



## Governor's Re-entry Council, Steering Committee Minutes – Meeting #16 – December 2, 2009

Steering Committee Members Attending: Cindy D. Booth, Mark Cadotte, Ginger Martin, Tom McClellan, Pegge McGuire, Fariborz Pakseresht, Nancy Sellers, Heidi Steward, Jeremiah Stromberg, Martin Burrows, Ron Chase

Guests: Patty Katz, Paul Solomon, Kimberly Dailey, Sharon Shannon

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Ginger Martin introduced Sue Blayre from Marion County who has facilitated a few of the committee's discussions during the last year. Ms. Blayre will be facilitating this meeting. This model of having distinct roles for a chairperson, a facilitator, and a record keeper was suggested to us by Gary Kempker, who provided technical assistance to the Steering Committee through a grant from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC).	
Review of Minutes from the October 7, 2009 Meeting	Ms. Blayre asked if there were any corrections or edits to the last meeting's minutes. There were none.	Copies were distributed for review via e-mail. No edits were suggested and the minutes were accepted as submitted.
Announcements and Updates from Members	<p>Ms Blayre asked members to share those items that are being worked on in relation to re-entry outside the priorities of the steering committee and work groups.</p> <p>Ms. Martin reported the committee had asked for a summary of federal Recovery Act dollars targeting re-entry in Oregon and while there is a large amount of information, sorting through it to pinpoint re-entry funding posed a greater challenge than she thought it would. This will be reported on at a future meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Martin stated that, at the last Re-entry Council meeting, the Washington County Re-entry Council informed the council that they had requested a letter be written by the Governor and sent to Oregon employers requesting the employers not discriminate against those with a criminal history. Ms. Martin reported the Governor's Office has suggested a different approach and has been in contact with representatives of the Washington County Re-entry Council.</p>	

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	<p>A copy of the Washington County Re-entry Council (WCRC) Newsletter (attached) was distributed by Sharon Shannon for review. Three subcommittees: faith-based; housing; and employment have been activated and chairpersons assigned. An intern conducted a survey of large-scale, private employers in Washington County regarding their hiring practices. WCRC is exploring using billboards as a messaging tool with a simple message: "People can change...and they <u>DO</u>! Helping the justice-involved re-enter society." Billboard costs for non-profit agencies run approximately \$250.00. Representatives met with most Washington County newspaper editors and there is some interest in running a variety of news stories on the topic.</p> <p>Fariborz Pakseresht reports that OYA received an OJDDA grant of \$750,000 to focus on youth with drug and alcohol addictions who live in the Portland tri-county area, Lane County, and several southern Oregon counties. Mr. Pakseresht suggests OYA's grant coordinator can provide an overview and more information at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ron Chase reported that the Sponsors, Inc., transitional housing facility construction project is on schedule and on budget.</p> <p>Pegge McGuire stated the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) had been contacted by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). They asked this question, "If you were given \$25,000 to 30,000, what would you do with it?" Ms McGuire replied that OHCS is currently working on a statewide discharge planning program, which includes persons discharging from not only Department of Corrections' prisons, but also county jails and community corrections supervision, the Department of Human Services and Oregon Youth Authority facilities. CSH is interested in further review of the work OHCS is doing; however, the focus of the CSH is on those individuals with drug and/or alcohol abuse issues, mental health issues or co-occurring disorders. The negotiations with CSH continue. Ms. McGuire said she may have more information at the next meeting.</p> <p>Patty Katz reports that the Partnership for Safety and Justice has been working with the City of Eugene to remove the question of the applicant's criminal history from the initial application form. They have also met with a Washington County human resources analyst and learned that there is no inquiry about criminal history on that county's job applications.</p>	

