

Athens County Reentry Task Force Meeting

July 23, 2018



Meeting Attendees: Shawn Stover (Athens Reentry), Jean Demosky (JFS Director), Tami Collins (JFS), Becky Filar (Athens Prosecutor's office), Jessie Schmitzer (Hocking Athens Perry Community Action), Joe McGowan (OMJ Athens), Nancy Stotts (OMJ Athens Co), Charles Cohara (SE Ohio Legal Services), Caitlyn McDaniel (SE Ohio Legal Services), Amanda Ailiff (Hopewell Health), Carlene Triplett (Foothills District United Methodist Women), Cate Matisi (Women for Recovery), Betsy Gee (Health Recovery Services), Monica Silverthorn (Athens VA-HUDVASH), Melissa King (ACEnet), Diane Pfaff (AHV 317 Board), Laura O'Neil (Athens Co. Public Library), Donna Donovan (Appalachian Pagan Ministry), April Gibson (Office of Lt. Governor Mary Taylor), Sarah Cornwell (ACEnet), Jared Butcher (Community member), Randy Lambert (Mayors Partnership VISTA), Joan Nease (United Appeal 211 Athens), Angela Carter (Personnel Plus/ACBDD), Joannah Tindongan (Faith in Public Life).

Shawn Stover- Reentry Chairperson- Introduction of guest speakers and stated that we are all here to talk about ideas, share services, community events and programming about Reentry, recovery, and community

Jean Demosky- Director of Athens JFS

Tami Collins -Social Services Director Athens JFS

Guest speakers from Athens County Job and Family Services talking about shared services and changes.

- Explained new intake that will start on Aug. 2nd for benefits. **(Card attached)**
- Renewal Applications /Redetermination new program will start in October.
- System will allow customers to upload verification document using smart phones and scanners.
- Kiosk will be up in front of Athens County of Job and Family Services.
- CUSTOMERS CAN NOT USE NEW SYSTEM IF – Nursing Home, Wavier Program or if it is a Confidential Case.
- Can check benefits 24-7 and there is an off-hour's phone line also
- This new number will be advertised on website and Facebook page
- Questions email Tami - tamicollins@jfs.ohio.gov

Monica Silverthorn.- Social Worker for HUD VASH program (Stand down flyer attached)

- Stand Down Oct. 5 from 10am to 2 pm at Athens Fair Grounds
- Please make sure you sign up using Survey Monkey to ensure the committee will be able to Thank everyone who participates.
- If you are interested in volunteering, hosting a table, providing donations for the event – complete the brief survey.
- 2 days before the event in the evenings from 5:00-7:00 will be setting up for the event. It is for Veterans but also open to the community. Veterans should bring an ID since there will be things for them specifically.
- Health Fair on steroids. Haircuts, music, food,
- Tables and chairs will be provided. This is the 3rd year doing the event that was originally started from members of the Reentry Task Force.

Cate Matisi- Women for Recovery and Serenity Grove

- Driveway is upgraded and sewage line completed under garage.
- Explained Serenity Grove is a Level 2 Recovery House.
- Level II recovery house, sober living for women who have no place to go and supports sobriety. 3-month commitment. First 30 days focus on recovery. Journaling, reading, getting to meetings and sponsor. After 30 days can pursue employment.
- 2 women graduated, 1 women in house now and 1 coming in tomorrow- more referrals for next week.
- Working with Chrysalis Farms and gardening/landscaping.

Joe McGowan- Supervisor for the OhioMeansJobs-Athens County

- MOU with library and staff from OMJ will be training library on how to use the OMJ website.
- Link in resource room at the OMJ center to get a library card.
- ABLE has now changed name to ASPIRE.
- ASPIRE OMJ-Athens County received a grant to work with O.U.
- GED numbers dropped 85% across the board.
- Looking for referrals and OMJ-Athens Co. will pay for GED test if they go through the OMJ- Athens County Aspire Program.

