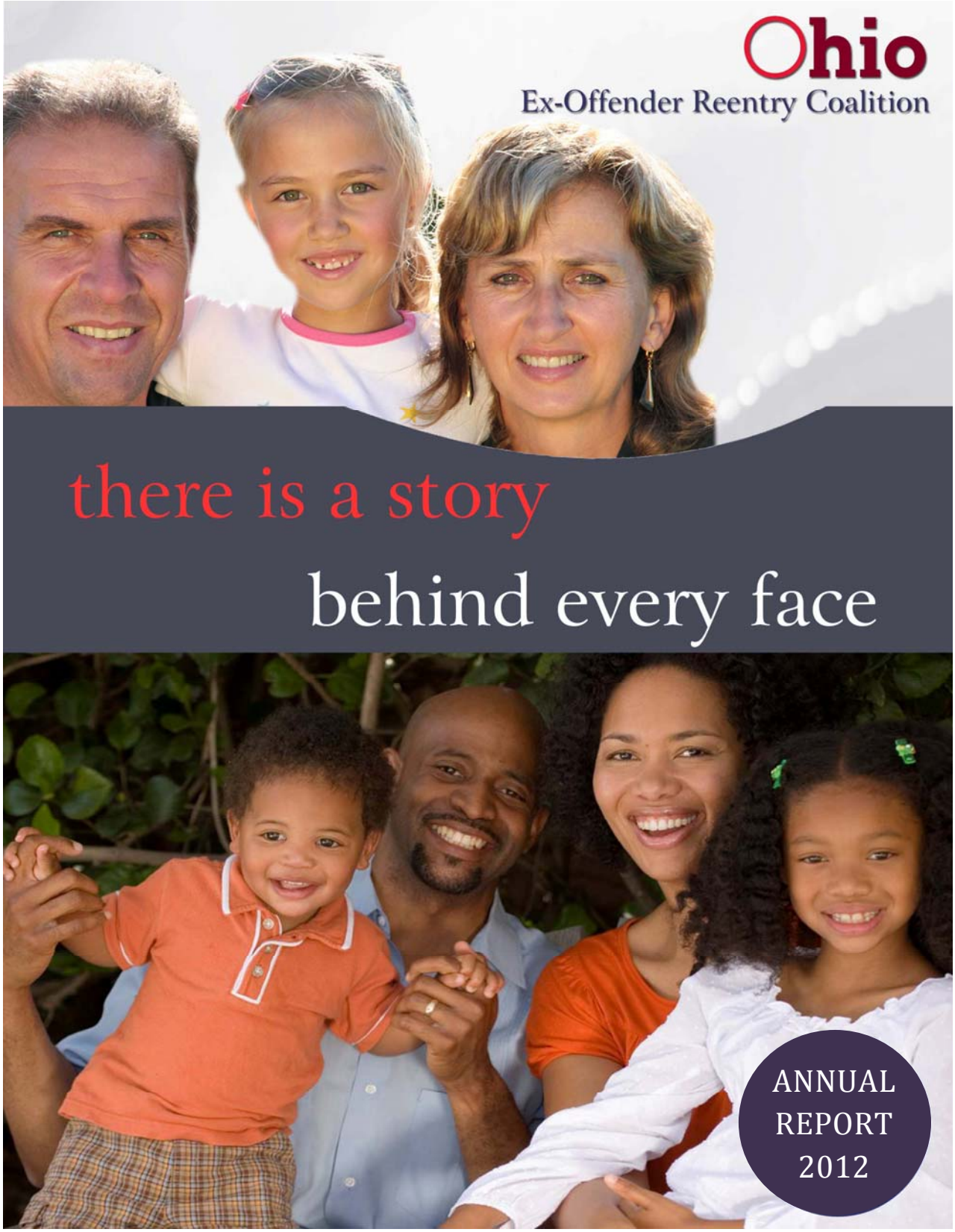

John R. Kasich
Governor

Gary C. Mohr
Chairman

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition
2012 Annual Report
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Chairman's Message

Collaboration is a word often used when discussing the resources involved in successful reentry. In 2011, we made great strides in collaborating with community partners, as we helped launch the Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions database, as well as the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions.

In 2012, we continued our collaborative efforts by forming the Juvenile Branch of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, supporting millions of dollars in requests for reentry grant funding, and increasing the number of reentry coalitions, alliances and partners across the state. Also in 2012, we held a Directors' Designees meeting for all member agencies, resulting in a commitment to be more collaborative in how the OERC goals and agenda are driven. The members understand that the ODRC is only one of many agency partners who impact the successful reentry of those who are released from confinement or who have a felony or misdemeanor conviction.

In an effort to be even more responsive to our local coalition and community partners, the ODRC initiated dialogue about some of the barriers encountered when those partners enter correctional facilities. The result was an ODRC directive addressing access to prisons by those involved in reentry, post-release services and support.

This past year also gave us the opportunity to begin witnessing the impact of House Bill 86 with the issuance of the first Certificates of Achievement and Employability, and new opportunities for offenders to earn reductions in time served. Another significant event was the enactment of Senate Bill 337, also known as the collateral sanctions bill. A notable element of this bill was language empowering the OERC to appoint an ex-offender as a statutory member of its leadership.

Many of you participated in the workgroups and committee meetings that resulted in these groundbreaking changes. Now we all have the task of holding ourselves accountable to promote these opportunities to those we endeavor to help. If we are serious about reducing crime and making safer communities, it is incumbent upon us to make sure the work of so many on behalf of so many more is not in vain.

Gary C. Mohr
Chairman

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

For over a decade, Ohio has been committed to assisting offenders as they reenter the state's communities in an effort to become law-abiding and productive citizens. In December 2008, the Ohio General Assembly passed a historic piece of reentry legislation, *House Bill 130 (HB130),* offering a framework for the long-term investment in the welfare of the state by addressing legal and other barriers to employment for individuals released from prison. A key component of the bill called for the formation of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) to serve as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across state in collaboration with local agencies and community partners.

The Reentry Coalition's primary goals are to reintegrate offenders into society, reduce recidivism, and maintain public safety. The OERC is committed to reduce recidivism by 50% over a five year period by facilitating offenders' successful transition and reintegration to neighborhoods across the state. Working together in a collective fashion, its member agencies are well-positioned to address the impact of incarceration now and on future generations of Ohio citizens and families. The Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) serves as the Chairperson of the OERC. The directors and contact information for each agency, office and board is provided in Appendix A.

Representatives from community-based organizations, service providers, local governments, and individuals interested or involved in the reentry of offenders are invited to participate in coalition meetings and contribute to the mission and work of the OERC. The OERC continues to host meetings in community locations across the state to include as many individuals as possible from the surrounding counties and areas nearby.

OERC Accomplishments in 2012

Continuation of the 5-year Strategic Plan-2nd Edition

Since its adoption, the 5-year Strategic Plan has been revised. Several new strategic goals have been added, while a number of original goals have been rescinded. This second edition remains comprehensive in focus, demonstrating a continuing commitment to recidivism reduction and to productive offender reintegration into communities across the state. The second edition of the plan can be found on the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition's website at www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov. For a review of the progress achieved in accomplishing our outcomes in 2012, see Appendix B.

The Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions

The Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions (OALRC) achieved a major milestone in 2012 by receiving official recognition and approval from the OERC. In addition, the OALRC completed and ratified Association Bylaws, obtained tax-exempt status, and was added as an Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Member-at-Large.

In January 2012, the Association published the *OALRC Proposed Structure and Logic Model Report* and *Team Charter* for submission to the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. The charter was approved in February 2012, which signified its primary goal to foster the support and expansion of local reentry coalitions statewide. The inaugural OALRC meeting was held in North Delaware, Ohio in March 2012, which resulted in the election of Kysten Palmore as President, Dennis Johnson as Vice President, Jamie Gee as Secretary, and Nida Reid-Williamson as Treasurer.

In July 2012, strategic direction was further refined at the OARLC meeting held at the ODRC Central Office with discussion centering on the need to provide a "face of reentry" through videotaped messages containing information regarding county resource contacts for inmates, ex-offenders and their families. OALRC coalitions, alliances, and partners began filming these media tools in August 2012 with the aid of the Prison News Network (PNN) within the Marion Correctional Institution. Through continued ODRC support, the OALRC "Welcome Home" video initiative was launched via the OERC website and now includes vital reentry connections to 32 Ohio counties.

In October and December of 2012, OALRC and ODRC representatives teamed up at the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Annual Conference for a presentation titled "Growing More Effective Practice through Expansion of Local Reentry Coalitions." They subsequently collaborated to provide technical assistance to the Idaho Department of Corrections regarding the creation of local reentry coalitions and task forces.

With the successful obtainment of a one-year $10,000 grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services via an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, the ODRC and OALRC are working together to expand and enhance reentry services throughout Ohio by initiating a three-phase, multi-tier strategy

that includes communication, coalition networking, partnership building, lessons learned, a centralized repository, and training.

In April 2013, the OALRC Sustainability Committee, led by Nida Reid-Williamson, Amy Piner, and Rhonda Fannin, will kick off monthly trainings via interactive webinars for reentry partners across the state. The topics, all related to reentry growth and development, include: Grant Writing 101, Legislative Updates, Identifying Community Resources and Best Practices, and Establishing a Reentry Coalition. The OALRC is aggressively moving forward with plans to sponsor its 1st Annual Reentry Expo in Columbus, Ohio in September 2013. This expo will include innovative training topics, resources, networking and call-to-action presentations aimed at expanding and igniting the development of new and existing coalitions, alliances, and partners statewide. To follow upcoming initiatives, select the OALRC tab at www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov. See Appendix C for a current map of coalitions. See Appendix D for an introduction to the elected OALRC officers.

Launching of the OERC Juvenile Branch

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) requested the permanent formation of a Juvenile Branch within the OERC. The purpose of the Juvenile Branch is to bring light to the needs of juvenile offenders, build a more comprehensive collaboration with all state agencies (especially those in which juvenile and adult services overlap), and consequently reduce, if not eliminate, the chances of youth returning to the juvenile system or being committed to the adult system. This branch will bring more visibility to the needs of youth by developing plans and implementing service efforts within the working systems of each agency, specific to their expertise in the following service needs areas: education, employment, substance abuse, mental health, family engagement, housing, mentoring, and medical/benefits.

While the vision is to reduce recidivism, the primary goals of the Juvenile Branch are to:

- Address ways that the local partners of each state agency can provide assistance to youth in a variety of service needs areas;
- Effectuate change at the state and federal levels to meet these needs;
- Encourage the local taskforces to include a juvenile component in their strategic plans; and,
- Involve the local task forces in the reentry planning on individual cases specifically for those youth placement challenges.

The OERC Juvenile Branch was launched at the September 2012 OERC quarterly meeting. Initially, volunteers were sought from each OERC state agency to serve on the Juvenile Branch. Each member agency was asked to select a representative who has a strong understanding and passion for working with the juvenile population. If necessary, ODYS shall make extended invitations and make professional recommendations for membership. All members of the Juvenile Branch will remain active members of the OERC. The ODYS Reentry Administrator serves as the facilitator of the Juvenile Branch.

