

# The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

## MINUTES

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

9:00AM – 1:00PM

ALVIS HOUSE  
2100 STELLA COURT., COLUMBUS , OHIO

TYPE OF MEETING	Ohio Ex-offender Reentry Coalition
NOTE TAKER	Corrennia E. Price-Jackson, Administrative Assistant, Office Of Offender Reentry
ATTENDEES	See sign in sheets

## Agenda topics

9:25AM-9:30AM WELCOMING REMARKS DENISE ROBINSON, PRESIDENT  
ALVIS HOUSE

9:30AM-10:00AM OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS GARY MOHR, DIRECTOR,  
ODRC AND CHAIRPERSON, OERC

DISCUSSION	<p>Director Mohr discussed the passage of SB 337 and the importance of the sentencing reforms introduced under HB 86. He then introduced the candidates that had applied to serve as the first statutory member of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (a provision authorized in SB 337). He introduced the individuals who formed a short-list of those interviewed on several occasions for the position, including Ed Little, Victoria Berry, Brent Bedgood and Brian Woods. Deanna Hoskins and Ron Tijerina were also part of this group, but were unable to attend the meeting. Director Mohr then introduced James Whitfield who was selected as the statutory member (see the attached Introduction of James Whitfield). James spoke briefly about his background and his commitment to addressing reentry issues in his new appointment. Finally, Director Mohr discussed regionalization efforts underway by the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrennia (ODRC) that are intended to dissolve the lines between the prisons, parole regions, and community partners. He then asked the group to view a video called "Suits" which was produced by the V.A. to support veteran's returning to the community.</p> <p>Ed Rhine, Deputy Director, ODRC, noted that Ohio was awarded over \$10M in SCA grants between 2009 - 2011. Six additional SCA grants were received recently. One of these was the Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction (OR3) grant received by ODRC targeting 10 rural, Appalachian counties in the South-Central area of the state. A total of 400 offenders have been targeted for service under the grant. Thus far, 67 offenders have been confirmed for participation, while another 41 are still being evaluated for participation.</p> <p>Ed closed by sharing that planning is underway to provide community-based, regionalized training on the major provisions of HB 86 and SB 337, mainly, those provisions providing ex-offenders with assistance in addressing collateral sanctions and consequences associated with their criminal convictions. The intent is to ensure that individuals and communities across Ohio understand these provisions and have the knowledge to take advantage of the benefits they offer.</p>
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10:00AM-10:20AM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES PROPOSAL KIM HUMPHREY, DYS REENTRY  
ADMINISTRATOR

DISCUSSION	<p>The Juvenile Branch of the OERC was formally adopted in September 2012. This quarterly meeting was the first official presentation for the Branch to launch its first meeting. The Juvenile Branch now holds a standing agenda slot to discuss juvenile reentry issues during the plenary session. Kim Humphrey spoke regarding the newly formed Branch's purpose and structure. She informed everyone that there will be a meeting held for this branch every quarter immediately following the OERC meeting and everyone is invited. During this plenary, several juvenile justice professionals presented from their perspectives how Franklin County youth are impacted by reentry efforts and what we can do to continue to address their needs. The presenters were: Steve Curl (DYS Columbus Regional Administrator), Yatis Morales (Henkels &amp; McCoy), and Subha Lembach (Franklin Co. Juvenile Court).</p>
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10:20AM-11:00AM OHIO ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL REENTRY COALITIONS KYSTEN PALMORE, PRESIDENT OALRC

DISCUSSION	<p>Kysten Palmore and Nida Reid-Williamson shared that the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions is offering free trainings in April based on a grant the Association received from the Office of Criminal Justice Services. The web-based seminars will cover the following topics: grant writing; legislative updates; identifying community resources and best practices; and, establishing a reentry coalition and strategic planning. Information regarding the training can be found on franklincounty.gov/reentry, or the OALRC website.</p> <p>Brian Woods CEO of the TOUCH Program spoke on the projects and a mentoring program being offered</p>
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	through his agency.	
11:00AM-11:20AM	Break	
11:20AM-11:25AM	Vendor Bio-Fusion Bakery and Café <a href="http://www.fusionbakerycafe.com/">http://www.fusionbakerycafe.com/</a>	Tania Sherry, Rural Reentry Specialist
DISCUSSION	Wendy Adcock spent 29 months at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville. Upon release in 2010, she began regularly attending the Citizen Circle in Columbus as part of her support system. When Wendy isn't cooking up her soul satisfying food, she's advocating for formerly incarcerated youth and adults as they go through the reentry process. In her role as an administrator and vocational instructor at Henkels and McCoy community success center, she encourages youth to attain their GEDs, partners with adults (many with felonies) in their job search, and teaches ServSafe certifying classes on food safety and sanitation.	
11:25AM-11:45 AM	ACCESS TO PRISONS-PROTOCOL	ED RHINE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OFFICE OF OFFENDER REENTRY
DISCUSSION	Ed emphasized the importance of local reentry coalitions and other community partners and volunteers having easy access to prisons across the state. A memo was distributed to the attendees providing a protocol to guide such access (see the attached Access to Prisons Memorandum). Robin Knab, Southwest Regional Director stated that it is very important for the integration and reentry coalition members to be familiar with the policies and process, and to be able to easily access ODRC institutions. Jessica Dennis, Assistant Deputy Director. ODRC spoke on the roles of the Justice Reinvestment Officers (JRO). She explained that primary function of a JRO is to provide information to the court to identify suitable offenders for supervised release. In addition, the JROs are working to bridge gaps between parole and prison operations.	
11:45AM-12:30PM	BREAKOUT SESSION WITH WARDENS TO DISCUSS ACCESS TO PRISONS	Ginine Trim, Warden ORW Rod Johnson, Warden MaCI Tim Buchanan, Warden NCI
DISCUSSION	There were 3 groups formed and lead by the wardens to discuss and hear the pros and cons regarding access to the prisons. At the end of the break out the wardens reported to the coalition what was learned. (The working groups are summarized in the attached DRC document called Working Group Notes.) Planning is underway to construct a e-based platform whereby volunteers and others can receive confirmation of the date and time they will be entering a particular institution for program/mentoring, or other reasons.	
12:30PM-12:40PM	REENTRY PROGRAM REPOSITORY-DEMONSTRATION	RONA DORSEY, REENTRY ADMINISTRATOR, ODRC
DISCUSSION	Rona Dorsey presented the Reentry Program Approval process and reviewed the Reentry Repository procedures with the community partners to enable them to apply to have their reentry programs posted. All programs that are submitted will be reviewed by subject matter experts, and with their approval be posted so they are accessible to those with an interest in learning more about reentry programs across the state.	
12:45PM-1:00PM	WEBSITE UPDATE/WELCOME HOME VIDEOS	CHRIS YANAI
DISCUSSION	Chris Yanai provided an updates to the OERC website. The latest updates include additional Welcome Home Videos, a rotating carousel that features a series of Ohio maps showing where the local reentry coalitions are located, the leadership personnel assigned by quadrants within the state, the placement of Justice Reinvestment Officers, and the ODRC reentry coordinators for the prisons and the Adult Parole Authority regions. The addition of the OERC to Facebook was also announced.	
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