



REENTRY TASK FORCE

HOCKING CORRECTIONAL



ODRC Director Gary Mohr addresses the community.

On Thursday, January 25th, local and state community leaders came together to address the closing of the Hocking Correctional Institution in Nelsonville. The event was brought to the attention of the Reentry Task Force on Monday by State Representative Jay Edwards, a Nelsonville native who attended the meeting and shared his concerns about the closure with the members. The discussion was organized by Congressman Steve Stivers and was held at The Lodge at Hocking College.

After the politicians and other panelist including Judge Fred Moses of the Hocking County Drug Court spoke, the floor was opened up to the community leaders in attendance to share their thoughts and suggestions about what the newly vacated building should be utilized towards. The general consensus from the room was that the facility should be multi-organizational and focusing on providing treatment and other care programs for those experiencing homelessness and addiction. Almost every speaker mentioned how deeply rooted the opiate epidemic has become within their client base, viewing this closure as a potential for providing the necessary, critical care needed to create deeply rooted change within our community.

TASK FORCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Those in the Athens Re-entry community know of the scope and efforts of the 317 Board, but it is dedicated individuals like Diane Pfaff who put a face to that hard work.



Diane's people-oriented background began with a Bachelors of Social Work from the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire and then a Masters of Social Work from Ohio University. In Wisconsin, Diane worked with aging and disability programs in positions of both direct client services and in program development. Upon her move to Ohio, Diane became involved with the Athens-Hocking-Vinton Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board (317 Board). She has been with the organization since 2002 and currently serves as the Community Services Manager. Diane's current position allows her to help the community and partner agencies seek and secure the resources/funding they need to improve the lives of the clients they serve. She is grateful to work in a community that values collaborative work.

Diane and the 317 Board has been involved with the Reentry Task Force since the very beginning with either her or Bill Dunlap, the Deputy Director, attending meetings. Some of their interactions with the Reentry Task Force include collaborating with Hopewell Health Centers and ODRC to coordinate care for individuals in the ODRC system with serious mental illnesses who are returning to the Board Area and partnering with the Athens County Prosecutor's Office's Vivitrol Diversion Program through the OhioMHAS grant alongside HRS.

Diane is eager for the new inpatient detoxification services that will become available at several treatment locations throughout Southeast Ohio in the spring. She believes that the foundation of this supportive community remains strong and hopes to see it continue to collaborate. We thank Diane for all of her continued hard work and are looking forward to all of her future efforts for the good of the community!



REENTRY RANTS & RAVES

I want to send a big THANK YOU out to our Reentry Task Force members. This is an amazing group of people who are dedicated to helping improve our services and community by information sharing and networking. The thing about our Task Force is that we do not always need to have a task to be a force. We are an everchanging yet unchanging group with a common interest of helping people who struggle with felonies, substance abuse, and poverty. I enjoy working with the long time members and am refreshed to see new people attend the meetings to share and learn. Another great thing about the Task Force is that we are not just Athens County. We have many people from the surrounding areas who share information from across the state. I feel fortunate to belong to such a diverse group of people.

— Shawn Stover, Reentry Coordinator



Photos courtesy of Crystal Howard

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION

The next task force meeting will be on **March 26th, 2018 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!

This newsletter was a collaborative publication between Athens Reentry Taskforce Chairperson Shawn Stover and Newsletter Editor AmeriCorps VISTA member Madison Yee working with the Appalachian Center for Economic Networks (ACEnet) released on January 30th, 2018.