

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
Workforce Policy and Service Delivery Branch
Technical Assistance Bulletin 164

Program: Project Reintegration of Offenders

Subject: Project Reintegration of Offenders TWIST Interface Update

Date: October 9, 2007

This Technical Assistance (TA) Bulletin provides Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) with information on the planned update to the Project Reintegration of Offenders (Project RIO) criminal justice partner interface in The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST).

Effective October 8, 2007, TWIST will receive and process new or expanded data files from the following Project RIO criminal justice partners:

- Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
- Texas Youth Commission (TYC)
- Windham School District (WSD)

This enhancement will increase the percentage of records received and processed for TDCJ releaseses from approximately 50 percent of the population to almost 100 percent. Additionally, the newly established connectivity with TYC provides records on adjudicated youth who are:

- age 16 and older;
- released from TYC facilities; or
- under parole supervision.

TWIST will receive a one-time historical data load from TDCJ and WSD for a five-year period, which will include all individuals released from a secure facility from January 1, 2002, forward.

TWIST also will receive a one-time historical data load from TYC that will include all individuals age 16 and older who are still under TYC supervision at the time of the historical data load. TWIST *will not* receive a one-time historical data load on those youth who were:

- released in the past; and
- not under TYC supervision at the time of the one-time historical data load.

Project RIO and Common Measures

Currently, TWIST uses the existing TDCJ/WSD data set to identify potential Project RIO customers for Common Measures reporting.

Effective October 8, 2007, TWIST will use the expanded TDCJ/WSD data set as well as the new TYC data set to maximize the number of potential Project RIO customers identified.

A Project RIO–eligible individual is counted as a Project RIO participant (and included in the appropriate Project RIO Common Measures) when the participant receives a qualifying staff-assisted core, intensive, or training service, and:

- for TDCJ ex-offenders, the *service date* is between any TDCJ offense sentence date through one year past the offense discharge date¹; or
- for TYC adjudicated youth, the *service date* falls between the youth’s 16th and 22nd birthday.

TWIST Web Reports

TYC Release and Referral Report: This report is available in TWIST and was created from data received from TYC for Boards to use in identifying adjudicated youth who can potentially be outreached (i.e., recently referred and recently released adjudicated youth). The *TYC Release and Referral Report* identifies youth residing in a specific service delivery area who have been:

- released from secure facilities within specified dates; or
- referred for Project RIO services within specified dates by TYC Parole operations.

TWIST Application

TDCJ Query: The new TYC data file is currently available through TWIST’s *TDCJ Query*. This function has been available since July 21, 2007.

Note: A PowerPoint presentation originally distributed to TWIST system administrators during a Texas Workforce Commission training session can be obtained from the TWIST Help Desk.

The new data set from TDCJ and WSD is not viewable at this time. The TWIST application will continue to display TDCJ and WSD data from the existing interface structure—not the expanded interface structure—until programming changes to the *TDCJ Information* tab are completed:

- TWIST’s *TDCJ Information* tab will continue to display the existing TDCJ and WSD data sets that are received while the new *TDCJ Query* functionality is developed.
- The *WSD* and *TDCJ* information tab screens will not display the same TDCJ data that is used for reporting:
 - There may be additional customers who appear in the Project RIO Customers Served Common Measures who do not appear in the TDCJ data set or as a result of the more comprehensive offense history in the new data set.
 - The Common Measures Customers Served report extracts will identify the Project RIO participants included in the calculation.

Planned TWIST Update

The following enhancements have been planned to occur simultaneously with the new TDCJ data set:

- the existing TWIST *TDCJ Query* functionality will be replaced;
- the *WSD* and *TDCJ* information tab screens will be replaced with a single *TDCJ* inquiry screen to display all new TDCJ data;

¹ The offense discharge date is the date an offender completes his or her sentence and is released from incarceration, parole, mandatory supervision, or community supervision.

- the TWIST *Customer Calendar* (i.e., Scheduler) tab will be modified to allow Boards to outreach expanded populations of TDCJ and TYC releasees; and
- upon further analysis, the appropriate TWIST data fields will be auto-populated from the new TDCJ data set.

Please distribute this information to appropriate staff. Direct inquiries regarding this TA Bulletin to the assigned contract manager for your local workforce development area.