



Ohio

Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

there is a story

behind every face



2011
Annual
Report

John R. Kasich
Governor

Gary C. Mohr
Chairman

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

2011 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Chairman’s Message	1
Brief Summary of OERC	2
OERC 2011 Accomplishments	4
Adoption of New Five-Year Strategic Plan – 2 nd Edition	4
Reentry Program Repository.....	5
Launching of the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions.....	6
Local Reentry Coalitions Accomplishments	7
Collaborative Accomplishments	26
The Ohio Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions (CIVICC) Database	26
Grant Training and Technical Assistance	27
Federal Funding Requests and Awards	28
Reentry Coalition Website	29
ONE-STOP Shop Partnership – DRC-JFS	30

Appendices

A	Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Statutory Members.....	I
B	2010 Strategic Plan (1st Edition) Updates	II
C	Current Reentry Coalition Map	VIII
D	Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions – Elected Officers	IX

Chairman's Message



Annual reports, by design, include an array of numbers and statistics intended to impress upon the reader how much was accomplished in a given year. The report you are about to review is no different. You will find that 2011 was indeed a busy year for the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) and for local reentry coalitions around the state. However, I want to share a few numbers that are particularly important to me as Chair of OERC.

Zero. This is not a number often associated with corrections considering the number of lives and dollars connected to what we do. Zero is important to me because I fully expect that sometime within the next two years that will be the number of offenders who leave our facilities **without** having face to face contact with someone from their community. There is already great work being done by local coalitions to address legal, treatment and personal needs with offenders while they are still incarcerated. A collaborative effort to replicate these efforts will accomplish the one hundred percent pre-release contact we expect. In some cases, especially with our youthful offenders, that contact will be an effort to initiate a mentor/mentee relationship. Offenders should leave our facilities anticipating the continuation of a connection that is already established and designed to facilitate his successful reintegration.

Thirty-three and Eighty-eight. Obviously, eighty-eight refers to the number of counties in Ohio. Thirty-three is the number of counties where ex-offenders are currently receiving reentry focused services through a reentry coalition, alliance or community partner. As we move towards accomplishing the contact opportunities mentioned above, we will have fostered partnerships and collaborative efforts in **all eighty-eight counties**. If we truly believe that all reentry is local then it is incumbent upon us to ensure that whether an individual returning to an area that is rural, suburban, wealthy or economically depressed, he has the same access to a specific person or entity committed to assisting its own.

The final number is one. Anyone who has been around me for the last thirty-plus years has heard me say to many corrections professionals that on any day anyone can be the most important person in the organization. Now, that same message goes out to the thousands of local coalition members, community partners, volunteers and stakeholders we are inviting inside our facilities to help us do with excellence the important work of reentry. Every one of you is vital to our continued success in serving the youth and adults in Ohio.

Gary C. Mohr
Chairman

Brief Summary of OERC

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 (hereafter the "Reentry Coalition") to serve as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across state and local agencies and communities.

The Reentry Coalition's primary goals are to reintegrate offenders into society, reduce recidivism, and maintain public safety. The Coalition is committed to the reduction of 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. Numerous collaborations have been formed, especially through the creation of local reentry coalitions (discussed below) that facilitate unique partnerships among state, and local agencies and communities targeting offender treatment, service delivery, and public safety.

The membership of the Reentry Coalition is comprised of the following agencies. During the past year, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services was added as a statutory member. The Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction serves as the Chairperson of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. The Directors and contact information for each agency, office or board is provided in [Appendix A](#).

- Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- Ohio Department of Aging
- Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
- Ohio Department of Commerce
- Ohio Department of Development
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Mental Health
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- Ohio Department of Youth Services
- Ohio Board of Regents
- Governor's Office Designee

- Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- Ohio Health Care Licensing Board.

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 Reentry Coalition. In 2011 a commitment was made to host the meetings of the Reentry Coalition in community locations across the state to include as many individuals as possible from the surrounding counties and areas nearby. Since then, meetings have been held in Cleveland, Springfield, Toledo, and Dayton.



OERC 2011 Accomplishments

Adoption of New Five-Year Strategic Plan – 2nd Edition

Shortly after its statutory creation, a comprehensive Five-Year Strategic Plan was developed and endorsed by the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. The plan focused on the goals of reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety by assisting returning citizens in the transition process back to the community. Its framework was premised on the belief that reentry is not a specific program, but rather a continuum of stages that begin when an offender is incarcerated, and ends when an offender has been successfully reintegrated into his community as a law-abiding citizen. For each offender who successfully returns home, there will be fewer Ohioans who are victimized, and the community gains a more productive citizen resulting in healthier families and communities overall.

Since its initial adoption, the Five-year Strategic Plan has been revised reflecting both change and continuity. Several new strategic goals have been included, 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 may be found on the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition's website at www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov. For a review of several outcomes achieved under the original strategic plan (the first edition), go to [Appendix B](#)



Reentry Program Repository (RPR)

Under House Bill 86, the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) is statutorily required to gather information about reentry programs in a repository maintained and made available by the coalition. In 2011, the Reentry Program Repository Team was chartered by the OERC for the purpose of producing a strategic action plan that guides, supports and sustains the development and maintenance of a reentry program repository.

The “Building Protocol” subcommittee of the Reentry Program Repository Team was established to meet the requirements set forth by House Bill 86. This subcommittee was tasked with the development of a protocol for the submission, review and approval process for all repository program submissions. The team agreed that the repository will consist primarily of Evidence-Based Programs. The RPR will be located on the OERC website and be accessible to everyone. The application for repository submissions will be available on the website and completed and submitted electronically.

Questions for the RPR application are being developed to incorporate the statutory requirements of HB 86, while taking into consideration offenders criminogenic needs. It is important to consider criminogenic needs to ensure an array of programs is represented when looking at program types and program goals. The questions will permit the gathering of information that can later be utilized to create reports for historical purposes, for future funding decisions, and/or for statistical information.

It is envisioned that the RPR will evolve as more information becomes known in regards to programs in the repository. A major goal is to eventually rate programs according to program effectiveness. This rating system will be utilized to sort programs by effectiveness according to program evaluations completed, the use of effective evidence-based practices, recidivism rates and positive outcomes in terms of successful completions. Programs that have demonstrated positive trends will be noted as such while programs that have proven to be ineffective will also be noted as such or eventually removed from the repository.

The RPR will become an effective tool to highlight available reentry programs for offenders, service and treatment providers, and the citizens of Ohio. The fundamental goal is to provide information on programs that will ultimately aid offenders in the successful transition back into their home communities. At the onset of the RPR’s development, the database will be inclusive of all programs that effectively complete the application process. As more information becomes available and the Reentry Program Repository has been established as an effective entity, it is the expectation that the functionality and value of this database will be enhanced.

Launching of the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions

During the course of several OERC and local coalition events in 2011 strong interest was expressed by local coalition leaders regarding the need to share information about resources and solutions to common barriers impacting offender reentry. This recognition led to a historic meeting on August 17, 2011. On that date, the chair of OERC, Gary Mohr, met with over 35 coalition leaders and supporters from across the state. During that meeting, Chairman Mohr issued a charter and charged the group, drawing on the energy and expressed desires of those present, with forming a statewide association of local reentry coalitions.

Agreement was reached that the organization to be formed was to be called the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions (OALRC). The group also agreed that the general purpose of the OALRC would be to provide connectivity and mutual support among reentry coalitions throughout the state.

The participants determined that their immediate course of action should be to agree on what constitutes a functioning reentry coalition in Ohio. The group decided that the association would recognize one group in each county that adhered to several of the requirements set forth for the formation of the statewide coalition. Those requirements include the completion of a needs assessment to determine the profile and issues associated with the offender population in that region or county, the development of a five-year strategic plan, the forming of a diverse group of members including representatives from the local prison or jail, the Adult Parole Authority (APA), and the faith community and a commitment to reduce recidivism in the county by at least 50% over the five year period.

