



Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio

“Snapshot of Warrant Initiative”

The Coalition has worked collaboratively to enhance reentry efforts throughout Northwest Ohio. One of their most successful initiatives is addressing outstanding warrants. The return on investment of addressing outstanding warrants provides a significant savings to everyone especially taxpayers!

Addressing Warrants Process- While the ex-offenders are still inmates Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio's Community Person / and Others (institutions, CCNO, community partners in reentry (CPR), warrant comes up in the process of placement /hwh/ other regions) has them sign a release of information form that will allow the request. At no time is the offender promised that this will address his warrant (s)...each case is handled individually and it is always left up to the prosecutor and Judge. After they sign the release form, an email is sent to the local clerks of courts office (Lucas County, City of Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania, Wood, Napoleon, Sandusky, Henry, Defiance, Williams, Fulton, Perrysburg and Others) and Child Support in Lucas county requesting they to check for warrants. The Clerks offices will send copies of the warrants back or will email. The driver's license blocks and /or warrants that are fines and court costs are given back to the Offender for their information.

Those that had felonies or other charges attached to them, we would request the Clerk to refer it back to the Court for disposition on the existing sentence being served and wait for a response from the Clerk. If the warrant check discloses an active warrant needing attention, we contact the court administrator or contact the criminal bailiff for the assigned Judge. We want the case to be initiated while the subject of the warrant is still in prison, the bailiff should be asked to schedule a hearing (to avoid transportation, the Judge may want to consider a video appearance) and arrange for counsel to represent the defendant. Please note many of our cases are handled administratively... (No court appearance, sometimes given credit for time served or run the sentence concurrently. The Prosecutor's Office has agreed to work with the offender's counsel to expedite a disposition of the outstanding warrant case.

If it were an out of town warrant, we would contact the Court directly, send a letter to the Judge explaining the program, and make the request.

Cost Factor Consideration: Arrest, Re arrest, Booking, Releasing, Judge, Prosecutor, Parole/Probation Officer, Man days

Please see below.

Example of Cost Savings

Aggravated Felony 2 – Aggravated Robbery Warrant was addressed and the time ran concurrently with sentence.

- This saved *a minimum* of \$24,736.05 of incarceration

Costs of outstanding warrants for stakeholders was \$800.00 (*per court study of twenty years ago). This included all criminal justice entities including P.O's person-hours of tracking/following up/reports with warrants.

- The coalition to date has resolved/addressed over 85 warrants times
*\$800.00 saving approximately a minimum an estimated \$68,000.00
(*court study)
- Saves Man-hours

Challenges

- The challenges with networking are the inherent barrier among “silos” – getting all courts involved is key.
- Courts sending Offenders to Prisons with Outstanding warrants
- Addressing outstanding warrants before the offender is sentenced.

Benefits

- Addressing barriers before the Offender is released enhances the ability of the offender to obtain employment, obtain housing and access social services in the community.
- The triage system incorporates the human component, backed up by services.
- Proactively addressing the warrants assist with the Child Support issues our prosecutors agreed to not indite.
- The benefits of eliminating warrants are offenders: pay taxes, pay child support, reduces recidivism and allows the offender to be a law abiding productive citizen in our community.
- Pretrial discussion of addressing warrants before Offenders are transported to prisons
- Toledo Municipal Court since the discussion is going to one-judge assignments
- Community Partners purchasing of video conferencing equipment (CCNO Executive Director Purchased \$ 94000.00 of equipment, arranging the video conference and setting up hearings with the courts, resolving the warrants before Offender is released.

Key Leaders

- Common Pleas Court Administrators Jean Atkin, Toledo Municipal Court Administrator Pam Roberts, CCNO Executive Director Jim Dennis, Lucas County Child Support Elaine Baker Johnson, Legal Aid Of Western Ohio Ed Marks, ABLE -Law Tom McCarter, Reentry Coalition Chair Dave Kontur and Coordinator Lenora Barry, Lucas County Prosecutor Julia Bates, Ohio State Bar Foundation Linda Thompson Kohli and many other key leaders in this initiative.
- 2006 /2007 this initiative was set up to enhance reentry efforts and work collaboratively to save money for all of the stakeholders.