these longterm incarcerated people become eligible for parole?" In other words, are they prepared to make a successful transition to a life of freedom? And what impact will it have on society in terms of safety?

The Dr. Regina B. Shearn Corrections Transition Program (CTP) was created in 1996. Today, a quarter of a century later, we report to the Florida Senate, the Governor, and our State's Citizens on CTP's impact on the lives of its participants, as well as its contributions in making Florida safer with less crime, less incarceration, and less victims.

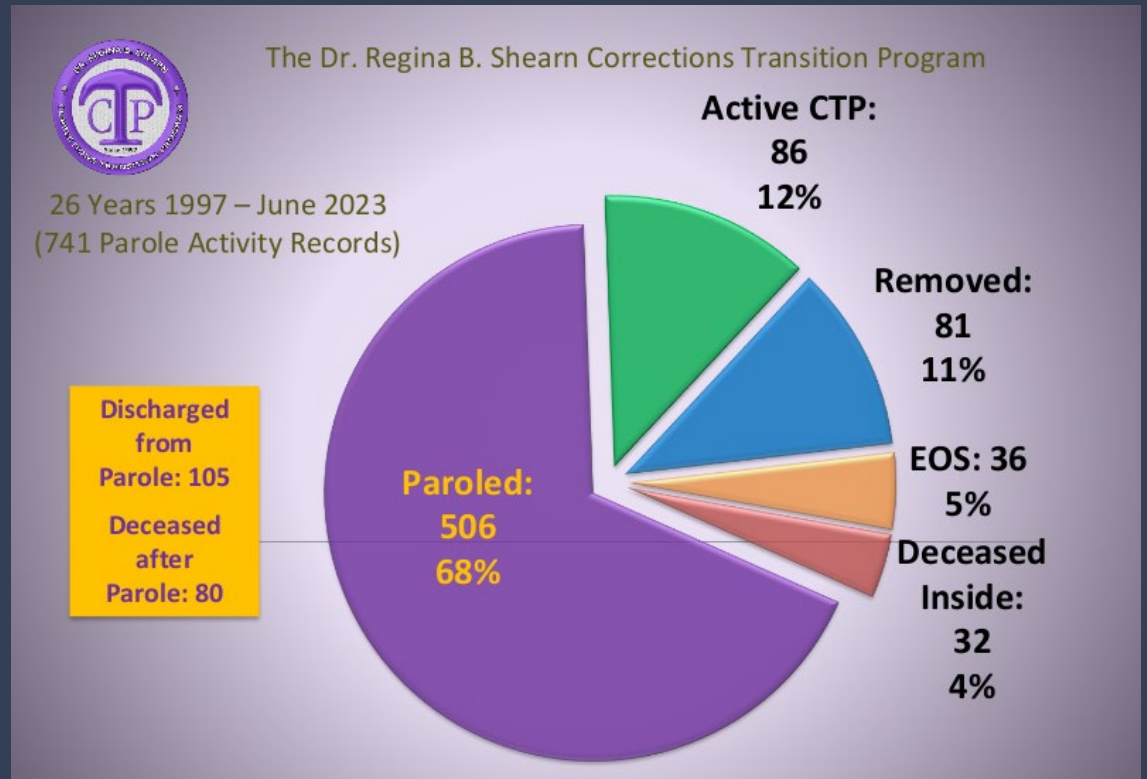


# INTRODUCTION

# 27-YEAR PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Presently, in our 27th year, CTP has served a total of 741 participants:

- 506 paroled
- 86 active members
- 81 removed for various reasons
- 36 End of Sentence (EOS)
- 32 died in prison
- 105 successfully discharged from parole