Recognizing the need to be inclusive yet sensitive to significant geographic variation and resource availability, the OALRC has since agreed to establish two categories of functioning for local reentry coalitions and an additional category for single contact sites. It is imperative to emphasize that all categories described here are fully recognized members of the proposed OALRC structure. The first category will be those that have met the requirements outlined above and are functioning as established reentry coalitions. Though it has not yet occurred, there may be counties in which there is a corrections planning board within which it makes sense and there is a willingness to form a reentry coalition. This represents an option within the first category. The second category is composed of those who are functioning collaboratively with multiple stakeholders, but who have not submitted a 5-year strategic plan and may not have a defined hierarchy in leadership. These groups will be referred to as *Reentry Alliances*. A third recognized category will be that of *Community Reentry Partners*. This category targets those individuals who offer a primary contact point with the ability to connect to other local agencies and individuals providing reentry-related services in that area or region. The designation will apply primarily to those counties that have very few persons returning annually from jail or prison, and whose staffing resources may be too limited to commit to regular travel to other areas for meetings or services. Community Reentry Partners will enjoy the same status as other association members regarding access to information and technical support. See [Appendix C](#) for a current map of coalitions. See [Appendix D](#) for an introduction to the newly elected OALRC officers.

Local Reentry Coalitions Accomplishments

Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN)

The Summit County Office of Reentry was established in September 2010. The office is located in downtown Akron, in the same building as the County Executive, Russell M. Pry, Esq. The coordinator was hired after extensive interviewing. Ms. Terry Tribe Johnson began with only one year of funding in place. Positive impact and feedback resulted in grants being awarded that have allowed a second year of activity. The United Way, Summit County, Oriana House, the GAR Foundation and the Akron Community Foundation have worked together to financially support the new collaboration.

The Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN) formed as a result of the Office of Reentry. It has made contact with 70 plus nonprofits, faith-based and government agencies that offer various services to people with felonies and their families. With vibrant representation from several agencies, including a number of men and women who have felonies in their history, SCRNs five subcommittees have already accomplished a number of achievements. We are fortunate to have passionate and dedicated volunteers on these subcommittees that focus on: Employment, Resource Development, Training and Education, Planning, Research and Evaluation, and Advocacy. The listing below includes endeavors that have already been completed, or that are in the process of being organized.

- Established a weekly Friday night “Reentry Support Group” for individuals

- reintegrating to society, which is facilitated by offenders who are now positive community leaders
- Created a monthly “Reentry Resource Seminar” to assist ex-felons seeking jobs address a variety of barriers to employment, with participation by other offenders
- Held a “What Works” training forum for service providers
- Hosted an “Employer Forum” to encourage employers to hire people with felonies on a case-by-case basis
- Facilitated an information seminar about House Bill 86 with Deputy Director Ed Rhine as the keynote speaker
- Produced a brief DVD that highlights the benefits of hiring people with felonies
- Participated in local job fair activities
- Supported groups seeking to address local violence
- Produced a reentry booklet for returning citizens (print and digital)
- Constructed a new SCRNs website
- Provided flyers for case managers/reentry coordinators to share Summit County resources with inmates pre-release, including information about ODRC’s Reentry website
- Coordinated with the Victim Assistance Program to work together on reentry goals of mutual concern
- Hosted a training session on the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)

- Collaborated with the Akron Region APA Reentry Coordinator to maximize the effectiveness of reentry services.
- SCRN endeavors to maintain open communication that seeks to include all persons interested in reentry. Through networking and being pro-active about establishing positive relationships, the group continues to assist people with felonies who need assistance, along with their family members. Regardless of whether the prison sentence ended years ago, or the individual was recently released, SCRN partners are working together to facilitate successful reentry transitions for those returning back to the county!



The Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio

Introduction

The Reentry Coalition of Northwest Ohio (RCNO) is a Coalition that has been in development since late 1999 in Lucas County, Ohio. Over this time the Coalition has progressed from a loosely organized grassroots coalition called the Key Initiative Focus to a more formally organized coalition of public systems, community-based providers, faith-based organizations and concerned citizens focused on increasing public safety, reducing recidivism, and assisting offenders successfully reintegrate back into the community.

The RCNO model for reentry is based on connecting offenders to critical services and supports based on the level of risk, primarily identified by the use of the ORAS. One of the key portals into this reentry process is through Triage. Triage provides service coordination to connect persons to the right level of services and supports through an initial assessment of risk and needs – ranging from addressing basic needs to connecting offenders to more complex and intensive services such as substance abuse treatment and intensive case management. All offenders have the opportunity to be connected to a mentor.

Offenders can also be connected to health services and employability skills training. Housing needs are addressed through coalition partners such as Haven Homes and Volunteers of America.

Two of the key strategies for engaging offenders in the reentry process are through the Legal Clinics and First Wednesdays. The Legal Clinics go into the ODRC Institutions (Toledo Correctional Institution, Allen-Oakwood

Correctional Institution, and the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO)) once a month to work with those persons who are due to be released within the next six months. They endeavor to do so by identifying potential legal barriers to successful reentry (e.g., outstanding warrants, fines, license suspensions, and child support issues). A team of pro-bono attorneys goes to the various institutions often accompanied by representatives from the TRIAGE, Mentoring, and Child Support Enforcement Agencies.

First Wednesdays occur on the first Wednesday of each month at One Government Center and are designed to directly connect families of incarcerated individuals as well as newly returning individuals to get quickly linked to any services and support in the community that can assist in a positive reentry experience.

Getting Results

The continued work and development of the RCNO has helped to contribute to the successful reduction of recidivism in Lucas County. The ODRC reports the recidivism rate in Lucas County has dropped from 33% to 27%. That 6% drop represents about 62 individuals (2010 release data shows 1,044 individuals returned to Lucas County). The average return rate of incarceration in Ohio is for a period of 29 months, at a cost of \$25,000 per year, or \$60,407 per individual re-incarcerated over a 29-month period. The estimated savings based on these assumptions for this 6% drop is \$3,745,000 over a 29-month period. While the RCNO cannot claim to be solely responsible for these savings, they are confident that their

efforts have positively contributed toward a reduction in recidivism and cost savings.

The triage function of the RCNO works to connect offenders to appropriate services and supports in the community based on their level of risk for re-offending, as determined by the (ORAS). Beginning on April 23, 2010 through March 12, 2012, triage has provided services to three hundred forty-eight (348) offenders residing in Lucas County.

One hundred forty-eight (148) of these men and women were classified as high-risk/intense and two hundred (200) were classified as low-risk/non-intense. All of these cases are now closed. Triage currently has approximately seventy (70) active clients. Of the 348 persons served by triage which are now closed cases, only eight (8) or two percent (2%) of these individuals have returned to an ODRC prison facility. Of these eight (8) individuals who did return, only three (3) were classified as high-risk/intensive.



A TRIAGE STORY

On March 30th 2011, Steve Foglio, Triage Specialist, received a letter from Toledo Correctional Institution. It was addressed to the Triage Department. Steve opened the envelope and discovered it contained a letter from an offender inquiring about services. Steve could see that the individual writing was scared and worried about what he was going to do when he got released. Steve replied to him with program information and how Triage may be able to help him out, including information about the monthly prison visits conducted by Triage. The following month (April 20th) Steve went to the correctional facility and saw that the offender had signed up for a visit with him. It was not long after his release (June 30th) that Steve enrolled him into the Triage program where he began receiving Triage services. Soon after his enrollment, Steve supplied him with basic necessities such as Ohio Benefit Bank (food stamps), clothing, hygiene products, and transportation assistance. After stabilizing the individual, Steve was able to provide more intensive services, such as job readiness, housing assistance, medical assistance, and, above all, quality support and guidance. Today the individual actively participates within the RCNO where he serves as an advocate for the program and frequently participates at the First Wednesday presentations. Steve still has the initial letter that was sent to him when the offender remained unsure about his future. Steve plans to show him that letter at some

point just to illustrate how far he has come. This story is a revealing example of how vital Triage services are to offenders' success upon reentry into society.

MENTORING

Finally, an important part of the reentry process for the RCNO is mentoring for those individuals returning who wish to be connected with a mentor. The mentoring program is based upon Dr. Byron Johnson's "Community Partners in Reentry" (CPR) model.

The mentoring component works to connect individuals who are incarcerated, soon to be released, with volunteers from the community (particularly faith-based). To date 58 mentors have been recruited. Of those 58 mentors, 49 have been trained.

