

**BOONE COUNTY OFFENDER TRANSITION NETWORK
MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2006**

ATTENDANCE

Phoenix House Programs-*Libby Brockman-Knight*
MU Extension-*Twila Cross*
Division of Voc Rehab-*Larry Brady*
UMC-MO Restorative Justice Coalition-*Wanda Hoffman*
Booneville Correctional Center-*Terri McNeal, Michelle Sumy*
Division of Workforce Development-*Craig Morton*
RAIN-*Christine Smith*
Probation and Parole, District #6 Columbia-*Jaime Strange, Mike Webber*
Community Representative-*Dave Perkins*
Central MO Community Action Center-*Elizabeth Stegemann*
JobPoint-*Gary Taylor*
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Central Missouri-*Tessa Foris*

OPENING

Mike Webber brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. It was reported that Steve Tatlow and Mike Harper are currently presenting at and attending a Re-Entry conference and therefore unable to attend. October meeting minutes were reviewed and no changes were noted.

AGENDA ITEMS

Technology Resources Working Group Update: Jaime Strange relayed information provided by Steve Tatlow due to his absence. It was reported that the Technology Resource Group continues to meet and is active. Objectives of the group include utilizing the Voluntary Action Center's Information Resource Guide to create and develop a web-based information guide. OSEDA has indicated they will assist in this endeavor and are utilizing the feedback obtained at the Focus Group in the development of this website. The Voluntary Action Center is currently very busy with the Christmas season and will make its resource guide available for use after the first of the year. The Technology Resource Group is also looking at web-based case-staffing/management opportunities and plans to examine some current examples in place in other areas at their next meeting to look at best practice objectives. Jaime encouraged anyone interested in this group or their objectives to attend the next meeting scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. The meeting will take place at the Boone County Community Partnership Office located in the Parkade Plaza and anyone is welcomed to attend. Steve Tatlow is the contact person for this group.

Demographical Data Handout: Mike Webber distributed copies of the demographic data requested several months ago. Data was requested to provide a better picture of the current state of affairs in regard to offenders within Boone County. Mike prefaced the data with the disclaimer that the data should not be reproduced without permission from the Department of Corrections. Mike provided

some clarification on certain questions posed in which the data was presented in a different way than the intended question. Mike and the group discussed the data and looked at certain trends within the data. Some issues discussed were revocation percentages and the conditions offenders are getting revoked for. A main concern was that a large number of offenders were being revoked for technical violations rather than new law offenses. Employment percentages indicated Boone County was doing well with employment and meeting expectations, however employment is still a significant issues faced by offenders and key to doing well on supervision. The group discussed issues regarding the mentally ill population leaving the Department of Corrections and the lack of resources and residential placements within Boone County. Mike reported he attended a Mental Health Forum last month and that community partners discussed this issue. Mike also indicated that the monies collected by the state for supervision fees are currently controlled in legislation, however it has been reported that a percentage might be used for mental health services.

Mike reported that certain data was not obtainable including veteran's population, disability benefits, intergenerational statistics, education levels, and number of dependants. Wanda Hoffman requested that the group be provided a copy of the Intake Information Form utilized by Probation/Parole to inquire as to what information is collected on the front end. Mike reported he could make copies of this available at the next meeting. Much discussion was held as to the various issues presented in the data and what our group can do to alleviate some of the chronic issues in regard to offenders.

Mike indicated he is still compiling data in regard to probation/parole violation reports and what conditions Boone County offenders are being revoked for. Mike will present to group once obtained.

Charter: As the data has been obtained the sub-committee comprised of Twilla Cross, Art Schneider, Steve Tatlow, Michael Harper, and Bill Doiron can incorporate the information into the charter. Twilla Cross advised that she would follow up with the other members to look at completing the charter with the applicable data.

Day Reporting Center: Mike reported that the Department of Motor Vehicle is vacating their current office within the Resource Center on Vandiver Drive the weekend of November 10, 2006 and that he is moving ahead with obtaining this space for a Day Reporting Center to serve Boone County Probation and Parole clients. Mike indicated that he is finishing the outcome objectives of this proposed program and submitting them to the appropriate parties so approval can be obtained. Agreed upon outcome objectives of the Day Reporting Program were:

1. Reduce unemployment within Boone County
2. Reduce technical violations so that fewer offenders are getting revoked for these violations.

Goals of such a program include but are not limited to education, employment, cognitive restructuring, and substance abuse education. As a district we must be able to show progress and utilization so that space for the program isn't lost.

Mike reported that a small group including himself, Jaime Strange, Mike Harper, Dave Perkins, Michelle Sumy, and Art Schneider attended a tour of the St.Louis Day Report Center in St.Louis and were able to sit down with officers who run the program to discuss best practices of such a program. Information packets on the program were distributed to the group for review and discussion. Mike, Jaime, Michelle, and Dave presented their impressions of the program and discussed program implementation strategies. It was discussed that the St.Louis Program operates on a point system for advancement through the program and eventual completion. The point system allows the offenders to control their own destiny within the program and their progression through the program. Jaime mentioned that the target population of the St.Louis program was high risk, high need, chronically

unemployed, uneducated, younger offenders who have never been in a structured environment. Offenders with significant substance abuse or mental health issues were not good candidates as they have more significant issues to be addressed through other programs. Components of program include cognitive redevelopment, employment readiness, educational attainment, substance abuse education, and various other applicable issues. St.Louis reported that they have to contract these services out to various agencies, however it appears agencies within Boone County are volunteering their services for these goals. Some obstacles that will need to be addressed are transportation for offenders to the program (St.Louis provides 2 bus tickets a day) and lunch meals. It was mentioned incorporating faith-based agencies, as they appear willing to assist with mentoring, etc.

Dave Perkins provided information he obtained on best practices from the Cook County, Illinois Day Report Program. Dave indicated that this program is nationally renowned and a model for several programs nationwide. Dave reported it is an all male pre-trial program used to alleviate jail overcrowding and insure offenders show up for Court. The program also incorporates several of the same components and contracts out services to applicable agencies. The program has endured much success and been helpful in stimulating young male offenders for the first time in their lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Hawkins pass out information on the Guard at Home Program which is a program for spouses of troops who have been activated and troops upon their return home. John handed out a flyer on the program. John also indicated that anyone who wants to verify the benefits available to a veteran or confirm veteran status could contact him at the Division of Workforce Development #573-884-3640.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:

Boone County data

Charter completion

Participation in the Day Report Center

Technology Committee Update

Case Staffings

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 2006, 8:30 A.M. at the Probation and Parole Office located at 1512 Heriford Dr., Ste A. Columbia, Missouri.