Betsy Gee- Health Recovery Services Program

- Offering and providing information about HRS services of counseling and medication assisted treatment services.
- She works mainly with intervention and assessments of individuals.

Carlene Triplett.- United Methodist Women

- Looking to assist more with Reentry type services
- Wanting to learn more about ways to help in the community and share information with other church members.

Jared Butcher- Community Member active with community improvement (*Prayer Watch flyer attached*)

- Sharing information about an organized prayer watch that was generated by a current prison inmate. (Friday-Saturday 24 hrs.)
- Continues to do community work and seek out ways to help out with Reentry and in the prisons.

Joan Nease- United Appeal 211 Athens County

- Please send her any information so that she may update in the 211 system at resource@unitedappeal.org
- 211 is a no cost informational service that customers can find out what can assist them in the community.
- Reentry TeleLog is updated and on the 211 system- Let Shawn know if you would like something added as it is always a work in progress.

Becky Filar- Athens Co Prosecutors Office

- Parenting Support Group the 1st & 3rd Wednesday every month (flyer attached) They would love feedback on how to get more people involved.
- Around 50-60 active participates in the Vivitrol Program.
- September, they plan on doing a Vivitrol Graduation with date to be announced later.
- There will also be a Recovery Walk September 29th (attached flyer)
- They have an Intern Megan-Major in Psychology

Diane Pfaff– 317 Board Community Services Manager

- Gathering Place opening 5 beds around Sept.-Oct. to help people struggling with mental illness. The 317 board provides financial support to help with expansion.
- Reminding that if you have customers that have no funding program could possibly do sliding fees.
- Sojourners received a grant assisting homeless youth ages 18-24. They are looking for office space in Athens County to assist with intakes and referrals for this area for their services. Somewhere that has some storage for giveaway items for youth and youth drop in type center.
- Adam-Amanda Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, a 16-bed rehabilitation facility which allows patients leaving Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) up to 50 days to stabilize before re- entering the community is close to completion with an open house most likely in the fall. Located on dairy Lane and use to be called Respite.
- Recovery House opening in Vinton County soon.
- Explained about the Rapid Response Program providing immediate services to help people with withdrawal and expedite treatment options. This is part of a partnership with the Vivitrol program.

Angela Carter- Personnel Plus/ACBDD

- Assist customers with disabilities. Talk about barriers for customers with felonies and also working on GED/literacy skills. They help people get jobs and job placement.
- When a person receives services through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and completes an application they can choose Personnel Plus as their vendor/provider.
- Personal Plus is located at the mall called The Market on State and they take walk ins and people can also come in and get literature about their services.

Joannah Tindongan- Faith in Public Life (Amendment information flyer attached)

- Have been talking to faith leaders in the region and talking with those who are involved in Reentry/Recovery communities.
- If passed this will provide grants for Mental Health and Addiction /Recovery Programs that agencies can apply for.
- Shift focus from low level non-violent drug crimes (from possession) shift to treatment, rehabilitation, redemption and second chances
- Working with folks in the region, big cities get heard and making sure that rural people get a chance to be at the table
- Interfaith breakfast meeting to discuss amendment in Athens, next week (Thursday 8/2) Good Shepard Church 64 University Terrace

Randy Lambert- AmeriCorps Vista worker with the Mayors Partnership Program

- Working with Jack Frech(Godfather of Athens Reentry Task Force) and learning a lot about helping those in poverty
- Represent 15 Counties and over 90 Mayors and village officials.
- Working on learning about and replicating programs that work throughout the region to improve the lives of people in our communities.

Sarah Cornwell- ACEnet

- Small Business Class Series at the Athens County Public Libraries – class sizes are 6 people on average with a high of 10 with 15 different individuals taking 1 or more classes.
- Melissa King AmeriCorps Vista intern just started working with Sarah.
- Upcoming classes will take place in Glouster (August), Coolville (September), Albany (October).
- Sarah, Melissa and Shawn will work on Reentry referral form for participants to become more involved in the small business process.

