

**THE GEM Leadership Development Institute's
REENTRY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RIMS)**

operated by PowerNet of Florida

CONCEPTUAL OVERVIEW

(updated 02/05/23)

Background and Introduction

In response to the chronic disillusionments, socioeconomic limitations, and widespread discrimination experienced by “returning citizens” (individuals being released from incarceration) over the last several decades in the US, PowerNet conceptualized and began developing a user-friendly, community-focused, web-based platform upon which to operate a state-of-the-art client intake, case management, program administration, data collection and reporting system that would encourage and support the cooperation, coordination and collaboration between the criminal justice/penal system, the social/human service providers and the justice-involved individuals and their families. The current mechanism for managing the information exchange between these interdependent stakeholder groups is outdated, inefficient, disjointed, and not user-friendly. There are significant limitations to how important client and community resource information is collected, managed, and shared between these stakeholder groups which puts the clients and their families at greater risk of social isolation, economic instability, and civil disengagement.

PowerNet initially modeled its RIMS after the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development requires homeless service providers to use. After consulting with reentry practitioners, social service providers, and criminal justice officials, PowerNet began developing the Reentry Information Management System (RIMS) based on the conventions, best practices, and evidence-based programming needs of persons with, or at risk of, criminal records and the agencies that serve them. The highest priorities in designing the system were that it would be 1) secure, 2) user-friendly, 3) HIPAA compliant, and 4) updated with the most recent evidenced-based reentry programming tools. These priorities are would be a requirement for its intended use by a very diverse group of stakeholders that need to cooperate, coordinate, and/or collaborate together while providing rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration services as effectively and efficiently as possible. Also, it would need to centralize the standard programming and intake forms and validated assessment tools for easy access – and - make case plans available to pre-authorized users. Lastly, it has to be scalable for use in every state, county, city, inner-city or remote rural community that can be identified by zip code, census tract, or political district.

The Purpose of RIMS

The purpose of the Reentry Information Management System (RIMS) is to 1) collect pertinent demographic, personal development, and programmatic information about each client (institutional or community-based) using electronic versions of all intake, assessment, and program tracking forms, 2) present each client to a targeted group of service providers that are best suited to meet each client’s specific and prioritized needs, 3) manage the exchange of information between various service sectors, 3) coordinate the sequence and timing of social and human services, and 4) provide access to resources required by social services (mental health and substance abuse treatment), criminal justice agencies (law enforcement, prosecutors, defenders, judiciary, corrections, parole, probation), nonprofit, civic and faith-based community resources (food, clothing, pantries, transportation, volunteers, etc.), private enterprises (jobs), landlords (housing), and family members.

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PowerNet will demonstrate the effectiveness (psychosocial rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration), efficiency (cost savings), and public safety benefit (decreased recidivism) of utilizing RIMS to encourage and support an optimal level of communication between stakeholders in the public and private sectors.

Furthermore, RIMS will allow communities to automate the rehabilitation, reentry, and reintegration process by consolidating the forms, tools, inventories, and validated assessments required to develop individualized transition and case/reentry plans for citizens returning to any zip code in any county after their release from any prison in the state. The goal of RIMS is to gather, categorize, manage, match and share resource information from and between multiple criminal justice, non-profit, and private-sector agencies to:

1. Improve the level of service to clients;
2. Maximize the efficient use of agency resources;
3. Provide valid and standardized RNR assessment and case planning tools;
4. Gather up-to-date information related to client needs, service gaps, outcome measures, and service utilization; and
5. Easily develop reports documenting the criminogenic needs and services rendered to individuals and families by zip codes, counties, census tracts, states, and/or other geographic regions.

How RIMS is being designed to work

All reentry clients are assessed using evidence-based, validated risk and needs assessment, e.g., ORAS, WRNA, LS/CMI, COMPAS, etc., to determine their needs and risk level to recidivate. This information can be entered into RIMS which facilitates the development of a transition and case plan. Each client is then assigned a case manager from a partnering community-based organization within the system to make it easier to construct individualized client goals based on the assessment and transition plan. The case managers then work with the client towards the completion of the goals and track progress towards program completion. The data in RIMS is then used for program monitoring, client progress, funding source reporting, program evaluations and research.

Type of data collected:

The RIMS system collects all client demographic information including address, family members, educational status, employment status, and anything else we want to collect about our clients. Again, this information can be reported by zip code, census tract, county, or state. RIMS also contains client programming information including what phase of the program they are in, the risk and needs assessment results, their case plan, etc.. The system also collects data on community services, resources, and opportunities to which clients could be referred. This inherently creates a mapping (by organization) of vital community services. The report can be accessed regarding resources used and progress towards client goals including references to relevant case notes. Each client signs a release that allows for the use of their information for evaluative purposes. Client information is stored on a secure server, accessible only via the RIMS system.

The advantage of having the system operating on the Salesforce platform, the data is secure through state-of-the-art encryption ensures that information entered via the Internet is secure and accessible only via registered users. All users must have a highly secure user ID and password. Each registered user of the system will be monitored for the minimum quantity and optimal quality of client information entered.

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For the first time, evidence-based programming and best practices can be centralized in a user-friendly, easily accessible, web-based platform to demonstrate how any and every agency - large and small, public and private, secular or faith-based - in the jurisdiction can contribute to, and influence the outcomes of the men, women, and youth returning to any inner-city, suburban or rural community prior to, during and after they leave any state or federal prison or county jail in the USA.