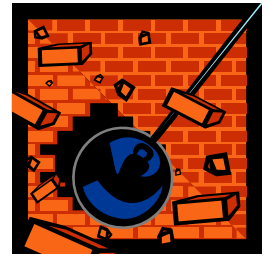


# "Bringing Down the Walls"

*Creating Community Solutions For Prisoner Reentry*  
2008 Conference Results Report



## TOP 5 barriers to community in Boone County/Central Missouri with strategies & action steps

### DOCUMENT FORMAT

#### 1 – 5) COMMUNITY BARRIERS TO REENTRY

- Strategies to Address Barriers  
Step: Action Items

#### 1) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Temporary Employment Services for and run by Ex-Offenders

##### Step 1: Create a business plan

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Plan developed

##### Step 2: Recruit and train ex-offenders

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: ex-offenders trained

##### Step 3: Issuance of business license

Responsible Party: Issuing authority

Deliverable: License granted

- Educate Employers about Hiring Offenders

##### Step 1: Develop an informational packet to include a DVD regarding hiring ex-offenders

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Information developed

**Step 2:** Present the strategy to the Human Resource Administration of Boone County regarding employment opportunities and benefits of hiring ex-offenders to include a panel of ex-offenders

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Strategy presented

**Step 3:** Meet with the local employers to explain bonding issues and tax benefits in hiring ex-offenders

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Meetings held

- **The State Provides Job Opportunities for Offenders**

**Step 1:** Develop an informational packet

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Packet developed

**Step 2:** Invite state agencies to be involved with a presentation on ex-offender employment

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Meeting held

**Step 3:** Partner with existing state agencies to include a number of ex-offender positions in their contract

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Positions identified

## 2) HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

- Create a Funding Pool by Identifying Resources through Loans, Grants and other Funding Streams

### Step 1: Locate a funding source

Responsible Party: Federal, state and local entity, offenders

Deliverable: Source identified

### Step 2: Develop coalition for financial research/disbursement

Responsible Party: Public officials

Deliverable: Coalition formed

### Step 3: Create a plan for budgeting/sustainability

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Plan implemented (increase access to housing)

- Partner/Educate with community agencies and offenders making names and resources available to each

### Step 1: Develop information clearing house/public service campaign

Responsible Party: Representatives from all parties involved

Deliverable: Clearing house and campaign exist

### Step 2: Conduct a needs assessment/assessment mapping

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Assessment and mapping completed (offenders and family accessing information)

### Step 3: Develop partnerships

Responsible Party: Technical centers, contractors, mental health/ vocational rehabilitation

Deliverable: Memorandum of Agreements established

- Integrate Locations, Requirements and Codes

**Step 1:** Proximity to resources (close to transportation, basic needs,

Responsible Party: Landowners, realtors, public officials, developers

Deliverable: None stated

**Step 2:** Standardize codes/requirements for all populations

Responsible Party: Law enforcement, building inspectors, HUD, Habitat for Humanity

Deliverable: None stated

**Step 3:** Utilize a review team as oversight committee

Responsible Party: Parties involved

Deliverable: Better, cleaner, safer homes, increased property value, personal accomplishment, community cohesiveness

### 3) SUBSTANCE ABUSE (alcohol, drugs)

- Develop pre-release intervention programs and relationships that follow into the community

#### **Step 1:** Identify offenders returning to Boone County

Responsible Party: DOC/P&P

Deliverable: Monthly list of those coming to Boone County with six months left

#### **Step 2:** Develop mentor teams of community and prior offenders to meet offenders in the DOC Transition Housing Units

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: List of team members

#### **Step 3:** Interface with the BCOTN resource in the Reentry Opportunity Center (ROC)

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Seamless Transition of offenders

- Consolidate community services to a “one stop” location to improve immediate access to services

#### **Step 1:** Time did not allow for development

Responsible Party:

Deliverable:

#### **Step 2:**

Responsible Party:

Deliverable:

#### **Step 3:**

Responsible Party:

Deliverable:

- Involve successful offenders in all steps in the process

**Step 1:** Time did not allow for development

Responsible Party:

Deliverable:

**Step 2:**

Responsible Party:

Deliverable:

**Step 3:**

Responsible Party:

Deliverable:

#### 4) TRANSPORTATION

- Remove the barriers to the offenders ability to drive a motor vehicle

**Step 1: Identify the barriers**

Responsible Party: Offenders, Case Workers and Parole officers

Deliverable: List of barriers

**Step 2: Address the barriers**

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Barrier removal action plans for each barrier

**Step 3: Implement the action plans**

Responsible Party: Depends on nature of the barrier

Deliverable: Barriers removed (example: offender has valid drivers license)

- Issue offenders a transportation card

**Step 1: Contract with service provider**

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Signed contract

**Step 2: Develop policy/procedure for issuance and use of card**

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Director signs policy

**Step 3: Parole officer issues card to offender**

Responsible Party: Parole officer

Deliverable: Offender utilizes card for transportation

- Organizations help with providing transportation for offenders

**Step 1: Identify organizations**

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: List of participating organizations

**Step 2: Establish contracts, Memorandums of Agreement, etc.**

Responsible Party: DOC and providers

Deliverable: Signed contracts

**Step 3: Organizations provide the transportation services**

Responsible Party: Service provider

Deliverable: Offenders get to where they want to go

## 5) COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

- Humanize the offender to the community

**Step 1:** Bring to light the positive offender success stories

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Media campaign

**Step 2:** Develop a speaker's bureau to include offenders

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Offenders and staff trained to make presentations

**Step 3:** Seek out opportunities to deliver message

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Presentation made to community

- Educate and encourage the public to change their attitudes

**Step 1:** Establish ways for the Boone County community to work with offenders while in prison

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Work release involved with Lion's Clubs, Optimist Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, churches, etc.

**Step 2:** Publicize cost of incarceration versus alternative sentencing

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: News releases issued (Cost of living versus drug treatment. Cost in taxes = how many can be treated. Example: one in prison = four treated in community)

**Step 3:** Educate the community on types of felonies

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Presentations made or news releases issued (% of incarcerated regarding each felony, compile and publish to reduce public fears, how is Missouri addressing issue, etc.)

- Educate the offender on the realities of reentry

**Step 1: Develop mentoring program for offenders**

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Offenders mentored upon release

**Step 2: Educate the offender on the attitudes and beliefs of the community prior to release**

Responsible Party: DOC

Deliverable: Offenders informed

**Step 3: Embrace the offender into the community prior to release**

Responsible Party: BCOTN

Deliverable: Organizations adopting offender (churches, Example: Indiana Methodist Church)