Donna Donovan - Appalachian Pagan Ministry

- Visiting inmates in 12 facilities in Ohio and also active in West VA and other states. Very strong beliefs about helping others to make better choices.
- Feels that the opioid epidemic is going to get worse before it gets better, there is hope and we are doing well here together.
- Provide support – religious services in prison. Monthly lessons and Pagan in recovery program. 12 step fan, don't have to be a certain religion for the steps to work.
- Reports that there is much to be learned by the mistakes made in other areas of the country including W VA.

Jessie Schmitzer- Athens County Mobility Director/HAPCAP (See attached information flyer)

- Hocking College had ribbon cutting and will now be a ticketing agent for Go-Bus and the Greyhound Bus lines. Easier bus access for students and Nelsonville residents.
- Discussed the future expansion with transit bus from Athens to Nelsonville and Albany. Also, Rt 56 to Beacon School and Serenity Grove
- Requesting fundraising for transportation expansions. ODOT gives half funds and they need to have matching funds.
- Aug. 10 is next Mobility meeting for transportation discussions from 10:30-Noon.

Laura O'N ei l – Athens County Public Library

- Partnership with Federal Hocking High School to deliver meals, fresh healthy produce and books for the summer. Dr. Wood purchased an old school bus and she has been riding along with them.
- Library Services and Technology Grant to install lockers in Amesville where people can have items delivered and WIFI to help out this isolated community.
- State job training system for libraries LYND.COM more information to follow soon

Amanda Ailiff- Hopewell Health Center/Jail Liaison

- Providing case management to help with ID's, Birth Certificates and Resources
- Rapid Recovery Program introduced into the regional jail
- Amanda working with the Public Defender's office about service improvements for jail population
- Shawn discussed the issue that some of the people who have been in jail and sent to another facility are not given their ID's/personal items and they are being destroyed which creates a future financial burden to reobtain these items. Amanda will look into a better process.

Charles Cohara– Southeastern Ohio Legal Service

- Providing a Record Sealing Clinic on 7/24/18 at the community center at 1:30 walk ins are welcome and has been highly advertised.
- Will be looking for Attorney's to assist with future clinics perhaps a different time of the year will produce better results.
- **Caitlyn McDaniel** Vista Worker for SEOLS - research project across all counties served and Columbus on court costs, how court systems charge people and how that can be a stumbling block for people. If individuals have these issues and getting debt collection calls or paying to a court or have a criminal case that they can come to civil legal aid and get assistance. If you know anyone that has cases like this, SEO legal services is available.

Nancy Stotts- OMJ-Employment Services Counselor

- Open interviews at OMJ Athens (70 N Plains Rd. The Plains) August 1st from 9:30 to 12 with Vadakin from Marietta –Industrial cleaning mostly factories depending on the felony, they will consider hire.
- Discussed employment services to help people with a felony complete a resume, mock interviewing skills, and online applications.
- Talked about the Stand Down event

April Gibson- Lt. Governor Mary Taylors Office and Reentry Coalition of Muskingum County

- State Employees positions are changing in January 2019 and she will continue to be active with Muskingum County Reentry Coalition
- April has extensive knowledge with over 25 years of experience working as a probation officer, instructor and community volunteer
- She is hopeful for positive changes in the legal system and a strong advocate for Reentry/Recovery Services. April likes what the Athens Community is doing and how we all work together.
- She wants people to contact her with ideas or issues regarding needed services or how to create better services for our rural communities.

Shawn Stover – OMJ Athens Reentry Coordinator

- Expressed that more people are coming into the Reentry Program from treatment centers rather than prisons. This is encouraging that people are being given options of treatment over incarceration.
- Excited about the increased programming within our community and helping people in recovery. Appreciates all that people are doing to help those in need- Keep up the great work.

Next Reentry Task Force meeting will be September 24th 2018 starting at 9:30am and generally runs to about 11am. We will also be sending out the August Reentry Newsletter in the next few weeks.