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A Place for Inmates

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Inmates are often released from jail with no place to go. The Allen County Sheriff's department has an idea on how to help them make the transition from life behind bars to life on the street. But not everyone is happy with the idea.

Under the leadership of Sheriff Ken Fries, the department is leading the charge to put a re-entry facility next to the county jail to give those offenders a place to go for a few months before the world lets them back in.

It would only happen if the Indiana Department of Corrections comes up with the money, more than one-million dollars of it. Then, it would be a game of "musical chairs" for county offices, the existing community corrections building has reached it's limit. Building this re-entry facility would become the new home for the corrections department. But, future neighbors don't like the idea.

The idea of a re-entry facility connected to the jail is not a new one. Take a look at this drawing of the jail plans back in the early 1980s. The plan was to build the jail with a community corrections facility attached to it. Because of a lack of funding, that didn't happen.

The Sheriff's department will find out as early as this week if the state will foot the bill.