The Juvenile Branch will not operate like a committee, but instead will work in conjunction with the OERC. Subcommittees are not required; however, the Juvenile Branch will ensure that there is juvenile

representation on all existing and future OERC subcommittees. Each OERC quarterly meeting will have a standing agenda item to discuss the efforts of the Juvenile Branch. The OERC meetings may include more presentations and panelists representing juvenile issues and more discussions on issues requiring legislative change. The Juvenile Branch will meet immediately following every OERC meeting. ODYS will use its Reentry Continuum as a guide to represent the agency's reentry intentions and practices aligned with its commitment to the 5-year strategic plan and performance outcomes. In addition, the Reentry Continuum will serve as a valuable resource for the members of the Juvenile Branch.

Finally, the Juvenile Branch will use the OERC website for promoting juvenile-related information and for marketing the needs and efforts of the Juvenile Branch. Additions to the site may include a separate tab on the homepage, links to the ODYS Reentry Continuum or other juvenile-related resources, and possibly adding a juvenile section to each county's reentry resource guide in M.U.S.C.L.E. (located as a link on the OERC website).

Legislation Updates

During 2012, some very significant legislative action came to fruition. House Bill 86, the sentencing reform bill signed in 2011, began to impact operations in prisons and jails across Ohio. Also, Senate Bill 337, often referred to as the collateral sanctions bill, was signed in 2012. Senate Bill 337 included language allowing the OERC to appoint an ex-offender as a statutory member. This appointment will take place in the spring of 2013. These two pieces of legislation are expected to directly impact the recidivism rate in Ohio while simultaneously working towards the goal of safer communities across the state. Presented below are both bills.

House Bill 86

House Bill 86 (HB 86) introduces sentencing reform in the areas of earned credit, Certificates of Achievement and Employability, mandatory drug provisions, judicial release, intervention in lieu of conviction, an ODRC recommendation for 80% release, and a risk reduction sentence.

Earned Credit

Legislation increases earned credit from one day per month to five days per month with the exception of sex offenders. The provision applies to offenders sentenced after September 30, 2011 and caps earned credit and/or program completion at eight percent of the offender's sentence.

Certificate of Achievement and Employability

Offenders can apply for a Certificate of Achievement and Employability (CAE) after completing certain programming requirements and a minimum of 120 hours of community service. These certificates are beneficial because the recipient is generally able to bypass employment barriers that would affect a potential job track for which the offender trained in while incarcerated.

Director Mohr signing the first A&E certificate

Mandatory Drug Provisions

The legislation creates new categories and potentially shorter mandatory terms for trafficking in or possession of marijuana and hashish. Additionally, the legislation makes changes to other mandatory felony 3 drug penalties.

Judicial Release

Offenders who are serving more than ten years may be eligible to apply for judicial release, depending on their crime. The provision only applies to incarcerated individuals and restores judicial release eligibility for offenders with five-year sentences.

Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (ILC)

This clause expands eligibility for intervention to persons charged with specified theft charges, among others. Low-level drug traffickers and felony 4 drug possession offenses become eligible for ILC. HB 86 authorizes ILC for offenders whose mental illness or intellectual disability contributed to their offense and allows repeat offenders who have not committed a prior felony offense of violence to be considered.

ODRC Recommendation for 80% Release

HB 86 allows ODRC's Director to recommend to the sentencing court a consideration of judicial release of an inmate who has served at least 80% of his or her sentence in cases of a sentence of one year or more. Offenses involving guns, sexually-oriented offenses, and repeat violent offenders are excluded. To be eligible for consideration, offenders must meet both the statutory and administrative criteria.

The legislation authorizes judges at sentencing to determine an offender's eligibility for an 80% risk reduction if he or she completes the appropriate treatment and programming requested by the court. The offender may be released by ODRC to supervision for the remaining 20% of the sentence.

Senate Bill 337

Senate Bill 337 focuses sentencing reform on particular areas of collateral sanctions including employment barriers, the sealing of criminal records, non-payment of child support, and driver's license reinstatement.

Employment Barriers

The bill introduces a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) that relieves, on a limited basis, collateral sanctions imposed by law. The CQE is geared toward individuals living in the community who have previous felony and/or misdemeanor convictions or who have served a term of imprisonment. This certificate allows an employer to consider on a case-by-case basis whether it is appropriate to grant or deny a job opportunity, without being held liable for negligent hiring practices.

SB 337 does not lift the barrier to a conviction when the occupation is directly related to the conviction, such as employment for someone convicted of check fraud when applying for a job at a bank. The bill does, however, allow licensing boards to consider lifting a collateral sanction prohibiting an individual from obtaining a license in certain fields such as HVAC, optical dispensing, construction, cosmetology, and other professions for which ODRC provides vocational training.

SB 337 does not limit an employer's discretion to include questions regarding felony convictions on the job application. However, the State of Ohio is revising its process to remove the question regarding prior felony convictions on the initial application for employment. Full disclosure is expected at a later part of the application process.

Sealing of Criminal Records

SB 337 allows for the sealing of one felony and one misdemeanor offense committed at different time periods or two misdemeanors provided they are not for the same offense.

Non-Payment of Child Support

SB 337 gives the court discretion in sealing non-support convictions if an individual is current in his or her child support payments. Additionally, the bill modifies child support policies to allow child support enforcement agencies to use actual earning potential based on an inmate's state pay while incarcerated.

Commercial Driver's License Reinstatement

The bill changes a first time noncompliance suspension from 90 days to an indefinite time period, until conditions are met. Drivers or vehicle owners are allowed to reinstate their license immediately following the payment of a reinstatement fee and by filing a SR-22 insurance bond.

This bill eliminates the need to file for limited driving privileges and allows a CDL driver to reinstate his or her license immediately. Additionally, the Registrar, with approval of the Director of Public Safety, can adopt rules establishing a reinstatement fee payment plan.

Local Reentry Coalitions Updates

Athens County Job and Family Services Ex-Offender Reentry Task Force

Program

In 2012, Athens County Job and Family Services continued to employ a full-time Reentry Coordinator who made face-to-face contact (either in person or through video conferencing) with 155 ex-offenders. On average, over 84 on-going case management contacts were made monthly between ex-offenders and the coordinator through telephone or face-to-face contact. In August 2012, the Reentry Coordinator was moved into the Athens County O.N.E.-STOP employment and training center called The Work Station. This transition allows the Reentry Coordinator to be "on-site" to assist offenders as they progress toward successful reentry which eases the process for returning ex-offenders to apply for entitlement benefits, to apply for jobs, to attend pro-social workshops and trainings, and to work toward a GED.

The Athens County Reentry Task Force, with over 60 members, met monthly at the offices of Athens County Job and Family Services to continue the discussion of reentry issues.

Through Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of Athens County, visitation was facilitated between one of the "Littles" and her currently incarcerated father. This took place at The Work Station and proved to be very beneficial to both the inmate and his daughter. Plans are currently in the works between BBBS and the Reentry Program to further this service.

The Reentry Program met and coordinated with Tri-County Mental Health to involve one of their case managers in video conferencing with inmates in need of mental health services upon release, allowing for a more seamless transition to mental health services outside of the prison. Additionally, the Reentry Program met with local common pleas court staff to begin a process wherein the program would be notified in advance of any judicial release hearings for inmates. This change allows the program to make face-to-face contact with the inmate and offer their services at a crucial stage in the reentry process.

Successes

- Continued the process of video conferencing with inmates scheduled to be released and offering services pre- and post-release;
- Worked with Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Program on the design and implementation of the current Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction Project;
- Met with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles to begin planning an event to assist local ex-offenders in taking advantage of the benefits of SB 337;
- Hosted meetings of the Athens County Citizen's Circle on a monthly basis at The Work Station.
- Presented 12 community workshops for ex-offenders throughout the year with over 130 people attending; and,
- Held a community resource/job fair that was attended by over 50 people.

Clark County Reentry Coalition

Program

After receiving a funding extension through March 31, 2013, the Clark County Reentry Coalition continues its effort to reduce recidivism in Clark County by engaging the community as a protective factor against recidivism and using the community to support offender reentry and reintegration. The Clark County reentry services contact person coordinates and maintains collaborative community partnerships through coalition meetings, ex-offender advocacy, judges' quarterly reports, and by promoting community sustainability. The Reentry Coordinator oversees and implements the Coalition's Strategic Plan including the Second Chance Thursday reentry resource events. Second Chance Thursday is a O.N.E.-STOP shop concept where a variety of community service providers are brought together in a single location to engage ex-offenders and to distribute vital information regarding programs and the supportive services required to meet their needs.

To reduce recidivism among those released from the county jail, the Coalition partnered with the Clark County Sheriff's Office to engage a deputy to transport jail inmates to reentry staff to receive reentry services. The security of the Clark County Jail requires deputy supervision and transportation to enable servicing offenders' reentry needs. This partnership allows reentry staff to safely assess inmates for their risk and responsivity and allows access to provide interventions such as Thinking for a Change that address inmates' criminogenic needs.

Prior to release, the Resource Advocate links inmates to a community-based organization to continue their (post-release) treatment needs. The Thinking for a Change/Cognitive Behavioral Interventions Instructor promotes training and collaboration across local systems to assist law enforcement, prosecution, courts, and corrections agencies. Continuing education credits are used as an incentive for agency professionals attending these training sessions.

Second Chance Act Offender Reentry Project

Clark County Reentry Coalition's Second Chance Act Offender Reentry Project serves up to 150 moderate- to high-risk offenders as determined by the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS). The offenders are given 200-300 hours of cognitive-behavioral interventions pre- and post-release. The program targets dynamic risk factors or criminogenic needs including anti-social behavior, personality pattern, cognition, family and/or marital problems, school and/or work problems, leisure and/or recreation problems, and substance abuse. In addition, the program works to overcome obstacles such as intelligence level, reading ability, language barriers, and cultural barriers according to the responsivity principle to increase the success of the reentry treatment programs. Eligible inmates are recruited from state institutions and the Clark County Jail between three and six months pre-release.

Pre-release services include cognitive-behavioral interventions, mental health and substance abuse assessments and treatment, referrals to community service providers and comprehensive reentry case planning. Thinking for a Change (T4C) is used for all offenders in the program. Post-release reentry services include having ex-offenders check in to a central hub on a daily basis in order to track delivered

services and to occupy 40-70% of their unstructured time. Other services include mentoring, housing, education, and employment support such as vocational training.

The success of the program in reducing recidivism will be determined by an independent evaluator under the Second Chance Act Grant. Other potential successes include partnerships with agencies such as mental health, housing, and substance abuse.

Successes

Through the grant program, 21 participants have obtained employment.

Eleven Second Chance Thursday events have been held to engage ex-offenders and to distribute vital information regarding programming and support services to meet their needs.

