

## **Reentry Task Force Meeting**

January 22nd, 2018

**Present:** Shawn Stover, Scott Zielinski, Sarah Cornwell, Diane Pfaff, Jenny Shadik, Jeff Wear, Drew Case, Sarah Macy, Amy Standall, Cate Matisi, Laura O'Neil, Monica Silverthorn, David Brennan, Karen Peck, Joe McGowan, Scott Weaver, Sandy Sickles, Sheila Shafer, Marianna Carson, Trent Eskey, Kristi Kennedy, Becky Filar, Jared Butcher, Nancy Stotts, Susan Douglas, Tony Skaggs, Alicia Lawson, Crystal Howard, Jennifer Turnes, Kindra Baker, Ben Taylor, Jay Edwards, April Gibson, Madison Yee.

---

Shawn Stover opens the meeting, wishes everyone a happy new year. He announces that there will be a discussion of the Hocking Correctional closing at the end of the meeting.

**Dave Brennan:** *Brennan's Plants owner / Landscape & Guest Horticulture Teacher with ODRC-* Dave has been continuing his work within the prisons in conjunction with Sinclair College. He expressed concerns about the growing drug-usage within the community. Dave hopes to engage with other individuals of influence within the community to create a dialogue about working with the returning citizens.

**Karen Peck:** *TASC-* Karen explained some of her work for drug and alcohol counseling within the prisons, including visiting inmates in max block three times a week. She is continuing to help currently incarcerated citizens engage with the reentry resources when they are within prison and on the road for release.

**Joe McGowan:** *Supervisor for the Ohio Means Jobs Center – Athens County (Workstation).* Joe reiterated the re-branding of the OMJ Center/Workstation and ABLE adult literacy program has been retitled as Aspire. Please continue to reach out to individuals interested in receiving their GED with courses taught and the exam facilitated at the OMJ Center. The Open House for the OMJ Athens County this week on Wednesday from 4pm – 6pm. Additionally, the annual Area 14 Job Fair will be on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The event will be hosted at the Athens County Community Center on East State Street with over 50+ employers and vendors from Athens, Perry, and Meigs County in attendance. Please stay tuned for more information!

**Crystal Howard:** *Community Relations Coordinator for the Athens County Job & Family Services-* Crystal announced she will be taking photos of the Task Force meeting for the newsletter and to present at the Open House. She hopes to display the resources of the Job & Family Services network and the support network. Job and Family Services will also be updating their websites in the near future which includes the Reentry Task Force site.

**Scott Weaver:** *Interim Director at SEPTA-* Scott announced that SEPTA is currently full. They hope to continue to operate their Vivitrol program and expand it to individuals outside of

Athens County. Scott also hopes to continue to develop programming within the facility. In regards to the Interim Director status, SEPTA is currently pursuing an MOU with the S.T.A.R Program that would allow both agencies to remain separate entities while sharing a common Executive Director.

**Sandy Sickles:** *Clinic Director for Hopewell Health Centers-* Sandy presented handouts to the Task Force discussing Rapid Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment Services program. Currently, Hopewell has case managers that can provide MAT services within 24-36 hours of contact, including for those outside of Athens County. As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Hopewell Health Centers has merged with Woodland Centers serving the Galipolis, Jackson, and Meigs counties.

**Marianna Carson:** *Supervisor of the Athens County Adult Parole Authority (APA)-* Marianna thanked Shawn in his assistance with an at-risk homeless client, providing clothing items and a welcome-home hygiene pack. She also thanked Celebrate Recovery for providing a community of support for the individual and other formerly incarcerated individuals over the New Year's holiday. The client has since found stable housing.

**Trent Eskey:** *Vivitrol Diversion Program – Athens County Prosecutor's Office.* Trent announced that the Diversion Program graduated another 19 individuals in the most recent graduation ceremony. He encouraged Task Force members to continue to refer clients and other community members to the program, reminding everyone that participants do not have to have a former felon background.

**Becky Filar:** *Athens County Prosecutor's Office.* Becky brought fliers about the three-part Addiction & Treatment Community Forum that will be held at the local county libraries beginning with Glouster. The meetings will be open to the public and held in a conversational narrative. Becky asks to contact her if any individuals or organizations which to provide resources to browse or be at-site for the community members attending.

