



Governor's Re-entry Council, Steering Committee Minutes – Meeting #24 – January 5, 2011

Steering Committee Members Attending: Paula Bauer, Cindy D. Booth, Martin Burrows, Mark Cadotte, Ron Chase, Richard Harris, Ginger Martin, Pegge McGuire, Ross Shepard, Jeremiah Stromberg, Scott Taylor, Patrick Vance

Guests: Paul Solomon, Adalberto Rubio, Patty Katz

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions		
Review of Minutes from the November 10, 2010 Meeting		Copies were distributed for review via e-mail. Members were asked to send corrections/revisions to Denise Taylor. None were received. Minutes were approved as submitted and will be posted to the Re-entry Council webpage.
Announcements and Updates from Members	<p>Ginger Martin asked members to share those items that are being worked on in relation to re-entry outside the priorities of the steering committee and workgroups.</p> <p>Paula Bauer reported that the Oregon Youth Authority is duplicating the process the Department of Corrections has developed with the Criminal Justice Commission to pay for obtaining State-issued photo identification cards from the DMV. Ms Bauer also reported there has just been posted a Technology Vocation Grant that OYA had applied for in the past, but did not get. She said they got very positive feedback on the application that OYA is fine tuning the application, based on that feedback, and applying again. This grant will provide funding for the already established technology vocational program in OYA facilities.</p> <p>Ginger Martin reported that the contracts necessary for the federal grants are being written from the statement of work in the grants. The legislative E-Board has authorized spending the grant funding.</p> <p>Richard Harris reported that next Monday the first new building at the Oregon State Hospital will receive patients. Mr. Harris said the Department of Mental Health and the Psychiatric</p>	

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	<p>Security Review Board are sponsoring legislation to modify entrance into Oregon State Hospital to eliminate misdemeanants and Class C felons being housed under the Psychiatric Security Review Board. This will enable more consistent evaluations.</p>	
<p>Workgroup Updates: Employment</p>	<p>Ms. Martin had invited the workgroup convenors to provide an update on workgroup goals not yet completed.</p> <p>She introduced Martin Burrows to discuss the Employment Workgroup first. Two documents were distributed: Employment Workgroup Work Plan Highlights 2010 (attached) and Workgroup Goals. (Attached). Goals #1 and #4 are completed or nearly completed. Goal #2 is in process, but is not yet system-wide. Mr. Burrows told us about a new process called the National Career Readiness Certificate. There are three levels of expertise that can be attained. This certificate can be acquired while incarcerated through a program that can be loaded on the computers currently used by inmates. The final step is passing a proctored exam, which takes about 3 hours. Cindy Booth suggested DOC explore whether we can contract with the local community colleges to proctor the exam. DOC currently has contracts with these colleges to teach in the institutions and the education computer labs could be used. Other states have been using the certificate and employers have embraced it as a useful tool. The Employment Department will be conducting a marketing campaign to employers. Mr. Burrows said the marketing piece needs to be a high priority and discussed further.</p> <p>The next step is to review the objectives and make adjustments where needed. Community Corrections staff members need to know what kinds of employment resources are available, where, who can mentor people newly released.</p> <p>Following lengthy discussion, it was decided to invite someone from the Employment Department to present to the committee on employment market trends. Nichole Brown or one of her staff members from DOC's Workforce Development and a representative from Oregon Corrections Enterprises will be invited to talk about how what is being done in prison matches up with those needs and trends.</p>	
<p>Workgroup Updates: Continuity of Care</p>	<p>Patrick Vance discussed what has been accomplished by this workgroup. The DOC mental health staff has agreements with community mental health providers statewide to identify the most needy and to work together. The release counselors and transition coordinators are working closely with the mental health staff to have needs met and make transition as seamless as possible. Inmates are leaving with a much more professionally coordinated plan for their potential needs in the community even when resources are lacking. One person in DOC Health Services works with the most needy mental health and physical health cases planning for release. Mr. Vance has a number of contacts in Marion County who are interested in working with the workgroup to overcome many of the barriers to access to health care and mental health care.</p>	