Relationships have been established with six state institutions through which the program's case managers have access to teach T4C inside the prisons. In addition, the program's mental health and substance abuse specialists have access to state institutions to complete full assessments on participants.

Upon release, participants continue to receive services on site, including T4C classes, substance abuse programming, construction trades training, life skills, and job readiness.

Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry

Programs

The Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry continued with a variety of initiatives and projects in 2012.

- The Cuyahoga Adult Reentry Demo Project works in collaboration with two local service providers to address ex-offenders' criminogenic needs, difficult life circumstances, and the unique health and wellness challenges they face during the reentry process.
- The Adult Basic Education program in the Cuyahoga County Jail provides adults basic education in math, reading, and writing according to their skill levels.
- The Expungement Initiative targets those with previous involvement in the criminal justice system who are eligible to have their records sealed. It educates the legal and general populations about the value of having criminal records sealed.
- The Greater Cleveland Integrated Reentry Program provides intensive case management and wrap-around services to assist ex-offenders in overcoming barriers, specifically targeting those returning to the five neighborhoods with the highest crime rates.
- The NorthStar Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center offers ex-offenders and their families information and referral services such as computer skills and resume writing classes in a supportive environment.
- The Open Door Transitional Housing for Reentrants program offers supervised transitional housing to 46 residents, while also providing case management and training programs.
- The Cuyahoga County Reentry Court assesses, identifies, and links participating offenders with services specific to their needs and assists offenders in the development of an effective case management plan.
- The Social Enterprise Business Pilot Program seeks proposals and fully-developed business plans for the establishment of social enterprise businesses that are sustainable and will provide employment opportunities for a minimum of 100 ex-offenders.

Successes

- Cuyahoga County was the first grantee to include a Pay for Success component in the Second Change Act grant.
- The GED exam was administered for the first time in the Cuyahoga County jail and 11 of 14 participants passed the exam.
- Over 100 individuals seeking expungement were assisted through the Expungement Initiative.
- The Greater Cleveland Integrated Reentry Program completed the first comprehensive systematic recidivism study in Cuyahoga County.
- Membership to the NorthStar Neighborhood Reentry Resource Center increased by more than 1,000 in each of the past two years and reports indicate satisfaction ratings of more than 90%.
- Cuyahoga County was the first county in the nation to have a partnership with a public housing authority for housing dedicated to ex-offenders.
- The Reentry Court helped to reduce recidivism after one year of completion to less than 15%.
- Three social enterprises were selected for a pilot program: Central Kitchen/catering services, Signature Styles Lounge, and Property Construction/Rehabilitation/Deconstruction.

Delaware County Reentry Coalition

Program

The purpose of this coalition is to take an evidence-based approach to mitigating the pervasive problems of high-risk offenders who often face substance abuse and mental illness challenges as they reintegrate into the community following release. The coalition proposes the use of evidence-based case management with cognitive behavioral interventions to target criminogenic needs. The reentry program will utilize the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) to determine an offender's likelihood of re-offending and to determine the type of interventions appropriate for the offender's criminogenic needs. Males and females will be placed in gender-specific groups. Group facilitators will be trained in Thinking for a Change and MRT, both of which are evidence-based and cognitive behavioral interventions. The program length is 12 months.

Strategy

The case management strategy combines strength-based and assertive case management principles to maximize program impact. The proposed model incorporates the fundamental principles of evidence-based correction practice across the following six stages:

- Intake, assessment, and classification
- Development and implementation of an individual reentry plan
- Linkage of the offender and community resources
- Intervention
- Monitoring and evaluation of the offender's progress
- Advocating for the offender, as needed

Successes

The Delaware County Reentry Coalition has been successful in its ability to gain access to ODRC institutions, establish community connections within Delaware County, and gain increased participation from formerly incarcerated persons.

Fairfield County Reentry Coalition

Program

With its grant, the Fairfield County Reentry Coalition targets men and women in Fairfield County who are moderate or high risk and within three months of release from one of the four institutions within the county: the Fairfield County Jail Annex, Southeastern Correctional Institution, Fairfield County Minimum Security Jail, and the Community Transition Center. The main grant project for the Fairfield County Reentry Coalition is the formation of Reentry Resource Centers within the county. These Resource Centers are housed at each of the above-mentioned institutions. Through the Resource Center, inmates who are Fairfield County residents and who fit the risk criteria are eligible to take advantage of the Resource Centers. Three months prior to release, work begins with the inmates to ensure that a successful transition plan can be developed before their return to the community. Eligible inmates meet with a reentry specialist to develop a plan for transition that includes intake and assessment to address barriers to housing stability, employment, substance abuse, and mental health needs. Inmates receive service referrals while case planning is coordinated among many service providers with whom the inmate may work post-release.

Upon release, the ex-offenders served by the Resource Center continue to meet with Reentry staff to address the remaining barriers to their successful transition. The services available through the Resource Centers are available for the grant period of 12 months. Ex-offenders who take advantage of the services continue to receive them as needed during the grant period until a successful transition is accomplished.

Franklin County Reentry Task Force

Administrative

The Task Force began 2012 by appointing two new Chairs to the organization and restructuring its bi-monthly meetings. The Chairs for 2012-2013 are the Honorable Timothy Horton, Franklin County Common Pleas Court and Denise Robinson, CEO and President of Alvis House.

The Task Force restructured the bi monthly meetings into two separate sections, executive and general. The Executive Meeting consists of the voting members, chairs, and co-chairs this group meets first to discuss business that may require a vote and executive decisions. The General Meeting follows where service providers share successes provide information on relevant reentry issues, criminal justice topics, legislative updates, Task Force program updates, and potential grant opportunities.

Workforce

The Franklin County Commissioners passed a resolution authorizing the Director of HR, with the consent of the County Administrator, to amend the County's application form to comply with best practices and EEOC policy; subsequently, the felony box has been removed from the County's online application.

Commissioner Brown is advocating the use of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to Franklin County employers as an incentive hire formerly incarcerated individuals residing in Franklin County to increase and enhance the county's workforce.

Support & Funding

The Task Force submitted 8 letters of support for grant proposals in the amount of $6.7 million dollars.

The Franklin County Reentry Task Force is engaged in six grants, either as a member of the Advisory Committee or as the fiscal agent.

Franklin County received its first Second Chance Act Grant. The Pathways project at ORW is providing pre-release green technology and clean energy job training, internships, and post-release paid work experience. Grant was awarded $747,859, with the Task Force serving as the fiscal agent. Implementation is set to begin the week of February 25th.

Franklin County is on the advisory committee for Ex-Offender Reentry Mini-Grant awarded to the Franklin County ADAMH board through the collaboration of Columbus Area Inc. and the Franklin County Reentry Task Force. Franklin County received $80,000 the largest award out of the 18 grants funded. The funding will assist in expanding in-reach services to the severely mentally ill/persistent severely mentally ill through the use of needs assessment, cognitive-behavioral groups that address criminological thinking, the development of individual reentry plans as well as post release linkages to community resources for physical health, mental health and addiction treatment services, housing, entitlements, peer support and vocational services. This grant will serve 32 individuals returning to Franklin County, Ohio from one of Ohio's state run prisons.

The Task Force is on the advisory committee for the Second Chance Act OR3 Project (Ohio Rural Reentry Recidivism Reduction). This project focuses on providing reentry services to residents returning to 10 rural counties.

The Task Force is on the advisory committee for the Criminal Justice and Mental Illness Collaboration from BJA through ADAMH and the Behavioral Health and Housing Subcommittee. This grant for $250,000 with $80k match will provide intensive mental health services 25 individuals who are frequent users of the ADMAH system who are homeless, or threat of being homeless, who have had at least 3 or more stays in homeless shelter, jail, and hospitalization with a diagnosis of SMD/SMI. The purpose of the grant is to end their 'pattern of crisis.' The participants will be placed on existing evidence-based practice team. Columbus Area will be providing services (selected through RFP). Community Housing Network will provide housing services and manage rent subsidy.

The Task Force is on the steering committee for Ohio Advocating for Local Reentry Collaboratives is a project spearheaded by the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalition funded by OCJS to provide technical assistance to jurisdictions that are forming coalitions and to establish coalitions that need or desire training to continue service delivery.

Peer mentoring project in the Franklin County Jail funded by OCJS in the amount of $50,000.

Measurement

The creation of a Dashboard and Survey – The Task Force convened an ad hoc committee to guide the development from multiple perspectives. The purpose of the survey and dashboard is to measure and provide evidence of the extent to which the Task Force members have collectively addressed the needs of persons returning from incarceration to Franklin County. The survey will focus on a sample of former inmates who were incarcerated for 60 days or longer and released between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012 and received services from Task Force members between the same time period.

Marketing & Outreach

The County issued a press release to the Columbus Dispatch regarding the new website www.franklincountyohio.gov/reentry.

The Wallet-full of Resources received its 3rd reprint.

The Task Force designed a 1-gigabyte USB Flash Drive silicone wrist with the logo and website of the Task Force embossed on it to be distributed to workforce development agencies that work with formerly incarcerated individuals. The drive contains the Wallet-Full of Resources, resume and cover letter template, interviewing tips and how to answer the question "have you ever been convicted of a felony".

Franklin County initiated the "Which are the ex-offenders" campaign, the ad ran the Columbus Dispatch, Columbus CEO magazine, the Daily Reporter, and on the website. The campaign was a collaborative effort of many county, community, and state employees, Directors and Judges.

As part of the marketing and media outreach goal included in the Franklin County Reentry Task Force Five Year Comprehensive Strategic Plan, the Employment & Education subcommittee created a marketing brochure to profile advocates and employers who believe in offering ex-offenders a second chance, and ex-offenders who have successfully transitioned into the community.

September 27, 2012: The Task Force participated in the State-Wide Child Support Conference to discuss Child Support and the Ex-Offender and new changes in SB337 and the rationale behind the decision.

October 11 and 12, 2012: Presented, along with Ed Rhine, Darryl Graves, and Christopher Yanai from ODRC, at the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Corrections Annual Conference, *Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice*. Our topic was: *Growing More Effective Practice Through Expansion of Local Reentry Coalitions*. The Franklin Reentry Task Force coordinator also moderated a panel of judges from Milwaukee County Circuit Court, the topic of the presentation was *Engaging the Judiciary in Evidence-Based Practice*.

December 17, 2012: Franklin County assisted ODRC in providing Technical Assistance to the Idaho Department of Correction regarding the creation of local reentry coalitions and task forces.

We have been asked to assist Cleveland TASC (Treatment Accountability for Safer Community) in presenting the 19th annual National TASC Conference on Drugs, Crime, and Reentry, scheduled for May 8-10, 2013, at the Columbus Convention Center.

Programming

On Saturday, January 19, 2013, the Franklin County Jail Reentry Program will end. The last two participants in the transitional employment program will complete their eight weeks of transitional work. They have both been offered permanent employment with their current employer.

Hamilton County Reentry Coalition

Program

Three priority strategies provide a focus for the efforts of community partners to remove barriers to successful reentry in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The three strategies are to:

Strategy 1: Establish the Hamilton County Reentry Resource Center

- A centrally located and welcoming place providing a full range of services and support to individuals returning from incarceration.

