



Reentry Review

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • OFFICE OF REENTRY

ICCA 50 Years of Doing What Works

By Vikki Tabb-Lyons

The International Community Corrections Association is a membership organization dedicated to promoting community based corrections for adults and juveniles to enhance public safety. It is the largest, most diverse community association and has been existence since 1964. The field of Corrections has undergone many changes throughout the years and ICCA is committed to the promotion of “Doing what Works”, through use of best practices, research, and future initiatives. This was the third Annual Conference in the “What Matters” series to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. The conference was held at The Westin on September 14-17 2014. This conference successfully brought together policy-makers, criminal justice practitioners, and researchers who focused on integrating innovative practices. More than 500 participants throughout the globe attended the conference. Dr. Marilyn Van Dieten and Dr. Chris Lowenkamp lined up top leading experts of our time in the areas of Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Informed Practice, Translating Policy into Practice, Ensuring Fidelity to Evidence-Based Practices, Best Practices in Assessment and Treatment, Recidivism Findings and New Research, Leadership’s Role in Implementing Change, New Developments in Neuroscience and Intervention and many more. In a thank you excerpt from Anne Connell-Freund, the 2014 Conference Chair, Oriana House staff members were praised for the assistance they provided with coordinating the conference. The International Community Corrections Association’s 51st Annual Research Conference will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on November 7- November 11, 2015.

Please visit www.iccalive.org for more information about this exciting learning opportunity.

What’s Cooking at The Central Kitchen?

by Vikki Tabb-Lyons

In 2010, Cuyahoga County’s Office of Reentry, in partnership with The Cleveland Foundation, sought to create a Social Enterprise Program within Cuyahoga County to serve formerly incarcerated citizens returning to Greater Cleveland. This program was created to go beyond traditional job training and placement strategies by developing long term, sustainable employment and economic opportunities for ex-offenders. In 2010, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry started up two new Social Enterprises; The Central Kitchen and Metro Metal Works. These businesses provided work experience and short term training to individuals involved with the criminal justice system, youth at risk, and individuals with disabilities. The Central Kitchen located on East 45th Street, and Superior Avenue is one of three social enterprises selected to be a part of the Social Enterprise Project in Cuyahoga County.

LMM hires ex-offenders to work in The Central Kitchen and provides a five-month training program combined with lecture, lab and on the job training on food preparation and service. The Culinary Training Program was recently awarded the certification of “Quality Program” by the American Culinary Federation—one of three programs certified in the state of Ohio and one of 73 in the country. The kitchen prepares food for six local homeless shelters that are delivered three times daily. In the month of April two new service sites were added; Trinity Cathedral, which serves a community meal, and Family Promise, a homeless shelter for families. A food truck was also added in late fall named the “Blazing Bistro”. Stationed in Voinovich Park near the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame the menu selection contained American Gourmet foods such as; Gourmet Burgers, Pulled Pork sandwiches, Eggplant Fries, and Caprese Grilled Cheese sandwiches just to name a few. It is now closed due to the winter season but is set to open again in late spring of 2015. For more information on this Social Enterprise please contact Director Bryan Mauk at (216) 658-4608 or bmauk@lutheranmetro.org



Towards Employment

A Step Up in the Right Direction

By Vikki Tabb-Lyons

Towards Employment (TE) is a 38 year old nonprofit organization that helps low income individuals find quality jobs as a critical step toward self-sufficiency. Since 1976, TE has helped over 120,000 Greater Cleveland residents find and keep a job. TE is currently contracted by the Cuyahoga county Office of Reentry and Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) Cleveland/ Cuyahoga to provide reentry employment services to ex-offenders. This contract combines the NET and N4 program components for comprehensive work readiness programming. TE's Network 4 Success Workshop is an intensive four week job readiness program that is structured like a job, Monday – Friday, 9am—4pm. Having an excellent attendance record, punctuality and respect are top priorities in passing this program. Participants gain interviewing skills, enhanced computer skills, and a renewed sense of confidence as it pertains to job readiness. At the successful completion of this program TE provides a beautiful Step Up ceremony that is attended by family members, friends, mentors, and TE's staff. The participants receive certificates and a word of motivation that is tailored to fit each of them individually. This program gives participants an opportunity to connect with employers who are willing to give ex-offenders a second chance. For more information regarding this intensive service path please contact Towards Employment at 216-696-5750 or access their website towardsemployment.org.

Children of Incarcerated Parents Engagement Forums

by Vikki Tabb-Lyons

The first Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) Community Engagement Sessions were held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at the Fatima Center 6809 Quimby Avenue Cleveland, Ohio from 6:00pm – 8:00pm and Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank 15500 South Waterloo Road Cleveland, Ohio 44110 from 8:30am – 5:00pm. Both sessions combined yielded a total of 180 attendees and, as a result, 22 agencies volunteered to be a part of a collaborative partnership to help address the unique needs of children with incarcerated parents. These informational sessions focused on the following perspectives; Research/ Academia, Practitioner/Service Provider, and Child/ Families Impacted by Incarceration. National experts Dr. Julie Poehlmann, a professor at the University of Wisconsin spoke on “What We Know About CIP” and Dee Ann Newell, Co-Founder of Arkansas Voices for Children Left Behind spoke on “Strategies to Address the Needs of CIP.” Zoe Willmotis, Program Manager for the Community Works’ Project WHAT, also raised awareness by having two youth advocates from the program speak at both forums. Upcoming in the month of December there will be three Focus Groups at North Star Neighborhood Re-entry Resource Center located at 1834 East 55th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44103 for children, care givers, and previously incarcerated parents. These three sessions will be held on the following dates and times: December 2, 2014 6:00pm-7:00pm, December 4, 2014 4:30pm-6:00pm, and December 11, 2014 6:00pm-7:00pm. For more information please email Charmaine Pope at Cpope@cuyahogacounty.us or access Family & Children First Council’s website at <http://FCFC.cuyahogacounty.us>