**Kristi Kennedy:** *Intern with the prosecutor's office* at meeting to observe and learn about programming.

**Sheila Shafer:** *Athens County Children Services.* Sheila explained the new Start(?) Program in conjunction with Integrated Services providing intensive substance abuse education for families alongside two Family Support Peer Mentors. The program will be two years long and hopes to serve up to 16 families. Athens County will become one of 14 counties in Southeastern Ohio who have this kind of project in place. Additionally, Sheila announced that Athens County Children Services currently has custody of over 107 children and is hoping that this program will allow for a decrease in these numbers.

**Ben Taylor:** *Ohio Means Jobs Center – Perry County.* Ben worked to help facilitate the emerging reentry program within Perry County's OMJ. He is interested in observing the interactions of the Reentry Task Force and how to learn towards creating a grant to assist the program. Ben

also remarked that reentry is about “a whole lot more than reentry- it is intertwined with poverty which impacts the entire country.”

**Kendra Baker:** *Ohio Means Jobs Center – Perry County.* Kendra provided social services at the Perry County OMJ and essentially serves as the reentry coordinator in addition to her other involvement within the organization. She was interested in collecting ideas from the Task Force Members about what is most beneficial to the reentry population. Her current work focuses on providing workshops and personalized success and employment plans for her clients.

**Jennifer Turnes:** *Program Manager – Oriana House, Marietta.* Jennifer announced that they are attending more community events to learn about other organizations and talk about their programming. They receive referrals from the courts, prisons, adult parole authority and other community agencies. There is a current contract with DRC for 40 beds with a slightly larger capacity in the home. There are 6 beds reserved for females and the rest are male beds. Oriana house feels that it is important to give back to their communities so their residents complete community service hours with over 1800 hours completed by residents. There are many programs and community partnerships to benefit the residents on their road to recovery.

**Alicia Lawson:** *Program Coordinator for Oriana House-* attended the meeting with Jennifer to learn more about services and organizations in the Southeast Ohio region. She is considered a cognitive and behavioral specialist as well as intake specialist providing direct client treatment.

**Monica Silverthorn:** *HUD/VASH Housing for Veterans-*Provides multiple services to Veterans including linking with community healthcare. She helps link veterans with vouchers for housing who are financially eligible and homeless. Monica does a lot of Veterans Justice Outreach with her involvement with the legal system and Veterans Court. She works with multiple counties- 18 counties total to focus on intensive case management. She also assists with supportive services for families & veterans through an non-VA program- SSVF provides preventative services.

**Tony Skaggs:** *Revived Outreach Hocking County-* He discussed this new program out of Logan and provided contact information. Tony is a self-employed contractor and wants to work on renovating old houses for people who are homeless or in need of better housing. He was contacted by Integrated Services about individual homeless in Logan and found out that there was a great need for housing. Tony started working with Integrated Services and now has 10 units that house formerly-homeless individuals, with an additional 9 future units hopeful to build. He also started to partner with a company in Lancaster to develop job services and utilize individuals to refurbish houses. They continue to look for funding, 111,000 to provide 9 new units and potential help with grant writing. He wants to expand into other areas to address the issue of homelessness and drug addiction.

**Laura O’Neil-** *Athens County Public Libraries-*They are leading up to busy season, getting summer programs in place. Delivery program is going well. 18 people currently within the homebound program. They are also working with Federal Hocking on a pilot program to help

students. An audio-visual class made an educational advertisement for the agency that will play at the Athena Grand before every movie.

**Susan Douglas:** *Athens JFS supervisor.* She announced that a presentation is coming up at The Work Station on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm for In-home aides who can become child care providers. There is an opportunity for them to be paid minimum wage to watch children in-house. This could also include an apartment complex if an individual wants to care for a child. This will be a great opportunity for people and open up a lot of jobs in the community. If you know of anyone who wishes to learn more about these positions they can attend the meeting. JFS will also distribute flyers and brochures about the program. People who becomes certified do not have any income eligibility and do not have to be low-income. This must be in-the-home, cannot be a third-party location. If a person has a felony or misdemeanor on their record they can still apply but will be looked at on a case by case basis.

**Nancy Stotts:** *OMJ Employment Counselor Athens County-* Nancy Thanks Jerod Butcher for the invitation to speak at the morning Kiwanis club meeting. She has since received a nice donation of men's shoes from Kiwanis for job interviews and employment as well as knit hats for people working out in the weather. She announced the Job Fair will be April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Jared Butcher:** *Kiwanis Club of Athens and concerned community member-* Jared is interested in the community discussion and learning about other agencies in the area. He is active with Cairos in the prisons and wants to find out ways to give back to the community.

