



Reentry Community News

Ohio University Summer Law and Trial Institute 2019



Jada Sparks, Larry Hayman, and Kristin Tate

Larry Hayman organizer and instructor of The Summer Law and Trial Institute at Ohio University invited Shawn Stover from The Athens Reentry Program/Task Force to speak about barriers that our returning citizen's from prison and court mandated treatment facilities overcome upon release.

The Summer Law and Trial program is designed to teach high school students about all aspects of the legal system and various legal programs through classroom, courtroom and programming. Reentry services are a huge part of helping our communities to be safer and stronger. The students were very interested in the opioid crisis and the impact that this crisis has had regarding incarceration and Reentry services. They asked some very good questions and were pleased to learn that there are treatment options over incarceration that have proven to be very effective. Many thanks to Larry Hayman and Ohio University for these valuable programs to help educate our youth.

Athens "HOPE Talks" Event

Athens HOPE (Helping Over-come substance use disorder through Prevention and Education) was able to host a spectacular event on July 12th 2019. "Thanks" is not enough to show our gratitude to the many



speakers who volunteered to talk about and educate people on the stigma surrounding people who struggle with substance misuse and ongoing recovery. The event also could not be possible without the many months of planning by the HOPE Community Building and Educational subcommittee. There were informational tables and professionals at the event available to talk about resources. The venue for the event was a wonderful outdoor setting at the Nelsonville Library Stage with the Nelsonville Elks gracious enough to offer a backup site in case of rain. A big shout out to both for supporting their community.

Reggie Robinson (pictured) from Health Recovery Services was the emcee of the event creating a welcoming and open format by sharing his personal story and adding his insights to compliment the various speaker's messages. Let us all think about ways to support and encourage our friends, family and community members to embrace the many excellent services that our community has to offer to help stay on the road to recovery. Check out Athens HOPE online at www.athenshope.com there is also a link on that page to their Facebook page.



Members of the Foothills United Methodist Women pictured left to right Barbara Dingle, Carlene Triplett, Carrie Ator-James, Vicki Butcher, Sharon Burt, Cindy Boger and not pictured Vickie Buck. The group called "HOPE Letter Project" corresponds with women at the Ohio Reformatory for Women who are returning to Athens County. They have been impressed by the extreme gratitude that the women receiving letter express. Some of the return letters from prison state that they are encouraged by the community support and looking forward to a successful reentry. They also often hear that the letters give people in prison hope and shows them how many caring people are in our community. One of the members stated that there is an obvious thirst and hunger for people to receive the gift of a letter while in prison. A creative return letter stated that HOPE stands for Hang On Pain Ends. This sums the project up very well. Our Reentry community is very fortunate to have the HOPE Letter writing group sharing their kind words and strength with women who are incarcerated and looking for support. Thanks for all that you do!!

REENTRY RANTS & RAVES

I often hear from people who are just being released from prison after many years of incarceration that the anxiety and feeling that people are judging them are the hardest things to overcome. Their internal voices creep up on them when they are in public or at a job interview. They have feelings that a scary beast is lurking behind them that they have no control over. A big part of Reentry and Recovery services are centered around helping a person to overcome their anxiety and looking towards the future and not the past. Most of us have various shadows from our past where we made bad decisions with some worse than others. Those times are just a glimpse of who we were at a moment in time but not the window to our future. It is so very important for us as providers and mentors to help people through this difficult process of becoming reestablished within our communities and give them a fresh start.

Shawn Stover –Reentry Program



NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

The next task force meeting will be on **September 23, 2019 at 9:30AM** at the Athens County Job and Family Services County Home Office (13183 St Rt. 13 Millfield, Ohio 45761) in the conference room. See you there!

This newsletter was initially established January 2017 by Erin Phillips previous AmeriCorps Vista through Appalachian Center For Economic Networks (ACENet) and is currently edited and maintained by Athens Reentry Taskforce Chairperson Shawn Stover released on August 1, 2019.