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	<p>Heidi Steward reported that the DOC has finished identifying and notifying those inmates eligible for the additional 10% earned time. There are 2,339 eligible; 1,186 pending at the county level; 332 cases (12%) were denied the time reduction by the courts.</p> <p>Mark Cadotte, in his role as Deputy Compact Administrator for Oregon, reminded us of the discussion from the last meeting regarding veterans accessing benefits across state lines, usually between Oregon and Washington. The issue arises because federal veterans benefit providers are regionally distributed and those on post-prison supervision are required to remain within their county of supervision. Mr. Cadotte spoke to the Washington commissioner at the last Interstate Compact meeting. Within the guidelines of the national compact, veterans do get priority. It appears there has been a communication misunderstanding around this issue, but it is agreed that the two states will give veterans priority in the reporting instructions.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation Presentation on Identification: Judiciary hearing, memorandum of understanding between DOC and DMV</li> </ul>	<p>Tom McClellan attended the joint judiciary hearing on HB 2189 with Max Williams and reported on the outcome of the DOC/DMV pilot program and other programs that will help offenders obtain a state-issued ID card while still incarcerated. An interagency agreement has been signed to create a Project Team to further explore two options to consider: 1) a mobile DMV unit that would visit DOC facilities, and 2) install equipment at one DOC institution and track the associated costs. While the joint-agency Project Team is working, the pilot program where DOC transports eligible inmates to a DMV site will be reinstated to continue progress until a permanent solution is established. The DOC's Transition and Release Unit and the DMV are also working to develop a screening tool which will be used by the DOC Transition Coordinators to identify those needing a renewed driver's license and those needing a state ID card. Funding for the driver's license and ID card fees remains unresolved; although DOC will continue to pay these costs.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation Presentation Legislative concept on job applications and limited liability for employers and landlords: Employment and Housing Workgroups</li> </ul>	<p>Cindy Booth reported on a meeting of representatives from the Employment and Housing Work Groups of the Re-entry Steering Committee, to discuss legislative concepts concerning employment applications and limited liability – based on the recent Minnesota law changes. The group identified the need for two legislative concepts: 1) an employment concept would address applications and employer liability; 2) a housing concept would address limits of liability for landlords, only. Proposals will be brought to the January meeting.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation Updates on all Implementation Tasks</li> </ul>	See Status Report (attached).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Re-entry Topics: Performance Monitoring: What measures should be monitored to determine whether short-term and long-term progress on re-entry is being made?</li> </ul>	<p>Handout attached indicates the issues to measure for progress. Recidivism will be tracked at 6 months, 1 year, and 3 year intervals. What other resources and/or contributions have been made? Identify shifts in resources.</p> <p>The group will be asked to determine what is meant by the “measure of success” and how that will be reported. The committee’s original target areas of Housing, Employment, Continuity of Care and Re-entry Resource Centers are still the priorities. Need to identify changes in practice that have impacted each issue. A “scorecard” mock-up for the group to review will be brought to the next meeting.</p>	
Next Steps	Ginger Martin reported she will send the Crime Desistance PowerPoint presentation slides to the steering committee members for discussion at the next meeting.	
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be January 6, 2010. Suggested agenda items: OYA Presentation; Legislative Concepts; Release Plan Tool Kit; Crime Desistance; Implementation.	



# WASHINGTON COUNTY REENTRY COUNCIL

from the past to the future ... together

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## Next Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 18  
1-3 pm

Civic Center Complex  
Auditorium  
150 East Main Street  
Hillsboro

Free parking at Complex  
Everyone Welcome

## Newsletter Submissions

Please submit to  
wrcr1@comcast.net  
by mid-month

## Mailing List

To add or remove your  
email address, contact  
charlenedrogers@  
yahoo.com

## Mission

To improve the  
reentry process and  
increase success for  
justice-involved persons  
through resource identifi-  
cation and development,  
a centralized information  
system, employer recruit-  
ment and community  
education

## Guiding Principles

Inclusion  
Collaboration  
Transparency

## WCRC Update

WCRC has moved rapidly during its first few months toward fulfillment of its initial goals. All Washington Co. agencies, reentry organizations and interested community members have been invited to participate. Many have become active members, briefing the Council on their services and identifying available resources as well as unmet needs.

A centralized information system is building around the Newsletter and an expanding distribution list; community education under the banner: People can change...and they ! is currently underway; and an employer recruitment effort is next.

## Subcommittees Activated

As WCRC transitions from start-up to sustained development, the role of subcommittees becomes increasingly important. The Employment and Faith committees have been activated, with others to follow. You can take a leadership role in WCRC by chairing a subcommittee. Respond to wrcr1@comcast.net.

## Jail Reach-In For Vets

Washington County Veterans' Services has begun 'train the trainer' courses at the jail in order to effectively reach more veterans. It's often difficult to get word to those in jail rather than prison regarding available benefits due to usually short jail stays, according to Paula Brown, Deputy Director of the Oregon Dept. of Veterans' Affairs.

The Sheriff's Office will be coordinating a veteran snapshot count, and has requested Classifications to add a questionnaire re veteran status to the formal class interview process.

## Eugene Bans the Box

In a big win for reentry, The City of Eugene has agreed to remove the question, "Have you ever been convicted of a felony?" from its initial job application forms starting July 1. This will increase employment access for people with conviction histories, and is the latest victory for Partnership for Safety and Justice and its Beyond Barriers Program under leadership of Director Patty Katz.

Eugene joins a growing list including Multnomah County and the entire State of Minnesota in applying best practices in regard to the hiring of justice-involved people.

Stable employment is a primary factor in making a successful transition back into the community. By removing the question about conviction history from initial applications, the hiring process will become open to all qualified applicants, who can then be asked about previous convictions later in the interview process. Eugene plans to gather data and evaluate after one year.

Patty and Dennis Stichman, HR Analyst for Washington County Corrections, will address 'The Box' at the WCRC November meeting.

It's not possible to do everything  
with nothing, but it possible to  
do a lot with very little.

Sharon Shannon, WCRC Chair

## Reentry Breakfast Raises \$\$

Over 300 people pledged several thousand dollars in support of reentry efforts at the October 19 Marion County breakfast in Salem, according to Commissioner Janet Carlson. This is a funding model that WCRC could consider replicating in the future.

