

Reentry Task Force Meeting

May 22nd, 2017

Present: Monica Silverthorn, Crystal Howard, Stacy Lee, Larry Fisher, Scott Zielinski, Jesse Stock, Diane Pfaff, Melissa Vance, Garret Counts, Sarah Macy, Becky Filar, Trent Eskey, Cate Matisi, Jessie Schmitzer, Jenny Shadik, Terri Gillespie, Drew Case, Erin Phillips, Shawn Stover

Shawn Stover- Reentry Task Force Chairperson, welcomes and thanks those who could attend. He informs members that the Task Force is writing a letter of support for Women for Recovery, the new supportive home for women recovering from addiction.

Monica Silverthorn- HUDVASH social worker, lets members know there is section 8 housing available for veterans, just call the veteran's clinic at the VA or the Veteran's Services Office for a referral; cannot take tier 3 sex-offenders. Looking forward to the 2nd Annual Stand Down on October 6th from 10-2PM.

Crystal Howard- community outreach for Athens County Job and Family Services, is working on the Stand Down which is not just for veterans but all homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Athens County.

Stacy Lee- Ohio University Family Navigator Program, is partnering with IPAC to help children and families struggling with addiction, as well as women with at-risk pregnancies as a result of addiction, in an effort to seek positive outcomes. Stacy shared with the group her concerns about slow medical coverage upon release from prison and the need for more education and opportunities regarding birth control to further help with responsible family planning.

Terri Gillespie- Integrated Services for Behavioral Health, talks about CTP program, which is a collaboration between Corporation for Supportive Housing and Care Source, as well as Isaac Justice the Integrated Services reentry counselor. This program can provide up to 4 months housing support to those eligible.

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) in Athens and Muskingham County are the group of focus.

Cate Matisi- Local Psychiatrist representing Women for Recovery, is working on finding a place to open Women for Recovery, a women's recovery house in Athens. They have \$20,000 donated through the prosecutor's office as well as some other donations. They are still looking for a house to purchase. Looking for solutions to transportation problems the women they house will face and also volunteers to help with startup. Information on how to donate and/or volunteer will be sent out in the near future.

Trent Eskey- Athens Prosecutor's Office, the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Program is up and running in partnership with Hopewell; anyone in need of services is welcome not just reentry individuals.

Becky Filar- Community Justice Programs, is involved with the Vivitrol program, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy program, and diversion program. She is excited about the \$20,000 donation

given to Women for Recovery and is also planning the Vivitrol program's graduation ceremony on June 21st; more information to come.

Garret Counts- Health Recovery Services Prevention Specialist, teaches at juvenile facilities on how to manage a drug-free life.

Sarah Macy- Health Recovery Services Prevention Specialist, goes to jails and is working with mainly children and their families. She will now be attending meetings to represent HRS.

Drew Case- APA Reentry Coordinator for Southeast region, liaison for 16 counties would like everyone to know that Reentry Fairs have started for the summer. He explains that reentry fairs are a way for information about programs to reach those in incarceration.

Larry Fisher- Executive Director of the Appalachian Center for Economic Services, ACEnet is a business incubator interested in working with those exiting incarceration by helping them start their own business, providing business cards, and creating a network of employers. Larry also responded to the need for neighboring counties of Athens to establish reentry programs and he has some connections in Meigs and Gallia counties. ACEnet serves 32 counties in the Appalachian region.

Scott Zielinski- Director of Athens County Job and Family Services, informs that a new \$20,000 allocation has been given to the Athens Reentry Program to help reentry program participants with housing, transportation, and other needs. He also is concerned about how the \$800 billion Medicaid cut in the federal budget will effect client's ability to seek future treatment and resources.

Diane Pfaff- 317 Board, there will be a Saturday groundbreaking of the Crisis Residential Unit which will provide 8 beds to the counties of Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare as a step down for those returning from the hospital. Residents can stay up to 50 days. In May there was a Stepping Up meeting about how to prevent those with mental illness from ending up in the criminal justice system. 317 Board supports Women for Recovery, Hopewell Supported Employment program, the Vivitrol program, as well as a jail transfer pilot project with Hopewell.

Jesse Stock- Program Director for Athens County Foundation, always looking for projects in need of funding and is gathering information about community needs as he prepares for the next funding cycle. He also runs a 9 months leadership program to create connections among the community's leaders.

Melissa Vance- TASC Drug and Alcohol Counselor, TASC provides individual counseling, case management to reentry individuals while connecting them with resources in the community.

Erin Phillips- ACEnet AmeriCorps Worker, shares statistics on those exiting incarceration who are returning to Athens County. Erin has been gathering statistical data from the Reentry Program intake covering the last 2 years. This information details specifics of the Reentry participants demographics and will be valuable in establishing a need for future needs and funding for people being released from prison. The infographic is attached and also will be available on the Athens Reentry Task Force website shortly. She is always looking for upcoming events and programs to feature in the Athens Reentry Task Force newsletter so feel free to send her an email at ath.reentry@gmail.com

Shawn Stover- Athens Reentry Program Coordinator- During statistics presentation discussed the need to address the high school dropout rate and lack of obtaining a GED for Reentry program participants. How do we create incentives for them to follow through with working towards their GED and further education? Shawn was also recently at the Chillicothe Correctional Reentry Fair and noted that many people from counties surrounding Athens(Hocking, Meigs, Gallia, and Vinton) are being released and they have many questions about services in their area however those counties do not have established reentry programs. It would be beneficial for our Reentry Task Force to educate other counties about the benefits of Reentry especially since many of our Task Force Partners have a presence in the surrounding counties.

He reminds everyone the Task Force meetings are bi-monthly so the next meeting will be July 24th at 9:30am.