Overall, 67 individuals have requested to be matched with a mentor. Of those 67, 44 have been matched and of those matches, 31 have been maintained.

RCNO has found that the longer a person has been out the more they begin to drift away from others. However, the mentors are also persistent. In one case, the individual got into trouble, but was able to re-connect with the mentor. At that time, the mentor had already formed a relation with another mentee, but recommitted to both. Although the individual returned to prison, the mentor has stayed involved with him.

Franklin County Reentry Task Force (FCRTF)

Members of the Franklin County Reentry Task Force Receive Recognition

- ❖ Gayle Dittmer, Chief of Probation for the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, was awarded the James Wichtman Award by the Ohio Justice Alliance for Community Correction for her dedication and commitment toward ensuring quality improvement of community corrections through the incorporation of evidence-based practices.
- ❖ Sally Luken, Ohio Director of Corporation for Supportive Housing and co-chair of the Housing and Behavioral Health subcommittee, was awarded the Ohio Governor’s Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing for her continued dedication toward the increase in quality and availability of affordable housing opportunities for Ohioans.
- ❖ In July 2011, the Education and Employment Subcommittee, in conjunction with the Ohio Poverty Law Center; United Way; Henkels & McCoy Community Success Center; Columbus State Community College Workforce Development; Alvis House; Second Harvest Food Banks; FIRM of Columbus; Fusion Bakery; National Center for Urban Solutions; and Lower Lights Ministries held an Employer Awareness workshop that offered Continuing Education Credits to Human Resource directors, managers and personnel. There were over 25 agencies in attendance. Michelle Rodriguez from the National Employment Law Center provided an overview of the legalities surrounding the hiring of ex-offenders and the risks of being sued for creating blanket “no felons need apply” policies.

Accomplishments

- ❖ Franklin County’s Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Board (ADAMH), in partnership with Columbus Area Inc, and the Reentry Task Force was awarded funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) Ex-Offender Reentry Mini-Grant. The grant was the largest amount given to any grantee.
- ❖ The grant was awarded to expand ADAMH’s capacity to serve individuals with severe and persistent mental well being released from ODRC.
- ❖ A report, issued by Sally Luken of the Ohio Corporation for Supportive Housing, entitled “Recommendations of the Reentry Housing Collaborative: Methods to Reduce the Use of the Franklin County Ohio’s Emergency Shelter System by Formerly Incarcerated People,” was the product of a data match conducted to identify 165 frequent users of public systems such as jail, mental health and emergency room facilities.

- ❖ A pocket resource guide entitled “Walletful of Resources” was completed and distributed to The Franklin County jails, prisons throughout Ohio, and social services agencies in the reentry field. The resource guide provides a quick roadmap to community reentry services and agencies.
- ❖ The FCRTF, under the auspices of the Office of Homeland Security and Justice Programs, participated in the first Franklin County Safe Surrender program. The program offered an opportunity for those with outstanding non-violent misdemeanor warrants to have their warrant addressed with the court for favorable consideration.
- ❖ In November 2011, the FCRTF, in cooperation with ODRC and the Council of State Governments, conducted a review of the Franklin County Reentry Task Force Comprehensive Five-Year Strategic Plan. The information obtained from this daylong event is currently being reviewed and discussed by members and subcommittees to update and refresh the energy and focus of the reentry efforts underway. A reentry dashboard is being discussed for later implementation to measure the success as a community in providing reentry services to the target population.

Projects and Initiatives underway

The Education and Employment Subcommittee is currently working to create a multi-media campaign to include marketing material to change public perception of the definition of an “ex-offender” and the speaker’s bureau. The speaker’s bureau will be designed to reach audiences that are unfamiliar with the concept of reentry and why it is important to provide employment opportunities for individuals returning home from jails and prisons.

Noteworthy:

- ❖ The Franklin County Reentry Task Force welcomed new co-chairs, including:
 - Honorable Timothy Hutton of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court
 - Denise Robinson, CEO and President of Alvis, Inc.
- ❖ The coordinator for the Task Force has been asked to serve on the “Advisory Council for Reentry” sponsored by the Office of Ohio Senator Rob Portman.
- ❖ FCRTF is the first and only program outside of NA/AA and religious services that has been granted permission to conduct programs inside the jail facility and to have them incorporated into the social service component of the jail. FCRTF has created and nurtured a relationship with the Administration and the staff of the Franklin County Correctional Center II.

Jail Reentry Program Update

- ❖ **Case management** has conducted ORAS assessment and provided pre# and post-cognitive behavioral classes to 117 individuals. The grant proposal stated a target population goal of 100.
- ❖ **Job Readiness** has provided services to 57 participants. 44 of these participants are employed and 20 of the 57 participants have obtained jobs directly through the efforts of the pre-and-post-release job readiness programs.

Exciting Prospects

Members of the Behavioral Health and Housing Subcommittee have submitted a proposal for funding to the National Chapter of the Corporation for Supportive Housing for a pilot program that will provide supportive housing and behavioral health treatment to individuals identified as frequent users of public systems.

Franklin County Reentry Task Force, in collaboration with Henkels and McCoy Community Success Center and Training Services; Ashland University; the Ohio Weatherization Training Center; the Vera Institute of Justice; the Correctional Education Association; the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction; the Ohio Reformatory for

Women and the Ohio Central School System submitted a proposal for funding for the Second Chance Act Technology Careers Training grant to provide an opportunity for incarcerated women to obtain training and certification in the rapidly growing sectors of computer and clean energy technologies.

The Franklin County Municipal Court Specialty Docket - with support from the Franklin County Reentry Task Force - submitted a proposal for funding for the Second Chance Act Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant to expand its facilitation of supportive detoxification and long-term sobriety of defendants in lieu of incarceration in the Franklin County Correctional Center.

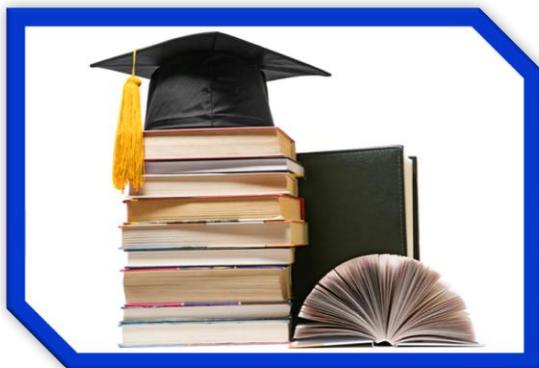
Ashland University, in partnership with the Ohio Weatherization Training Center, Vera Institute, Henkels and McCoy Community Success Center, Smart Horizons, and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction with support from the Franklin County Reentry Task Force, submitted a proposal for funding for the Department of Labor Reintegration of Ex-Offenders grant to provide comprehensive education, vocational training and wrap-around support services to meet the individual needs of those returning to Franklin County.

FCRTF is the first and only program other than NA/AA and religious services to be granted permission to conduct programs inside the Franklin County Correctional Center II.

Clark County Reentry Coalition (CCRC)

The CCRC has successfully implemented its federal Second Chance Act reentry program. The program is currently serving seventy-five offenders pre-and post-release. A central “hub” for offenders now exists in Springfield to deliver case management, Thinking for a Change classes, mental health services, substance abuse services, and job readiness training. Additionally, case managers are teaching Thinking for a Change classes in three state institutions on a weekly basis. The Coalition’s two part-time employees at the local jail are using the ORAS to determine necessary resources for offenders within thirty days of their release. The CCRC plans to host a forum on April 26, 2012, to update the judges on offender referrals and the latest evidence-based techniques. The CCRC has held four Second Chance Thursday community resource events in the local substance abuse agency’s gymnasium. The Reentry Coalition continues to coordinate with the two local probation departments and the Adult Parole Authority that meet with their parolees at the substance abuse agency on the same date and time as Second Chance Thursday. Seventeen service providers set up shop during the event to deliver information specifically to ex-offenders.

