

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition
State Library of Ohio
Boardroom
Columbus, Ohio
June 16, 2010
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Minutes

Statutory Members:

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| Director Ernie Moore (ODRC) | Director Angela Cornelius Dawson (ODADAS) |
| Scott Layson (ODOA) | Vicki Jenkins (ODMRDD) |
| John Flinn (ODJFS) | Greg Hargett (GOFBCI) |
| Cheryl Martinez (RSC) | William Russell (OBR) |
| Kevin Shepherd (DYS) | Dwight Anstaett (ODE) |
| Debbie Nixon-Hughes (ODMH) | Tom Dilling (Licensing Board) |
| Sharon Schnelle (DPS) | Michael Norton-Smith (ODOD) |

Welcome and Introductions

Director Moore opened the meeting by welcoming and thanking members of the Coalition for attending the 6th meeting of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and provided several updates:

- On May 7th, the Coalition's Annual report was submitted to the legislative representatives under HB130, regarding the accomplishments of this Coalition and the work that is being achieved by its member agencies and service providers in communities across the state.
- In addition, to the information listed in the report that is available on the Coalition's website, he took a moment to emphasize some important items. To date, the Coalition has issued 25 letters of support to state and local partners for federal grant submissions. The amount of funds requested overall has been \$12,056,900.00.
- Additionally, the word is getting out due much in part to the audience in attendance today. Offenders, families, and advocates have been reaching out to the Coalition for information in assisting their loved ones who are recently released offenders to those that have been out for years and facing barriers in the community. Director Moore has heard stories from all across the state and wanted to highlight a few:
 1. In Franklin County, a young man with a college education lost his job after five years due to company downsizing only to find himself looking for work again. He has been afforded interviews but becomes disqualified upon revealing his past conviction. The

information was sent to the Franklin County Reentry Task force by the Coalition and Director Moore is happy to report, the young man is being linked to the transitional employment program funded through the reentry grant.

2. In Hamilton County, an aunt contacted the Hamilton County Reentry Task force to assist with the recent release of her nephew who had employment and mental health issues. Task Force members, such as the Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, were able to assess the situation and connect him with the appropriate services.
 3. In Montgomery County, information was sent by the Coalition to the local Reentry Task Force members regarding an offender who was being released after twenty five years of incarceration, a sex offender, homeless, and suffering from schizophrenia. Goodwill of Miami Valley, a key stakeholder, offered services and support and begun working with this gentleman immediately.
- There are countless more stories like the ones illustrated above. The committee welcomes input and recommendations from its community partners.
 - Furthermore, Director Moore is pleased to announce that we have begun an early conversation with Marilyn Moses from the National Institute of Justice regarding using the Reentry Coalition and her local counterparts as a “Research for Practice” Institute. In other words, to propose an ongoing relationship between the Coalition and NIJ to present cutting edge research – like Blumstein’s work – and observe what you – the practitioners/policy makers – on the ground actually do with it. How we respond to it – its usefulness or not – whether you actually change practice or policy – as a result of it – or not – if not, why.

Director Moore introduced Director Greg Hargett from the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives as a new Statutory Member of the Coalition.

Ohio Literacy Network

Director Lisa Larson gave a presentation about the Ohio Literacy Network. Information about their services can be accessed at www.ohioliteracynetwork.org and a copy of the presentation can be found on the Coalition website, www.ReentryCoalition.Ohio.gov

Poverty Law Center

Melissa Lindsay presented the A2J for Reentry Resources and the Employer Awareness Workshop Series. The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the Coalition Website, www.ReentryCoalition.Ohio.gov

Local Coalition Updates

ARRA grant recipients provided a brief introduction to their coalition and an update of their recent work. Grantees included:

Franklin County (Kysten Palmore), Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio (Lenora Berry), Mid-Ohio Reentry Coalition (Judge Robert Fragale), Fairfield County (Kristen Ankom), Sandusky County Reentry Task Force (Jim Seamon), Highland County (Luann Winkle), Miami/Darke/Shelby County (John Graham and Robert Smedley), Wayne/Holmes Counties (Tamara Jackson), Portage County (Patrick White), Clark County (Mel Marsh)

Committee Updates

Strategic Plan/Annual Report Update:

Brad DeCamp and Angi Lee updated the group on the action plan for the revision of the 5 year Strategic Plan. The plan is an evolving document that will be reviewed and modified on an annual basis. The goal is to have the final revisions approved by the Statutory Membership before the September 16, 2010 Coalition meeting.

A special thank you was extended to Sandusky County Reentry Task Force for providing the Coalition with their strategic planning template.

Collateral Sanctions Database Project:

Ed Rhine provided a brief synopsis of the work they are doing and shared that they are hopeful to have the database launched by the end of the year.

Sealing of Records (Ex-Offender Employment) Committee:

Irene Lyons updated the Coalition on the Certificate of Rehabilitation by stating that employers are not very receptive to the idea and it will be tabled for now.

She also shared that Senator Smith plans to introduce legislation to expand the offenses that are eligible for expungement. Senator Smith has been invited to attend the September 16, 2010 meeting.

The Coalition is in conversation with Marilyn Moses from the National Institute of Justice regarding the possibilities of Al Blumstein coming to the September 16 meeting to present his paper, *Redemption* which addresses the benefits of sealing criminal records. Details will be provided as they become available.

Grants Development Committee:

There are flurries of grant opportunities that will be coming in the near future and as a reminder Angi Lee shared the protocol to request and receive a letter of support from either DRC or the Coalition:

The request must be made a minimum of 3 business days in advance of the grant submission deadline. The request must contain the following information:

- Grant solicitation information
- Draft of the program proposal
- Contact person
- A draft letter of support.
- Documentation of statistical information containing cited sources.

If an applicant wants to conduct work inside a DRC correctional facility or APA office, he or she are asked to get in touch with that specific site early in the grants development process. Applicants seeking an M.O.U. with these entities shall need to submit the same documents listed above. This will ensure that there is an agreement by all the parties involved about the program being proposed and what will be required for its implementation.

Request for letters of support must be sent to Angi.Lee@odrc.state.oh.us

Closing Remarks

Director Moore reminded everyone that the next Coalition meeting will be September 16, 2010.