

# *Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition- Bylaws*

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# The Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition Bylaws

## ARTICLE I NAME/AUTHORITY/OPERATING PRINCIPLE

### Section 1: Name

The name of this organization is the Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition, as established by Amended Substitute House Bill 130.

### Section 2: Authority

The Coalition, in consultation with persons interested and involved in the reentry of ex-offenders into the community, including, but not limited to, service providers, community-based organizations, and local governments, to identify and examine social service barriers and other obstacles to such reentry. Within one year after the bill's effective date and on or before the same date of each year thereafter, the Coalition is to submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate a report, including recommendations for legislative action, the activities of the Coalition, and the barriers affecting the successful reentry of ex-offenders into the community. The report must analyze the effects of those barriers on ex-offenders and on their children and other family members in various areas, including but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Admission to public and other housing;
- (2) Child support obligations and procedures;
- (3) Parental incarceration and family reunification;
- (4) Social security benefits, veterans' benefits, food stamps, and other forms of public assistance;
- (5) Employment;
- (6) Education programs and financial assistance;
- (7) Substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment programs and financial assistance;
- (8) Civic and political participation;

(9) Other collateral consequences under the Revised Code or the Ohio Administrative Code that may result from a criminal conviction. (R.C. 5120.07(C).)

### **Section 3: Operating Principle**

The Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition will function as a collaborative group of state departments, non-profit organizations, social service agencies, businesses, citizens and faith-based partners who are united in and committed to reducing recidivism among ex offenders returning to their communities across Ohio. Organizations that are committed to successful reentry for ex offenders and their families and/or significant others may apply for membership.

## **ARTICLE II MISSION AND ROLES**

### **Section 1: Mission**

It is the mission of the ***Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition*** is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Coalition will achieve these goals through collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. It will utilize a holistic evidence-based approach that starts at the point of contact with the criminal justice system and includes an emphasis on education, families, health services, alcohol and other drug treatment, employment, mentorship and housing.

### **Section 2: Primary Roles**

The role of the Reentry Coalition will be dynamic and supportive to agencies, counties, municipalities, organizations, and individuals that are interested in or already committed to working with the reentry of ex-offenders into the community. Its major responsibilities will include the following:

1. Coordinate and guide member departments and agencies by creating, modifying, and aligning policies, programs, and operational practices supportive of system improvements targeting the successful transition of offenders returning to regions across the state;
2. Lend technical assistance and encourage agency partnerships with local jurisdictions seeking to form reentry task forces;
3. Develop and implement comprehensive reentry planning initiatives;
4. Serve as a clearinghouse for resources and information, and research findings on reentry efforts within the state and elsewhere;
5. Develop recommendations and advocate for legislative and administrative remedies to eliminate or reduce barriers confronting offenders once they

leave prison, jail, community-based correctional facilities, or a detention facility.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Membership**

Per Am. Sub. HB 130, the Ex-offender Reentry Coalition consists of the following 17 members or their designees: the Directors of Rehabilitation and Correction, Aging, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Development, Health, Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, Public Safety, Youth Services, the Governor's Office of External Affairs and Economic Opportunity, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Rehabilitation Services Commission, and Commerce; the Superintendent of Public Instruction; the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents; and a representative of a health care licensing board created under R.C. Title XLVII as appointed by the chairperson of the Coalition.

Agencies providing direct governmental oversight of this population, non-profit service providers, community advocates, and members of the faith-based community may apply to become "Members-at-Large" of the Coalition. Membership applications, if submitted within a reasonable time, will be voted on at each meeting by the statutory members of the Coalition. Members-at-Large will serve in an ex-officio capacity.

## **ARTICLE IV COALITION STRUCTURE**

### **Section 1: Officers**

Officers for the Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition will include a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

- a) **Chairperson:** The responsibility of the chair is to facilitate Coalition meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and manage administration. The Chairperson shall be the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, or their designee. Additionally, the Chairperson shall be responsible for the appointment of all committee chairs as needed.
- b) **Vice Chairperson:** The Vice Chairperson will be nominated from among the statutory Coalition Membership and will serve as the Acting Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall serve a two-year term of office and may serve up to two terms (a total of four years maximum).

## **Section 2: Committees**

Committees shall be formed as needed to accomplish the work of the Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition. Committee Chairs shall be initially appointed by the Chair from among the membership upon the formation of a committee. Thereafter, the chair shall be chosen by the committee membership. Standing Committees are those committees that require long-term efforts (more than one year) to accomplish the work of the coalition. Ad Hoc Committees and Task Forces may be formed to accomplish more time limited goals or projects (less than one year). The Coalition will ensure that the composition of the committees reflect the racial, gender and ethnic composition of the state. In addition, the Coalition will strive to include individuals who have either been previously incarcerated or have a family member who was previously incarcerated into the composition of the committees.

## **Section 3: Committee Chairs**

The Committee Chairperson will convene and preside over committee meetings and report back to the Coalition on the status of the work to be accomplished by the committee.

## **ARTICLE V MEETINGS**

### **Section 1: Meetings**

The Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition shall meet a minimum of four times annually. **This schedule may be modified by the Chair.** The Chair will ensure that the members of the Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition are provided with a meeting agenda and any subsequent changes to the meeting schedule.

### **Section 2: Operation of Meetings**

Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition's business will be conducted by the modified version of Roberts Rules of Order.

## **ARTICLE VI DECISION MAKING**

### **Section 1: Voting**

- a) **Full Coalition:** The election of the Vice Chairperson shall be done/conducted through a vote by the coalition membership at a full coalition meeting. A slate of candidates for this position will be sent out to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the vote is to be held and a member must be present to vote.
- b) **Quorum:**

- **Coalition:** A quorum for the Coalition shall be defined as at least 50% plus one of the total members of the Coalition.

## **ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1: Amendment Procedure**

The bylaws of the Ohio Ex-Offender Re-entry Coalition may be amended by the statutory membership of the Coalition. The change or amendment of these bylaws shall require a majority vote of the quorum present for approval of changes.