OERC



Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry (MCOER)

The MCOER actively engaged community partners from all sectors of Montgomery County in the effort to assist returning citizens during CY 2011. There were several notable accomplishments achieved by MCOER. Under the direction of Co-Chairs Judge Walter H. Rice and Commissioner Debbie Lieberman the coalition completed ORAS training and opened the “Welcome One-Stop Reentry Center. Stakeholders from the entire community convened for the grand-opening and official ribbon cutting ceremony in February 2011. Other notable MCOER accomplishments during 2011 include:

- MCOER was awarded a \$374,968 DOJ Second Chance Act Grant Award – September 2011
- MCOER project partners received the National Association of County Organization (NaCO) Award for Best Practices
- MCOER Community “Reentry Expo” Hosted at Job Center in Collaboration With the Adult Parole Authority and Community Partners
- MCOER Partners Hold 1st Client Positive Recognition Ceremony – October 2011

MCOER Statistics

CY2011 Montgomery County Reentry Project Statistics: 946 Recruitments, 697 Case Management Referrals, 534 ORAS Community Assessments, 496 Action Plans Completed, 101 Behavioral Health Referrals, 329 Transitional Job Placements, 64 Permanent Job Placements, 50 Served via Mentoring Services (Note: Grant Project Period Extended Through 2/29/12)

CY2011 MCOER/East End Pathways Out of Poverty Statistics: 444 Recruitment/Assessment Screenings, 122 Program Referrals

CY2011 MCOER Welcome One-Stop Reentry Center: 2,187 Ex-Offender Screenings and Community Resource Contacts

CY2011 Children Impacted Through Parent Engagement in MCOER Programs and Services: 1,300 Children

Montgomery County Snapshot 2010 ODRC 3 Yr-Recidivism Rate (Releases in 2007) - 36.5%

Montgomery County Snapshot 2011 ODRC 3 Yr-Recidivism Rate (Releases in 2008) - 32.2%



Athens County Reentry Task Force

The Athens County Reentry Task Force formed in 2009 and has held monthly meetings on a regular basis since then. The Task Force is co-chaired by Jack Frech, Director of Athens County Department of Job and Family Services, and Douglas Bennett, former Athens County Municipal Court Judge. The Task Force has raised public awareness on issues such as collateral sanctions, public defender fees, and other fees, fines, and costs to those in the criminal justice system. It has also brought about a number of policy and procedure changes within Job and Family Services, Child Support Enforcement, and other agencies, to be more proactive for offenders.

The Athens County Job and Family Services' reentry assistance program serves as a resource for offenders returning to Athens County, their families, and the community as a whole. Athens County Job and Family Services has had two reentry coordinators certified as users of the Ohio Risk Assessment System, and certified as *Thinking for a Change* facilitators, who handle direct casework with offenders, as well as increased collaborative programs with community partners.

For those incarcerated, within 60 days prior to release, a reentry coordinator completes an initial assessment and begins to develop individualized plans through face-to-face meetings and/or through video conference technology with all individuals identified by ODRC staff as returning to Athens County. Participants are offered community information and referrals to help them transition back into

society, and they are invited to set a meeting in the reentry office upon their release to establish their reentry plan. Family members may also be included in the reentry plan.

Services include working with pre-releases and post-releases to: assist in access to community and social services; educate on collateral sanction issues; provide recommendations on addressing debts (e.g. fines, fees, child support arrears); coordinate plans with probation officers and courts; provide linkages to employment and education; advise on strategies for reintegration; and serve as an added component of individuals' support systems through individualized case management.

The Athens County Reentry Task Force uses Video Conference Technology to assist in developing individualized plans for offenders returning to Athens County.

Additional achievements:

- A Thinking for a Change class for women is in progress, in collaboration with the APA.
- Created a printed county reentry resource directory in collaboration with Athens County 2-1-1.
- A website is being developed at <http://www.athenscountygovernment.com/reentry>.
- Grant funding through the Ohio Department of Mental Health is in place for a special program to identify, engage, address mental health needs, and provide supports to persons with severe mental health issues (SMI/SPMI) who are reentering the community. This is a collaborative program with the Athens County Reentry Assistance Program, Tri-county Mental Health and Counseling Services Inc., and the local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board.
- A program for the families of offenders will begin in April, with monthly meetings and quarterly trainings. Additionally, a pilot project to provide family visitations with incarcerated individuals and their children will be held by video conference.



Collaboration

Wayne/Holmes Reentry Coalition (CWHRC) (Planning Project)

2011 Program Accomplishments

January 2011 Reentry Retreat

As a result of the combined efforts of community members with a vested interest in reentry, planning, organization and curriculum development was accomplished for the purpose of gathering information to create the basis for the five year strategic plan. One goal of the retreat was to discover principles and related policies to address in the development of the five-year strategic plan. This not only acted as a foundation for the creation of the five-year strategic plan, but also allowed community reentry issues to be shared and expressed among a wide range of individuals. Karen

Shaner, Data Analyst for the Coalition, presented the results of the 2010 two-county survey of area agencies and organizations, as well as the results of the adult probationer/parolee survey and the youth asset surveys conducted by the Coalition. The objective was to identify the reentry problem (needs) and assets (strengths) that may be used to establish guiding principles for the development of the strategic plan. An adult and juvenile offender Q & A panel session was also presented.

Development of the Strategic Plan

The Reentry Coordinator for Wayne and Holmes Counties collected and presented topics and solutions to Reentry Coalition Members in February of 2011. Continued discussion occurred around the development of community policy between members.

Coalition Strategic Planning Sub-Committee Group - this group's purpose was to develop an outline for the five-year strategic plan based on the needs specific to the communities.

In 2011 Wayne/Holmes Reentry Coalition hosted three (3) Employer Hiring Events. Topics included Employer Tax Incentives, Federal Bonding, Expungement and Background Checks. (move box lower on page)

Completed Wayne Homes Five-Year Strategic Plan

Tammy Jackson, Reentry Coordinator, with assistance from Robert Smedley, developed the CWHRC five-year strategic plan. Tammy Jackson submitted the plan to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on February 23, 2011. The Coalition's Strategic Plan was subsequently submitted to the University of Cincinnati, for evaluation purposes, on May 19, 2011.

Grant Writing Sub Committee

Coordination of grant writing to support the initiative – A grant writing sub-committee was created comprised of coalition members representing five coalition partnering agencies. This group successfully completed research for future funding initiatives/RFP's and for submitting applications for the financial support of the coalition. The Mental Health and Recovery Board applied for the following grants:

FY 2011 Applications Submitted:

- 1) 2/23/11 – Department of Justice (DOJ) Second Chance Act Family-Based Offender Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- 2) 4/21/11 – Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY 2011 Second Chance Act Adult Mentoring Grant
- 3) 5/2/11 - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) FY 2011 Second Chance Act Juvenile Mentoring Initiative
- 4) 5/16/11- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Mentoring for Youth with Disabilities Initiative
- 5) 5/31/11 – Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) Edward Byrne Memorial Justice

Assistance Grant Funding –
Prevention/Education Youth Mentoring

- 6) 6/30 - U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Second Chance Act Adult Offender Reentry Program (Category 1 Planning)

Ex-Offender Employment

Based on community survey results and interviews, the lack of employment opportunities was a consistent and highly rated barrier to reentry. While the CWHRC recognizes economic downturns have prevented employers hiring on a regular basis, the reentry coalition also identified former offender stigma as a reoccurring barrier and has attempted to introduce new methods in the way the community views hiring individuals with an arrest record. The CWHRC addressed this issue by providing the community with three separate ex-offender employer-related hiring practices events. Two workshops were held at the Wayne-Holmes Job Fair at Wayne College on 5/13/11 consisting of:

- 1) *Social Service Providers who work with former offenders;*
- 2) *Ex-offenders specific to application processes and fair consideration through the Fair Credit Reporting Act laws; and,*
- 3) *An additional informative Employer Hiring Practices Workshop aimed at area employers and those who work with the ex-offender population was held August 25, 2011.*

Prior to the Employer Hiring Practices Workshop event, an introductory CWHRC letter and SASE post card surveys were sent to area employers requesting information concerning their hiring practices of individuals with an arrest record while also inviting them to the training event.

Karen Shaner, Data Analyst, presented results of the survey. Attorneys Alicia Guardia and Melissa Lindsay presented legal issues surrounding the employment

of individuals with an arrest record. Ms. Lindsay presented “Considering Ex-Offenders for Employment”, while Ms. Guardia discussed “Background Investigation Knowledge”.

