



Reentry Task Force

TASK FORCE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



NOW OPEN!

A new recovery house in Logan is now accepting referrals. Our House is a joint partnership between Hocking Metropolitan Housing Authority, and Hopewell Health Centers, Inc. Their mission is to provide access to safe person-centered, supportive housing to individuals in recovery. The house provides an alcohol and drug-free environment designed to build a strong foundation in recovery including 24/7 peer support, assistance with getting addiction treatment, and other recovery supportive services. The house has 5 bedrooms that are each fully furnished. Our House is for single males who have been clean for at least 30-60 days and are homeless, at-risk of becoming homeless, in an environment that is high risk for relapse, or someone who would like the opportunity for extended recovery support and connection to peers. The cost is \$80 a week but there are scholarship opportunities for those unable to pay. For a referral or more information contact Tim Daugherty at 740-541-0747.

Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) of Southeast Ohio is an Ohio Department of Alcohol and Addiction certified provider of alcohol and other drug addiction treatment services. TASC provides both Out-patient and Intensive Out-patient alcohol and other drug (AOD) levels of care. They work with those in the community struggling with AOD who have had contact with the legal system and do not have a history of patterned violence. TASC partners with the courts, regional jails, diversion programs, the Adult Parole Authority, and other community organizations to make sure those in need are referred to their services.

TASC identified several barriers to reentry. Administrative Liaison and LICDC-CS Dennis Johnson said issues surrounding housing, employment, and transportation must be addressed because, “these issues equal stressors and stressors equal relapse.” Drug and Alcohol Counselor Karen Peck agreed and added, “You can’t fix one piece of the problem and expect everything to be working okay.” Drug and Alcohol Counselor Melissa Vance also added that most of their clients have been in some form of treatment before and “they play the game but don’t know how to apply it.” Melissa explained that the extensive network TASC provides is extremely important in addressing all these issues; “the goal is to work with clients short term and connect them with community resources for the long term.”

All agreed that they would like to see the field of reentry go in the direction of much earlier referrals. If referrals come too late, a client is much more difficult to work with. Dennis hopes to one day see referrals start as early as arraignment. He says, “Clients should be connected with treatment while going through the legal process. TASC could then follow them into the institution by frequently touching base. 90 days prior to release TASC would do another complete assessment so clients would have a treatment plan before returning back into the community.”

The Reentry Task Force would like to thank Karen Peck, Melissa Vance, Ashley Dunn (Drug and Alcohol Counselor), Shawn Drescher (Youth Drug and Alcohol Counselor), and Dennis Johnson for taking the time to meet and discuss TASC. For a referral or more information, call TASC at 740-594-2276.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



Phi Alpha Delta, Ohio University's Pre-Law fraternity, made a generous donation on April 28th to the Athens Reentry Program. Phi Alpha Delta Vice President Olivia Mirich and Fundraising Chair Brian Titus brought bags of donated supplies that included hygiene items, clothes, and packaged food items. This is Phi Alpha Deltas third large donation since 2016 making the total value of their in-kind donations \$1,350! This is an incredible amount considering all money raised to purchase the donated items comes from selling grilled cheese sandwiches on Court Street weeknights and weekends.

The Reentry Task Force would like to thank them for their loyalty to the Athens Reentry Program and for their dedication to reduce recidivism by showing previously incarcerated individuals that they have support when released.

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY!

I began working with a person in the beginning of March 2017 starting with a video conference with Southeastern Correctional in Lancaster. I thought that this was the start but the person remembered talking with me at the Reentry Fair last fall and even quoted parts of our conversations that I had since forgot. It was a good feeling that he had taken our conversation seriously and given thought to what was shared about reentry. The video conference went very well and the conversation flowed easily most likely due to our previous contact. I was impressed with his positive attitude and above average social skills. We set a time to meet for the day after his release from incarceration.

This person has great family support to provide transportation and housing. They help to meet his basic needs upon release so that he can focus on employment and improvement. He has a varied work background from mechanics to fast food. While incarcerated he gained 2 years of experience in painting and operating a stamping press. This would prove to be valuable experience upon release as luck would slowly swing his way. He met with me regularly and applied at many places with potential hires just out of reach. Out of the blue last week an employer called me who wanted to hire someone from the Reentry program who was dependable, mechanical and could operate a stamping press. They were pleased with his interview and experience hiring him on the spot. Fate, Luck, Preparation, Reentry.

- Reentry Coordinator Shawn Stover

THE LATEST IN REENTRY

A new report has been published by the Reentry Task Force that has compiled statistics on those returning to the county from incarceration in 2015-2016. This report shows the highest level of education, sex, and age of Athens Reentry Program participants as well as whether they have child support, a valid driver's license, and many other factors that could be barriers to employment. A handout of the statistics will be given out as well as a short presentation during the May 22nd Task Force meeting so be sure to attend! It will also be available online at <http://jfs.athensoh.org/ReentryTaskForce.htm> under reports shortly.

In other news, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) has launched their new Ohio Ex-Offender Coalition website and we encourage you to check it out at <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/reentry-coalition!>

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 June.

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 May 18th 2017