



# Reductions in Violence at the Clallam Bay Corrections Center

An Edvita **PROJECT UPDATE**

## Project: Transition Initiative Consortium

Edvita Institute, Clallam Bay Corrections Center, The Center for Learning Connections  
Research components: University of Washington, Dept. of Psychosocial and Community Health (pending)

### The Facility:

The Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC), is a Level 5 (maximum security) facility. It is part of the Washington State Department of Corrections and is considered a “lab” for evaluating the efficacy of programs for offenders and staff.

### The Challenge:

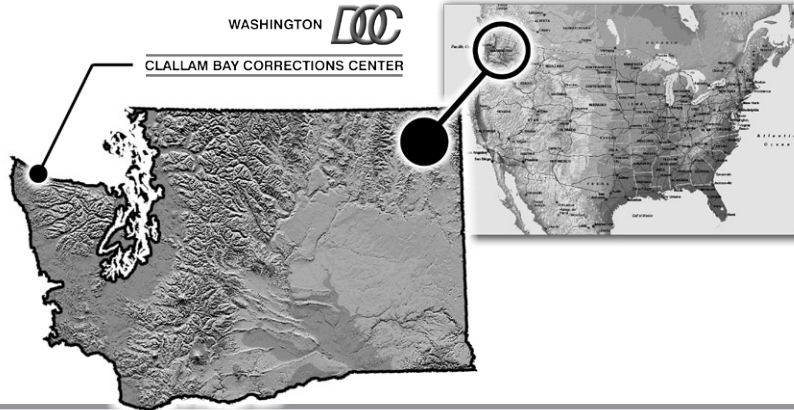
<b>900</b>	The approximate number of offenders at CBCC. CBCC houses the most violent offenders in Washington State.
<b>63.6%</b>	Of those at CBCC who have been convicted of a violent crime. Other programs have had limited success with this population.
<b>200</b>	Approximate number of forcible rapes, severe assaults, and other forms of violence each month at CBCC.

### The Objective:

CBCC initiated a program demonstrating the new “Violence Integrative Prevention and Restoration (PAR) Model from Edvita Institute. The “Violence Education Moratorium Initiative” set an unprecedented objective of creating a “Week Without Violence” in December 2005.

### The Results:

<b>100%</b>	Reduction in violent incidents for the week plus nearly two additional weeks: Zero infractions.
<b>100%</b>	Reduction in segregation placements for the week plus nearly two additional weeks: Zero placements.
<b>100%</b>	Reduction in confrontations for the week plus nearly two additional weeks: Zero confrontations.



## Abstract

### Clallam Bay Corrections Center

The Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC) – part of the Washington State Department of Corrections — has an incarcerated population of approximately 900. CBCC houses the most violent offenders in Washington State – 63.6% have been convicted of a violent crime. CBCC experiences an average of approximately 200 forcible rapes, severe assaults, and other violent acts each month.

### Unprecedented Reduction in Violence

CBCC applied the new “Violence Integrative Prevention and Restoration (PAR) Model” for responding to and dealing with violence during a “Violence Education Moratorium Initiative (VEMI)” program in December 2005. CBCC set a goal of eliminating violence at the institution for one week.

Representatives from the CBCC staff had been given minimal training in the PAR Model prior to the VEMI program. Edvita anticipated a violence reduction of between 2.5% and 5% for the week. The actual results differed significantly, with 100% reduc-

tion in violence (zero infractions, zero segregation placements, zero confrontations), despite training only 300 offenders. Additionally, the results exceeded the one week goal, spanning nearly three weeks.

### Conclusion

The demonstration at the CBCC suggests that the new PAR Model – a radical departure from traditional, punitive approaches – helps produce stunning reductions in violence in the most severe environments. The model appears to be a significant breakthrough in human relations with application throughout the world. It may make a substantial impact upon the challenge of violence in settings ranging from interpersonal to international.

Additionally, a reduction of 10% of offender incarcerations using the PAR Model would result in a savings of \$18.50 for every \$1 spent. In Washington State, which translates into a net savings of more than \$74 million per year. There would be an immeasurable positive impact on the quality of life in those populations experiencing these reductions in violence.

## The “Week Without Violence”<sup>1</sup>

In November 2005, staff at CBCC undertook a “Violence Education Moratorium Initiative (VEMI)” which would incorporate what staff knew of the new “Violence Integrative Prevention and Restoration (PAR) Model.” The goal was to create a “week without violence” in early December, 2005 at CBCC – the institution housing the most violent offenders in the State of Washington. CBCC averages approximately 200 violent incidents per month ranging from forcible rape to severe assaults and murder.

Edvita management had reservations about the efficacy of the PAR Model because CBCC staff had not received in-depth training. Edvita felt a 2.5% to

5% reduction – a significant impact – was possible with proper PAR Model instructor training.

CBCC undertook the VEMI because:

- 63.6% of offenders housed at CBCC have been convicted of a violent crime;
- There was an increase in fights and assaults;
- There was an increase in staff injuries due to use of force procedures;
- There was an increase in assaults on staff; and
- There was an increase in threat group activities.

