



Reentry Task Force



NOW OPEN!

The Oriana House Reserve Center is located at 27830 State Route 7 in Marietta, Ohio and will service Washington and surrounding counties. This facility is expected to house 40 beds and welcomes both men and women. The housing and programming is designed for those with a felony or limited misdemeanor offense in need of long term rehabilitative programming. Halfway house clients are required to participate in crime-free life programming. Oriana House's cognitive behavioral therapy is based on the model that if you change the way you think, you change the way you act.

President and CEO James Lawrence met with the Athens Adult Parole Authority on April 7th to provide information about the facility. We would like to thank him, his staff, and the organizations working in partnership with this facility for their commitment to helping those recently released get the resources they need to be successful!

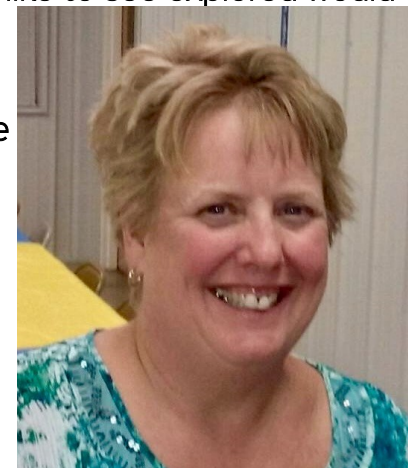
TASK FORCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Marianna Carson received her Associate Degree from Hocking College. Her law enforcement career started in 1986 in Nelsonville Ohio, as the City's first female Police Officer. She was hired by the Adult Parole Authority in 1990 and initially assigned to Gallia County as a Parole Officer. She then transferred to the Athens unit in 1991. Marianna returned to school and received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Ohio University. She then accepted a promotion as Sr. Parole Officer in Washington County in 2002. She was again able to transfer back to the Athens Unit in 2007. After serving several stints as an Interim Supervisor, Marianna was promoted to Supervisor in August 2015.

The Athens unit of the Adult Parole Authority (APA) consists of 9 Officers who supervise approximately 805 offenders in Athens, Meigs, and Morgan County. They have 7 Officers assigned to Athens County who supervise approximately 620 offenders. According to last month's statistics, the Athens APA supervises 75 Post Release Control cases, 362 Court cases, 177 Judicial Release cases, and 10 Interstate Compact cases. Officers make referrals to our community partners for mental health, substance abuse, and employment readiness. Officers testify in court and attend partnership meetings such as the Opiate Task Force and Reentry Task Force. The Athens Unit of the APA is also partnered with Ohio University's Criminology, Sociology, and Social Work programs through our internship positions. We allow our interns hands on experience through interaction, field work, and observation opportunities.

Marianna says, "A concept I would like to see explored would be more community participation with a mentoring program for offenders who are released from the institutions, with a focus on life skill development."

The Reentry Task Force would like to thank Marianna Carson and her team at the Athens Adult Parole Authority for being active members of the Task Force. We appreciate their support to not only reentry individuals, but also their community partners.



NEW HOUSING PROGRAM

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health provides a full array of behavioral health and other resources to communities throughout Southeastern and Central Ohio. Services provided include psychiatry, counseling, housing, and assistance with employment. They have now partnered with CareSource to provide a reentry specific program called the Community Transition Program (CTP). This program helps those recently released from incarceration with up to 4 months housing as well as numerous other supportive services. Permanent supportive housing is available to individuals who were homeless prior to incarceration. If an individual has a substance abuse disorder and attends a Recovery Services Program while incarcerated, they have the option to opt into CTP. After they agree to participate in the program, a referral is made to Integrated Services. An Integrated Services Representative then completes an assessment on the individual and makes plans for post-release services based on the individual's release date. The program has a commitment to providing the basic needs of individuals upon release while also being a link to existing resources within the community.

We are excited about this still very new program and appreciate the work Integrated Services has already done in their efforts to help reentry individuals. For more information about the Community Transition Program contact **Isaac Justice** at ijustice@integratedservice.org.

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY!

A person that I recently began working with who was released from prison on judicial release after serving 4 years on various drug related charges was instructed by his probation officer to meet with me at The Work Station to begin looking for employment. He was fortunate to have good support from his family and friends who have provided a place to stay and transportation. This person states that while he was in prison, he was a certified ABLE tutor/mentor for other inmates. After a Reentry intake we were able to help with clothing and basic necessities for him to interview and look for work. A resume was completed by an Employment Counselor and he began utilizing the job board and internet job search sites. He is actively working with the Prosecutor's Office and Health Recovery Services in the Vivitrol Program with positive results. There were many good interviews but the felony seemed to be a major hurdle for employers. He finally was given a chance by a locally owned business working as a cook. They liked his work ethic and gave him more hours. This placed a burden on the family with transporting so we petitioned the local court for work related driving privileges. In about 2 weeks he received a letter from the court granting provisional driving privileges for work and medical appointments. In a short amount of time this person has worked into a full time permanent position with many responsibilities. He says **"I am so grateful for the help that I have received since my release. I never would have thought that things could turn around for me in such a short amount of time."**

- Reentry Coordinator Shawn Stover

JOB FAIR OUTCOME

On April 19th, the 13th Annual OhioMeansJobs Job Fair was held at the Athens Recreation Center. Over 300 job seekers attended the event to meet with 76 employers. Several interviews were conducted and 6 people were hired on-site. The event was a huge success and the Athens Reentry Task Force would like to thank all those involved in making this event happen.

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

The Next Task Force meeting will be on May 22th at 9:30AM at the Athens County Job and Family Services County Home Office (13183 St Rt. 13 Millfield Ohio 45761) in the conference room. See you there! There will not be a meeting in April.

This newsletter was a collaborative publication between Athens Reentry Taskforce Chairperson Shawn Stover and Newsletter Editor AmeriCorps VISTA member Erin Phillips working with the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) released on April 20th 2017