

Reentry Task Force Meeting

March 27th, 2017

Present: David Brennen, Joe McGowan, Larry Fisher, Trent Eskey, Jenny Shadik, Jamie Northup, Scott Zielinski, James Gray, Amanda Ailiff, Scott Weaver, Cate Matisi, Drew Case, Jessie Schmitzer, Allene Kilgore, Jared Butcher, Joan Nease, Anne Richardson, Nancy Stotts, Jay Forshey, Melissa Vance, Mike Blevins, Marianna Carson, Sheila Shafer, Erin Phillips, Shawn Stover

Shawn Stover- Reentry Task Force Chairperson, welcomes and thanks those who could attend.

David Brennen- Owner of Brennen's Plants shares how helpful his partnership with Marianne Carson at the Adult Parole Authority (APA) has been in protecting him as the employer when working with ex-offenders. He is looking to continue his partnership with the APA and has recommended creating a program that can facilitate partnership with the APA and other employers such as a job coach.

Joe McGowan-Supervisor of The Work Station, would like to remind everyone of the upcoming Job Fair happening on April 19th from 10:00am-2:00pm at the Community Center. It is a collaborative event between Athens, Meigs, and Perry County and is expected to serve 200-400 job seekers. He is also looking for referrals for the GED program available through The Work Station. The program helps those looking to obtain their GED study and will even pay the \$120 cost of the GED test if an individual passes the pre-test.

Trent Eskey- Prosecutor's Office, is working with several clients that JFS is working with and would like to highlight that collaboration. The Prosecutor's office is also continuing to accept referrals for the Vivitrol program. The program to help those struggling with heroin addiction is not just for reentry individuals but anyone with a problem seeking help. A program called Fresh Start is also in development to provide cognitive behavioral therapy to those in need.

Jenny Shadik- Professor at Ohio University, is conducting research to learn more about fathers' experiences with their children. Fathers who have experienced one or more challenges (incarceration, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, child abuse and neglect) are the group of focus.

Scott Zielinski- Director of Athens County Job and Family Services, is looking to create partnerships with organizations funded through the Second Chance Act. If any organization is funded through this act please contact him. There is funding available for occupational skill certification for those who might be interested. He also discussed the upcoming House Resolution 1394, which ACJFS and the Athens Reentry Task Force has written a letter of opposition. The resolution will eliminate non-emergency medical transportation to those in need.

Jamie Northup- Social Worker at the Public Defender's Office, is networking through and showing her support of the Athens Reentry Task Force

James Gray- Regional Jail, is networking through and showing his support of the Athens Reentry Task Force

Amanda Ailiff- Case Manager at Hopewell Health, has had a great deal of success working with Jim Gray at the regional jail. Now working with sex-offenders, she is looking for thoughts and advice on programing and housing options.

Scott Weaver- Program Director at SEPTA, says the resident who walked off the work site was apprehended Sunday. SEPTA operations are moving along as usual.

Cate Matisi- Area Psychiatrist, is looking to open a Women's Recover House in Athens County that will give women with alcohol or drug use transitional housing. As of now, the property is going to be in Nelsonville. She stresses that the project is still in need of funding and volunteer support.

Drew Case- APA Reentry Coordinator for Southeast Ohio, is the connecting force between the community, prisons, and the APA. There is a new transitional house, the Oriana House, opening soon in Marietta that will be a much needed alternative to incarceration for those that are eligible

Larry Fisher- Executive Director of the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet), is looking for recently graduated students interested in taking an AmeriCorps VISTA position aimed to create reentry programs. He also has interest in starting a campaign to educate law makers about ban the box as well as possibly writing a letter of support for upcoming bills that include it. He is also interested in how to bring a Certificate of Qualified Employment (CQE) program to Athens County.

Jessie Schmitzer- Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Mobility Manager, oversees all transportation programs for HAPCAP. She is looking to identify and cover any transportation gaps that might be present in the region. There are also programs to provide transit training for individuals who need to use public transportation but aren't sure how.

Allene Kilgore- Free Meals in Athens/Monday Lunch, interested in getting more information on the Reentry Task Force because reentry individuals frequent that Monday Lunch at noon provided at the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Athens.

Jared Butcher- Athens Kiwanis Club, looking for partnerships to organize a speaker that could present on ministering to reentry.

Joan Nease- United Appeal for Athens County 2-1-1, is looking for events to promote and information for their resource guide. Contact her with any updates at resource@unitedappeal.org

Anne Richardson- Southeast Correctional Complex Hocking Unit, looking for plastic bags that can be crochets into mats and tote bags for the homeless. The Linus project that provides blankets to the elderly and toys for Children's Hospital is in need of yarn and craft donations. They are also collecting donations of gently used clothing items and shoes as well as packages of new socks to give to those upon release.

Nancy Stotts- Employment Counselor at The Work Station, is planning for the Stand Down on October 6th at the Fair Grounds that will provide support and services to the homeless and veterans in needs. Contact her if you are interested in being a service provider or would like to be involved in planning. The Work Station is looking for donations of men's shoes and dress suits as well as women's clothing sizes 18+. Donations can be dropped off at The Work Station in the Plains.

Sheila Shafer- Child Services, received funding for peer recovery program SPARK that provides recovery coaches for parents. There is also a conference hosted by IPAC that seeks to address issues surrounding the opioid crisis. Keynote Tina Willauer, director of START program will

discuss best practices principles and strategies. The conference is on April 18th from 8:30am-4:30pm with a Town Hall from 7:00pm-8:30pm after. Continuing education credits are available. Cost will be \$95 which includes a meal. Athens Co Children Services as well as The Reentry Task Force are a few of the sponsors. (See attached flyer for additional information and sponsors)

Jay Forshey- Ohio DRC Southeast Region Reentry Administrator, gives these statistics: Prison Population = 50,000, 2016 Commitments = 19,895, Drug Related Offenses = 5,609 (28%), 2017 Releases to Athens County = 65 (10 female, 55 male) – *down from 105 released in 2016*. Looking for those to support Senate Bill 66 addressing non-violent drug offenses. ODRC provides an extensive list of trainings provided to inmates, the difficulty is getting those in prison to participate in the programs available.

Melissa Vance- Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC), is doing drug and alcohol assessments. The program Thinking for a Change is now being offered and is in need of referrals. She is looking for the identification of needs in the community so programs can be developed to combat them. Transportation is now being provided to select participants through TASC but the program also provides alternative transportation for those they cannot serve. TASC is working with those in jail, post-release, as well as juveniles.

Mike Blevins- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Vocational Counselor, covers the cost of training, clothes, etc. for those eligible for his services. OOD has 9 counselors total having recently hired 1 new counselor as well as 2 new case load assistants. He is looking for referrals and can be contacted at 1-800-248-4378.

Erin Phillips- AmeriCorps Worker and Task Force Newsletter Editor, is looking for information to put in the upcoming newsletter. If anyone would like to include new programs or upcoming events in the newsletter, email ath.reentry@gmail.com. She is working with Crystal Howard at ACJFS to update the Task Force website so it can reflect the Task Force membership, collaborative programs, and upcoming events. All minutes and newsletters can be found online.

Shawn Stover- Athens Task Force Chairperson and Athens Reentry Program Coordinator highlights that the Task Force is not only about the JFS Reentry Program, but also about the community collaboration and network that the Task Force provides. Looking ahead, community collaboration, partnerships in projects, and the distribution of information are going to be Task Force goals. He reminds everyone the Task Force meetings are bi-monthly so the next meeting will be May 22nd at 9:30am.