

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

MINUTES

MAY 15, 2013

9:00AM – 1:00PM

EMANUEL APOSTOLIC TEMPLE,
CINCINNATI, OHIO

TYPE OF MEETING	Ohio Ex-offender Reentry Coalition
NOTE TAKER	Jodi Starr, Noble Correctional Institution
ATTENDEES	See Sign-In Sheets

Agenda topics

DEANNA HOSKINS

9:30AM-9:35AM WELCOMING REMARKS
Todd Portune
Hamilton County Commissioner

9:35AM-10:00AM OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS
HARRY REED, DIRECTOR
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

DISCUSSION	<p>Director Reed served as the facilitator in Director Mohr's absence. He gave updates on several ongoing coalition initiatives and noted that the agenda for the day includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from some of our local partners who will spotlight some effective practices and partnerships; • Comments from several DYS youth as part of the report out of the OERC Juvenile Branch; and, • Updates focusing on exciting training collaborations spearheaded by the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions <p>He made the announcement that we are moving forward with having our newest board member, Mr. James Whitfield, and several of his colleagues lead initiatives to help us mobilize the voices of ex-offenders across our state.</p> <p>Director Reed noted that the morning refreshments were provided by Cincinnati COOKS! This is a local culinary training program that includes job placement, coaching and life skills. OERC is proud to partner with them as they have an outstanding commitment to including ex-offenders in their program.</p> <p>Director Reed also recognized Pastor Daniels and the catering staff at Greater Emanuel Church for the lunch to be provided. He also thanked the county commissioners who worked with the local office of reentry to provide funding for refreshments and meals. He then recognized:</p> <p><i>Commissioner Todd Portune who offered welcoming remarks to the group.</i></p> <p>Director Reed noted that recently it was announced that the latest recidivism rate for adults in Ohio has decreased from 31.2% to 28.7%. Just as importantly, the one year recidivism rate for juveniles in Ohio has continued a four year decline and now stands at 22.8%. More specifically, the one year return rate for youth returning to DYS is now 15.6%! These impressively low return rates, Director Reed stated, are due in large part to folks in the audience who have taken the mantle of successful reentry into their communities and embraced and promoted it as more than an idea but an absolute necessity. He expressed his appreciation for their participation in helping to craft and pass new legislation to directly impact on those returning home.</p> <p>He thanked everyone for their continuing efforts to serve our fellow citizens and make our communities safer.</p> <p>Director Reed moved into the agenda by introducing Jessica Dennis for an update on the 'Access to Prisons' workgroup initiated at the OERC quarterly forum that was held on February 20th.</p>
------------	---

9:40AM-10:00AM UPDATES ON ACCESS TO PRISONS
JESSICA DENNIS,
Deputy Director Assistant

DISCUSSION	<p>Jessica Dennis stated that we greatly rely on volunteers in aiming to achieve our mission of reducing recidivism among those we touch. We have used that feedback from the breakout sessions at the last reentry meeting held in Columbus to develop plans to enhance our working relationships.</p> <p>In response to the feedback received, DRC has significantly expanded access to the volunteer coordinator information for each institution. Their name, phone number, and email addresses have been added to each institution's website. This information has also been added to the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition's Mapping Carousel. Go to www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov.</p>
------------	---

	<p>For long term planning, Jessica referenced the formation of a group of DRC employees, who are currently in Executive Leadership, who are developing significant enhancements to the current process for volunteers. The Executive Leadership program is designed to provide staff in upper-level management positions with knowledge, skills and information to be more effective leaders. Participants are placed into groups and are assigned a project. The projects are identified as a subject needing improvement or further development. Jessica is co-sponsoring the group working on volunteer access to prisons. They would have joined the meeting today, but they are in their second week of in-class training. She shared some of their preliminary plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automating the volunteer application and background process, including the ability to submit volunteer applications online; Creating a central repository for volunteer background information in order to reduce the need for duplicative applications or background investigations; and, Establishing a more efficient and user friendly entrance authorization protocol for volunteers. <p>Jessica stated DRC will continue to keep everyone informed with the progress of this work. She brought a stack of business cards for those who might like to reach out to provide their thoughts or suggestions to the work currently underway. She expressed her thanks to those who have provided input and continue to support our shared mission.</p> <p>Marc Molea, Department of Aging, gave a presentation on the issues surrounding and aging offenders with DRC institutions. He shared statistics regarding ex-offenders over 60 years of age, and discussed what might be done to create training curricula to address and better understand the reentry needs of these offenders both during their confinement and post-release. (power point attached)</p>
--	---

10:00AM-10:45AM OHIO CIVICC DATABASE ED RHINE

DISCUSSION	Ed discussed HB130 and the formation of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, and noted its support for the ongoing growth of the Ohio CIVICC Database, collateral sanctions and consequences, and the more recent passage of HB 86/SB 337 establishing Certificates of Achievement and Employability and Certificates of Qualifications for Employment. He then introduced Stephen JohnsonGrove, and Pamela Thurston from the Ohio Justice and Policy Center – both of whom have been instrumental in the creation and work behind the CIVICC which stands for the <i>Ohio Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions Database</i> (http://opd.ohio.gov/CIVICC).
DYS Reentry Coalitio	Stephen JohnsonGrove/Pamela Thurston gave a presentation regarding the CQE process and purpose (see: drccqe.gov). He also spoke to the CAE's requirements, process and purpose. He demonstrated how to use the CIVICC website. (power point attached)