Strategy 2: Strengthen Pre-Release Services

- A partnership between Hamilton County agencies and the ODRC to address critical needs of those returning to Hamilton County prior to release.

Strategy 3: Develop Workforce and Expand Employment Opportunities

- A prepared, skilled reentry workforce available to employers to meet their most pressing needs and help released offenders to achieve market-rate compensation.

Successes

- Initiated a community-wide, focused planning process to create a comprehensive plan that promotes successful reentry. In total, 469 individuals participated in the planning process.
- The Hamilton County Community Reentry Action Plan is designed to build upon the strong base of services that already exists. It takes a focused and coordinated approach to marshaling the necessary assets and resources in an efficient manner.
- For the next two years, the Action Plan will provide strategic direction and an organizational structure, and will identify areas that require further planning or organization.

Lake County Reentry Coalition

Program

The Lake County Reentry Coalition is currently in the developmental stage and is not operating on any grants at this time. The Coalition meets every third Friday of the month. The planning process for the development of a 5-Year Strategic Plan for adults in Lake County is underway. This strategic plan will focus on reducing recidivism while enhancing the safety of the public in Lake County. The plan will focus on the following domains:

- Education
- Employment
- Family and parenting
- Housing
- Identification
- Legal issues
- Mental health
- Mentoring
- Substance abuse

Lorain County Reentry Coalition

Program

As part of the Planning Project, the Lorain County Reentry Coalition's grant funds a part-time Reentry Coordinator. This coordinator facilitates connections with services within the community that can aid the adult population returning to Lorain County post-release.

Successes

In 2012, the coalition hosted two employee resource events. The first was attended by 25 people and the second was attended by over 200 people. These events provided returning citizens with the opportunity to learn about employment services and training programs available to them.

Mid-Ohio Reentry Coalition

Program

The Mid-Ohio Reentry Coalition continued to meet every other month in 2012. Because their grant ended on December 31, 2011, the coalition has not had funds to deliver services. However, Goodwill of Marion continues to provide some employment support and the ADAMH Board continues to fund mental health services for ex-offenders who have a severe and persistent mental illness or for those with addictive disorders. Additionally, Marion County Family Court has a small juvenile reentry court program for juveniles and, at the present time, serves between five and eight young people. As of January 2013, the Honorable Robert Fragale (Marion Family Court Judge), Jody Demo-Hodgins (ADAMH Board Director), and Michelle Wood (ex-offender) are the three chairpersons for the Mid-Ohio Reentry Coalition.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters when compared to what lies within us."

– William Morrow

Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry (MCOER)

Program

As a result of its success, the demand for MCOER support increased by 45% in 2012, averaging 145 contacts monthly. As of December 2012, MCOER Welcome O.N.E.-STOP Reentry Center routine customer engagement has surged to a total of 4,000 ex-offender contacts since 2010. Additionally, progress has been made to provide programs and services to citizens that minimize barriers to successful ex-offender reentry and that promote recidivism reduction of 50% within five years through "Action, Alliance, and Accountability." Since its inception, MCOER has played a role in reducing the recidivism rate in Montgomery County from 43% to 32.2%.

Advanced Cognitive Treatment Services (ACTS)

The Advanced Cognitive Treatment Services (ACTS) Research study seeks to serve a total of 168 moderate- to high-risk male and female ex-offenders, 18 years or older, returning to and/or residing in Montgomery County who possess high criminogenic needs in the areas of antisocial attitudes, antisocial peers, and antisocial personality traits. MCOER staff and service partners utilized cognitive-based approaches such as Thinking for a Change in working with ACTS Treatment Group participants to ensure effective transition back into their Montgomery County community upon release.

Clients are scheduled for a 10-week intensive cognitive intervention core program and discretionary and elective programming (community service). Moderate-risk clients complete 200 hours (20 hours per week) of coursework, while high-risk clients complete 300 hours (30 hours per week).

From March to October of 2012, eligible candidates expressing interest in ACTS totaled 171. Of the individuals assigned, 93 candidates enrolled. The study suggests that high-risk participants received greater benefit, decreased their substance use and felt increased life satisfaction.

Successes

Bi-monthly meetings to enhance network strategies continued in 2012. As a result of ongoing efforts of the Reentry Collaborative, the network committed to and conducted community-based "Open House" forums in July 2012 and November 2012 to strengthen collaborative efforts and to provide site visit highlights of shared supportive service opportunities. In addition, an academic partnership continued with Kaplan College and a new partnership developed with the Wilberforce University work study program which consists of three MCOER-supported internship opportunities during the 2012-2013 academic year. MCOER, the lead project applicant, established a network of partner organizations to assist in the ACTS 10-week curriculum. The partner organizations represent a dynamic and comprehensive collaboration among local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and community stakeholders. These partners are committed to helping persons with felony records to overcome barriers to effective reentry in Montgomery County. They are strongly committed to strengthening families and public safety and promoting recidivism reduction within the county.

Muskingum County Reentry Coalition

Program

In 2012, the Muskingum County Reentry Coalition established the following subcommittees:

- Leadership and Planning - Kristina Hawk; Diane Hildebrand (Muskingum Behavioral Health); James McDonald; County Commissioners Jerry Lavy, Jim Porter, and Steve Strauss; Kysten Palmore (Franklin County Reentry Task Force), Judge Kelly Cottrill; Tim Buchanan (Noble Corrections Center); Angela Carder (Juvenile County Reentry Coalition Coordinator), and Sheriff Matt Lutz.
- Community Needs Assessment - Vickie Hare (Mental Health and Recovery Services); Trinda Walter and Jamie Clark (Zane State College); Jennifer Conkle (Adult Parole Authority); Karen Walker (Salvation Army); and Vince Durant (Deputy Director Child Support Enforcement Agency).
- Community Resources - Bob Mercer (One Stop Career of DJFS): Gene Tahyi (Anchor Church – Faith-based community); Yvette Livers (Girl Scouts of America); Burl Lemon (ForeverDads – Fatherhood Initiative); Rod Hollingsworth; Chris Yanai (ODRC), Beverly Huth (Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation:; and Becky Hill (Six County, Inc. – Behavioral Health).

RFG Associates began the application process for a Category 1: Second Chance Act Adult Offender Reentry Program, however, the grant was not submitted and the group decided to continue organizing the Coalition through local support and leadership.

Successes

In January 2013, Timothy Buchannan assumed the role of lead coordinator of the Muskingum County Reentry Coalition, reiterating its goal of reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety by assisting offenders in their return to Muskingum County. Its vision is to make Muskingum County a safer place to live, work, and raise a family through engaging offenders returning to our community. Its mission is to reduce recidivism and enhance public safety by assisting offenders in their successful transition back to Muskingum County through collaboration, aligning resources and facilitating service delivery.

Currently, efforts are underway to produce a "Welcome Home" Video featuring voices from a cross-section of the community to welcome inmates back to the community and to share opportunities being developed through the Muskingum County Reentry Coalition.

"…collaboration, aligning resources, and facilitating service delivery."

Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio (RCNO)

Program

In the past year the Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio has been faced with a number of challenges as well as new opportunities. This year saw the end of the OCJS grant and, while two Second Chance Act grant applications were submitted in spring of 2012, neither proposal was funded. This left the Coalition members who had been contracted to implement the coalition's Reentry Triage process, mentoring, and the coordination of pro-bono attorneys with no funding source to continue their work. The lack of dedicated staff has severely impaired the organizational capacity of the coalition to organize partners and facilitate the pursuit of state and federal grants that would allow for the expansion of coalition services and support.

In terms of new opportunities, RCNO has been working with multiple jurisdictions including county, city, and judicial to work on establishing an Office of Reentry with a paid staff person to serve as the Reentry Coordinator. A business plan was submitted to the Community Corrections Board and is currently being vetted through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. There is broad support for this, and the coalition hopes to have the office and position officially established and filled sometime in 2013.

Successes

Attorney Warrant Removal and Pro Bono Program

In 2012 the Pro-bono Attorney's Program made visits to Toledo Correctional and Allen Oakwood Correctional facilities. Video conferencing was used to allow a judge at the Toledo Municipal Court to hear requests to deal with outstanding warrants and fines for those men and woman preparing to leave prison. In addition to the legal team, the visiting group also included representation from Triage (while it was still in place), and Child Support Services. In 2012, this program served 53 new participants, facilitated 159 consultations, and allowed for 47 court appearances to deal with fines and warrants. Since May of 2010, 113 bench warrants have been removed and over $52,000 in fines and costs have been suspended.

Youth Reentry Task Force

The Youth Reentry Task Force was formed in June 2011 as a standing subcommittee of the Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio. This task force has representatives from the Lucas County Juvenile Court, mental health, housing, and substance abuse agencies, the Toledo Police Department, ODJFS, faith-based organizations, the Mayor of Toledo's Office and Workforce Development, among other organizations. The group is committed to meeting monthly to help juvenile offenders successfully return to their communities post-incarceration. In March 2012, the Task Force held its 1st Annual Reentry Summit to expand education regarding this population.

Going Home to Stay (First Wednesdays)

Going Home to Stay meetings are held once per month to offer released offenders and their family members an opportunity to connect to services and support at a single location. In addition to health, mental health and social services agencies, other participating organizations have included the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Owens Community College, the Social Security Administration, and United Way's 2-1-1 (which connects people to additional community resources). Since its inception, 673 ex-offenders and 40 family members have attended *Going Home to Stay* events, which include participation from an average of 21 community organizations per month. Surveys conducted at the *Going Home to Stay* meetings show that 90% of participants would rate them as good or excellent and 100% would recommend them to a friend.

Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN)

In 2012, the Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN) held subcommittee meetings to discuss employment, planning, research and evaluation, training and education, and advocacy and resource development (with 1 Ad Hoc for the Strategic Plan).

Successes

- A county reentry guide titled "Coming Home: A Road Map for Successful Reentry" was created this year in partnership with Info Line, Inc. It was uploaded to the internet in December 2012. The web link to the guide is available on the SCRN website, as well as on the Info Line, Inc. website.
- In December 2012, a new SCRN website was launched with a focus on reentry consumers and their families, employers, reentry service providers, and the community at large. The multi-county "Welcome Home" messages featuring Summit County are also available on the new website, which can be accessed at summitcountyreentrynetwork.org.
- SCRN began an exciting partnership with the University of Akron's School of Business. In the Marketing Department's Digital Media class, 28 students in their third or fourth year began participating in a project to market to employers the idea and/or benefits of hiring people with felonies in their history.
- With the assistance of TRIAD Communications, SCRN created a professional brochure to highlight and market reentry in our community.
- SCRN created a survey to elicit details about who in Summit County is providing any type of reentry services. The survey seeks to learn about people and/or agencies that are not on the official database with Info Line, Inc.
- The Reentry Support Group (RSG) met every Friday evening (since October 2011).
- A Reentry Resource Seminar (RSS) was held every month (since June 2011).

