

BOONE COUNTY OFFENDER TRANSITION NETWORK MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Boone County Community Partnership-*Steve Tatlow*
1st Ward Ambassadors-*Darrell Foster*
Central MO Community Action Center-*Elizabeth Stegemann*
Job Point-*Sue Long*
Probation and Parole Client Representatives-*Bill Doiron, Steve Harris*
UMC-MO Restorative Justice Coalition-*Wanda Hoffman*
Division Workforce Development-*John Hawkins, Craig Morton*
McCambridge Center for Women-*Beth Berhorst*
Boone County Community Partnership, Americore Vista-*Michael Harper, Joseph Carr*
Community Representative-*Dave Perkins*
Division of Voc Rehab-*Larry Brady*
DMH-Division of Alcohol and Drug Administration-*Debra McBaine*
Family Counseling Center-*Ted Solomon*
Boone County Health Department-*Betsy Smith*
Probation and Parole, District #6 Columbia-*Jaime Strange*
Adult Learning Center-*John McClure*
Booneville Correctional Center-*Michelle Sumy, Terri McNeal*
Columbia College-*Stacy Ford*
VA Hospital-*Denise Heet*
University Extension-*Art Schneider*
Department of Corrections- *Mark Wright*

OPENING

Mike Webber indicated that he would be unable to attend the meeting due to having to meet with the Office of Administration in regard to floor plans for the Day Reporting Center. Mike reported he was also meeting with other agencies within the Resource Center to explain and discuss the Day Reporting Center. Mike will report back to the group at the next meeting.

Steve Tatlow brought the meeting to order and introductions were made. Jaime Strange briefly reviewed the November meeting minutes and no changes were noted. