



## Governor's Re-entry Council, Steering Committee Minutes – Meeting # 29 – August 3, 2011

Steering Committee Members Attending: Paula Bauer, Cindy Booth, Martin Burrows, Mark Cadotte, Val Conley, Debra Giard, Richard Harris, Ginger Martin, Timothy Moore, Jay Scroggin, Paul Solomon, Patrick Vance,

Guests: Kimberly Allain, Alec Blake, Sue Blayre, Megan Churchill, Doug Cox, Patty Katz, Jim Keller, Mary Liedtke, Julie Santos

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions		
Review of Minutes from the June 1, 2011 Meeting	There were no edits for the minutes from the June 1, 2011 meeting.	
Announcements and Updates from Members	<p>Patty Katz with the Partnership for Safety and Justice, introduced a short video <i>The Next Right Thing</i>. You can view the video at <a href="http://www.safetyandjustice.org/spotlight/2363">http://www.safetyandjustice.org/spotlight/2363</a>. The Partnership for Safety and Justice will be making the video available to workforce development organizations and employer groups and will also be working with the faith-based community. Ms. Martin asked that Ms. Katz report back as progress is made.</p> <p>Ms. Katz also shared information about a new report titled: <i>Misguided Measures: The Outcomes and Impacts of Measure 11 on Oregon's Youth</i>, which is the first comprehensive study of Measure 11's impact on youth in Oregon since the inception of the measure. The full report, the executive summary, and county-by-county overviews are available at: <a href="http://www.safetyandjustice.org/misguided_measures">http://www.safetyandjustice.org/misguided_measures</a>.</p> <p>Ms. Katz also distributed a pamphlet <i>Beyond Barriers Speaker's Bureau &amp; "The Next Right Thing" Removing Employment Barriers</i> (attached).</p>	
Roundtable on Re-entry News	<p>Debra Giard, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Parole and Probation Division distributed copies of an article (attached) published in the SEDCOR Enterprise Magazine in July that explains the Marion County Re-entry Initiative SOAR program and then gives an employer's perspective to hiring "reformed felons" followed by a SOAR graduate's perspective on the program, being hired and then promoted, eventually to management.</p> <p>Ms. Martin reports that inmate work performance evaluations and job references will soon be automated systemwide. Institutions have already developed job applications and interview processes that are comparable to those in the community.</p> <p>Ms. Martin distributed the Goals to Improve Sex Offender Re-entry (attached), which were decided on by this group at the last meeting from a list of recommendations by the statewide Sex Offender Supervision Network (SOSN). Ms Martin contacted the SOSN liaison to the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD) who suggested meeting with the SOSN executive committee (these are parole and probation officers who specialize in supervising sex offenders), specific DOC staff, Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision</p>	

