



Delta state prison: Offering Chance for Redemption

CLEVELAND – Thirty-five women at Delta Correctional Facility recently completed a simulation designed to mirror the genuine stressors faced post-release, such as paying bills, arranging transportation, cashing checks, and deciding whether to commit or resist crime.

Deputy Commissioner Kelley Christopher urged each participant in the Reentry Academy to recognize the greater purpose that lies within all of them. Her speech conveyed that despite the current situation, they're all destined for more, and the simulation is a significant step in preparing for life beyond incarceration.

"Beyond her explanations and instructions, the real impact came from the way she bridged the gap between incarceration and societal reintegration," said Delta's Program Director Rochelle Gunn-Hudson. "The simulation was both unique and impactful, as it gave participants a new identity, compelling them to face real-life challenges—the kind they would encounter upon re-entry into society."

Other critical situations in the simulation included finding stable income, ensuring childcare, and undergoing drug urinalysis. Some participants were responsible for caring for children, as simulated with baby dolls.

The implications were profound: Failure to pay dues, pass drug tests, or adhere to parole conditions would result in a simulated return to incarceration.

Participants' ability to successfully navigate the different scenarios marked an essential milestone in their rehabilitation journey.

"This comprehensive approach addresses a critical need—offering those re-entering society not only a chance for redemption but also the tools to thrive in a law-abiding, productive lifestyle," Gunn-Hudson said.

