

**Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Meeting
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Parole Board Hearing Room
March 31, 2009
8:30 am – 11:30 am**

Minutes

Attendees:

Director Angela Cornelius Dawson (ODADAS)	Director Terry Collins (ODRC)
Linda Janes (ODRC)	Robert Hammond (ODRC)
Edward Rhine (ODRC)	Rod Woods (ODRC)
Teresa Moorman-Jamison (ODRC)	Jamie Blair (ODH)
Michael Jackson (ODRC)	Katrina Ransom (ODRC)
Coretta Pettway (ODRC)	Alicia Handwerk (ODRC)
Irene Lyons (ODRC)	William Graves (ODOOD)
Kevin Shepherd (ODYS)	Davis Schroot (ODYS)
Vicki Jenkins (ODMRDD)	John Flinn (ODJFS)
Bill Russell (OBR)	Lauren Massie (OBR)
R. Linn Davey (ODE)	Robert Swisher (DPS)
Fletch Zimpher (ODC)	Wanda Suber (ODRC)
Tracy Tyson-Parker (ODRC)	Scott Layson (ODA)
Michele Shipp (ODH)	Brad DeCamp (ODADAS)
Kimberly Hettel (GOFBCI-ODRC)	John Matthews (ODRC)
Melissa Knopp (Supreme Court)	Jeff Spears (ODYS)
Angi Lee (ODRC)	Corrennia Price-Jackson (ODRC)

Welcome and Introductions

Director Terry Collins opened the meeting with welcoming comments and introductions. He offered his apology to the group for not being able to attend the entire meeting.

He thanked everyone for their excellent work and collaboration which he believes is the best in the country and pointed out that offender reentry is not going to be successful without these collaborations and those at the local level. The Coalition will offer guidance and support on the “how” of reentry, but it will be up to the local level to make it happen.

Director Collins gave special thanks to Brad DeCamp and Angi Lee along with others on the Strategic Planning Work Group for their excellent work on the Strategic Plan. Once the plan has been finalized, signatures will be obtained from the member Directors of the Coalition.

Discussion of Strategic Plan and Endorsement

Brad DeCamp reminded everyone that the Strategic Plan shows the commitment that Ohio has to reentry, however, the “real work” begins once the plan is finalized.

The goals and objectives in the plan will be used for grant submissions under the Second Chance Act and other funding sources.

Sharon Schnelle will construct a logic model that will become part of the strategic plan.

Several suggestions for edits were made prior to and during the meeting and will be incorporated into the plan. All additional edit suggestions should be sent to Angi.Lee@odrc.state.oh.us by Noon on Friday April 3, 2009.

Melissa Knopp will assist by writing a section that speaks to reentry and other specialized dockets courts. This section will include a narrative paragraph and performance measures.

Dr. Robert Hammond and Jeff Spears will write a narrative paragraph and performance measures that speak to the identification of risk factors and preventative measures that might reasonably lead to ODRC and ODYS population reductions. This section will suggest that these measures should be based on the knowledge gleaned from learning in the area of reentry.

Director Cornelius Dawson and Brad DeCamp will submit revised performance measures for ODADAS to increase their specificity. Additionally, a section about family engagement in alcohol and other drug treatment will be added.

Tracking Funding Streams for Reentry

Since organization and tracking of funding is so critical, the attached document – *2009 Reentry Program Funding Opportunities* was created to track submissions that are under development. This document will be posted on the website for public use. It will be revised as additional information is obtained.

Some Second Chance Act submissions will require the signature of the Governor. It will be critical to our success that there is collaboration between agencies for grant writing.

The Coalition will endorse grant submissions. A protocol for securing these endorsements will be developed to assist in the review and endorsement of the first round of SCA grants.

The Office of Criminal Justice Services will have two cycles of funding which will come close together covering discretionary grant dollars and federal formula funding requirements under the stimulus. Walter Brown, Director of the Grants Section at OCJS, is the contact person for these opportunities.