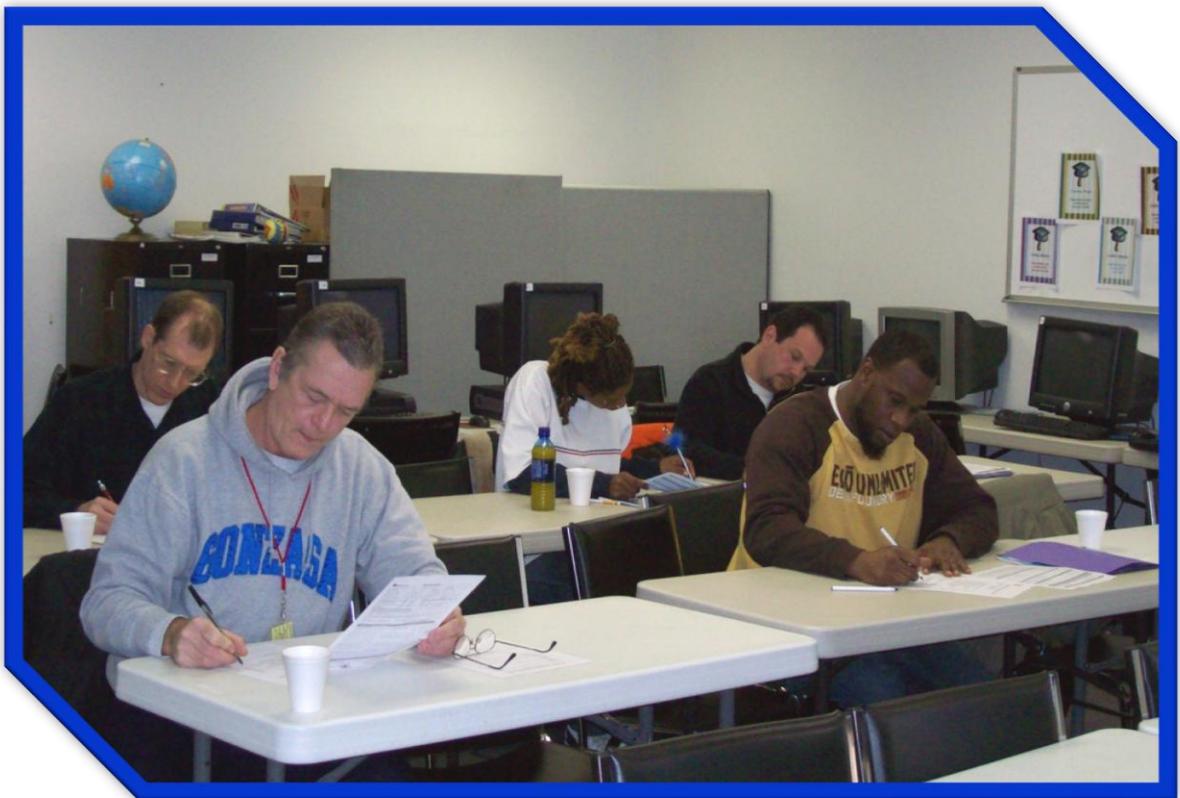
A panel consisting of one adult former offender, Pete McOwen, a local faith based representative who works with youth and adult offenders, Japhet Ntia, and a state contracted educational job readiness representative, Dr. Phil Amerine, answered employment-related questions and offered suggestions for addressing employment barriers for youth and adults with a criminal history.

Workshop Outcomes:

a) **Social Security Provider Workshop** - Awareness of FCA laws, expungement criteria, employer tax incentives, and state bonding initiative through ODRC. 65 attended.

b) **Ex-Offender Workshop** – Expungement information, interviewing preparation, understanding background checks and steps on how to dispute incorrect information. 18 attended.

c) **Employer Hiring Practices Workshop** - Better awareness of hiring practices, employer tax incentive, bonding information obtained through the state, expungement information, background check discrepancies, myths about ex-offenders and awareness consensus of the importance of hiring individuals with an arrest record made priority. Ongoing relationships developed with those attending (social services and employers) 30 attendees.



Fairfield County Reentry Coalition (FCRC)

In 2011 FCRC initiated or partnered in the following accomplishments:

- Creation of a five year strategic plan and logic models for Fairfield County Re-Entry.
- New Jail Annex at Southeastern Correctional Institution.
- Initiated *In-reach* meetings with Fairfield County inmates at Southeastern Correctional Institution.
- Received ADAMH mini grant to treat severely mentally ill offenders.
- Reentry Association creation and membership; represented by Sustainability Committee.
- Regularly attended Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Meetings.
- Attended Opiate Task Force Meetings.
- Presented Reentry information and resources at the Opiate Workshop for Clergy.
- Featured interview on 90.9 radio station.
- Received an increase in the number of referrals from the Ohio Department of Mental Health.
- Held Employer Education event on 7/20/11. Twenty-five employers attended and received *information* on limits of liability, model hiring practices, tax credits and more.
- Survey Results from employers who attended the event indicated the intent to change hiring practices.
- Provided Business Service staff training on Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), Federal Bonding, Limits of Liability and collateral sanctions.
- Change in Business Services Policy for job postings with discriminatory language related to offenders.
- Received Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant award for Resource Centers located in 3 local detention facilities.
- 23 Citizen Circle Referrals made in two months.
- Provided outreach to over 700 inmates in Southeastern Correctional Institution during the Resource Fair.
- Adult Basic Literacy and Education became a Coalition member.
- Advocated for the re-evaluation of local Metropolitan Housing rules.
- Collateral Sanction database outreach and promotion to employers and job seekers.
- The created of the Reentry Job Search Resource Guide.
- Reentry presentation to Fairfield County Job and Family Services Caseworkers.
- Creation of the Shaken Baby posters and videos on family support and mentoring.
- Child Protective Services attending in-reach meetings to encourage family support.
- *Wings Ministries* has become active in Ohio to provide family support and reunification.
- Increased collaboration and case coordination among member agencies.

Highland County Reentry Coalition

Highland County implemented a Day Reporting Program. Highland County Municipal Court Judge David McKenna reported that as of the end of 2011, 103 offenders had participated in the program with 29 graduates, saving an average of 75 jail days per graduate. With a total of 30 offenders recidivating, rates remained below the state average. **The Judge stated that this program is 'life-changing' and that he has seen a difference in those participating in that they appear 'healthier, confident, and more appreciative.'**

Highland County's Day Reporting Program is a Reentry Coalition collaborative which provides the

court system and Probation Department with an option to offer to an offender, as an alternative sanction, the opportunity to complete Turning Point's Certified Reentry Program, in lieu of jail time or as a 'last resort' program. Collaborative partners for the Day Reporting Program include the Highland County Municipal and County Courts, the Highland County Probation Department, the Highland County Justice Center, the Highland County Office of Reentry Services, Turning Point Applied Learning Center, and Family Recovery Services Counseling and Transportation.



Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy Leadership Coalition

June 2011 – Over 100 Representatives from Cuyahoga County traveled to Columbus to meet with Legislators and Directors from the Ohio Departments of Rehabilitation and Correction, Mental Health, and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services.

The Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy Leadership Coalition, with more than 35 active members, continued to be at the forefront of program development, education, and advocacy regarding issues impacting the lives of offenders. The coalition hosted the quarterly meeting of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition in April at the new Community Based Correctional Facility. Attendees from across the state were able to tour the state of the art facility as well as hear the results of studies conducted by major research institutions.

In May, the coalition sponsored and presented a full-day “Employer Awareness Workshop” to more than 100 business owners, Human Resources professionals, and attorneys. After a morning plenary session in which various issues were introduced, the afternoon consisted of advanced seminars dealing with employer liability regarding hiring policies and negligent hiring, the value and risks in the use of criminal background checks, federal tax incentives and bonding for those hiring

offenders, and Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) geared to the special needs of reentrants. The workshop was approved for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) and HR Certification Institute (HRCI) credit. Based on this success, the Summit County Reentry Network (SCRN) repeated the program in October.