**Drew Case:** *ODRC Reentry Coordinator for Prison Reentry & Adult Parole-* He talked about being a link between the community programming, prisons, and Athens Adult Parole Authority. Drew works closely with Jay Forshey at Noble Correctional in order to reach out and help people returning to their communities. He shared current incarcerated Athens County Commitments as 357 in all prisons across the state with 45 of those females. There is concern that the female population in the largest growing population of prison inmates. Drew stated that 68 people will be returning to Athens County within the next calendar year. The largest population in SE Region (covers 14 counties) are coming from smaller correctional institutions. Drew tries to introduce Athens services to other people that he works with so that they can get some ideas about our region and the obstacles that we address. He brought Jeff Wear from Belmont Correctional today.

**Jeff Wear:** *Belmont Correctional Transitional Control* -Invited by Drew Case to observe and learn about Reentry in the Athens area. Jeff shared information about his programming and stated that inmates can get out up to 6 months early if they are going into transitional care. They have been partnering with Oriana House with good success.

**Jennifer Shadik:** *Social Work professor at Ohio University-* She focuses on family and specifically fatherhood issues for people who have been incarcerated or have a felony. She continues to support the Reentry Task force and learn about new things happening in the community.

**Diane Pfaff:** 317 Board (Athens, Hocking and Vinton County)- Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services. There has been a recent approval of 600,000 for capital investment into local programs for 13 different agencies within their service region. This includes funding to purchase a second home for the John Clem House a level 1 recovery house (men who are transitioning from Clem House who have some stability within recovery can live together and share expenses). Funding provided for Women for Recovery (vehicle) and Child Services for recovery home for families in Vinton coming in the summer. The board is partnering with several transitional homes and agencies to pursue new detox services. Diane also announced that Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> is the annual Point in Time count for homelessness and provided forms to task force members to provide to clients for collecting information. Electronic copy also available.

Below is also information that Diane Shared regarding the 317 Board:

- The Board works with Hopewell Health Centers and ODRC to coordinate care for persons in Ohio's prisons who have a serious mental illness who are returning to the Board area. Hopewell Health Centers provides behavioral health services upon return.
- The Board also provides funding to Hopewell Health Center to provide a Jail Liaison person who visits SEORJ daily to coordinate services after release. Counseling services are also provided in SEORJ.
- The Board partners with the Athens County Prosecutor's Office's Vivitrol program through an OhioMHAS grant that goes to Health Recovery Services for treatment and recovery services.
- The Board provides funding to SEORJ for SUD education classes in the jail.
- The Board partners with Athens Metropolitan Housing Authority on federal homeless grants which can provide housing assistance for homeless persons and does not deny them because of past criminal record.
- The Board provides funding for two recovery housing programs in Athens county—the John W. Clem House and Women for Recovery.

**Sarah Cornwell:** ACEnet- Working to build strong, sustainable regional economy for individuals hoping to start small business. ACEnet has a warehousing space and is working to create a meat processing center and a produce-washing area. A part of what we are doing with reentry is receiving SBA Prime Grant funding to help individuals being released from prison who have valuable skills. The Grant is building upon Erin Phillips AmeriCorps/Reentry work within the last year. Workforce develop and provide small-business development. Provide food-sector training services to provide Serv Safe Training for food handler & manager services. Desired and required within many local kitchens or business establishments. Additionally, providing entrepreneurial services in conjunction with ACEnet program and OMJ services. This will not just be food focused and could include any kind of other small-businesses. Working on pilot program within the Athens County JFS. Trying to match the needs of the employers. Promoting referrals for groups who would be helpful to get involved if our programming would match up.

**Madison Yee:** AMERICORPS/VISTA worker with ACEnet and Reentry- Took notes for the meeting and presented information to support and expand on Sarah Cornwell's presentation. Madison is

also in the process of helping to organize the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Women in Business Conference with more details to follow.

**Sarah Macy:** *Health Recovery Services* – Sarah works as a prevention and intervention coordinator going into the jail several times a week to meet with people and educate them about her programming. She is available to answer any kind of questions regarding programming at Health Recovery Services and what may benefit each individual's needs.