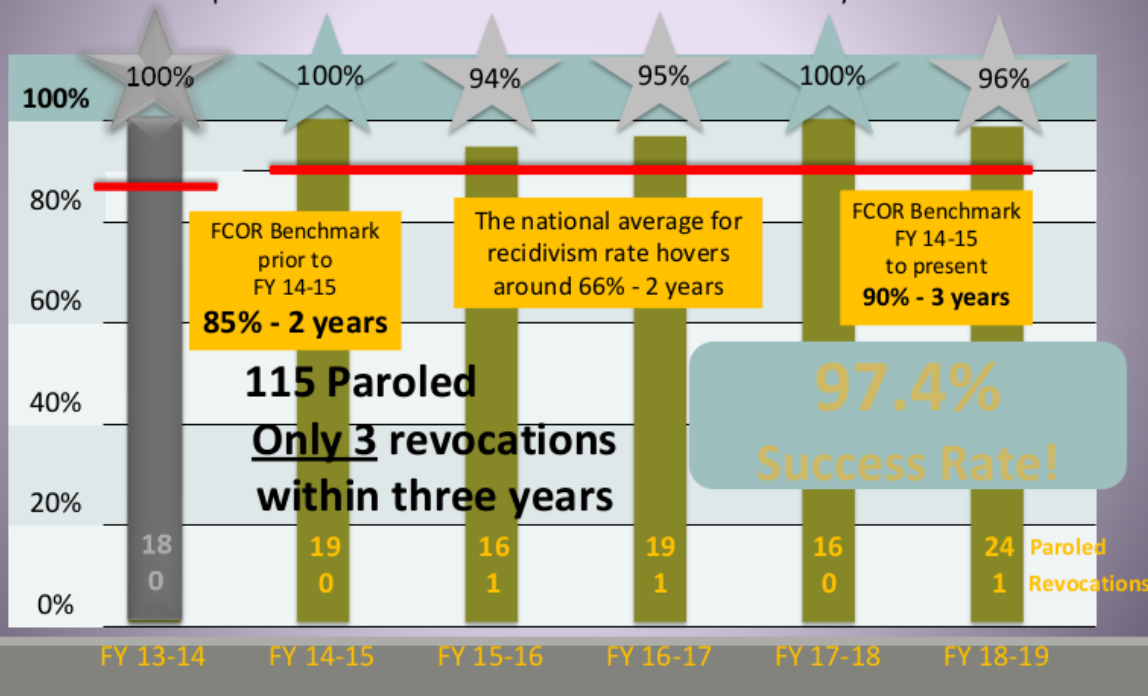
- 97% of CTP paroled participants successfully complete supervision without revocation
- \$116 MILLION in savings to Florida Taxpayers since 1996
- 1.7% recidivism rate among CTP paroled participants--the lowest of its kind in the nation!



FREE TO SERVE = A SAFER FLORIDA



The Dr. Regina B. Shearn Corrections Transition Program  
**Supervision Success After CTP**  
Percent of CTP parolees who have successfully completed supervision without revocation within the first three years.



# SUPERVISION SUCCESS

Prior to fiscal year 2014-15 the Commission's benchmark for measuring supervision success was 85% (within 2 years of release). CTP exceeded that mark in FY 2013-14 with 0% recidivism.

Beginning in FY 2014-15 the benchmark was legislatively raised to 90%, and the time period was expanded from 2 years to 3 years. This decision was based largely on the success of CTP and a determination by the Commission that positive parole decisions should be quantified.