Wood County Reentry Coalition (WCRC)

Program

In early 2012, key players from many agencies and leaders in the Wood County community met to discuss the formation of a Reentry Coalition. Support for the formation of a coalition was overwhelmingly positive. Since the coalition came together, several meetings have taken place in which great progress was made to finalize a strategic plan and to improve services for returning citizens in Wood County.

WCRC currently supports numerous programs such as the Neighborhood Legal Clinic, through which local attorneys provide free legal advice on almost any topic. Additionally, WCRC supports the work of the ADAMHS Board and Family Services of Northwest Ohio in implementing an Assertive Community Treatment program, as well as the planning of a mental health court.

Successes

WCRC partnered with Bowling Green State University to begin an extensive examination of available resources within the Wood County community. An informational guide is in the works that will help returning citizens locate the support that they need. Bowling Green State University has also developed a thorough offender needs assessment and survey that will be used to focus WCRC's efforts and to connect ex-offenders with appropriate resources in their communities.

"…moving forward to assist returning citizens in re-establishing themselves within the community, one step at a time."

Collaborative Accomplishments

The accomplishments highlighted in the previous section are clearly a reflection of the local reentry coalitions' ability to foster partnerships and operate in collaboration with community stakeholders. The following is a summary of several other accomplishments that reflect collaboration among the OERC, ODRC, and federal, state and local entities. The collaborations noted here are expected to impact reentry and recidivism on a statewide level in the immediate future.

Grant Training and Technical Assistance

The OERC is continuing its commitment to provide technical assistance to local coalitions and community partners. This process has evolved into a multidimensional group of activities ranging from notification of solicitations to structured training to actual document reviews. Staff from the ODRC, in conjunction with staff from the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) and volunteers from the OALRC, have worked together to provide a plethora of technical assistance in a variety of settings and venues. All parties involved work to identify local and national funding sources as they come available. When identified, the solicitations are distributed via the Office of Reentry (OOR) to all community partners.

The hub of this network is the main OOR office at the Operations Support Center of the ODRC. Staff from the ODRC and local coalitions have collaborated on a number of grants and projects both in terms of writing and implementation. Further, regular grant writing training sessions sponsored by the OCJS at their facility have been widely attended by reentry community partners. Additional support comes from an OALRC subcommittee, Funding and Sustainability, which has several members from local coalitions, the ODRC and OCJS who are trained and experienced in strategic planning, grant writing, funding streams and grant application reviews. This subcommittee has sponsored regional trainings in the four quadrants of the state over the past year and is scheduling to again provide local trainings to communities in at least four geographical locations during 2013.

As various solicitations have become available and communities have expressed interest in completing grant applications, the staff at the ODRC, OCJS, and OALRC has functioned as reviewers to assist the communities in the completion of competitive applications. Since the solicitations are released at irregular intervals, it is necessary to collaborate with local coalitions and community partners on a case-by-case basis. There are currently 13 grant applications that are being prepared with varying degrees of assistance from the above agencies.

It is expected that the Second Chance Act solicitations will be issued in the near future. Once this is done, the OERC and partners will again offer direct technical assistance sessions to any community partner interested in applying for these funds. These sessions will be a continuation of the last series of centralized TA sessions which proved to be very successful in the previous two-year cycle.

Federal Funding Requests and Awards

One of the most important activities the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition performs is to lend its support to those seeking federal grant dollars. These funds are critical to the ability of local coalitions, coalition partners, and stakeholders to provide services in their communities.

Requests in 2012

Dept. of Justice SCA Planning & Demonstration Projects: Implementation	**$ 2,695,254**
Dept. of Justice SCA Planning & Demonstration Projects: Planning	**$ 38,616**
Dept. of Justice SCA Adult Offender Comprehensive Statewide Recidivism Reduction	**$ 666,460**
Dept. of Justice SCA Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults/Juveniles	**$ 747,859**
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program	**$ 2,840,024**
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program: State Solicitation	**$ 6,208,800**
Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program: Enhancement	**$ 199,177**
Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program: Implementation	**$ 338,623**
Joint Adult Drug Court Solicitation to Enhance Services, Coordination, and Treatment	**$ 600,000**
Wrongful Conv. Review Program: Rep of Wrongfully Convicted Defendants in Post-Conviction Claims of Innocence	**$ 249,648**
Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking	**$ 492,026**
Solicited-Adjudications	**$ 250,000**
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program	**$ 281,833**
Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program: Enhancement	**$ 596,560**
Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program (Project Safe Neighborhoods)	**$ 6,208,800**
John R. Justice	**$ 77,930**
Grand Total	**$ 22,492,193**

Awards in 2012

Dept. of Justice SCA Planning & Demonstration Grant	**$ 4,148,189**
Joint Adult Drug Court Solicitation to Enhance Services, Coordination and Treatment	**$ 300,000**
Dept. of Justice SCA Adult Offender Comprehensive Statewide Recidivism Reduction	**$ 666,460**
Grand Total	**$ 5,114,649**

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Website

The OERC website has evolved into a very dynamic, widely-used resource for prison staff, community partners, inmate families, inmates and returned citizens. Significant changes and upgrades include:

1) The introduction of a "carousel" of rotating pages, each filled with key information and links to various entities involved in the reentry process, including prison leadership and reentry staff, Adult Parole Authority reentry staff, community reentry contacts, Justice Reinvestment Officers, and other contacts that are related to all levels of the reentry process.

2) A new Resources tabs which provide direct links and information related to collateral sanctions, the Ohio Reentry Program Repository, HB 86/SB 337, and ORAS.

3) The addition of the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions tabs which provides information and resources related to the OALRC.

4) The addition of all resources designated by the quadrant divisions implemented by the ODRC. Hence, all resources are available from prison to community based on the quadrant divisions.

One of the most significant additions to the OERC website has been the "Welcome Home" videos for inmates and their families. The videos are recorded by local reentry partners who provide a brief message about the local resources and programs that are available for returning citizens and their families. The videos include addresses and names of key community contacts that can be accessed prior to and following release. In addition to being viewed in prisons, these videos are also shared in community newsletters, agency lobbies, and a variety of other settings. Each county that has completed a Welcome Home Video has a small video camera icon noted in the corner of its county on the Local Coalitions page.

The final major change to the OERC website is the addition and upkeep of an OERC Dashboard to track the development of local coalitions, partners and alliances. As of March 1, 2012, there were 26 coalitions, alliances and partners covering 29 counties. As of March 1, 2013, there are 50 coalitions, alliances and partners covering 58 counties.

O.N.E. – STOP Shop Partnership – ODRC-JFS

Offender Network for Employment to STOP Recidivism

O.N.E.-STOP represents a partnership between the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and local workforce development partners.

Its purpose is to reduce recidivism through pre- and post-release employment, training, and support services that offer offenders a solid understanding of the job market, access to resources, opportunities for employment within specific markets, and employment planning to identify and connect to work opportunities upon release.

Pre-release O.N.E.-STOP centers are primarily located in the newly-designated Reintegration Center correctional institutions, which are connected to the post-release network of Ohio's O.N.E.-STOP System (Ohio Means Jobs). These centers utilize existing partner networks of community-based services, O.N.E.-STOP partners, and ex-offender coalitions to provide in-house correctional institution services that replicate job search activities, physical sites, and programs in the outside world. This includes making available within the correctional institutions the Ohio Reentry Connections website, which mirrors the OhioMeansJobs.com statewide job matching system.

The first pilot O.N.E.-STOP began operations at Trumbull Correctional Institution in March 2012. The second pilot launched at Pickaway Correctional Institution in September 2012. Six additional sites will be implemented in stages beginning in the spring/summer of 2013. These will include Marion Correctional Institution, the Ohio Reformatory for Women, Richland Correctional Institution, Southeastern Correctional Institution, Grafton Correctional Institution, and the Northeast Pre-Release Center.

For more information about O.N.E.-STOP, please contact ODRC Operations Director Robin Long at Robin.Long@ODRC.state.oh.us, or ODJFS Project Manager Tom Hutter at Tom.Hutter@jfs.ohio.gov.

Appendix A

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Statutory Members

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Kevin Miller, Executive Director
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Appendix B

2012 Strategic Plan (2nd Edition) Updates

Education (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC & Ohio Department of Youth Services - ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

The lack of adequate educational, career development and vocational transitional programs may contribute to offender recidivism. Educational, employment readiness, workforce development, and vocational opportunities during incarceration should be designed to serve as many offenders as possible.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - Adult:

- Increase the number of certificates/licenses by 400 each year over the next five years (that is, Literacy, ABLE, Pre-GED, GED, High School Diploma, Career Technical, Barber/Cosmetology, Career Enhancement, Transition Education Program, Apprenticeship, Tutor and Advanced Job Training) earned by students in the ODRC Ohio Central School System (OCSS).
- Provide additional transitional information and planning services by county/region.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - Adult:

- The total number of number of certificates/licenses (Literacy, ABLE, Pre-GED, GED, High School Diploma, Career Technical, Barber/Cosmetology, Career Enhancement, Transition Education Program, Apprenticeship, Tutor and Advanced Job Training) earned by students in the OCSS in 2012 was 14,856.
- There was a total of 29,538 incarcerated adult offenders offered educational services for FY 2012. There were 8,119 who continued into the next fiscal year since they were enrolled too short of a time to have an opportunity to complete services prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - Juvenile:

- Assist juvenile offenders in securing high school diplomas, GEDs, and vocational programming certificates.
- Increase the proportion of youth released from an ODYS facility that have obtained a high school diploma, GED, or vocational programming certificates in CY 2012 to 35%.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - Juvenile:

- In CY 2012, there were 691 youth released from ODYS facilities. Every youth had a completed reentry plan that addressed either a key education or employment area. Of the youth released, 450 youth (65%) earned or were awarded a certificate for completing an educational or vocational program while in the institution. In addition, the number of educational services offered to youth enrolled in Buckeye United School District was 942.

- 52 youth released on parole obtained a high school diploma.
- 32 youth released on parole received a GED.
- 32 youth released on parole received a vocational programming certificate.

Employment (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC)

Statement of the Problem

JFS and ODRC have a strong partnership to connect offenders with O.N.E.-STOP Career Centers to assist them in finding employment upon release. Both departments have recognized a shift in focus must occur for more offenders to be served for successful reentry. It is believed that more localized and concentrated services with an emphasis on transitional planning and assistance will have positive implications for offenders leading to a safer community.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Realign the working relationship between ODJFS O.N.E.-STOP staff, the ODRC, and the offenders returning home by providing continuity in employment assistance, training, and support services before and upon the offender's release.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- Two O.N.E.-STOP pilot programs will be introduced into ODRC selected institutions to provide offenders with workforce development tools and everyday applications.

  Outcome Met and Ongoing: Two O.N.E.-STOP sites began operations in 2012 at the Trumbull and Pickaway Correctional Institutions (TCI and PCI). Both sites have fully functioning resource rooms, computer labs, a monthly calendar of workshops/services, and are providing daily services to all inmates within a year to six months of release. Each site has approximately a dozen different partners providing services on a monthly basis. Additional sites are in development and are planned to coincide with the Reintegration Center institutions.