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	<p>The Continuity of Care workgroup is working with John Mullins on the General Assistance Initiative. Legislation may make it possible for a pilot program to bridge funding with General Assistance funds for those releasing inmates who qualify for SSI or SSDI benefits, but whose application status is pending or has been denied and must be resubmitted post-release.</p> <p>A meeting with the Board of Pharmacy inspector resulted in an agreement between DOC and the Board of Pharmacy to change a few words in the Board's rule on where medications can be sent and to whom that will enable the DOC pharmacy to send medications that the person has refused to take with them when released to the community corrections' office and/or the housing agency. If the person begins to decompensate due to not taking prescribed medication, the parole officer can remind them that they are required by their conditions of supervision to take their medication or return to incarceration. This often will motivate the person to comply and take the medication from the parole officer.</p> <p>The need for dental care is high in prisons and the difficulty in finding dentists to work in prisons is also high. Mr. Vance met the past president of the Dental Association of Oregon who is a dental hygienist and is campaigning to expand the role of dental hygienists to include triage, applying dental sealants, and other practices that would help to alleviate the need for dentists in prisons. The importance of good dental health in relation to overall physical health has been well documented. Dental health is no longer considered a cosmetic need, but impacts heart disease and others. The need for glasses was discussed and it is a need that will only increase.</p> <p>Richard Harris said Governor Kitzhaber wants to fully integrate addictions, mental health and long-term care and challenged the Oregon Health Authority Policy Board to determine how to do that with a 2014 implementation. Disability will not be the determining factor for the Oregon Health Plan, but income. He said the goal should be comprehensive dental, health and mental health care for everyone.</p> <p>Goals for the workgroup are to network with county advocates; pilot projects, (i.e. Marion County), coordinate internal DOC units with community resources; use unpaid advocates post-release to assist with completing applications for benefits, etc.; improve coordination with OYA and Measure 11 releases.</p>	
Workgroup Updates: Housing	Pegge McGuire said the Housing Workgroup's goal was to recommend ideas and strategies for housing. They have identified what they consider the gold standard for transitional housing. The template developed said it must have the following things, followed by a menu of services to be selected from as appropriate for the venue/community.	

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	<p>What the community had available to support those services; what funding was available, etc. What was not addressed and the steering committee asked about were therapeutic and youth options. Those need to be addressed in the future.</p> <p>Models that are being reviewed are the public housing authorities and housing first projects; ready to rent and rent guarantees; ways to broaden access for those re-entering the community. Messaging was identified as a barrier to getting into market rate housing and siting housing in the communities. On Thursday, January 6, the national trainer from DEMOS will lead a workshop to identify workgroups to work specifically on the messaging issue with the goal of messaging templates completed by early summer. We have identified targeted areas that we need to develop specific messaging strategies and the need for polling around the messaging. Those are: legislative and policy issues, education and outreach specific to landlords and lastly, a very broad public messaging template. As part of the legislative, policy and landlord messaging, we identified the need for ways for landlords to overlook their existing criteria and allow people an accommodation based upon their circumstances without having to change their criteria for everyone. The Certificates of Rehabilitation and Certificates of Relief are models that the Partnership for Safety and Justice found being used in other parts of the country. We're working on developing a process to work with the courts, parole and probation and then fold those certificates into the messaging effort to market to landlords as one way to relax the criteria and transfer their risk. The workgroup will develop implementation strategies once the messaging is identified. How will it be presented? Who will help us? Large scale advertising or grassroots effort? Reducing the liability for landlords would be a huge benefit. Legislative language is being examined to make changes that would not negatively impact victims. Work is needed to ensure this population is included in community planning efforts. We have the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, Community Needs Assessments and we need to have people participating in these processes to be sure this population is included.</p> <p>We have reason to believe the Center for Effective Public Policy may be available to help with some of our work, such as guidance on how to develop a statewide technical training assistance team for anyone wanting to develop housing. We are also looking to them to develop very specific timelines for these outcomes. We are also working with Sponsors, Inc. to examine data they have collected and develop some replicable processes. There are also a lot of myths out there that need to be separated from the reality for the public and landlords. There is a need for a communications process for stakeholders' information sharing and feedback and opportunities for ongoing process improvements in re-entry housing options.</p> <p>Ms. Martin will prepare a summary for presentation to the Re-entry Council.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action
Next Meeting	The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2011.	



GOVERNOR'S REENTRY EMPLOYMENT WORKGROUP WORK PLAN HIGHLIGHTS – 2010

Work Group PURPOSE/VISION Statement: (Developed 1/6/2009)

Improve the statewide employment and retention rates of offenders by focusing on policies, laws, practices and perceptions that contribute to the success of returnees.

Prioritized Goals: (Developed 2/2/2009)

Update for 1/5/2011 Reentry Steering Committee

In Progress

Goal: Increase returnee employability by improving, verifying and certifying technical/work skills, and soft skills.

Goal: Increase access to Work Source Oregon Center resources inside and outside institutions.

Continue working on three previously-prioritized goals:

Goal 1: Improve the marketing of returnees to employers, statewide.

Goal 2: Returnees are prepared to compete for and retain living wage jobs.

Goal 3: Improve coordination and collaboration with community-based and justice agencies and employers, to improve information-sharing, resources, and responsibilities, and to address barriers.