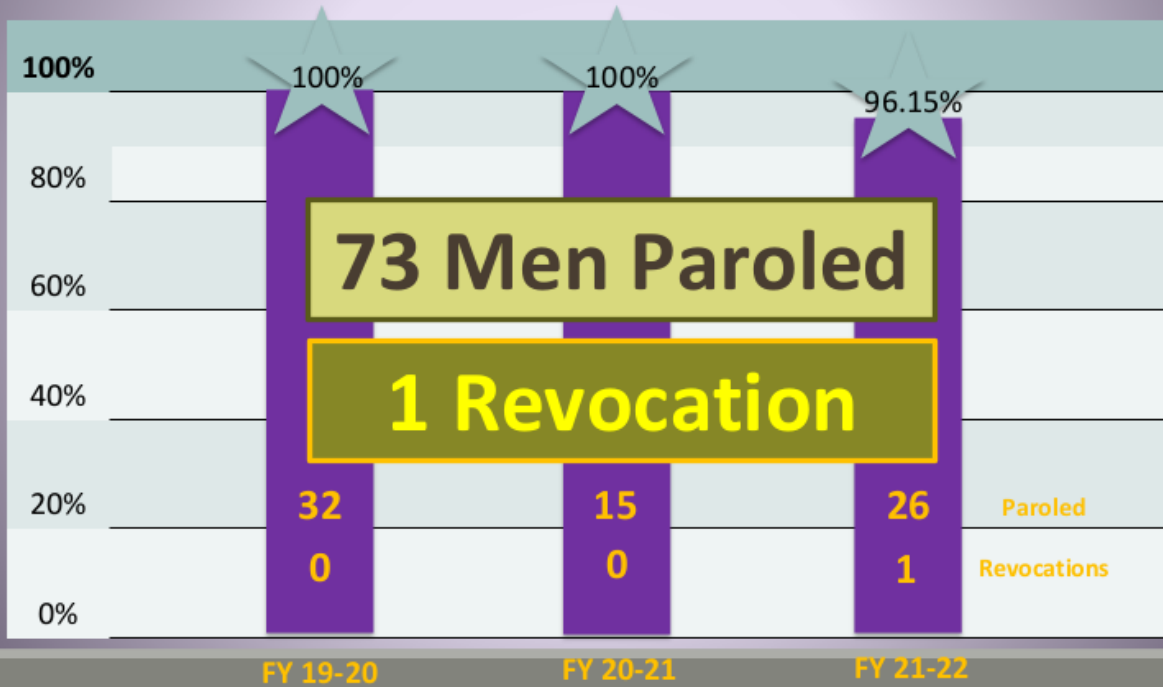
Even during years CTP did not have 100% success, CTP exceeded the benchmark set by the Commission.



## Recent Parolee Success Since Fiscal Year 2019-2022



Percent of CTP parolees who are successful on supervision.



# SUPERVISION Success

During fiscal years 2019-2022, some 73 men have been paroled with 1 revocation.

It is important to note that even during years in which CTP did not achieve 100%, our parole success still exceeded the benchmark set by The Florida Commission on Offender Review.