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	<p>representatives and community corrections managers. During discussions with this specialized group, it will be determined whether law changes etc. will be needed. Richard Harris suggested the third item be changed to a risk evaluation rather than psychological evaluation. Jay Scroggin agreed. After brief discussion, Ms. Martin said the workgroup will be asked to examine these criteria further.</p> <p>The additional new goal from the Re-entry Council was to evaluate re-entry from the juvenile justice system. A meeting was held on June 29th to go through the framework components of re-entry. Ms. Martin is working on documenting the discussion at that meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Martin then distributed a copy of a postcard she received developed by a group in Missouri called one-eighty. (Attached) There is a website on the card that has a good deal of information that this group may find useful. That link is <a href="http://www.the180.org">www.the180.org</a>.</p> <p>Ms. Martin has been approached by a person in Neighborhood Partnership who has a proposal from a business to come out and do focus groups to learn more of the answers about how to overcome the barriers we have identified. Because of the cost involved, we would have to obtain private funding. Ms. Martin thinks it is a great plan and will bring it to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Status Report: State Issued Identification at Release</p>	<p>Julie Santos, DMV, reported that the program providing State of Oregon-issued identification cards for those about to be released has been going smoothly. There are two trips each month to a local DMV office prior to opening to the public, from one Salem minimum security institution and the Deer Ridge Correctional Institution in Madras during which 10 inmates, who have the necessary documentation, receive their ID cards.</p> <p>Mary Liedtke, DMV, reported that DOC and DMV have worked together to draft an Administrative Rule and an Interagency Agreement to enable inmates to apply for and receive, prior to release, an Oregon Driver License, if they had previously had a valid license in the past. Cindy Booth further explained that this process is being developed to mirror a process already in place for the general public who are unable to physically appear at a DMV office to renew their license. These individuals include soldiers deployed or based out of the area, people on extended travels, etc.</p> <p>The criteria for the inmate population is the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ must have a valid photo on file with DMV (not older than 9 yrs. 2 months)</li> <li>▪ age 50+ must have an eye exam</li> <li>▪ all documentation normally required (SS, Birth Certificate, Passport)</li> </ul> <p>This process will be useful for those who will never be classified minimum security, or cannot otherwise be transported prior to release.</p>	
<p>Legislative Update</p>	<p>Ms. Martin explained that in the 2011-2013 Legislatively Approved Budget, the DOC has a Budget Note that provides \$1 million to “explore the design and implementation of a re-entry services pilot project. Working under existing statutory authority, the department is encouraged to develop and enter into an agreement with the county or counties to provide evidence-based treatment, employment preparation, including work release, and</p>	

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	<p>transitional planning for inmates who are scheduled to release within 90-180 days of the projected release date. The elements of the pilot project are to be equal to or better than the current transition opportunities available at the department. The department, in consultation with the pilot county or counties, shall set a rate of reimbursement for the program. The department will assess the pilot project ..." The department is in the process of defining the criteria so the counties can develop an idea to present for consideration. Because this appears to be a pre-release program, the funding at \$60/day will accommodate approximately 20 beds. Any county can put forth a proposal for a "reach-in" program and the department, will contract with the county/counties to carry it out.</p> <p>Ms. Martin reports that the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (DCCWD) also got a Budget Note related to re-entry. They "will coordinate with the Department of Corrections to assure that persons released from prison are included as a target population for the On-the-Job Training Fund for the purpose of expanding job opportunities for this population." In this Budget Note is a direction to DOC to "encourage county community corrections programs to conduct outreach efforts in recruiting local employers to participate in the On-the-Job Training Program that benefit the re-entry population. An initial meeting has been held between DCCWD and DOC.</p> <p>Ms. Martin said the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, which was a time-limited group tasked with reviewing alcohol and drug funding and policy statewide, has been made permanent. Richard Harris explained that there are drug and alcohol related funds in many agencies' budgets and this group was established to bring all of these programs and funds into a more coherent policy. The legislation that passed granted a fair amount of authority to the commission to both unify the budgets into a common document, so the total expenditure is clear, and to coordinate the programs over time. The commission is being led by Attorney General John Kroger, along with DOC Director Max Williams and DHS Director Dr. Bruce Goldberg, whose agencies have the majority of the funds. There is a coordinating committee comprised of the seven agencies impacted.</p> <p>Ms. Martin reported that HB 3309-B passed this session. This was proposed by supporters of the Marion County Re-entry Initiative and directs the DOC to establish an on-the-job training program for ex-offenders, if funding is appropriated. The bill was not funded this session. A bill passed that states that DHS shall suspend, not terminate, medical assistance for inmates in local correctional facilities serving less than one year. This is a companion bill to one passed a few sessions back that addressed those with severe mental illness and will help with jail transition.</p> <p>Kimberly Allain asked how the DOC's treatment funding fared in this session. Ms. Martin said all the treatment dollars were maintained. DOC had reduced treatment beds by 100 beds and those were not restored, but no other reductions were taken.</p>	

