

**HB1463: Correctional Services-Inmates-Intake & Release Requirements (Re-entry Success Act of 2020)**

HB1463 ensures all inmates, housed at a state correctional facility for longer than one year, have access to re-entry mediation, prior to release. Research shows that re-entry mediation rebuilds relationships and reduces recidivism by 10% for the first session and 7% for each additional session. Community Mediation Maryland asks for a favorable report for HB1463 - we look forward to additional opportunities to advocate for this powerful tool.

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My first interaction with community mediation services period, was in January 2017, while I was in the pre-release/ work release facility, BPRU in Baltimore City.

Upon entering, new transfers were shown a presentation about mediation. I signed up for the service and invited my mother and younger sister, to develop better communications and improve our relationships that were strained from me being in the streets and incarcerated.

Before beginning my work as an installer for an electrical contractor, we had about 6-7 session.

Our 2 mediators created the space and allowed what is impossible to happen on a phone call or even during visitations. These in depth conversations and the private setting allowed all of us to be heard and understood were so vital to improving those relationships, as well as other relationships encountered through my re-entry to avoid recidivism.

I held the job in prison for nearly a year before being released, then nearly another year after release before founding my own organization, with a mission to integrate mentor relationships and emerging adults with programs created for entrepreneurship-based training and support services for both the youth and returning citizens. I have also partnered up to create companies that also train, hire and teach the industries to those populations.

With this program, I was able to be prepared and have a solid plan with my family and support system for how I was going to beat recidivism.