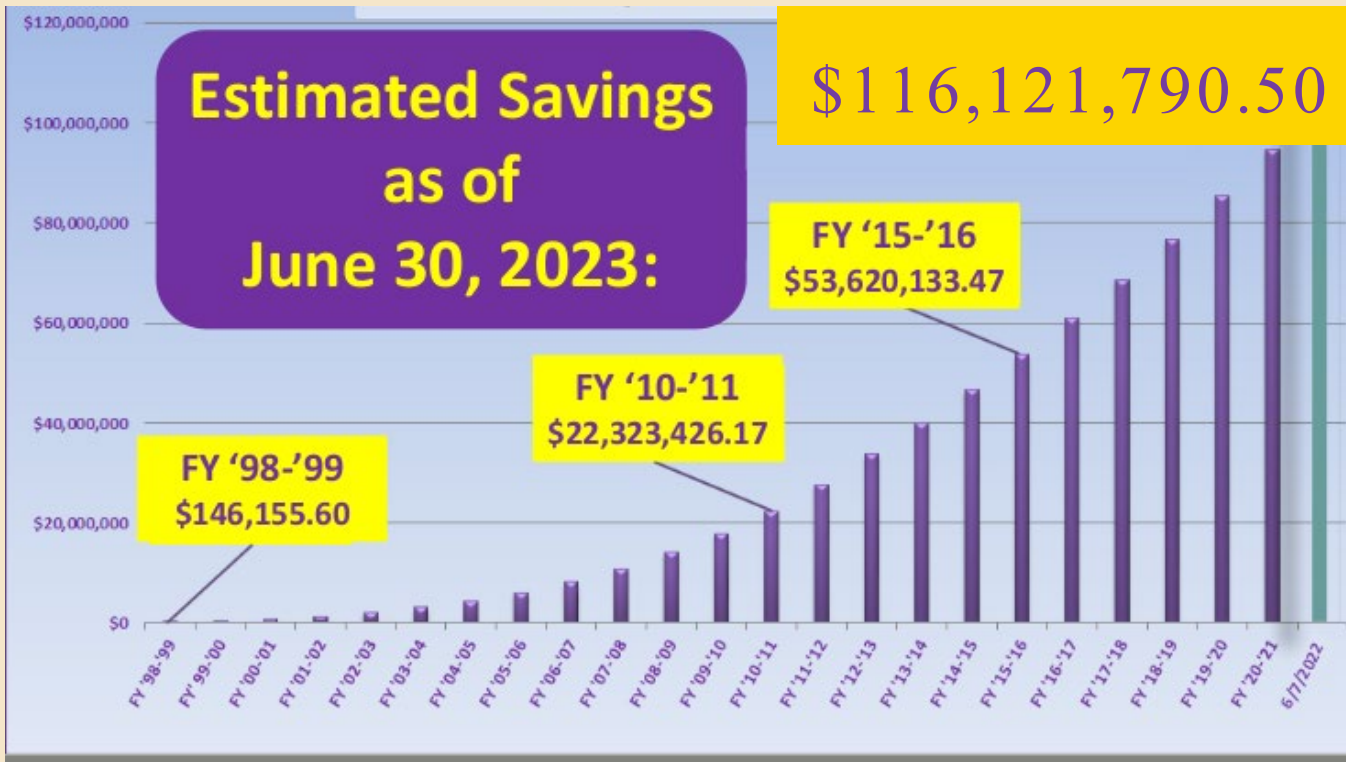


# SAVINGS FISCAL YEARS 1998 - 2023

By fiscal year 2015-16 the estimated savings to Florida taxpayers was more than \$53-million.

By fiscal year 2021-22 savings to taxpayers was estimated to exceed \$100- million.

As of June 30, 2023, savings to Florida taxpayers was just over \$116-million.



# COST SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS OVER TIME

According to the FDC Annual Report, based on a 5-year cost average from FY 2013-14 and 2014-15, the State of Florida spends \$18,349.80 a year to incarcerate a person under 50 yrs. of age. Costs increase to \$26,849.80 a year per person over 50.

Eddie Davis paroled in July 1999 at 46. He's been free almost 23 years: 4 years under age 50, and 19 years over age 50. His savings under 50 is just over \$71,000, and over \$500,000 dollars over 50 yrs. old for a total of \$583,491.40.

Patrick Stewart paroled in March 1998, at 37. He's been free 24 years: 12 years under 50, nearly 12 years over 50. His savings under 50 is just over \$231,000 and over \$314,000 over 50 for a total of \$545,618.64.

These 2 men alone have saved taxpayers over \$1-million by staying free. By living responsibly in their community and paying taxes they are also paying into the economy.

*Note: The State of Florida spends \$18,349.80 per inmate a year (Based on a five-year cost average). That amount increases to \$26,849.80 per inmate a year if the inmate is age 50 or over. Below is a list of successful CTP men at liberty, and the amount of savings passed on to Florida taxpayers. [SOURCE: FDC Annual Report Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and FDC Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013-2014.]*