In June, the Leadership Coalition moved its monthly meeting to the Statehouse in Columbus. More than 100 representatives from Cuyahoga County traveled to Columbus to meet with legislators and the state directors from the Departments of Rehabilitation and Correction, Mental Health, and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services to address the pressing need for additional resources to effectively tackle the reentry and mental health crisis in Cuyahoga County. The Leadership Coalition also sponsored a series of Voter Education Forums to inform offenders about their legal rights and responsibilities regarding registration and voting.



HAMILTON COUNTY OFFICE OF REENTRY

In March 2011, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners established the Office of Reentry and hired its first Director, DeAnna Hoskins. The Office of Reentry provides a point of coordination and knowledge sharing for successful reentry. Given the splintering of reentry services among multiple agencies, the Office of Reentry identified the need for a more coordinated and collaborative response. The Building Bridges to Break Barriers initiative was begun to establish a focused approach to reentry activities in Hamilton County. The kick-off event occurred on August 26, 2011, featuring the Honorable Rob Portman, Senator as guest speaker. Building Bridges to Break Barriers is currently convening stakeholders to develop the Hamilton County Community Reentry Action Plan. The first planning session was held on December 6, 2011, including 129 participants addressing:

- What are the primary barriers to successful reentry?
- What strategies effectively address the basic needs of the reentry population?
- What organizations or individuals are essential to the development of the Hamilton County Community Reentry Action Plan?

Eight workgroups are developing strategies around Basic Needs, Workforce and Business Development, Family and Community Support, Community Awareness and Training, Housing, Data and Evaluation, Policy Development and Advocacy, and Sustainability.

Further accomplishments to date have included the adoption of a fair hiring policy by Hamilton County Administration. The question “have you been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?” has been removed from the county’s application for employment. Hamilton County received a 2010 Second Chance Act grant to provide transitional and traditional employment and supportive services to 200 high risk offenders. To date, the grant has serviced over 400 offenders. A more coordinated response to child support issues and barriers has also been established. Offenders sentenced to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction with active child support cases are reviewed for a reduction in their orders during the period of incarceration. Child support waivers for participants are designed to increase their employability post-release.

The Building Bridges to Break Barriers initiative was begun to establish a focused approach to reentry activities in Hamilton County. The kick-off event featured the Honorable Rob Portman, Senator as guest speaker.

Collaborative Accomplishments

The accomplishments highlighted in the previous section are clearly a reflection of 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 OERC, ODRC, federal, state and local entities. The collaborations noted here are expected to impact reentry and recidivism on a statewide level in the years ahead.

The Ohio Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions (CIVICC) Database

After a year of research and development by the Ohio Justice and Policy Center (OJPC), and the Ohio Public Defender, the Ohio CIVICC database (<http://opd.ohio.gov/CIVICC>) was launched as a beta site in March 2011. While the user interface and search functionality was in place at that time, only about 10% of the over 655 collateral consequences had been catalogued and linked to their triggering criminal offenses. By the end of 2011, about 80% were entered; by the end of March 2012, CIVICC became the first state-based collateral-sanction database in country to be fully populated and fully functioning.

During 2011, the CIVICC database was presented twice to the OERC, including the community at-large members. OJPC has heard of growing use of CIVICC by parole and corrections staff. In Ohio, CIVICC was also presented at the Toledo Bar Association Foundation's trustees meeting, the Spring Sentencing Symposium at the University Of Toledo School of Law, the Ohio State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, and staff training for the Hamilton County Public Defenders. The CIVICC Database was also centrally important to the policy conversations that began in November 2011 as the ODRC gathered input for collateral-consequences-reform legislation that will be introduced in 2012.

At the national level, OJPC was invited to present CIVICC to the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association's centennial conference in Washington D.C. This has yielded leads in other states that are exploring partnering with OJPC to replicate CIVICC in their states. The CIVICC development team was also invited to join the advisory committee to the American Bar Association as it develops a national collateral-consequences database with the laws of all 50 states.

Grant Training and Technical Assistance

Following a brainstorming session on how to creatively assist in the development of emerging local reentry coalitions, the idea was proposed that representatives of the ODRC, on behalf of the OERC, host a very direct, pragmatic working “action session” to assist local community partners in grant preparation. The first audience targeted those counties that were applying for the Category 1 Grants (\$ 50,000.00 or less to assist in setting up a local coalition) from a recent Second Chance Act solicitation. Sharon Schnelle from the Office of Criminal Justice Services was contacted and agreed to be the lead presenter in the session. Steve Vandine, Chief of the Bureau of Research and Evaluation, ODRC, was also available in the event that specific data was needed by a reentry coalition participant. Representatives from the Office of Offender Reentry were also present to meet with community partners, assist with the grant writing exercises and discuss strategies for building local reentry coalitions. The expectation was that the community partners would bring their laptops, research, information in a forum designed to be a vigorous “working” session resulting in a nearly complete final grant proposal at the end of the day. The invitation to the local coalitions was open –ended. Eleven counties initially responded.

On the actual date of the action session, 21 participants showed up representing 19 counties. The energy, depth and breadth of questions from the attendees contributed to a very successful day. The results of the session were extraordinary. Of the participants:

- *100% reported that the information presented was useful and valuable.
- *100% reported that, if sponsored by ODRC, they would gladly attend another session like this in the future.
- *Nearly a third requested that a second day be added or that additional time be allocated for this type of session.
- *Nearly every participant commented on the presenter’s outstanding knowledge and experience.
- *Several specifically thanked the ODRC for sponsoring the event and requested future sessions.

A second session was held involving a Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act grant solicitation on June 23rd, a total of 31 participants representing 18 counties worked on their grants. Again 100% of the participants reported the session was very helpful and 100% would attend another training event if sponsored.

Second Chance Act (SCA)

Requests

One of the most important functions the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition is lending its support to those seeking federal grant dollars. These funds are a critical part of the capacity of local coalitions, coalition partners and stakeholders to provide services in their community. In 2011 the Reentry Coalition offered letters of support to Ohio groups seeking a total of just under \$20M from a variety of sources. Nearly \$4M in grant monies was awarded in Ohio.

Dept. of Justice SCA Planning & Demonstration Grant	\$ 16,500,00
Dept. of Justice SCA Family/Offender Abuse Treatment Program	\$ 420,000
Dept. of Justice SCA Adult Offender w/Co-Occurring Substance Abuse/Mental Health	\$ 1,166,546
Dept. of Justice SCA Juvenile Offender Reentry Program	\$ 1,200,000
Dept. of Justice SCA Adult Mentoring Grants to Nonprofit Organizations	\$ 300,000

Grand Total

\$ 19,586,546

Awards

SCA Family Based Offender Substance Abuse Treatment Program	\$ 834,464.00
SCA Adult Offender for Planning and Demonstration	\$ 1,747,153.00
SCA Technology Careers Training & Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles	\$ 494,728.00
SCA Juvenile Offender Reentry Planning & Demonstration And Implementation	\$ 596,369.00
Justice Assistance Grant	\$ 50,286.00

Grand Total

\$ 3,723,000

Reentry Coalition Website

Two significant modifications have been made over the past year to the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Website.

1. The tab which houses the Local Coalitions has been modified to not only illustrate the OERC recognized Local Reentry Coalitions, but to identify Local Reentry Alliances and Local Reentry Partners. This has brought the data presentation on this tab in line with the current structure of organizing reentry resources in the community. Further, the names and addresses of both the APA Reentry Coordinators and the prison facility Reentry Coordinators have been added to the same page with tabs which highlight locations and identify these individuals by regions and facility of responsibility.
2. A Community Reentry Dashboard has been developed which illustrates the progress of the OERC and its components in achieving the goal of establishing at least a Local Reentry Partner in each of the 88 counties in Ohio by July 1, 2013. The Dashboard illustrates monthly progress and delineates the category of reentry designation as well as demonstrates progress towards the goal. The Dashboard uses both a numerical scale for this illustration, as well as a visual figure to demonstrate progress.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Webinars, Meeting Minutes, FAQs, and a search box. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for About, Members, Sub Committees, Local Coalitions, OALRC, Technical Assistance, Resources, and Contact. The main content area features a welcome message and several sections: OERC News with a list of recent updates; a Reentry Spotlight section titled 'Removing The Barriers' featuring a video player and a quote from Gary E. Mohr; an 'Our Mission' section describing the coalition's goals; and a 'Valuable Resources' section listing various documents and tools. The footer includes a PNN logo and a note about the website's creation by offenders at the Marion Correctional Institution.