Workgroup Update: Employment and Education	Martin Burrows reported that following the Re-entry Council meeting in May, 'education' was added to the Employment Workgroup's charge, to become the Employment & Education Re-entry Workgroup. He distributed a list of recommended objectives developed by the workgroup (attached). Steering Committee members approved the objectives which now become the workgroup's focus for 2011-12.	
Governor's Re-entry Council: Agenda for August 24 <sup>th</sup> meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legislative Update</li> <li>▪ Second Chance Act Reauthorization</li> <li>▪ Max' Washington DC Experience</li> <li>▪ Oregon Health Authority re: Changes in Health Care Delivery System</li> <li>▪ Review of a Re-entry Case</li> <li>▪ Transition Program Presentation by the Criminal Justice Commission and Multnomah County Department of Criminal Justice</li> <li>▪ Steering Committee Request for Fast-Track Process for Council Support</li> <li>▪ New Goals on Sex Offender Re-entry</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2011.	

# **PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY and JUSTICE**

## **Speaker's Bureau**

*The goal of the Speaker's Bureau is to build awareness among policy makers, media and the public about the need for increased investment on re-entry programs and to improve the public perception of people with past felony convictions.*

*The Speaker's Bureau consists of people who care about successful re-entry. Some are formerly incarcerated individuals who share their personal messages of hardships, growth and goals for the future.*

*Our speakers speak out on many topics:*

- \* Formerly incarcerated people speak out on issues such as employment, education, housing, alternatives to incarceration, drug and alcohol treatment, and re-entry debt
- \* Survivors of crime speak about the impact of crime
- \* A doctor speaks out on prison reform
- \* A former warden tells us some possible ways to make prisons more effective
- \* Family members talk about navigating prisons to better help themselves

**To have one of our speakers come and speak—  
contact Patty Katz—503.335.8449—  
Partnership for Safety and Justice**

## **Re-entry**

**What is prisoner re-entry?** -The process of leaving prison or jail and returning to society.

**What are the numbers?** According to Bureau of Justice reports, approximately:

- \* 650,000 state and federal prisoners re-enter society each year nationally .
- \* At any given time, 750,000 formerly incarcerated persons are on post prison supervision.
- \* About 1.5 million children have a parent in prison.

**Why is it important to help people leaving jail re-enter society?** Incarcerated individuals need to have skills and tools to be productive, law-abiding community members when they get out to reduce recidivism rates. The re-entry philosophy is about using time on the inside to prepare people for life on the outside.

### **What low- cost steps can jails and prisons take?**

Every person walking out the door should have a resource kit that tells them exactly where they can go for treatment, training services, or getting help with jobs and clothes.

\* In Portland we have the **Re-Entry Transition Center** with “navigators” to coordinate re-entry services for formerly incarcerated individuals leaving county, state and federal jails and prisons. The center is located at **1818 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.**, and employs two full time re-entry navigators that assist formerly incarcerated individuals with both their immediate needs and their long-term goals following release.

**971-255-0546**

## **The Next Right Thing**

**Removing Employment Barriers**



“The Next Right Thing” follows the story of Jamaica, a mother struggling to overcome barriers that come with a conviction history. Like many others coming out of prison, Jamaica is ready and eager to work.

When businesses and governments include people with conviction histories in their hiring pools, everyone wins. “The Next Right Thing” interviews system stakeholders, employers, experts, and formerly incarcerated people themselves to explore the ways that businesses—and entire communities—can benefit when people are given second chances.

Many formerly incarcerated people have done the right things to make themselves outstanding husbands, mothers, community members —and employees.

*A collaborative effort -  
Partnership for Safety and Justice , ROAR and HARRP*

“The Next Right Thing,” a 10-minute film, is available for your meeting! Produced in partnership with ROAR (Re-Entry Organizations and Resources), HARRP (Highland Access Re-Entry and Recovery Program), and PSJ (The Partnership for Safety and Justice).

