

Reentry Task Force Meeting

September 25th, 2017

Present: Sarah Macy, Joe McGowan, Derek J. Atherton, Sandy Sickles, Trent Eskey, Becky Filar, Katelyn Pierson, Scott Weaver, Crystal Howard, Larry Fisher, Alicia Castro, Melissa D. Vance, Nancy Stotts, Anne Richardson, Jamie Northup, Laura O'Neil, Scott Zielinski, Charles Cohara, Cate Matisi, Allene Kilgore, Jared Butcher, Diane Pfaff, April Gibson, Monica Silverthorn, Jesse Stock

Shawn Stover begins the meeting with a welcome and an introduction the Reentry Task Force.

Sarah Macy: *Prevention Services at Health Recovery Services (HRC).* Sarah has various involvement in the community in the field of preventative services, such as visiting local schools. Sarah also goes into the county jail once a week to lead programming for women in recovery.

Monica Silverthorn: *HUD-VASH Social Worker for the Athens County Veterans Administration.* Monica announced that there are vouchers available for the HUD-VASH program based upon national criteria and availability. Additionally, the second annual Athens Area Stand Down will be held on Friday, October 6th from 10am-2pm at the Athens County Fairgrounds. Please contact Monica if your organization is interested in having a table at the event (tables and chairs provided). She also reminded the Task Force that individuals who wish to attend the event do not have to be homeless as it is free and open to all members of the community. Additionally, the Athens City Transit bus will provide free transportation to and from the Fairgrounds on this day.

Jesse Stock: *Program Director for Athens County Foundation.* Jesse announced that the Athens County Foundation is approaching their Spring Funding Cycle. They hope to provide funding for individual health, well-being, and community health programs.

Joe McGowan: *Supervisor for the Athens County Ohio Means Jobs Center / "The Work Station".* Joe announced that all of the State of Ohio's employment "one stop centers", such as The Work Station, are currently being rebranded uniformly as "Ohio Means Jobs Centers" within their designated counties. Additionally, the Adult Basic Literacy programs, formally known as ABLE, have also been renamed as "Aspire". Joe reminds the Task Force to refer their clients in need of a GED to the Athens County Ohio Means Jobs Center for financial assistance and study help.

Jessie Schmitzer: *Athens County Mobility Coordinator for Hocking Athens Perry Community Action (HAPCAP).* Jessie attends the Task Force meetings to learn about any gaps in providing transportation within the county. In coordination with her program and the Athens Area Stand Down, the Athens Public Transit bus will provide free rides for the day. Jessie also encouraged the Task Force to contact her if any members had clients who were in need of learning how to use the bus. She is currently conducting a community survey to assess the needs of the area in hopes of securing future funding initiatives. She is interested in sending out the survey to any Task Force members who have clients utilizing public transportation services or who are in need of better provisions.

Derek Atherton: *Adult Parole Authority (APA) - Athens.* Derek announced to the Task Force of the legislative changes that would be affecting the reentry population. There are current changes in place within the Athens area that would shift the requirement of fourth and fifth degree convictions from prison sentencing to jail time. Derek anticipated that because of these changes, there will be a significant

increase to the APA's caseload. He went on to further express that these legislative changes are "still wide open" and all of the details of its enactment are still developing.

Sandy Sickles: *Co-Occurring Disorders Treatment Coordinator for Hopewell Health Centers.* Sandy announced the new Rapid Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment Services program. They have hired case managers for this MAT program which will serve as initial service providers for the first 24 to 36 hours before transferring for the first two week period of withdrawal. If an individual is being treated by other service providers, they may remain in their programming as well while utilizing Rapid Access.

Trent Eskey: *Vivitrol Diversion Program - Athens County Prosecutor's Office.* Trent announced that the Green Cab was providing non-emergency transportation to hospital and medical appointment for those carrying Medicaid Vouchers. Additionally, the Vivitrol Diversion program was piloting new ankle monitoring standards for their clients which will allow them to attend their service provider appointments in conjunction with cooperation & open communication with the Diversion Program. Trent is hopeful for this program and is looking forward to its ability to reduce the jail population.

Becky Filar: *Athens County Prosecutor's Office.* Becky agreed with Green Cab's effectiveness and helpfulness in the community with the non-emergency transportation. She is excited to be attending the Stand Down with other members of the Prosecutor's Office and has also begun a collaboration between SEPTA and Hopewell Health Centers to launch a Vivitrol program within the facility for individuals still serving time.

Larry Fisher: *Executive Director at Appalachian Center for Economic Development (ACEnet).* Larry left the meeting early due to a family emergency. Before departing, Larry announced that ACEnet had received an SBA Microloan grant for a small business administration program for the reentry population. He hopes to have the program begin in October and will contact the Task Force with more information in the near future. Additionally, Larry provided flyers about an upcoming event hosted by the United Methodist Church of Somerset, Ohio that is addressing the church's role in assisting the reentry population.

Jared Butcher: *Kairos Prison Ministry & Kiwanis Club.* Jared shared information about his involvement with the Kairos Prison Ministry in which fellows Kairos members spend a weekend in a prison with inmates for a religious healing experience. After the immersion weekend, graduates are invited to attend weekly prayer sessions. Jared announced that Kairos is hoping to expand their initiatives to include a program upon release that would allow for the restored alumni to continue their network of support and prayer-and-share meetings. The program is still in development.

Aileen Kilgore: *Athens Methodist Church.* Aileen announced that Monday lunches at the Athens Methodist Church are still available for community members, including the restored citizens. She is also becoming involved with the Kairos Prison Ministry Program and is looking forward to further involvement with the organization.

