

## What is IRACS and where does it fit?

Recidivism rates are greatly reduced by having a reentry plan which is integrated with follow-up programming, accountability, services, and relationships on the outside. An effective reentry plan consists of skill development planning, instruction, personal growth coursework & mentoring, and mental healthcare—personalized and in group settings. We like to use the term, “creating warm handoffs” when we describe what LITE is working to do inside KCJ. Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACS) does just that.

The best part of IRACS is it begins at intake for those who want to utilize it. That it’s peer led, accessible to any inmate, and occurs within the general population means it impacts more people, more often. “More people more often” is where differing views of those in the jail population meet; because we reduce the number of people reoffending with this approach. Whether your primary goal is saving taxpayer dollars or helping people in our community, warm handoffs deliver your desired outcomes by reducing the jail population.

### Reentry Priorities Established by IRACS

**Early Intake Support** means starting right away to determine the individual’s needs, strengths, weaknesses. It means learning how they got here, what their case involves, and how long our peer leaders are likely to have to work with this individual inside.

**Integrated Pretrial and Community Collaboration** is where the IRACS peer workers get to work with the prosecutor’s office and the court while LITE’s people—peers and volunteers—work with the inmate on skill and personal growth and development.

**Ongoing 1-on-1 and Group Support** inside the jail consists of mental healthcare, classes, and developing a relationship with the individual. It means beginning to formulate the individual’s Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and building relationships.

**Comprehensive Jail-Based Treatment Support** is a peer led approach to connecting with, and demonstrating to, the inmate that success is attainable. It’s the next step in collaborating to develop their WRAP.

**Reentry, Recovery, and Crisis Planning** is the final piece of developing the person’s WRAP. It’s where the rubber meets the road, so to speak. What will you do when \_\_\_\_\_?

**Transitional Peer Support** is the warm handoff to LITE’s programs on the outside and it’s a vital piece. It’s for the justice involved individual to know how to access services, whom to contact, and what to do. It’s finding community in our Recovery Café, it’s already having identification and medical insurance in place, it’s knowing who is in your corner.

**Ongoing Peer Support** means maintaining that lifeline with your mentor. It also means belonging and growing as Recovery Café member and utilizing its resources to learn how to be a peer leader from people who have been where you have been.

### What’s next?

The LITE RCO begins working with emerging leaders to train and certify them to become Community Health Workers (CHW), Certified Recovery Specialists (CRS), and Peer Recovery Coaches (PRC I & II) so they can bring along the next group of people.