## **Reentry Council Steering Committee Implementation Tasks November 2009 Status Report**

### **State issued photo ID at release**

The DOC and the DMV began a pilot program in which inmates are transported to the DMV so that they can be issued state photo ID cards prior to release. The pilot will be evaluated in August and will inform next steps in expanding the program.

- Memorandum of understanding signed between DMV and DOC.

### **Strategy to increase transitional housing**

A shared investment strategy has been developed and approved by the Council. Full implementation requires development of financial resources.

- The DOC Executive Team has agreed to support a budget policy package in the agency request budget due in 2010 for 2011-2013.
- Next: Department of Corrections and Oregon Housing and Community Services will meet to develop a strategy for developing financial resources.

### **Pilot multi-service sites**

\$1.5 million in federal funds have been set aside to fund three pilot multi-service sites in Multnomah, Lane, and Klamath Counties in 2009-2011.

- Planning meetings have occurred in each community, including state and federal probation/parole and local service providers.
- Next: The Criminal Justice Commission has issued a request for proposals from each of the participating counties, showing dollars available for each: \$943,750 in Multnomah County, \$406,214 in Lane County, and \$150,035 in Klamath County.

### **Verification of work skills**

Create a process inside the prison system for verifying and/or certifying technical/work skills and soft skills

- A format for reviewing soft skills has been developed. Oregon Correctional Enterprises is currently piloting the evaluation for all of their workers within one year of release.
- For inmates participating in the Road to Success reentry program, a work history/resume is being prepared prior to release.

- Next: In the short term, for inmates who do not participate in reentry programming, the release counselor will assist that person in creating a record of prison jobs and experience until changes are made in Inmate Work Programs. In the long term plan, Inmate Work Programs will assume responsibility for conducting job interviews, evaluating job performance, and verifying work history and skills.

### **In-prison job search resources**

Information system experts from Employment and DOC are in the process of determining how to provide internet access to bring the wealth of career development and job hunting resources available from Work Source Oregon Center inside institutions.

- Next: A Salem area prison (OSCI) will pilot internet access to employment resources.

### **Continuity of care**

Offenders with serious health and/or behavioral health needs will leave custody with an appointment with a community provider, a transition plan that addresses health and/or behavioral health issues including prosocial support systems, and records will be accessible to health care providers in the community.

- A meeting with county mental health providers and corrections treatment and release staff occurred in September. The mental health directors have agreed to ongoing meetings and were agreeable to identifying a single contact in each county to assist coordination with prison mental health care providers.
- Next: DOC, DHS, and representative from the mental health director's association are scheduled to develop an agreed protocol for making appointments in the community prior to release.

### **Access to benefits**

Define a model for a community-based advocate available to assist with the application process for benefits for which a returning offender may be eligible.

- The Oregon Law Center is promoting legislation to restore general assistance (GA). GA provides a competent liaison to assist disabled people navigate the application and appeal process in addition to monthly cash support and health benefits to individuals while they are applying for SSI/SSDI benefits.
- Next: Following the February session, the Oregon Law Center will meet with the Continuity of Care Work Group to develop and promote this initiative.

### **Reentry Wiki**

Continue building the web-based directory for reentry services, programs, resources, and information listed by county.

- The Reentry Wiki was featured on the Governor's web page and is up and running.

### **Repaying Debts**

Working with Partners for Safety and Justice, conduct overview of how financial obligations are currently created by the criminal justice system, including identifying challenges and potential problems in the current system.

- Next: PSU graduate students are preparing to interview 40-60 crime victims who are owed restitution prior to the work group of experts on levying or collecting criminal justice system debt.

### **Messaging**

Bring in experts on messaging to assist Council in determining what the message should be and who the messenger should be if we are to build public understanding for supporting the success for those returning from incarceration. The proposed audiences are potential employers and landlords.

- A meeting was held 10/9/09 between members of the Ending Homelessness Advisory Council (EHAC) of the OHCS and representatives from the Reentry Council and Steering Committee's messaging workgroup, to combine efforts on "messaging tough issues to achieve maximum support."
- Representatives from this joint implementation group on messaging attended a lecture November 10, 2009 given by Patrick Bresette, titled: "A Case for Government: Reframing Public Perception."
- Next: The group will engage a facilitator to help create a messaging action plan using Patrick Bresette information as foundation.

### **Proposals for Legislation**

The Steering Committee is reviewing barriers to reentry that require a legislative solution. Several areas identified to date have been to prevent criminal history from being a part of a job application for a public entity, providing some level of limited liability to employers of people with criminal histories, and developing the funding needed for the transitional housing strategy already approved by the Council.

- Next: The Employment Work Group will meet in late November to develop a draft legislative concept using the Minnesota law dealing job applications and liability as the foundation.

**WORK GROUPS STILL DEVELOPING STRATEGIES:**

Lack of dental services/care for inmates which effects employability

Housing: transitional housing in rural areas, permanent housing post-transition, technical assistance for local jurisdictions wanting to develop housing