- The goal of pre- and post-release services based on replicating the experiences of the O.N.E.-STOP Centers for the offenders in-house will be supported by the introduction of the Ohio Reentry Connections website (a correctional institution version of the OhioMeansJobs.com website that mimics its look, feel and functionality). This will provide real-time labor market information for the offenders to use pre-release to plan for their employment and obtain job leads.

  Outcome Met and Ongoing: The Ohio Reentry Connections website has been implemented and is being utilized in the two pilot sites at TCI and PCI. In addition, Ohio Reentry Connections has been set up in the libraries of ten other correctional institutions and has been accessed and used by almost 2,000 inmates in 2012. Implementation is in progress at an additional twelve institution libraries.

- The "O.N.E. Year to Get Ready" effort will be introduced at the in-house O.N.E.-STOPs using materials and approaches designed to help the offenders create their own employment plans based on a timeline and action steps.

  Outcome Met and Ongoing: "The O.N.E. Year to Get Ready" approach has been successfully implemented in the O.N.E.-STOP pilot sites at TCI and PCI. The approach is prominently illustrated and supported throughout the O.N.E.-STOP through the use of posters, monthly calendars, self-assessments based on the approach, and through an employment planning booklet provided to each participant who receives services. All materials were created on standard templates and are replicable in future O.N.E.-STOP sites.

- The effort will involve community partners and providers to assist in maintaining the O.N.E.-STOP in-house. These will include employers, faith-based partners, reentry coalitions, child support enforcement agencies, for-profit and non-profit educational institutions, and the O.N.E.-STOP partner networks.

  Outcome Met and Ongoing: The pilot O.N.E.-STOP sites at TCI and PCI both have more than ten outside partners that provide workshops/services on a monthly basis. These partners include faith- and community-based organizations, O.N.E.-STOP partner agencies such as the Ohio Rehabilitative Services Commission, ODJFS Offices of Child Support Enforcement and Veterans Services, Department of Aging providers, local reentry coalition partners, and other employers and volunteers. A sample of the services/workshops available include entrepreneurship classes, mock interviewing, labor market information assistance, reentry workshops, and job preparation. This is an ongoing outreach effort to involve as many related organizations as possible.

- Data will be collected both pre- and post-release for evaluation purposes.

  Outcome in progress: Both ODRC and ODJFS are working to establish a data-sharing agreement and a common plan for collecting and reporting on relevant data to report outcomes for the O.N.E.-STOP project.

Employment (Ohio Department of Youth Services – ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

Approximately 50% of youth released from the Ohio Department of Youth Services remained underemployed or unemployed throughout the duration of parole supervision.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Assist juvenile offenders in securing meaningful employment.
- Increase the proportion of youth who are employed to 35% in CY 2012.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- In CY 2012, there were 691 youth released from ODYS facilities and every youth had a completed reentry plan that addressed either an education or employment key area. Of the youth released on parole, 393 youth (56.8%) were employed either full or part-time, far exceeding the target goal of 35%.
- Forty-eight (n=11) percent of the youth participating in the SCA Careers Technology Grant Program were placed in employment in CY 2012.

Reentry Courts – Ohio Supreme Court

Statement of the Problem

In Ohio, nearly 22,000 offenders transition from prison back into their community each year, half of whom are subject to post-release supervision. Of those offenders returning home, roughly 28.7% will recidivate within three years of being released. A reentry court is a type of specialized docket targeted specifically to offenders leaving prison under supervised release that provides intensive supervised probation with appropriate treatment. The goal of reentry court is to help curb the cycle of recidivism by more effectively transitioning supervised offenders from prison back into their community. On August 8, 2011, the Supreme Court of Ohio adopted Rule 36.02 of the Rules of Superintendence which requires all specialized docket programs, including reentry courts, to be certified by the Specialized Dockets Section of the Supreme Court.

Strategic Performance Goals:

- Encourage the six operating reentry courts to become certified as required under Superintendence Rule 36.02.
- Promote creation of a reentry track on other types of existing specialized docket programs that are certified as required under Superintendence Rule 36.02.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- Throughout 2012, the Specialized Docket staff of the Ohio Supreme Court provided on-site and remote technical assistance on the changes made to the Rules of Superintendence and requirements for certification to local courts. Certification applications could not be submitted to the Court until January 2013. In anticipation in CY 2012, two existing reentry courts worked closely with Specialized Dockets staff to begin preparing an application that could be submitted once the application process was opened.

Mental Health (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC, Ohio Department of Mental Health – ODMH, & Ohio Department of Youth Services - ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

There is an overrepresentation of individuals with mental illness in America's prisons and jails. According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), approximately one in four Americans age 18 and older have some mental disorder. However, in state prisons, individuals with mental illness account for about 56% of population. The numbers are even higher for youth involved in the criminal justice system. Ohio's adult and juvenile prisons are no exception; there are high numbers of adults and youth in Ohio's prisons who have a mental illness. This sub-population of inmates presents unique needs related to treatment/intervention for mental illness, substance abuse and criminogenic needs, as well as diversion and reentry, access to care, employment and housing. In addition, many have exhausted their support system in the community, making it even more difficult for them to be successful upon return. As such, for successful reentry to occur, adult and youth offenders with mental illness or severe emotional disorders must receive adequate evidence-based services upon admission, through incarceration and upon reentering their communities. Activities to identify and divert youth with behavioral health issues from state operated facilities to community treatment providers have proven effective in decreasing subsequent criminal activity. At the beginning of FY 2010, 53% of the youth in ODYS were on a mental health caseload. Roughly 70% of all youth committed to ODYS in FY 2010 were on a mental health caseload prior to commitment. In FY 2011, this number rose to 76% of males and 88% of females.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) – ODRC:

- Increase by 50% the number of offenders identified as SMI to the CLSW for SSI application.
- Increase collaboration between ODMH and ODRC around the issue of justice-involved individuals with mental illness by providing a list of offenders with mental illness who are being released from an ODRC prison to ODMH at least every two months.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODRC:

- In CY 2012, mental health services were provided to approximately 8,000 offenders in ODRC facilities. ODRC provided the following groups/services:
    - Social Work – 3,174
    - Psychology – 4,800
    - Nursing - 2,740
    - Activity Therapist – 6,670

- In 2012, the ODMH and ODRC submitted a grant application entitled "How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses" to SAMSHA and was notified in early 2013 that the grant was successfully funded. The grant requested funding for training to help (1) increase understanding of trauma, (2) create an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior and (3) develop trauma-informed responses. Achieving the goals of the grant will decrease

recidivism, increase safety, and promote and support recovery of justice-involved men and women by linking them to appropriate treatment and support services. In April 2013, SAMHSA is scheduled to provide "train the trainer" classes to 20 individuals from several state agencies, NAMI, and local law enforcement and judicial entities. Once trained, each trainer will commit to providing at least two training sessions within the calendar year.

- In recognition of the importance of communities being aware and involved with offenders returning to their communities who have mental illness, ODMH and the ODRC created statutory language that would allow for this information to be shared with MH boards. This process was initiated in September 2012 with each board receiving a list of offenders who are receiving MH services in the prison and who will be released within the upcoming months. This allows for MH boards and agencies to appropriately plan for the necessary services.
- In July 2012, ODRC and ODMH worked together to change existing policy and protocol in order to extend the amount of medication that offenders receive prior to release from 14 days to 30 days. In addition, an ongoing collaborative effort between ODMH and ODRC continued to push for changes to provide two additional 30-day prescription refills for released offenders. In February 2013, the necessary changes were enacted so that inmates leaving ODRC facilities can now receive 30 days of actual medication, and a prescription that allows for 2 additional refills of medication – providing for a total of 90 days of medication post-release.
- The ODRC has granted ODMH administrators access to the ODRC MH database in order to improve the Community Linkage Social Work Program and assist with quality and quantity control.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) – ODMH:

- Increase the number of peer mentors working in collaboration with reentry coalitions, consumer operated services or other entities in the community to enhance the chances for successful reintegration into the community for offenders with mental illness.
- Increase to 95% the number of offenders with a serious mental illness (SMI) who will have linkages made to community mental health agencies and other necessary reentry supports prior to leaving prison.
- DMH Community Linkage (CL) staff will begin the process of linking offenders with mental illness who are interested in participating to a community-based support or treatment program *(e.g., Wellness Management and Recovery, or Consumer Operated Services, reentry task force, family, mentoring program, faith-based initiative, etc)*. CL staff will link 10% of offenders participating in the community linkage program by 2013.
- ODRC will establish the baseline data for the number of incarcerated offenders with SMI who are eligible for benefits. DMH will develop and implement a process of applying for benefits for offenders who are SMI. The number of offenders identified and for whom applications are submitted and approved will increase by 50% each year.
- DMH, through the ACMIC Reentry/Diversion sub-committee, will explore ways to incorporate peer mentors and family members into the reentry process of individuals with SMI leaving prison.

- DMH will continue to work closely with the Ohio Empowerment Coalition to train peer mentors, and explore a possible specialty area that would train forensic peer specialists.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) – ODMH:

- Some 135 peer mentors have been trained since 2011, and are presumed to be working in collaboration with reentry coalitions, consumer-operated services or other entities in the community to enhance the chances for successful reintegration into the community for offenders with mental illness.
- In CY 2012, 88% of offenders with SPMI made linkages to community mental health agencies and other supports necessary for successful reentry prior to leaving ODRC.
- In 2012, DMH Community Linkage (CL) staff successfully linked 20% of offenders to a community-based support or treatment program (e.g., Wellness Management and Recovery, or Consumer Operated Services, reentry task force, family, mentoring program, faith-based initiative, etc), far exceeding the 2.5% - 10% projected.
- Preliminary ODMH data for 2012 indicate that 1,479 incarcerated offenders with a serious mental illness (SMI) were identified in 2012, and community linkage completed SSI applications for 126 offenders. Of the SSI applications submitted for offenders, 77 applications were approved. In CY 2012, 282 released offenders with severe mental health issues were released from prison with at least one community benefit approved and ready to be started upon release. *(Preliminary data collected are for January 1 through September 30, 2012. The full CY 2012 information will not be available until the end of February 2013).*
- A total of 107 referrals were made to the community agencies providing peers that go inside the prison to meet with the offenders prior to release in 2012.
- There were 60 peer mentors trained through the Ohio Empowerment Coalition in 2012.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - ODYS:

- Engage and support community-based behavioral health providers to address the needs of juvenile offenders released from state-operated facilities.
- Assist communities in the development of screening, assessment, and evidence-based practices to address locally the behavioral health needs of youth in contact with the juvenile justice system.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODYS:

- During CY 2012, 285 youth received Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) funded services in lieu of an ODYS commitment. The services assisted youth in their transition home. This number exceeded the target goal of 225 by 50 youth or 28%.
- In 2012, six BHJJ awards were made to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Summit, and Lucas Counties. BHJJ's purpose is to enhance and expand the local child-serving systems' ability to identify, assess, evaluate and treat serious juvenile offenders having behavioral health needs and their families through the provision of evidence-based and effective services that are culturally appropriate.

