

Reentry Task Force Meeting

January 23, 2017

Present: Shawn Stover, Erin Phillips, Dave Brennan, Kate Prater, Sarah Saltsman, Trent Eskey, Avant Griffith, Jamie Northup, David VanCleave, Jared Butcher, Sheila Shafer, Jenny Shadik, Amanda Ailiff, Nancy Stotts, Karen Peck, Anne Richardson, Crystal Howard, Mike Blevins, Joe Pelegreen, Drew Case, Larry Fisher, Marianna Carson, Ellen Martin, Candice Simpson.

Shawn Stover – Welcome and brief overview of the Reentry Meeting goal to share information about the supportive services to those who are reentering society after incarceration.

Marianne Carson – Adult Parole Authority, has potential money available for housing to help people getting out of prison to get reestablished and develop contracts with landlords. Drew Case explained more about the program.

Sarah Saltsman – Athens County Prosecutors Office, has been working a lot with Hopewell and HRS referring and assisting clients in the Vivitrol Program with a program called Fresh Start.

Trent Eskey – Athens County Prosecutors Office works with Sarah on identifying clients for the Vivitrol Program and helping to address barriers.

Jamie Northup – Public Defenders Office, is currently working with JAG (*Justice Assistant Grant*). She hopes that they will have funding through July 2018 and will pursue other options as needed.

Dave Van Cleave – Department of Youth Services, covering 7 counties in Ohio. Continuing to work with youth regarding incarceration issues that affect their lives.

Jared Butcher – Community Member with interests in helping to create job opportunities for people with a felony.

Shelia Shafer – Athens County Children Services, Christmas Tree Project was a success, over 1,000 children were served. Currently working with the STAR Program – a peer support program. ACCS has been approached by the Casey Foundation regarding the START Program to help guide and support children with solid programming. ACCS Executive Director Cathy Hill, was invited by the Ohio Supreme Court to speak regarding the use of opioids.

Jenny Shadik – Ohio University, currently working on a study regarding the fathers' challenges and impact on the family with regard to incarceration and reentry.

Amanda Ailiff – Hopewell Health, have seen an increase in reentry clients of late; learning more about client hurdles of shelter, vouchers, and reinstatement of social security after incarceration.

Larry Green – Community Member, 170 homeless veterans have been identified in Licking County; working closely with veterans to fill 200 available CDL positions. Working on training and mentoring of clients. Training opportunities are available while incarcerated.

Reentry Task Force Meeting- page 2

Larry Fisher – ACENET, Erin Phillips is his VISTA worker; is working on business coaching opportunities for appalachian counties. Can assist clients with training into entry food level sectors. They encourage reentry clients to participate.

Ellen Martin – Health Recovery Services, looking into federal level changes. Continuing to offer supportive services working with many different referring agencies.

Candice Simpson – CareSource, working on a 2yr. grant for transitional services to clients and service providers. In February they will begin accessing housing resources for clients. They have been expanding services to Reentry participants while still incarcerated and this is having a very positive impact on the community.

Karen Peck – TASC, offers drug and alcohol counseling services for incarcerated clients and those in the reentry level; recovery programming with multiple options. They are a close partner to Hopewell.

Nancy Stotts – The Work Station, employment counselor, offering assistance with employment training and services. The 2017 date for the Athens Area Stand Down event will be: Friday, October 6th, 10am – 2pm at the Athens County Fairgrounds.

Ann Richardson – DRC, Hocking Correctional – population age range has changed over the last 10 months to reflect younger offender population. Most prevalent challenges for reentry is homelessness, transportation issues. Reminder that HC accepts donations of plastic bags for their mat program that supports homelessness in our area. HC is open to community service projects, i.e., food drives, etc.; contact Ann for assistance.

Crystal Howard – ACJFS Community Outreach Coordinator, offers informational support to the clients served at ACJFS. Accepts donations of plastic bags for the mat program; yarn and crochet needles for the Linus project; and clothing for the clothing drives at Hocking Correctional.

Mike Blevins – BVR Counselor, BVR currently is need of a Transition Counselor that will cover 9-13 counties. Seeing more youth counseling with clients 14 and above; working with partnerships with Dept of Education and OOD (Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities). Looking for client referrals. Can assist with counseling, training, coaching, employment services, etc. Serves clients with physical, emotional and mental disabilities typically are seen with 2 weeks of initial contact. Can offer Community Based Assessment, this is a 40 yr. assessment.

Reentry Task Force meeting- page 3

Drew Case – APA Regional Reentry Coordinator, currently working on pinpointing most dire needs of clients; identifying substance abuse clients and connecting them to services. Identifying and connecting Medicaid services clients. Housing is the largest challenge for sex offenders. They can establish housing through exit programs. Currently looking for temporary housing options for sex offenders; landlords are paid, with little to no responsibility for the client. The state will place an over-seer to work with clients. This program is guaranteed money for the landlord.

Joe Pelegreen – APA – Parole Board, works at Belmont County Adult Parole Authority. Screens clients for transitional control and placement.

Dave Brennan – Brennan's Plants, the \$600 leniency for employers doesn't exist anymore. There needs to be a short-term job classification for employer reporting to lessen the costs associated with paperwork and training of employees. These financial hits impact the participation of small business owners.

Erin Phillips – AmeriCorps/VISTA Worker at ACENet has been collecting Reentry data and proposing possible programming to ACENET. She distributed Reentry Task Force Highlights information sheet. Assisting in identifying client business start-ups. Erin will be gathering information for a monthly Reentry newsletter to help keep Task Force members informed of reentry related news/events. Email ideas to ath.reentry@gmail.com

Shawn Stover – The Work Station, Reentry Coordinator, working to motivate and assist participants with gaining employment and becoming self-sufficient as well as expanding the employer base. 2017 supportive services (transportation, clothing, and housing) are decreasing with some funds still available for clients whom have gotten out of prison within the previous 12 months. 2016 Reentry Highlights sent in previous email give a summary of last year's expenses 1. Transportation, 2. Clothing, 3. Housing/Utilities.

Special thanks to the Period Project for donating feminine hygiene products, Pre law Fraternity at Ohio University for items donated twice a year, Nelsonville Wesleyan Church for donating school supplies, clothing and Christmas presents as well as Big Brothers/ Big Sisters for donating backpacks, shoes and school supplies for Reentry client's children. There are also many other private party donations –too many to mention. The Reentry Program/Work Station has assisted with 62 verified jobs within our community in 2016 for people with a felony.

General Comments –

- Finding tools to help people start business is challenging.
- Small business development could become a key component for Reentry participants in the future. Members are interested in the progress.
- CareSource is in need of Treatment Providers.

New Reentry Task Force Meeting time/date: – 9:30am start time; meeting every other month, beginning March 27th @ 9:30am.

Meeting was adjourned.