**Are communities and businesses ready to do the  
next right thing?**

## Additional Resources

### Re-Entry Transition Center

[www.rtcpportland.org](http://www.rtcpportland.org) - 971-255-0546

### SE Works

[www.seworks.org](http://www.seworks.org) - 503-772-2300

### Constructing Hope

[www.constructinghope.com](http://www.constructinghope.com) - 503-281-1234

### Better People

[www.betterpeople.org](http://www.betterpeople.org) - 503-281-2663

### WorkSource Oregon

[www.worksystems.org](http://www.worksystems.org), - 503-669-7112

### Mercy Corps Northwest

[www.mercycorpsnw.org](http://www.mercycorpsnw.org)

For Speakers

Contact:

Partnership for Safety and Justice

503.335.8449

[www.safetyandjustice.org](http://www.safetyandjustice.org)

## Partnership for Safety and Justice

(PSJ) is a multi-faceted statewide advocacy organization that works to make Oregon's approach to public safety more effective and more just.

PSJ has developed a pioneering and provocative model for our work-one that works with all of those most directly affected by crime and the criminal justice system

(survivors of crime, people convicted of crime, and the families of both) to advocate for a system

better designed to build safer and healthier communities. This approach offers a holistic perspective and a valuable strategy for shifting Oregon towards smart,

prevention-based approaches for creating community safety.

## Partnership for Safety and Justice

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[www.safetyandjustice.org](http://www.safetyandjustice.org)

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**PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFETY and JUSTICE**



**Beyond Barriers  
Speaker's Bureau**

**&**

**"The Next  
Right Thing"**

**Removing  
Employment  
Barriers**

## A Success Story SOAR - Student Opportunity Achieving Results

**M**ore than 600 inmates are released into Marion County communities each year. 48% of those released are immediately homeless, 60-70% have a substance abuse problem, and most have no transportation. More than 70% are parents.

SOAR, stands for Student Opportunities Achieving Results. The Marion County Reentry Initiative created in partnership with Chemeketa Community College, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Health Department and Mid-Willamette Community Agency Agency, a nonprofit agency that provides



an umbrella of social services. These agencies are working together to rebuild lives, promote community safety and save taxpayer money by breaking the cycle of criminal activity. The initiative helps those reentering society by giving them access to opportunities for assistance with housing, employment, job skills development, mentoring, transportation, and treatment for mental health and addiction barriers.

**EMPLOYER PERSPECTIVE** When hiring, in addition to looking for industry skill sets, we pay special attention to military veterans to honor and utilize their skills for obvious reasons.

For the last twelve years, we have also worked with reformed felons. These folks can only "make it" and cease to be a burden on society if they have jobs, housing, transportation, mentoring, skills and the desire to re-assimilate. We have worked with at least a dozen of these folks and most have gone on to lead productive lives. An ex-felon who becomes a productive member of society saves millions in our tax dollars and untold contributions to the community that would otherwise be lost.

About a year ago, we began to work with Jon Andrus with the SOAR program. I, along with other local business people (Scott Sadler and Dean Craig), do a quarterly panel with approximately

20-25 released felons. Some have never worked outside or have been away for a long time.

We currently employ two gentlemen that have come through the program. One is a hard worker with framing and construction skill sets. He has become a great asset and our "go-to guy" on many special/custom projects.

The other fellow came to me highly recommended. He came in as a laborer with the intent of becoming a manager. I'm happy to say he worked hard, learned, bonded with the crew and is now our Operations Manager. He strives for self-improvement and shares our goals for the company.

We are proud to have both of these individuals as crucial parts of our team at Advantage Precast.

*Rick Day, President/General Manager - Advantage Precast, Inc.*

**GRADUATE PERSPECTIVE** *Excerpt from information provided by Zach La Grave - SOAR Program Graduate*

I've lived my life with a stubborn approach and repeated hard knock lessons. You add several bad decisions and wrong turns, and you've got the perfect mix for catastrophe. Unfortunately, I'm smart enough I recognized I was making one bad choice after another, but knew no other way of living or directions to make a change.

After losing two significant chunks of my life that I can never get back, I knew I couldn't go one step further on the same path I was on. So what I internally fought with every waking minute of my life from that point on was complete and terrifying fear. I didn't know who to turn to, what to do, or how to do anything other than what was familiar to me. I was nearing the end of my incarceration and had all but given up on finding any help in saving my life and my soon-regained freedom.