O.N.E. - STOP Shop Partnership - ODRC-ODJFS

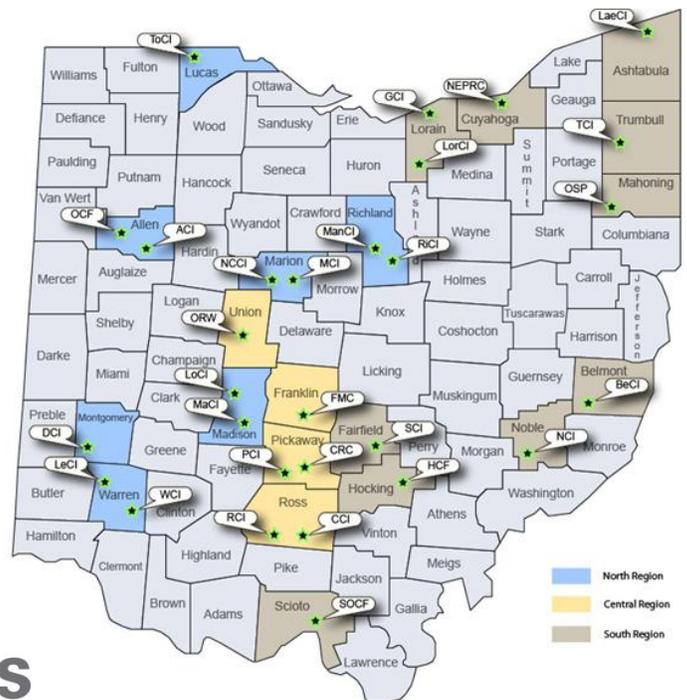
Pilot Program

Offender Network for Employment to STOP Recidivism (O.N.E. - Stop

The O.N.E. STOP is a collaboration between ODRC, the ODJFS and local workforce development partners. The goal is to reduce recidivism through pre- and post-release focused employment, training, and support services, ensuring that offenders have a sound understanding of the job market, access to resources, opportunities for employment within specific markets. It was also designed to prepare offenders to search and connect to work upon release via employment plans. This is to be accomplished through the operation and coordination of pre-release One-Stop shops located in correctional institutions which are then further connected to the post-release network of Ohio's One-Stop System Ohio Means Jobs. This effort will draw on the existing partner networks of community based services, One-Stop partners, and local reentry coalitions to provide in-house correctional institution services replicating job search activities, physical sites, and programs in the outside world. This includes a soon to be activated Ohio Re-Entry Connections website for the correctional institutions which mirrors the OhioMeansJobs.com statewide job matching system.

Two pilots are scheduled to begin operations in 2012.

One site will be located at Marion Correctional Institution and the other at Trumbull Correctional Institution. The expansion of the O.N.E.-Stop will occur thereafter at other ODRC institutional sites.



Appendix A

Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Statutory Members

Gary C. Mohr, Director

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
www.drc.ohio.gov
800-282-0515

Orman Hall, Director

Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
www.odadas.ohio.gov/public
614-466-3445

David Goodman, Director

Department of Commerce
www.com.ohio.gov
614-466-3636

Stan Heffner, Superintendent

Department of Education
www.ode.state.oh.us
614-995-1545

Dr. Theodore Wymyslo, Director

Department of Health
www.odh.ohio.gov
614-466-3543

Tracy J. Plouck, Director

Department of Mental Health
www.mentalhealth.ohio.gov
614-466-2176

Thomas P. Charles, Director

Department of Public Safety
www.publicsafety.ohio.gov
614-466-2550

Harvey Reed, Director

Department of Youth Service
www.dys.ohio.gov
614-466-4314

Tom Dilling, Representative

Ohio Health Care Licensing Boards
www.licensure@nursing.ohio.gov
614-644-5689

Bonnie Kantor-Burman, Director

Department of Aging
www.aging.ohio.gov
614-466-4135

Jim Petro, Chancellor

Board of Regents
www.regents.ohio.gov
614-438-1200

Christiane Schmenk, Director

Department of Development
www.development.ohio.gov
614-466-2480

Kimberly Hettel, Representative

Governor's Office
www.governor.ohio.gov
614-644-0806

Michael B. Colbert, Director

Department of Jobs and Family Services
www.jfs.ohio.gov
614-466-6282

John Martin, Director

Department of Developmental Disabilities
www.dodd.ohio.gov
614-644-0263

Kevin Miller, Executive Director

Rehabilitative Services Commission
www.rsc.ohio.gov
614-438-1200

Colonel Thomas Moe, Director

Ohio Department of Veteran Services
www.dvs.ohio.gov
614-644-0898

Appendix B

2010 Strategic Plan (1st Edition) Updates

The summary presented below is drawn from the goals and outcomes that were included in the first strategic plan produced under the auspices of OERC. New goals and outcomes were incorporated in the second edition of the strategic plan and will be highlighted in forthcoming Annual Reports

Education (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction – ODRC)

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):

- Increase the number of certificates by 419 each year over the next five years (that is, Literacy, ABLE, Pre-GED, GED, High School Diploma, Career Technical, Transition Education Program, Apprenticeship, Tutor and Advanced Job Training) earned by students in the Ohio Central School System (DRC) and the Buckeye United School District (DYS).
- Increase the number of incarcerated offenders offered services by 5% each year:

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- The target number of certificates to be issued on FY2011 was 14,810. The number of actual certificates awarded for incarcerated adult offenders for FY2011 was 16,354, exceeding the target goal by 1,544 or 10% higher than projected, including 216 from incarcerated juveniles.
- All offenders offered educational services was 20,753 for FY2011. The actual number total for FY2011 was 30,698, exceeding the goal by 9,945 students. There were 1,402 youth that were offered educational services in FY2011.

Appendix B (cont)

Employment (ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

Approximately 51% 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 high school diplomas, GEDs, vocational programming certificates and employment.
- Increase the percent of youth released during the fiscal year obtaining a high school diploma, GED, vocational programming certificates, and/or employment while in the institution or on parole. Of those released 25% will obtain educational certification or employment.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- In FY 2011, there were 1,055 youth released from DYS facilities and every youth had a completed reentry plan that addressed either education or employment. The target number of FY2011 was 317 released youth would either have obtained high school diplomas, GED certificates, vocational programming or employment. Of the youth released FY2011, 70 youth had completed an educational or vocational program and 509 youth were employed for a total of 579 youth, exceeding the target goal by 83%.

Mental Health (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction - ODRC)

Statement of the Problem

There is a prevalence of offenders with mental illness that experience a lack hope of recovery from their mental illness. Mental illness, if coupled with the high-co-occurrence of criminogenic needs, can impede the offender's ability to function in society.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Train 100% of DRC Reception Center mental health staff in the proper assessment of the criminogenic needs by the end of FY 2012

Appendix B (cont)

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- All current staff that provides such assessments received this training. An ongoing training is being developed to account for staff turnover. In this way, the Bureau of Mental Health Services can ensure that reentry planning is a central theme in the assessment process.

Mental Health (Ohio Department of Youth Services - ODYS)

Statement of the Problem

Diversion 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 FY2010, 53% of the youth in DYS were on a mental health caseload. Roughly 70% of all youth committed to DYS in FY2010 were on a mental health caseload prior to commitment. *In FY2011, this number rose to 76% of males and 88% of females.*

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Increase the number of youth receiving community-based, evidence-informed behavioral health services through the behavioral health/juvenile justice grants programs.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- During FY2011, 340 youth enrolled in these placements received Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice funded services to assist with their transition home. This number exceeded the target goal of 225 by 115 youth or 51%. When appropriate, the services developed under this initiative have also been extended to youth leaving Ohio Department of Youth Services facilities.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Increase the number of peer mentors working in collaboration with reentry coalitions, consumer operated services or other entities in the community to enhance an offender with mental illness chances for successful reintegration into the community.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- During FY 2011, the reentry/diversion subcommittee worked closely with a community agency to become reentry certified. This was successful and since that time, referrals have been made to the program and the agency has been providing peers that go inside the prison to meet with the offenders prior to release. In addition, ODMH continues to work closely with the Ohio Empowerment Coalition to train peer mentors and is exploring a specialty area that would train forensic peer specialists. This continues to be

Appendix B (cont)

a priority. Peers have been incorporated at the local levels, specifically in the Mansfield Municipal Court and Hamilton County Common Pleas Court through their Veteran specific docket. ODMH has partnered with both entities to have peers working with the veterans involved in the criminal justice system. There are over 10 peers involved.