Cate Matisi: *Women for Recovery - Serenity Grove.* Cate announced that Serenity Grove will be having an open house next Saturday (09/30) at their new house on 6263 State Route 56, Athens, OH. Due to the limited parking availability, she asks that those interested adhere to the designated visitation times (listed below). Cate also announced the Barn Bash on Thursday, October 12th at the Dairy Barn benefitting Serenity Grove. The organization hopes to open November 1st to focus primarily on formerly incarcerated women in prison and jail.

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Community at Large | 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM |
| Service Organizations (medical/counseling/transportation/etc.) | 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM |
| Elected Officials | 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM |
| Recovery Community | 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM |
| Programming/Volunteers | 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM |

Laura O'Neil: *Outreach Coordinator with Athens County Public Libraries.* Laura announced that in conjunction with the Athens County Opiate Task Force, Sam Quinones (author of *Dreamland*) will be in Athens from October 11th to 13th for a variety of presentations and discussions. The Community Round Table will be on October 11th from 6pm to 9pm with a light meal served at 8pm. The Athens County Public Libraries are also working on re-developing their home delivery program which has not been offered since 2009. She will provide resources for the delivery program upon further research.

Diane Pfaff: *Athens County 317 Board.* Diane announced the ballot for the levy renewal on Issue 3 which will not cause an increase of taxes and continue to provide funding for local programs dealing with mental health and addiction. The deadline to register to vote is October 10th with Ohio's early voting beginning October 11th. Diane encourages interested members to vote for the tax levy by November 7th.

Scott Weaver: *Interim Director at SEPTA.* Scott mentioned his enthusiasm for the Vivitrol program collaboration with Hopewell and announced that they are continuing their search for a new Director.

Crystal Howard: *Athens County Job & Family Services - Community Outreach & Media.* Crystal has been working with Shawn on updating the Reentry website and wants to expand the Task Force web page by linking agency websites to the already existing partner's list. She also encourages people to attend the Stand Down because of its wonderful impact on the community.

April Gibson: *Southeast Ohio Regional Representative - Lieutenant Governor's Office.* April introduced herself to the Task Force, outlining her extensive corrections background of over 20 years and 8 years of teaching at several colleges and police academies. She is currently on the board of Muskingum County's Reentry Citizens' Network. April stressed the importance of contacting and utilizing local and state legislators to increase governmental support and funding for the state's reentry population. April was impressed with Athens County's involvement in reentry and hopes to foster multi-county communications.

Alicia Castro: *Independent Social Worker at Integrated Services.* Alicia provides counseling and case management for Integrated Services. She is currently expanding Integrated Services' Community Transitional Programming (CTP), a new service that seeks to provide resources and assistance for housing, and will keep the Task Force updated as needed.

Melissa D. Vance: *TASC.* Melissa provides outpatient counseling and case management in addition to visiting various jails up to three days a week. She helps to connect services outside of TASC to other providers in the area and stresses the importance of a sober network and community beyond medical/counseling services.

Nancy Stotts: *Employment Counselor at Ohio Means Jobs Athens County.* Nancy shared information on several apprenticeship and educational programs that are available for enrollment by those with prior felony convictions. She also outlined the services provided by the Ohio Means Jobs Center such as resume assistance, employment counseling, and providing business clothes for interviews. Nancy also passed out flyers for the Athens Area Stand Down and announced that tables and chairs will be provided for organizations attending the event.

Anne Richardson: *Case Manager for Southeast Correctional Complex Hocking Unit.* Anne reminded the Task Force that they are always collecting plastic bags for projects and can provide help with community service projects in the area. The Southeast Correctional Complex - Hocking is hosting a reentry resource fair on October 4th. Please contact Anne if interested in hosting a table at the event.

Charles Cohara: *Staff Attorney - SEOLS.* Charles provides representation in civil matters for the region of Southeastern Ohio and is currently in the process of piloting expungement clinics in Franklin and Licking County. He hopes to provide a similar program here in Athens and Washington County.

Scott Zielinski: *Director of Athens County Job and Family Services.* Scott passed out information on the use of CQE's in Ohio available for those with prior criminal records who do not qualify for expungement. There was also information provided on the latest recidivism rates for the state and counties in which Athens County saw an increase in recidivism, contributed largely to the growing opiate issue. Scott noted the importance of a personal support as a "safety net" for returning citizens. He also stressed the importance of utilizing the available training and educational programs provided via TriCounty Adult Vocational School. Scott also announced that as of next June, JFS will no longer have funding to provide non-emergency transportation services through partnerships such as with Green Cab. There is no authority within JFS to cease this transition but encouraged Task Force members to contact local legislators to help keep these services in the Athens County communities.

Shawn Stover: *Reentry Coordinator - Ohio Means Jobs Athens County.* Shawn announced that the Federal Food Assistance fiscal year is over as of October 1st and was able to receive supportive service money of \$1000 towards "Welcome Home" packs for returning citizens. Shawn stressed the importance and value of these packs as many of his clients are transient and have little to no support or access to basic needs upon release. He thanked Scott for continued support with funding for the program.

Shawn thanked everyone for attending and reminded the Task Force to keep an eye out for the next newsletter and future emails regarding Reentry. It is also recommended to check out the Athens Reentry Task Force website for previous newsletters, events and minutes.

The next meeting will be on **November 27th at 9:30am** at the Athens County Job & Family Services main office located at - 13183 St Rt 13 Millfield, Ohio 45761. **There will NOT be a meeting in October.**