Objectives: (Developed 3/2/2009)

1. Improve the marketing of returnees to employers, statewide.
 - Objectives:
 - Identification, collection, and review of information on offender employment.
 - Determine the elements (strengths) of a marketing plan; collect marketing information from other TPC (Transition from Prison to Community) states including Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, and Georgia; draft marketing plan for Steering Committee review (Implementation Team).
 - Select/define terms to be used for returning populations and support the Reentry Council's work in this area.
 - Determine legal liability of employers when hiring formerly incarcerated felons.
 - Develop trainings for employers and community corrections staff.

2. Returnees are prepared to compete for and retain living wage jobs.
 - Objectives:
 - Ensure work practices at DOC are transferrable, transparent, and allow for feedback.
 - Ensure returnees leave prison with proper skill/work and identification documentation.
 - Support reentry work group's efforts to address housing issues.
 - Develop and retain workplace coaches/mentors.
 - Motivational assessment tools should be used (URICA, Socrates, etc.)
 - Assess skills taught versus Oregon job demands and job training availability.
 - Develop measurement criteria.
 - Evaluate supervision policies.
 - Collect and review information from other TPC states.

3. Improve coordination and collaboration with community-based and justice agencies and employers, to improve information-sharing, resources, and responsibilities, and to address barriers.
 - Objectives:
 - Utilize "Road to Success" model as resource for some returnees.
 - Map local resources by county (Reentry Wiki) to determine when and where opportunities are present; include contact information.
 - Identify model to be used.

- Identify and use best practices (in-reach and case planning).
- Involve mentors.
- Utilize natural support services (from non-traditional community-based efforts and programs, agencies and resources).

Additional Goals:

- Develop performance measurement tools and information on employment success.
- Address employment early in the case management process.
- Use evidence-based practices to prioritize employment services to offenders, and access to employment programming by offenders.
- Develop practices and policies for participation in institution programs (training, employment, and education) that mimic outside work-place environments.

Next Steps:

- Review and update work group membership to assist with progress on remaining goals.
- Schedule work group meeting(s).



Governor's Re-entry Council Workgroup Goals

Employment Workgroup

Purpose: *Improve the statewide employment and retention rates of offenders by focusing on policies, laws, practices and perceptions that contribute to the success of returnees.*

Goals:

1. Improve the marketing of returnees to employers, statewide.
2. Increase offender employability by improving, verifying and certifying technical/work skills, and soft skills.
3. Prepare offenders to compete for and retain living wage jobs.
4. Increase access to WorkSource Center resources inside and outside institutions.
5. Improve coordination and collaboration with community-based and justice agencies and employers, to improve information-sharing, resources, and responsibilities, and to address barriers.

Continuity of Care Workgroup

Purpose: *Promote successful community reintegration and improve public safety by addressing individual offender needs for access to and continuity of necessary health and behavioral health care.*

Goals:

1. Offenders with serious health and/or behavioral health needs will leave custody with an appointment with a community provider.
2. Ensure DOC transition plans include health and/or behavioral health, and community corrections elements and that they are effectively addressed.
3. Capitalize on pro-social support systems to address health and behavioral health issues.
4. In-custody medical records must be easily accessible to health care providers in the community, and vice versa.
5. There must be an identified advocate available in custody and in the community to assist with the application process for benefits for which an inmate/offender may be eligible.



Governor's Re-entry Council Workgroup Goals

6. In addition to coordination of care, there is a need for additional access to dental treatment in and out of custody. Models for improved dental care in custody settings and in the community should be explored, including developing pro bono work arrangements and creating tax credits.

Transition Service Center Workgroup

Purpose: *Recommend sites for pilot Transition Service Centers with local, integrated services to stabilize Oregonians returning from incarceration.*

Goals

1. Coordinate with other workgroups and state agencies
2. Get approval for five (5) pilot sites from Steering Committee
3. Determine entity operating those sites
4. Determine a suggested operating structure for pilot sites
5. Survey community corrections agencies to determine where there are existing coordinated services for future planning and decision making

Housing Workgroup

A formal recommendation was presented to the steering committee and council. The recommendation was developed to ensure transitional housing is available for every offender released from DOC custody without a stable, alcohol and drug-free residence. The recommendation was accepted by the steering committee and the council and funding sources are being explored for pilot sites

Goals

1. Ensure transitional housing is available for every offender released from DOC custody without a stable, alcohol and drug-free residence.
2. Identify and recommend a vision and strategies that lead to improved housing success for those re-entering the community post-incarceration
3. Identify and recommend housing strategy implementation plan performance goals, measurements, funding options, and systems improvements
4. Recommend a communication process for stakeholder information-sharing and feedback opportunities to ensure on-going process improvements in re-entry housing options