**Amy Standall:** *Case/House Manager Serenity Grove*- Recently hired and attending the Task Force meeting to learn as much as she can about area resources and services. Amy is excited about this new opportunity for our area to help women to succeed and work towards their goals and continued recovery.

**Cate Matisi:** *Women for Recovery*- She was happy to announce that Serenity Grove- The Women's transitional housing for recovery is moving along well and has four applications to review for next week. They can provide future applications to partners if they have potential clients who may need transitional recovery housing. They will continue to make improvements to the property throughout the process.

**April Gibson:** *Southeast Ohio Regional Representative for Lt Governor Office Mary Taylor*- She brings 25 years of experience to her current position from working as a chief bailiff and probation officer. She taught in colleges and works with Gary Moore DRC Director. April is active with Noble Correctional and Muskingum County Reentry Task Force. She is interested in taking information back from the Athens Reentry Task Force to create ideas for other areas. April also networks with many other programs to create better services for people in need.

**Shawn Stover:** *Athens County Reentry Coordinator and Task Force Chairperson*- He discussed that the Task Force is a group of people that come together not only to share programming about Reentry but also programs to help those with substance abuse issues or those who are in poverty. The Task force is a good place to gather information about the community and share new ideas and projects that affect our citizens. Shawn emphasized the use of Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the importance of building a firm foundation for our participants starting with the basic safety needs in order to help them gain employment and become self-sufficient. The Reentry program continues to average about 8-10 new intakes a month with an average working caseload of about 40-50 participants revolving in and out of the program as their situations change.

**Scott Zielinski:** *Director of Athens County Job and Family Services*- Reminded members that the Ohio BMV has closed the regional reinstatement offices and passed out papers involved regarding this subject. He also shared a handout for Medicaid work requirement. We do not want to throw people off from Medicaid requirement because of their unique circumstances of not being able to fulfill more traditional requirements. Scott introduced Jay Edwards to the members and gave him the opportunity to discuss the closing of the prison in Nelsonville.

**Jay Edwards:** *State Representative*- Thanked April Gibson for all of her work, hoping to connect more individuals with April. It is important to keep Medicaid Expansion alive, primarily because of drug-related treatment. Several members of the Reentry Task Force thanked Jay for his stances. "right and wrong not right and left." We have to make community engagements rather than function as an individual or leaving the burden of it upon individuals such as Jay himself. Hocking closing: no current contact with Director Mohr but hopes to speak with him at the organized discussion at the Hocking Lodge. Nelsonville will suffer a great economic shortfall that will crush the city with the loss of the Hocking Correctional Facility. Jay hopes that there can be a positive resolution with DRC at the meeting this week for the future use of the facility. Many organizations have been interested in collecting information and community input regarding the future use of the building. Jay asked for Task Force member input at the meeting. Below is some of the dialogue:

-Diane Pfaff: Questions about facility. State is choosing to close it because of oldness and efficacy. Hopes that we are not footing the bill to bring facility up-to-date or if it can be improved on a limited budget.

>In middle of capitol bill. If we would have had time to work on this we could have put in a capitol request. The building is in pretty good shape but amongst the capitol bill, community projects submitted last Friday. We are also trying to possibly work on legislation within house. We are looking at multiple uses potentially- state money for deferred maintenance.

-TASC: Security issues v. maintenance.

>\$65/day. Minimum security prison. Security within all ODRC prisons should not be concerned, transportation and medical care was intensive.

-Tony: Can we divide for it can use it for overflow of homeless individuals?

>Potentially yes, it is a blank slate.

-Scott: Agreed with multi-partners instead of just one entity.

-Shawn: A "step down" from prison or struggling individuals similar to the Transition Center in Fairfield County.

-Scott: Getting this on tax-based for private or is it going to be non-profit route?

>Would like to look into an option to "rent" the space from DRC rather than purchase. That way we can keep a close-eye on the different organizations if something does and does not work, able to filter out organizations for what is going to work within the community. They can "Prove themselves".

>\*\*\*Closed meeting with Senator Stivers who organized it, uncertain about its status as such.

>NOT in Athens Co, in Hocking Co. But it is in the Nelsonville area so Jay is still fighting for it.

Scott: Brought up step-down program close at home. Homeless, non-traditional (couch serving, do not have resources). Brought up factors we are dealing with.

Next meeting; Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 9:30am