Community Based Corrections Center Awarded for Excellence

By Vikki Tabb-Lyons

Judge Nancy R. McDonnell Community Based Corrections Center is a state funded correctional facility. CBCF is a local alternative for non-dangerous adult men who have been convicted of a felony, but do not require a mandatory prison sentence. The CBCF programs provide assessment and treatment services to assist offenders in reducing criminal behavior and increase rehabilitation through treatment, work, and education. The Community Based Corrections Facility, is one of the 2014 recipients of the Clifford Skeen Award that was received on Friday, October 17, in Columbus Ohio. This award is given in honor of the late, eight-term Ohio Representative, Clifford Skeen, who sponsored the Community Correction Act passed by the Ohio Legislature in July 1979, and represents excellence in community correction programming. The CBCF is operated by Oriana House, a nationally renowned community corrections and chemical dependency treatment agency.

For more information about other Community Corrections Programs in Cuyahoga County please visit the Oriana House website www.orianahouse.org

Pathways to Success – the Regional Summit

By Mary Kelley



Pathways Success.jpg

The 2014 “Making Northeast Ohio Communities Safer” Summit was held on November 18 at the Faith Family Church, in North Canton. More than 100 community partners, employers, agencies and groups attended this day-long event which drew a crowd of more than 400 people.



Pathways Success 2.jpg

Gary Mohr, Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction was a keynote speaker. He talked about the importance of community corrections and reentry in making communities safer and saving tax dollars by breaking cycles of men and women repeatedly returning to prison.



Pathways Success 3.jpg

According to Mohr and NE Regional Director Todd Ishee, “personal change is an essential element in completing the rehabilitative mission, but it requires a climate and culture outside of the system that fosters pro-social values and behaviors.”



Pathways Success 4.jpg

Each of the summit’s workshops was designed to incorporate the successful pathways to reintegration which are the framework of ODRC Reintegration Centers. They focused on a wide variety of topics from fatherhood and family programs, to veterans in the criminal justice system, to a beekeeping program for residents at the Lorain County Correctional Facility.



Pathways Success 5.jpg

Cuyahoga County organizations were well-represented. Brandon Chrostowski of EDWIN’s Restaurant and Leadership Institute did a workshop on his culinary education program. Jennifer Lasky of the Open Door Transitional Housing program held a workshop on the YMCA’s innovative housing options for men. Sister Rita Mary Harwood of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese introduced a new family program named LEAF (Listening, Encouraging, and Assisting Families). Recovery Resources’ Ashley Hartman presented an Introduction to Responsible Gambling and Mya Jenkins and Cailen Haggard of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center discussed outreach programs for veterans in the criminal justice system.



Pathways Success 6.jpg

The Manna Truck from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry’s Central Kitchen joined the Ridge Project’s CarneQ food truck outside the church with a variety of lunch choices for sale.



Pathways Success 7.jpg

The Summit provided an opportunity for providers to connect and share information about some of the services and reentry resources available to help returning citizens across Northeast Ohio successfully rejoin their families and communities. There is a lot of reentry work still to be done and this summit was a step toward more collaboration, cooperation of providers and another chance to get the information out to our restored citizens.

Cuyahoga County is First to Sponsor Bilingual Expungement Clinic

Cuyahoga County continued to demonstrate its leadership and innovative efforts on behalf of ex-offenders by developing and hosting the first bilingual expungement clinic in Ohio. The event was targeted, but not limited, to the Hispanic community.

The event was the brainchild of assistant county prosecutor Jose Torres. Torres recognized that there were many for whom English is second language and who, due to the language barrier and lack of understanding of the process, never investigated the possibility of sealing a criminal record.

A bilingual information and intake session was held in July. Those who met the statutory requirements for having their records sealed were scheduled to meet with a pro bono attorney who prepared all of the paperwork necessary to apply for application for expungement.

The Hispanic expungement clinic was a joint project of the Office of Reentry, the County Prosecutor's and Public Defender's Offices, the Legal Aid Society, the Hispanic Bar Association, and the Hispanic Alliance.

The Office of Reentry will continue to work with its partners to assist those eligible get their records sealed, which can open the door for enhanced employment and housing opportunities.

For information about eligibility to have a criminal record sealed go to <http://lasclv.org/selfhelp-sealingrecord>.

For assistance in sealing a record in a municipal court, contact the Legal Aid Society at 216-687-1900 or toll-free at 888-817-3777.

For assistance in sealing a record in the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas, contact the Public Defender's Office at 216.443.7223.

The Citizen Circles Concept



Citizen participation and guidance is essential for correctional practices inside and outside institutions. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction has embraced the needs related to offenders returning home from correctional settings and as such one strategy is the implementation of Citizen Circles.

Circle members address risks that contribute to criminal activity by taking ownership of the solution. It is an opportunity for citizens to communicate expectations for successful reentry and help offenders recognize the harm their behavior has caused others. Offenders are able to make amends and demonstrate their value and potential to the community.

Citizen Circles Locations

Downtown Citizen Circle
216-268-1600 x506

The Euclid Avenue Citizen Circle
216-421-0482 x282

First Love Outreach Ministries
216-391-9247

Surehouse Citizen Circle
216-441-4211

Glenville Citizen Circle
216-224-7902

The Westside Citizen Circle
216-402-1643



To receive a copy of **Going Home to Stay**

contact First Call for Help at 216.436.2000 or go online and download a copy

at: www.211cleveland.org/pdfs/communityreentry.pdf

Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry

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