10:45AM-11:07 DYS Reentry Coalition Update Kim Humphrey

	<p>Kim Humphrey shared updates on the work of the Juvenile Branch's first meeting in February. The Branch members elected to address reentry access in detention centers. A survey was created and forwarded to all Ohio detention centers and community correctional facilities to learn more about their juvenile reentry efforts. The results of the survey were circulated among the Branch members and detailed discussions would take place at the Branch meeting- immediately following the May OERC meeting.</p> <p>The Dayton Region Parole Office, led by Juvenile Parole Services Supervisor Juliana Routt, hosted a 20-minute youth panel segment where five youth presented to the audience their current progress/success while on parole and plans for their lives thereafter. The youth spoke fervently during their presentation, but yet bashfully when last asked to share what the audience could do or could have done more of to help the youth with a successful transition. The audience was very receptive and enthusiastic about hearing from the youth. Kim expressed her thoughts to the Dayton Region!! Meredith Basak, DYS Community Program Coordinator for the DYS Second Chance Mentoring Program, presented an update on the agency mentoring program successes and highlighted a couple of other programs geared toward supporting reentry for their youth: Baby Elmo is a program offered in CHJCF for youth who are parents; and the CLOSE to Home project offers free bus service for families to visit their youth in the facility.</p>
--	--

11:07AM-11:12AM Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalition Jamie Gee, Secretary

DISCUSSION	Jamie Gee, Representing the Executive Board as the Secretary of the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions, and the Montgomery County Reentry Coalition Representative and Managing Officer of Ex-Offenders. Jamie spoke on behalf of our Association President, Kysten Palmore, from Franklin County who was unable to attend.
-------------------	---

	<p>Jamie has had the pleasure of seeing the association grow from inception through its first year of operation.</p> <p>❖ RECOGNITION OF OALRC LEADERSHIP MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</p> <p>Jamie took a moment to recognize the dedicated OALRC leadership members who are actively engaged in its mission and vision.</p> <p>❖ PROGRESS UPDATES</p> <p>NEW TAGLINE "IMPROVING COMMUNITIES...ONE MEMBER AT A TIME"</p> <p>OCJS GRANT FOR STATEWIDE TRAINING – Upon receipt of our \$10,000 Sub-Grant VIA OCJS, The Association's Sustainability Committee (Lead by Nida Williamson-Reid/Treasurer, Amy Piner, and Rhonda Fannin, Highland County Reentry Coalition) have completed the first phase of the project which included April Webinar Trainings targeted to educate, improve, and enhance attendee knowledge, tools, and strategies of grant writing, building a local reentry coalition enhancing assets and resources, and HB 86/SB 337 updates via Stephen JohnsonGrove .</p> <p>The trainings were well received, and the initiative has increased OALRC's capacity to serve as an association.</p> <p>❖ REENTRY EXPO PLANNING IN COLLABORATION W/ OACAA</p> <p>The second phase has already begun in planning efforts with OACAA (OHIO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES) for a joint "Reentry Expo & Conference"; scheduled for September 24th-25th in Columbus, Ohio. President Kysten Palmore leads the Association's commitment to this joint effort. It is sure to be an extraordinary event of reentry-focused learning, mentoring, community building, and a call to action.</p> <p>In addition, OALRC's third and final phase will provide targeted training efforts and call to action presentations to ignite the participation of partners, alliances and coalitions in counties across the state of Ohio.</p> <p>CALL TO ACTION FOR NEW OALRC MEMBERS</p> <p>Jamie asked if that anyone that wished to become involved in the efforts of the OALRC to provide their contact for engagement. The Association looks forward to moving together. Because we can't do it without you. We are in this reentry movement together with a shared goal.</p> <p>Jamie as for help in efforts to engage with our returning and restored citizens to build weaknesses into strengths, trials into triumphs, and obstacles into opportunities for their success, increased public safety, and continued reduction in recidivism.</p>
--	--

11:12AM-11:45 AM	HAMILTON COUNTY –LOCAL SPOTLIGHTS	DEANNA HOSKINS, REENTRY DIRECTOR
------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

DISCUSSION	<p>Deanna stated there are new collaborative relationship with the Hamilton County Sheriff's office. The reentry coalition is working with entities inside the local jail: Pre-Trial, Courts, Classifications, Social Services, Medical, Custody and Education. They are focusing on reentry services upon intake and ensuring appropriate placement of all offenders who are processed through the jail.</p> <p>Hamilton County is still aligning its strategic housing goals with the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority, Cincinnati Police Department (Cincinnati initiative to Reduce Violence), Cincinnati Business Consortium and SBA's throughout the county.</p> <p>The Hamilton County Reentry Coalition will host the first of a 3 series forum on "Senate Bill 337, Strengthen the Heartbeat of Workforce," on May 16th at the Sharonville Convention Center. The industry that will be focused on is Health Care. Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, offers innovative evidence-based hiring and retention practices and will give a presentation at this forum. The other industries to follow will be: manufacturing and construction.</p>
------------	---

11:45AM-12:15PM	BREAK	Greater Emanuel Catering Staff
-----------------	-------	--------------------------------

DISCUSSION	
------------	--

12:15PM-12:40PM	BREAKOUT SESSION-MOBILIZING EX-OFFENDERS-WORKGROUPS
-----------------	---

DISCUSSION	
------------	--

12:40PM-12:50PM WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION

CHRIS YANAI AND
RONA DORSEY

DISCUSSION

12:50PM-1:00PM TAKEAWAYS/ADJOURN

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION

DISCUSSION