Then I heard talk of a new program. A program that was set up to really help. I've heard of many different programs over the years, but have never found one focused on helping those who want change. Most programs have hidden agendas, so I was skeptical. I was out of options, so I went in and listened. I didn't ask any questions or answer any. I just listened.

The second time a guy came around talking about the program, I asked him, "What is this program and how can it help me?" He told me the program is called SOAR, and they give you any tools you need to be able to help yourself. I thought it sounded good. I was still skeptical, but was out of options. I signed up and

waited to see if I would be accepted. It only took a couple of days to be contacted and accepted to the program. I was now a SOAR student at Chemeketa.

For a person who wants to change, the SOAR program is real. The instructors and the program go that extra mile to make sure you get what you need. As I neared the end of the SOAR Program, they initiated a lot of job preparation classes to help get me ready to seek work and interview. The instructors actually went out and found some employers in different fields who were open to hiring people with good skills, yet have made some bad decisions in the past. I was put in contact with Advantage Precast.

I interviewed with Rick Day (owner). I was able to get comfortable and not only answer questions, but ask intelligent questions regarding the possible relationship between me and Advantage Precast. I was hired that day as a laborer with a shovel and a hammer and was just another new guy. Starting my life over, I put everything I had into my work and it wasn't long before I started to get more tasks to take on. Pretty soon, I found myself sitting in on the safety meetings. Sometimes I would wonder if my past would hold me back in my promotability. That's when I would work even harder. It's been a few weeks shy of a year with Advantage Precast and I now hold the title of Operations Manager. What does that mean? I still work myself as hard as I can and not only physically, but mentally now also. I do that and anything else I can, because this company gave me a clean chance to start over. I make sure to give them everything I can. And it has paid off.

*Zach La Grave, Operations Manager at Advantage Precast. ♦*

## **Goals to Improve Sex Offender Re-entry**

Transition and re-entry planning for sex offenders would be improved by differential supervision practices. A “one-size-fits-all” approach to sex offenders (that is, treating all sex offenders the same) results in over or under supervision and treatment and can create unnecessary barriers to successful community living.

- To maximize opportunity for pro-social support, restrictions on new relationships and community support such as library or church should be individually determined and enforced based on the risk profile of the offender.
- Predatory designation is lifetime. Barriers to community living would be reduced by creating criteria and/or pathways to end predatory designation for some offenders.
- Provide a full psychological evaluation before release to determine who is the most dangerous and provide that information to community corrections. This information could be used to support individualized supervision practices and requirements.

next year, more than 20,000  
people will be released  
from missouri prisons

## what now

one-eighty seeks to *increase awareness*  
and provide *collaborative services* to  
*empower individuals* with a criminal past  
to successfully *reenter the community*

returning offenders need:  
a second chance  
support  
employment  
housing

successful reentry means:  
stronger families  
safer communities  
reduced spending

you can:  
volunteer your time  
hire and ex-offender  
donate money

visit our website today to find out more about the  
growing movement of concerned citizens,  
lawmakers and business owners rallying around these  
individuals to ensure a safer, more productive tomorrow

[www.the180.org](http://www.the180.org)

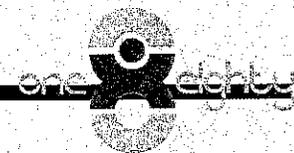


one-eighty is:  
vision  
strength  
compassion  
change

one-eighty is moving forward  
in a new direction.

one-eighty means never  
going back.

one-eighty brings us all  
together.





## Governor's Re-entry Council Steering Committee

### **Recommended Objectives: 2011 – 12**

#### **Employment and Education Re-entry Workgroup**

- Increase access to post-secondary education including stronger on-line access to education programs and services in all DOC and OYA institutions. Explore Bunker Hill (Boston, MA) example.
- Marketing plan (in support of both employment and education) – Research and determine the elements of successful marketing plans used in other states including Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Georgia and Texas.
- Employer perception survey – Develop and distribute an employer survey to identify opportunities and barriers to hiring persons with criminal records, including those released from prison. Resources offered by Cascade Employers Association, Oregon Chamber of Commerce, Employment Department and SEDCOR.