

Rethinking the Reentry Paradigm
Melinda D. Schlager, Ph.D.

Understanding Reentry

Sentencing
Politics
War on Drugs
Economics
Inequality
Prison admissions
Prison releases
Prison programming
Collateral consequences
Parole



Dimensions of Offender Reentry

Housing
Education/Employment
Families/Children
Parents
Physical Health
Mental Health



Reentry in Context

Risk Factors/Prediction
Recidivism
Resilience
Desistance
Risk Management/
Reduction
Stigma
Public Opinion
Gender
Community



Strengths-Based Reentry

Collaboration
Accountability
Responsibility
Capabilities

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Deficit-Based Reentry

Hierarchical Relationships

Assigns blame, promotes guilt and shame

Elicits a defensive response

Minimizes capabilities

Emphasizes problems

Focuses on individual-level problems

Helper/helped relationship

Problem-centric

Defeatist

Strengths-Based Reentry

Collaborative relationships

Encourages accountability

Promotes responsibility through positive action

Motivates positive behavior

Maximizes capabilities, minimizes problems

Focuses on problems at the individual and community level

Capacity-building

Asset-creating

Goal-oriented

Empowerment model

Adapted from McMillen, et al., 2004.

A Strengths-Based Focus to Identity Transformation

Community

Reintegration

Strengths-Based Focus

Collaboration

Empowerment

Cooperation

Assessment

Officer
Department

Case
Management

Stages of Change

Desistance Protective
Factors

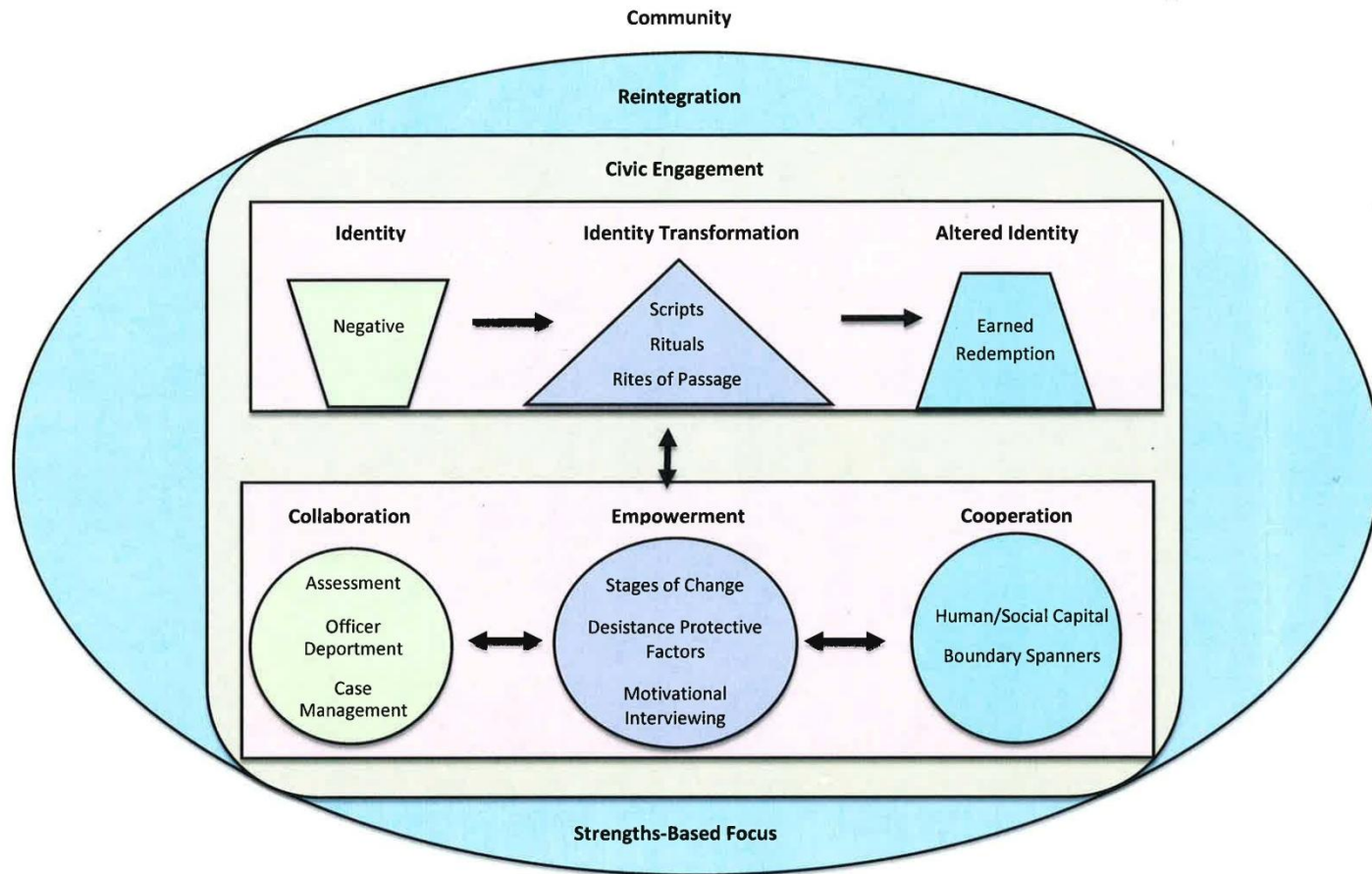
Motivational
Interviewing

Human/
Social Capital

Boundary Spanners



A Community-centric Model of Offender Reentry



Identity Management through Civic Engagement

Community

Reintegration

Civic Engagement