The six BHJJ projects resulted in the development of the following:

- Partnerships between the six juvenile courts and the six Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Boards;
- Effective models of assessment, treatment planning, and family-focused community-based, evidence-based practices;
- The expansion of 8 community-based Medicaid certified providers of behavioral health services;
- High Fidelity Wraparound in Lucas County engaging all children serving agencies in the county; and,
- An extensive evaluation by Case Western Reserve University.

Substance Abuse (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS), & Ohio Department of Youth Services – ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

Approximately 70% of offenders are in need of some form of substance abuse services. Substance abuse, coupled with the high co-occurrence of criminogenic needs, impedes offenders' ability to function in society and leads to increased recidivism. Moreover, many of the AOD services that are necessary for successful reentry are not available for the offender population upon release. According to the Center for Substance Abuse, the rate of substance abuse or dependence among adult offenders on probation or parole supervision is more than four times that of the general population (38.5% vs. 9%). Ohio's opiate epidemic is a crisis of unparalleled proportions with devastating, often deadly, consequences. The most culpable substances are the opiate family, which includes heroin and prescription pain reliever medications. In fact, drug overdoses involving any opioid (prescription or heroin) accounted for nearly two-thirds (65%) of the state's 1,544 drug overdose deaths in 2010, up from the reported 55% in 2009. In addition to the human toll, Ohio's opiate and prescription drug epidemic has severely strained law enforcement, criminal justice and health care resources and stretched the capacity of Ohio's publicly-funded alcohol and other drug addiction treatment services system.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) – ODRC:

- Increase by 20% the number of offenders within ODRC utilizing the institutional Recovery Services treatment programs and the two funded Therapeutic Community (TC) programs by 2013.
- Increase the number of released offenders with substance abuse issues who participate in ODMHAS-certified programs upon their return to the community.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) – ODRC:

- A total of 4,768 ODRC offenders utilized Recovery Services treatment programs in FY 2012.
- The total number of ODRC offenders that utilized the two funded Therapeutic Community (TC) programs in FY 2012 was 495, which represents 222 participants at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (TC) program and 273 participants at Pickaway Correctional Institution (TC).

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - ODMHAS:

- Enhance the continuum of care through a recovery support model of care using the Access to Recovery (ATR) model.
- Develop a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Protocol - Relapse rates for opiate addiction may range from 80-95% without some form of Medication Assisted Treatment, counseling and other supportive services.
- Develop an Opiate Treatment Program (OTP) model integrated with a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) – This model would be located in southern Ohio, which has been particularly hard-hit by this crisis, and is widely considered "a window on the world" in terms of the wreckage caused when prescription drug abuse and addiction becomes entrenched in a community.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODMHAS:

- Nearly 32,000 (31,914) offenders participated in ODMHAS certified treatment programs in FY 2011. *(The most recent complete fiscal year that ODADAS has access to is 2011).*
- The ODADAS Protocol for the use of Buprenorphine and Suboxone has been completed and is available at: http://www.odadas.state.oh.us/public/ContentLinks.aspx?SectionID=e7c37d02-288f-4c68-a51d-3807c218a0a1.
- ODADAS, on behalf of the Department of Development, awarded a grant to Health Recovery Services to establish an Opiate Treatment Program in Jackson. The projected launched in March 2013.
- ODADAS partners with the ODRC, as well as ODYS and the Supreme Court of Ohio, to provide treatment services and interventions to criminal offenders. Along with case management and reentry programs, these programs have proven to be effective. There are currently 95 drug court programs statewide: 40 adult drug courts, 29 juvenile drug courts, 19 family drug courts (that deal with parents charged with abuse/neglect/dependency), one prostitution court and six OVI/DUI courts.
- As the primary funder of drug courts in the state, ODADAS provides funding for 25 of these programs and technical assistance to courts and agencies interested in planning and implementing the drug court model. The Department also provides funding and technical assistance to 17 adult and juvenile Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) programs.

ODADAS funded Drug Courts	Adult TASC Programs	Juvenile TASC Programs
1,774 clients served	4,527 adult offenders served	488 juvenile offenders served
55% average completion rate	46% average completion rate	64% average completion rate
12% re-arrest rate	7% re-arrest rate	10.5% re-arrest rate
6% committed to ODRC	3% committed to ODRC	4% committed to ODYS
51 children reunited with parents/family	Since 1994, approximately 122,500 adults served	Since 1994, approximately 24,500 clients served
93% negative drug tests		

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - ODYS:

- Engage and support community-based substance abuse treatment providers to address the substance abuse needs of juvenile offenders released from state-operated facilities.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODYS:

- In CY 2012 a total of 59 youth participated in recovery service programs or TC.
- The RFQ process used at ODYS solicits vendors who can provide services in a range of non-residential service options. In CY 2012 nine community-based service providers were identified through the RFQ process. The providers provided an array of services including substance abuse counseling (5), drug testing (3) and drug trafficking specific counseling (1).

Family (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC, Ohio Department of Job and Family Service - ODJFS, & Ohio Department of Youth Services – ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

There is tremendous backing for creating mechanisms to empower and engage families across both the adult and the juvenile systems of care in Ohio. The idea of institutionalizing, coordinating, and building upon family engagement in the correctional, and eventual reentry, process is supported by professionals, families, and family advocates. However, it is sometimes difficult to identify appropriate and meaningful programming for those offenders with multiple offenses or for those who are convicted of offenses where there is no offense-specific programming available. Offenders are most often referred to programs that address issues that underlie their criminal behavior, such as substance abuse treatment and anger management, which directly address problems associated with criminal behavior such as drug use, criminal thinking errors, and/or poor emotional control.

According to a 2009 Intake Study produced by the ODRC, nearly 25% of inmates admitted to the department had at least one prior domestic violence conviction. In FY 2010, there were nearly 850 commitments with domestic violence as their most serious offense. Absent effective programmatic intervention, many of these offenders pose a significant risk to commit acts of intimate partner violence upon release. The Victim Awareness Program is designed to address the criminal thinking errors that result in incidents of violence being perpetrated against family members and/or others. The program design includes an intensive crime-specific curriculum with group and individual activities that build accountability and empathy towards the victim and gives offenders the skills needed to better cope with situations that could escalate into violence after they are released.

Significant child support arrearage, and the lack of knowledge regarding child support programs, processes and requirements can be a barrier to ex-offenders successfully reentering the community. Activities to divert non-compliant child support obligors from conviction, incarceration, and re-offending have proven to be effective mechanisms for increased child support payments, sustainable employment, and child engagement. Counties requested the authority to develop waiver and compromise programs in order to be able to negotiate with obligors regarding arrearages. In October 2010, ODJFS initiated the waiver and compromise program to allow counties the ability to waive up to $5,000 in child support arrearage owed to the state without state approval (more than $5,000 with state approval). Counties are required to develop a plan and procedures for this program and get their plan approved by the state. There are approximately 800 offenders who are presently incarcerated on non-support convictions.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - ODRC:

- Increase the number of certified PROVE (Personal Responsibility of Violence Elimination) curriculum facilitators through the training of ODRC staff and allied professionals.
- Increase the number of appropriate offenders who participate in the PROVE Program within correctional institutions and during any period of supervision under the authority of ODRC.
- Provide Victim Awareness Programming in all existing regions of the Adult Parole Authority (APA).
- Decrease the number of offenders incarcerated for non-support by 5% annually.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODRC:

- There were 24 ODRC staff who were trained as PROVE facilitators in the 3rd quarter of 2012, and now a total of 40 PROVE facilitators are available to provide services in ODRC.
- In 2012, there were 43 offenders who completed PROVE in the correctional institutions.
- A total of 8 offenders completed PROVE in the Adult Parole Authority Regions in 2012.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - ODYS:

- Increase family participation in reentry planning for ODYS youth through the usage of video communication and engagement of family in release planning.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) – ODYS:

- In CY 2012 there were 850 uses of video communication equipment to facilitate family visitation, reentry planning for youth, and promote family engagement.
- Approximately 164 Family Effective Practices in Correctional Settings (EPICS) coaching, counseling, and training sessions were offered in CY 2012.
- A total of 70 new staff was trained in the Family Finding model in 2012. The staff included parole officers, supervisors, and regional administrators.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) – ODJFS:

- ODJFS will encourage more counties to apply for approval of a waiver and compromise program so this opportunity will eventually be available to ex-offenders throughout the state.
- ODJFS will work with the ODRC Prison News Network to develop educational videos to be broadcast by the Prison News Network to increase access to child support policy and process information in correctional facilities.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODJFS:

- Currently, there are 41 counties with approved waiver and compromise programs.

Mentoring/Community Engagement (Ohio Department of Youth Services – ODYS, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections – ODRC)

Statement of the Problem

Although many stakeholders within the criminal justice system are committed to working diligently to prepare offenders for return to the community, it is estimated that nearly 1 in 2 juvenile offenders return to prison within a 3-year period. Moreover, approximately 7% of the Department of Youth Services youth "age out" of the system creating young adults ill-equipped to reenter the community. These staggering numbers highlight the inadequacies of the current system to address future recidivism. Increasing community involvement to support juveniles' successful reintegration is of vital importance. Starting a reentry coalition/task force at the local level can be a daunting task. Launching such an initiative can be overwhelming to community stakeholders wanting to start and sustain a reentry task force. A critical first step is getting the right people together to assess the problem and collect the right information to develop the committee and strategic plan.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) - ODYS:

- Increase the community's involvement in the lives of ODYS youth by engaging youth in community service activities, and recruiting volunteers and mentors to interact with youth

during their institutional stay and parole supervision period. The number of mentors will increase by 10% each year with a baseline of 62 mentors.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) - ODYS:

- ODYS achieved 105 mentor matches both in the facility and in community for CY 2012.
- In CY 2012, ODYS youth completed 11,252 community service hours in ODYS facilities and 10,682 community service hours while under parole supervision for a total of 21,934 community service hours, exceeding the target goal of 1,050 community service hours by 20,884. Due to considerable success in this area, ODYS will revise the goal upward.

Housing (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC, Ohio Department of Youth Services – ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

Securing safe, decent affordable housing is a major challenge for people exiting prison, particularly adult offenders with mental illness, sex offender convictions, and/or chronic health conditions. According to ODRC's Adult Parole Staff surveyed by the Bureau of Community Sanctions, approximately 2,208 offenders falling under these categories were released without viable housing in 2009.