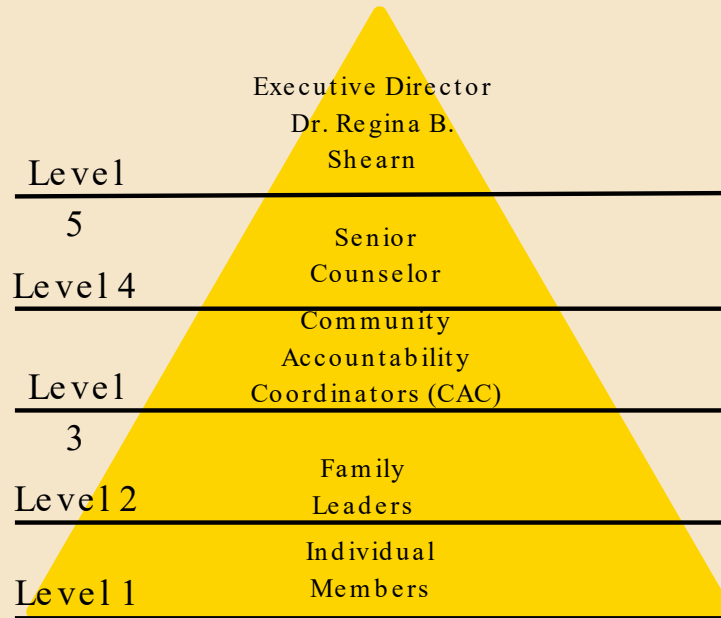
DOC Number	Last Name	First Name	Date of Death	Exit Date	Age At Release	Years Free	Years Free (<50)	Years Free (Age 50+)	Under Age 50 Savings	50+ Savings
000063	Brown	Olden		1/1/1998	55.28	24.53	0.00	24.53	\$0.00	\$658,666.05
398278	Mathis	Charles		2/1/2001	48.86	21.44	1.14	20.30	\$20,918.77	\$545,050.94
042958	Martin Jr.	Evans		4/9/2002	53.05	20.26	0.00	20.26	\$0.00	\$543,984.30
032492	Odoms	Alfred		1/1/1999	46.66	23.53	3.34			
054990	Jackson	Richard		8/20/2002	58.28	19.90	0.00			
028300	Grooms	Lenzo		11/8/2002	52.96	19.68	0.00			
002975	Workman	Reginald		1/1/2003	62.04	19.53	0.00			
040689	Anjima	Harry		1/21/2003	61.25	19.47	0.00	19.47	\$0.00	\$522,872.27
026163	Davis Jr.	Eddie		7/27/1999	46.11	22.96	3.88	19.08	\$71,197.22	\$512,294.18
010930	Gaines	Jerry		7/29/2002	55.88	18.96	0.00	18.96	\$0.00	\$508,969.22
283365	Brannon	Kenn				18.87	0.88	11.99	\$16,147.82	\$321,929.10
088157	Green	Jeffre				14	0.16	11.98	\$2,935.97	\$321,660.60
065720	Smith	Willie				17	5.70			
046038	Hansen	Norm				19.2	0.00			
635585	Rollison	Ryan		1/26/2010	49.44	12.45	0.56			
074553	Lee	Reginald		7/24/2009	48.90	12.96	1.10			
085626	Ragan	Joseph		10/12/2010	52.69	11.75	0.00	11.75	\$0.00	\$315,356.47
384800	Stewart	Patrick		3/24/1998	37.41	24.31	12.60	11.71	\$231,207.48	\$314,411.16
064267	Jenkins	Sye		10/26/2010	50.87	11.71	0.00	11.71	\$0.00	\$314,326.56
641611	Myers	Vernon		6/3/2008	47.50	14.10	2.49	11.61	\$45,691.00	\$311,726.18
059385	Kilpatrick	George		11/30/2010	56.01	11.61	0.00	11.61	\$0.00	\$311,751.92

**Eddie's total  
\$583,491.40**

**\$116,121,790.50**

**Patrick's total  
\$545,618.64**

# ACCOUNTABILITY



## Family Accountability Model

At the core of our program is a Level-5 hierarchy called the “Family Accountability Model” that nurtures our Family Members’ hearts, minds, and spirits as part of their parole preparation.

Additionally, positions of leadership, including teaching and mentorship, are assigned to each member in order to foster respect, obligation, and self-efficacy.

CTP Family Members also live together in community; that means in the same dormitory with access to resources and opportunities to perform volunteer work and contribute community service hours.

Because the CTP dorm is always clean and productive, corrections officials often showcase our living quarters to visiting dignitaries as a model for success.

# 6 KEYS TO "DEPRISONIZATION" SUCCESS



## University Students

University Students act as our re-entry counselors, and provide workshops designed to assist in our transition to a life of freedom.



## Community Speakers

Our Gavel Club, A.A. and guest speakers have the power to open our hearts and minds to important topics that shape our future with a plan for success.



## Parole Preparation

Parole classes in conjunction with simulated community living, community control requirements, community service, and monthly parole reporting mirror real world activity.



## Achievement Awards

Incentives for excellent performance help inspire positive growth. These include: Honor Roll, Director's List, banquets, etiquette dinner, and Family night.



## Support Network

Our "Reaching Back" support network is the backbone of CTP men that help pull each other forward. This includes, mentoring, parole representation, and weekly meetings.



## Accountability and Leadership

Our motto is accepting accountability for our past, while reclaiming responsibility for our future.

# THANK YOU







# RECOMMENDATION

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## Reinstitute parole in Florida

Not since October 1, 1983, has there been a general parole in Florida. A new era of parole would look differently. First, it would be supported by data and science. Secondly, it would be guided by people like Dr. Shearn. Thirdly, parole preparation programs would be facilitated by mentors with lived experience.

