

**Charles Jackson**

**Re: Safety of Individuals at Pennsylvania's Community Correction Facilities**

Good Morning.

My testimony today is about my observation of The Adapt halfway house in Reading, PA. I was paroled to The Adapt in September of 2011.

The facility was clean and well kept. I liked the fact that it had a TV room, a kitchen, a place to do your laundry. There were perks in the house that made my living arrangement comfortable while fostering independence after coming from a controlled environment.

After becoming a resident of The Adapt, I was encouraged to gain employment, even permitted to seek employment. However, additional support and direction would have gone a long way in achieving this result.

It's extremely important to have all the support available to help with reintegration. Looking for employment can be real discouraging and challenging with a felony and a gap in work history. I wanted to give up after dealing with recruiters, supervisors and secretaries. This process is mentally challenging and can make you feel worthless. There is also the issue of transportation, could halfway houses be more resourceful with transportation?

My experience with security and safety at The Adapt was that even though there were metal detectors you had to go through when coming and going, residents still managed to bring things in and out of the facility. Security is needed to make residents feel safe, however, that only fixes part of the problem. Do we need more security measures at half way houses? Is spending more money on security just putting a band-aid on the problem?

I'm currently the Director of Reality Check Project-ss4, a non-profit organization geared towards re-entry. The mission of Reality Check Project-ss4 is to assist survivors of incarceration transition back into society.

I also currently volunteer at two halfway houses. I spend my time with the men of these houses mentoring and encouraging them, listening to what they have to say and offering my experience and advice.

In closing, I would just like to say that everyone deserves a second chance and when you are granted parole that is part of your second chance. However; support, encouragement, finding a job, and transportation are key components in the success of that second chance. It is my hope that halfway houses would continue to improve the safety and well-being of the residents.

I would also like to send my condolences to the families that lost loved ones while they were residents of a halfway house.

Thank You,

Charles Jackson