In preparation for the week without violence, 20 instructors provided training to 674 staff (including duplicates) and 300 offenders (out of approximately 900). The program included an “Amnesty Day” which allowed offenders to return unauthorized items and materials in their possession without reprisal – a central theme in the PAR Model.

## Results

Applying the PAR Model, conducting supporting workshops, and implementing the Amnesty Day program, CBCC was able to report the following results for the week-long violence moratorium and most of the week prior (4 days) and the entire week following (**totaling nearly three weeks** – exceeding the original goal by 257%):

- ✓ Zero infractions (100% reduction).
- ✓ Zero segregation placements (100% reduction).
- ✓ Zero confrontations (100% reduction).
- ✓ Offenders were cooperative with the Amnesty program procedures and relinquished various types and amounts of contraband. Offenders turned in excess state clothing, books, materials, miscellaneous nuisance contraband and a tattoo gun.
- ✓ Reductions were noted in gambling activities in the dayrooms.
- ✓ An overall dramatic decrease in contraband found through normal search routines.

- ✓ Zero overtime costs expended for program implementation and delivery.
- ✓ CBCC managed multiple work and education programs, activities and regular security routines (normal operations) throughout the event week.

Note that these results applied to all offenders even though only about 1/3 participated in the program and covered an application period over 2½ times the goal. The results far exceeded expectations.

## Sustainability

The VEMI program included the core cognitive elements of the PAR Model. It did not include sustainability components such as existential self-management skills, interactive and risk/resilience mapping, and organizational practices. The planned comprehensive pilot project will include these sustainability components.

## Conclusions

These outcomes suggest that the PAR Model, coupled with the nonpunitive expression of the model (such as an Amnesty Day program), and a committed and professional staff can produce stunning reductions in violence.

The implications for application of the model in a variety of other settings – schools, international relations, military, law enforcement, family, etc. – are very encouraging, based upon the preliminary results at the CBCC.

## Reducing the Cost of Violence

In Washington State, research suggests that the annual cost of incarceration per offender is \$63,812.<sup>2</sup> There are an estimated 19,945 persons incarcerated in 2009 and the recidivism rate is 61.5%. Assuming the application of the PAR Model can result in a 10% reduction of the 61.5% of the incarcerated population in Washington State (rather than the 100% reduction achieved during the VEMI demonstration at the CBCC), the annual savings for the state would be \$78,272,916 per year. Assuming an annual state-wide program cost of \$4.23 million the annual return (cost savings/cost avoidance) is

\$18.50 for each \$1 spent on the PAR program, or a 1,850% annual return on investment.

In the next 15 years, the prison population in Washington State is expected to expand by 20.6%.<sup>3</sup> Application of the PAR Model at the Department of Corrections (see the following page) could reduce and even reverse that trend.

Lastly, the impact on corrections staff turnover, loss of and injury to life, family and social disruption, overall public safety, the loss in terms of productive investment, and the general quality of life is immeasurable.

# The Transition Initiative Consortium

## Overview

The **Transition Initiative Consortium** is a joint project of the Clallam Bay Corrections Center (Washington State Department of Corrections), Edvita Institute, and the Center for Learning Connections.

The Consortium is engaged in a multi-phased initiative aimed at developing and aligning an organizational model at the Clallam Bay Corrections Center (CBCC) which prepares its staff and offenders, stakeholders, and community members with the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to foster successful offender transition from the correctional setting into the community.

## Goals

The goals are to:

- Significantly reduce violence.
- Provide sustainable skills to the stakeholders so that offenders become positive contributors.
- Provide the researched and validated results to others (legislatures, correctional institutions, law enforcement agencies, educational

institutions, international organizations, the academic/research community, and the public) as part of the global effort to reduce crime and violence.

## Applying the PAR Model

The Transition Initiative applies the principles and practices of the new “Violence Integrative Prevention and Restoration (PAR) Model” to end offender dependency on destructive power (violence, antisocial behavior, etc.) while building offender competency to identify, integrate, and apply healthy (constructive) power in their lives.

This innovative initiative includes a research component which will allow the Consortium to determine program efficacy and identify opportunities for improvement.

## Next Steps

The Consortium is preparing for the comprehensive pilot project (commencing in 2009). It is seeking sufficient funding for this phase of the initiative. For more information on this groundbreaking program, please contact Edvita Institute.



The PAR Model was developed by American theorist and writer Ari Cowan, recipient of the 1998 National Public Health Award. For information on the PAR Model, please contact Edvita Institute or visit the Edvita web site (see below).

**IMPORTANT:** While a number of groups provided information for this report, the interpretation, conclusions, and presentation of this material are by Edvita Institute which is solely responsible for the content of this document.

### Notes:

1. Data provided by Washington State Department of Corrections, Clallam Bay Corrections Center (2006).
2. From data appearing in *The Criminal Justice System in Washington State: Incarceration Rates, Taxpayer Costs, Crime Rates, and Prison Economics*. Washington State Institute for Public Policy: January 2003.
3. *Options to Stabilize Prison Populations in Washington: Interim Report*. Washington State Institute for Public Policy: January 2006

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