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# APPEARANCE RECORD

Parole

10/10/23

Meeting Date

CS

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to  
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Dr Regina B Shearn

Phone 305 - 318 - 8761

Address 20556 NE 6th Ct  
Street

Email RbShearn@aol.com

N Miami Beach FL 33179  
City State Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information **OR** Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](https://www.flsenate.gov/2020-2022-Joint-Rules.pdf)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

CTP Presentation

Bill Number or Topic

10-10-23

Meeting Date

Senate Criminal Justice

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Eddie Fordham

Phone (850) 698-1852

Address 10054 E. FOWLER AVE

Street

Email eddie4dme@gmail.com

Thundassa

City

FL

State

33592

Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information OR Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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10/10/2023

Meeting Date

# The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECORD

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Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Troy Martin

Phone

813-863-6810

Address

1070 NW 95<sup>th</sup> Ter. Apt. 12

Email

martintroy817@gmail.com

Street

Miami

FL

33150

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

For

Against

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

In Support

Against

### PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without  
compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
something of value for my appearance  
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),  
sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

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Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

10/10/2023

Meeting Date

Committee

Name

John W. Eddings

Phone

954-292-1616

Address

373 Sheffield P

Email

johneddings13@gmail.com

Street

WPB

City

F

State

33417

Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information **OR** Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against

### PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

10/10/23 Meeting Date

Senate Criminal Justice Committee

Name Jackie Dunn

Phone 404 723 4778

Address PO Box 17090 Street

Email DATA4CHANGE@OUTLOOK.COM

Fernandina Beach FL 32035 City State Zip

Speaking: [X] For [ ] Against [ ] Information OR Waive Speaking: [ ] In Support [ ] Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

[X] I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

[ ] I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

[ ] I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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10/10/23

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name melinda Coonrod

Phone (850) 487-1980

Address 4070 Esplanade Way

Email melindacoonrod@fl.senate.gov

Tallahassee, FL 32308

Speaking: [ ] For [ ] Against [ ] Information OR Waive Speaking: [ ] In Support [ ] Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

[ ] I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

[x] I am a registered lobbyist, representing: FCOR

[ ] I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

# APPEARANCE RECORD

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Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

10-10-2023

Meeting Date

CS

Committee

Name Kim White

Phone 512 466-6323

Address 4351 Meadowland  
Street

Email KWhite78652@gmail.com

Mt Dora FL 32757  
City State Zip

Speaking:  For  Against  Information **OR** Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

# CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KB 412

Case No.: -

Type:

Caption: Senate Criminal Justice Committee

Judge:

Started: 10/10/2023 2:01:57 PM

Ends: 10/10/2023 3:25:26 PM

Length: 01:23:30

2:02:14 PM Chair Martin calls meeting to order  
2:02:26 PM Roll call, quorum is present  
2:02:55 PM Chair Martin makes opening remarks  
2:03:54 PM Tab 1, Presentation regarding the Regina B. Shearn Corrections Transition Program  
2:04:55 PM Dr. Regina Shearn, Director  
2:17:04 PM Eddie Fordham, Parolee  
2:39:35 PM Chair Martin recognizes Senator Broxson to make remarks  
2:40:35 PM Senator Broxson makes remarks  
2:41:29 PM Troy Martin, Alumni  
2:51:11 PM John Eddings, Alumni  
3:01:02 PM Questions:  
3:02:04 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:02:20 PM Troy Martin  
3:02:59 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:05:47 PM Dr. Shearn  
3:07:04 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:07:21 PM Chair Martin recognizes Commissioner Melinda Coonrod, Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR)  
3:07:43 PM Commissioner Coonrod  
3:08:24 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:08:33 PM Troy Martin  
3:12:50 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:13:40 PM Chair Martin  
3:14:09 PM Eddie Fordham  
3:16:45 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:17:46 PM Eddie Fordham  
3:18:19 PM Dr. Shearn  
3:19:21 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:20:33 PM Commissioner Coonrod  
3:20:59 PM Senator Pizzo  
3:21:30 PM Commissioner Coonrod  
3:21:54 PM Chair Martin recognizes Eddie Fordham for closing remarks  
3:22:25 PM Appearance Cards:  
3:22:35 PM Jackie Dunn, Data4change  
3:23:56 PM Kim White  
3:24:40 PM Senator Powell moves to adjourn  
3:24:47 PM Meeting Adjourned