DRC's Second Chance Act Application

DRC in partnership with Lucas and Montgomery Counties will submit a proposal for the Community Partners for Reentry project under SCA. The project is intended to foster adult mentoring with offenders leaving prison and returning to the Toledo and Cincinnati areas. The complexity of this submission is found in the significant in-kind and cash match that is required (25% of each).

Angi Lee acknowledged Sharon Schnelle for her significant contribution to this effort.

Scott Neely and Irene Lyons, DRC Legislative Liaisons, will assist in this submission by obtaining letters of support from the members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation.

County-Wide Reentry Task Forces

A document (attached) called *Statewide County Reentry Task Forces* provides a list of County Reentry Task Forces that have been or are currently being formed. A brief comment on their progress to date is also included in the spreadsheet.

The level of commitment at the local level is astounding. The key to their success is bringing the correct people to the table. The statutory members of the Coalition and DRC Reentry Administrators are uniquely positioned to provide technical assistance to the local task forces. Most agencies represented on the Coalition are also represented at the local level.

It is anticipated that the DRC Office of Policy and Offender Reentry will develop a tool kit that Coalition members can use to provide assistance, if requested, should a local jurisdiction wish to form a reentry task force.

Members-at-Large Nominations

The current list of Members-at-Large is attached to the strategic plan that was handed out at the meeting.

The last seven groups on the list are organizations/agencies that the Second Chance Act called for the Coalition to reach out to, but to date a contact person has not been identified. Please provide this information to Angi.Lee@odrc.state.oh.us if you have it.

The nominations of Members-at-Large will become a routine agenda item and all new Members-at-large will be endorsed by the Coalition.

Once or twice a year the Coalition should consider having a meeting to hear from the Members-at-Large about the work they are doing. A suggestion was made to invite the Members-at-Large to the next meeting of the Coalition.

The Coalition is also supposed to have an Executive Director of any Ohio Healthcare Licensing Board as a statutory member. (Note: Since the Coalition's meeting, a contact person has been identified and has been asked to become a statutory member.)

The Coalition endorsed the Members-at-Large.

Committee Updates

Grants Development Committee

It was mentioned during the last Coalition meeting that the grants committee will serve as the single point of contact for grant submissions. The committee members are all experienced grant writers and reviewers, and will serve as the subject matter experts. They will recommend a protocol for securing endorsements from the Coalition's Directors or their designees. The goal is to offer the Coalition's support whenever possible to enhance the competitiveness of grants submitted from state/local agencies/jurisdictions in Ohio.

The Coalition approved the draft stationery presented by the committee for the Coalition to use when signing letters of support.

Website Committee

The committee did not meet, but the members are reviewing several web platforms to support the Coalition website. The Prison News Network at Marion Correctional can begin to develop the site. John Matthews asked that recommendations and suggestions for the site's content (and any wording the members would like to include) be sent to him. He will convene a meeting of the committee to begin building the website. As soon as the website is operational, the information can be posted.

Strategic Planning Committee

See the discussion above for the update to this committee's report.

New Committee on Quality

The group will be called the Quality Improvement Research Committee (QIRC)

The work of the committee will focus on developing and providing in-service and post-service performance measures relative to each of the objectives contained in the strategic plan.

The QIRC committee will also begin to prepare statistics for eventual inclusion in the annual report that must be submitted to the legislature. The report will provide a summary of activities as well as recommendations for legislation that will remedy the barriers offenders face in reentry. The QIRC committee will coordinate its efforts with the Strategic Planning Committee which has the primary responsibility for producing the Coalition's annual report.

Bob Swisher stated that the Office of Criminal Justice Services has funding for an independent evaluation of the work of the Reentry Coalition. The benefits of such an evaluation include the provision of technical expertise and independent judgment in reviewing and reporting on the Coalition's overall impact and results.

A number of individuals volunteered to serve on the QIRC Committee. Others are welcome to volunteer.

Bob Swisher, Chair
Sharon Schnelle
Wanda Suber

Coretta Pettway
Melissa Knopp

Open Agenda

The Coalition will hold a meeting in May to introduce the Members-at-Large