It is the policy of ODYS to not release youth to homelessness. Placement (housing) issues are typically identified by the parole officer or social worker early in the youth's stay in an ODYS facility. If a youth cannot return to his or her parents'/guardian's home and other viable placements are not available, the parole officer, in collaboration with the youth, will make other arrangements (e.g. community residential placement). When youth are committed to age 21, release planning focuses on the need to ensure youth are connected to long term community resources and structured support networks. Oftentimes, the Release Authority and committing juvenile court choose to release an "Age 21" youth early to allow the parole officer to assist the youth in the community before his or her 21st birthday. A well-executed release planning process ensures that each youth has a solid reentry plan in place that reduces, if not eliminates, the likelihood of homelessness even when the youth reaches his or her twenty-first birthday and will no longer require the care or custody of the department. In exceptional cases, the department will provide placement to ensure successful reentry transition for those hard-to-place youth exiting the facility.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) – ODRC/ODYS:

- Reduce the number of offenders (adult and juvenile) released into homelessness.
- Improve linkages and protocols to directly link people exiting prison to affordable and safe housing with appropriate services, if needed.
- Improve the integration of housing and supportive services for individuals with disabilities or health conditions who are at extreme risk of homelessness.
- Remove barriers for ex-offenders to public housing resources due to local-level policy.

Strategic Performance *Outcome(s) – ODRC/ODYS:*

- In FY 2012 the total number of offenders released from ODRC facilities was 22,031. Of those released, 2,072 offenders indicated they had no place to return in the community.
- There were 1,119 offenders released from ODRC that were connected to housing services in the community in FY 2012.
- In CY 2012 there were a total of 102 youth who received housing placement to aid in their transition from the facility to the community. ODYS spent approximately $1,319,034 on the housing placements for juveniles.

Veterans (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - ODRC)

Statement of the Problem

Ex-incarcerated veterans have specialized transitional needs. Although there are a number of programs and services focused on assisting veterans, these efforts often are not coordinated or made available to the veterans upon release. These veterans services must be coordinated and front-loaded under a comprehensive reentry plan so the services are available immediately upon release and cover the first 90 - 180 days subsequent to returning to the community. A Reentry Plan shall include one or more of the following at the time of the incarcerated veteran's release: linkage to US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) System, linkage to VA services, linkage to non-VA services, linkage to resources in the community, linkage turn down for services by eligible veterans.

Linkage means any referral made by any staff member of the VA, ODRC, or State or Local Veterans Organization for any eligible incarcerated veteran to a VA Representative, state or local veterans organization (Vietnam Veterans of America, Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVET, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Veterans of Modern Warfare), Local Veterans Center, County Veterans Services Offices, Incarcerated Veterans Chapter/Group, or O.N.E.-STOP prior to the veteran's release from incarceration.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

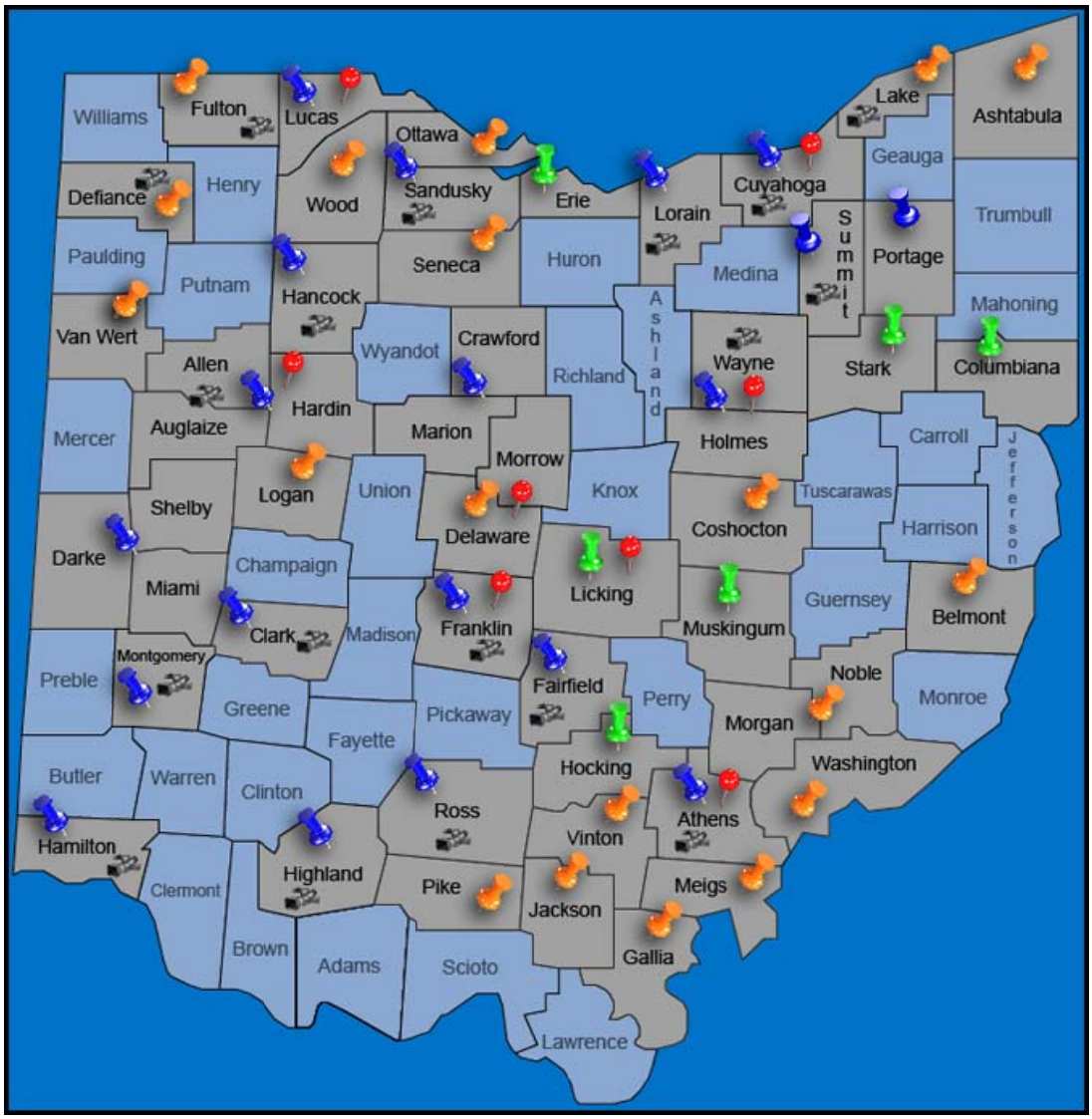
- Develop a more comprehensive process of identifying incarcerated veterans early in their incarceration so that they may be classified to a facility that has an established Incarcerated Veterans chapter/group, or reintegration unit with a veterans track.
- Identify additional services and resources available to the veteran while incarcerated and upon release.
- Develop a process of transferring eligible incarcerated veterans to those facilities identified to have established veteran services.
- Develop an integrated process of frontloading those programs and services required by incarcerated veterans immediately upon their release.
- Identify and document the primary needs and services of the incarcerate veteran upon release in a reentry plan.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- In FY 2012, 656 incarcerated veterans were seen and received a complete assessment.
- Of those incarcerated veterans who received an assessment:
    - 358 were referred to VA Healthcare
    - 163 were referred to VA Mental Health services
    - 128 were referred to VA Substance Abuse services
    - 127 were referred to Veterans Benefits (VBA)
    - 192 were referred to VA Housing Services
    - 60 were referred to VA Employment Services
    - 30 received assistance in obtaining a DD-214
- Additionally, there were 271 who were referred to non-VA healthcare services and other non-VA benefits, and 82 received a referral to non-VA housing programs.

Appendix C

Reentry Coalition Map (as of March 2013)



19 - Reentry Coalitions

6 - Reentry Alliances

19 - Community Reentry Partners

8 – DYS Components

Appendix D

Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions - Elected Officers

Kysten Palmore, President

Kysten Palmore is the Coordinator of the Franklin County Reentry Task Force. She works out of the Franklin County Office of Homeland Security and Justice Programs. She began her tenure with the OHS&JP in 2009. Kysten is an experienced professional with an extensive background that combines 15 years in public, private and non-profit sector services. She began her career as a Researcher and Special Certified Instructor for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Kysten has been described by her employers and colleagues as a resourceful, creative and solution-oriented person who is consistently able to come up with new and innovative approaches to service delivery and various aspects of program management. Kysten is also a Community Instructor for The Ohio State University, College of Social Work, where she teaches Welfare Policy and Programs.

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Dennis Johnson, Vice President

Dennis P. Johnson is a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor and has both residential and out-patient experience with nearly 20 years in the field. Mr. Johnson also has experience in the juvenile justice community as he served as both probation officer and diversion officer having developed and implemented diversion programming for the Gallia County Juvenile Court in the mid and late 1990s. During that time he was a member of the Ohio Diversion Association and served as Vice President of the Association. Dennis has spent the last 9 years as part of an administrative team with Treatment Alternative to Street Crime (TASC) of Southeast Ohio, a non-profit case management provider for both adult and juvenile offenders and Southern Ohio Solutions (SOS), a non-profit ODADAS certified, out-patient AOD treatment agency. Both agencies serve southeastern Ohio counties including Gallia, Jackson, Meigs, Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties. Dennis is a member Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

representing the southeastern region of the state and serves as a member of US Senator Portman's Advisory Team on Re-entry. He is also a member of the local Opiate and Re-entry Task Forces within his 6 county service area and is truly dedicated to the Ex-Offender Re-entry Initiative.

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Jamie Gee, Secretary

Jamie L. Gee is currently the Managing Officer of the Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry (MCOER), and has over 22 years of experience in the correctional, parole, and community reentry services arena. She began her career with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in 1989 at Warren Correctional Institution where she served in various operational, administrative, treatment and social service capacities – including position as Unit Manager, prior to transferring to the Cincinnati Region Adult Parole Authority in July 2005. Jamie served as the regional Reentry Parole Program Specialist, covering Hamilton, Montgomery, Preble, Miami, Greene, and Clark counties; until her appointment to the MCOER Welcome O.N.E.-STOP Reentry Center in August 2010. She is a dedicated pioneer with multi-faceted criminal justice and management expertise; and possesses her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Wilmington College, and Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Jamie displays strong leadership abilities in the areas of strategic planning, policy development, project management, and inter-personal communications; and is currently the fiscal officer for the American Legion Auxiliary in Warren County, member of the United Against Violence (UAV) Parent and Family Success Focus Council in Montgomery County, and serves continuously in the faith-based/non-profit community.

Jamie Gee, Manager - Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry, Welcome O.N.E.-STOP Reentry Center 1133 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd, Rm. 104, Dayton, Ohio 45408
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Nida Reid-Williamson, Treasurer

Nida Reid-Williamson is a proven leader and mentor and is quality assurance driven. She has spent over 10 years at Fairfield County Job and Family Services. Nida has served in many capacities including her current position as Coordinator of the Fairfield County Re-Entry Coalition. Nida is experienced in managing complex program budgets, fiscal monitoring, and successful project implementation. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Cincinnati, with a Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies and has accomplished specialty training as an Offender Workforce Development Specialist. Mrs. Reid-Williamson is dedicated to furthering reentry initiatives throughout Ohio and in her local community.

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