Substance Abuse ()

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.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Increase the number of offenders within DRC utilizing the institutional Recovery Services treatment programs and the two funded Therapeutic Communities (TC) by 20% by 2013.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- In FY2010 3,191 offenders participated in substance abuse treatment, including a Therapeutic Community. In FY2011 3,975 offenders participated in substance abuse treatment, including a Therapeutic Community. The increase of 24% exceeded the FY2011 target of 20%.

Family

Statement of the Problem

Diversion activities to divert non-compliant child support obligors from conviction, incarceration, and re-offending have proven to be effective mechanisms to increase child support payments, sustainable employment, and child engagement. Several years ago nearly 800 offenders were incarcerated on non-support convictions.

Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- ODRC, through the Community Correction Act Grant Diversion Program, will decrease the number of individuals incarcerated for non-support by 5% annually through 2014.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- In FY2010 the number of offenders incarcerated in DRC for non-support was 588. In FY2011 this number decreased to 522 or an 11.2% decrease, exceeding the target of a 5% annual reduction.

Appendix B (cont)

Mentoring/Community Engagement

Statement of the Problem

Approximately 7% of the Department of Youth Services youth “age out” of the system creating young adults ill-equipped to reenter the community.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) (DYS):

- Increase the community’s involvement in the lives of DYS 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) (DYS):

- DYS achieved 291 mentor matches in the community and 84 in facilities for a total of 375 mentor matches for FY2011. These numbers exceed the target goal by 300, or 400%. These numbers exceed the target goal largely due to the continued efforts of the group mentoring programs in two facilities: Good Guides program (grant funded) and Kairos Torch (Volunteers) and to the diligent efforts of the regional parole offices to attract community volunteers to mentor the parolees.

Strategic Performance Goal(s) (DYS):

- *Increase* the number of hours of community service conducted by youth

Strategic Performance Outcome(s) (DYS):

- In FY2011, DYS youth completed 31,384 community service hours in DYS facilities and 14,561 community service hours while under parole supervision for a total of 45,945 community service hours exceeding the target goal of 1,050 community service hours by 44,895. Due to considerable success in this area, DYS will revise the goal upward.

Appendix B (cont)

Housing Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)

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 those with other chronic health conditions. According to DRC'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.

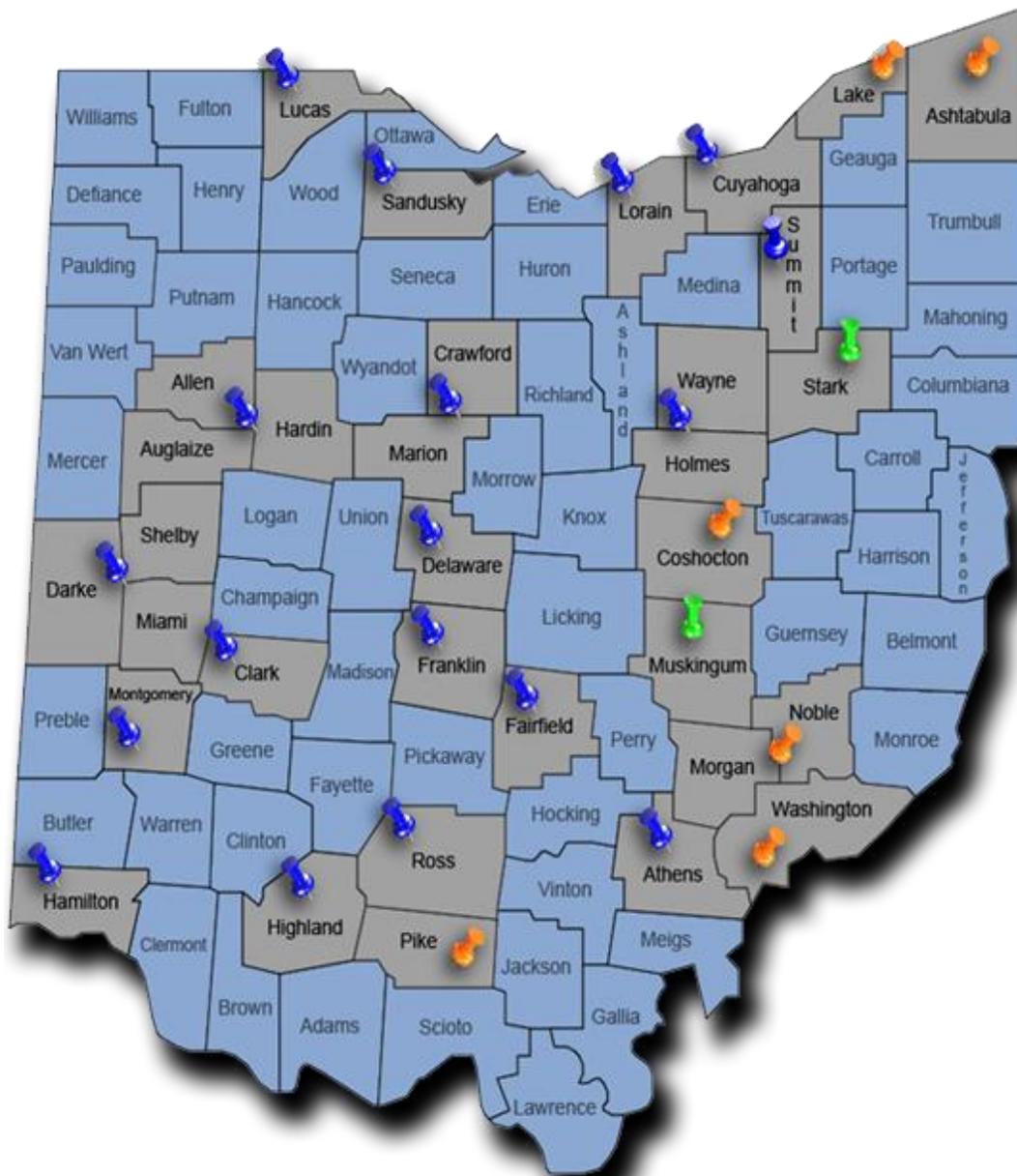
Strategic Performance Goal(s):

- Increase the number of Independent Housing beds in targeted areas by July 2011.

Strategic Performance Outcome(s):

- In FY2011 the name of DRC's transitional housing program was changed from Independent Housing to Community Residential Centers. During that fiscal year the number of Community Residential Center beds stayed stable at 61. However, contracts were negotiated to increase the total number of Community Center Residential beds to 239 for FY2012, an increase of 292%.

Map of Local Reentry Coalitions



Local Reentry Coalition

A Community coalition fully recognized by OERC

Local Reentry Alliance

A community task force aggressively working to meet the needs of offenders reentering the community.

Local Reentry Partner

A person or persons aware of community reentry resources and committed to assisting offenders upon release

Appendix C - Statistics

18 - Reentry Coalitions

2 - Reentry Alliances

6 - Community Reentry Partners

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 working out of the Franklin County Office of Homeland Security and Justice Programs. She began her tenure with the Task Force 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 is also a Community Instructor for The Ohio State University, College of Social Work, where she teaches Welfare Policy and Programs. 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.

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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-at-large of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition representing the southeastern region of the state and serves on Ohio Senator Rob Portman's Advisory Team on Reentry. He is also a member of the local Opiate and Reentry Task Forces within his 6 county service area and is truly dedicated to ex-offender reentry initiatives.

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Appendix D (cont)

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 a position as a 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 One-Stop Reentry Center in August 2010. She is a dedicated pioneer with multi-faceted criminal justice and management expertise, and she has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Wilmington College, and a 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. She 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.

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Nida Reid-Williamson, Treasurer

Nida Reid-Williamson is a proven leader, 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 such as her current position as Coordinator of the Fairfield County Reentry 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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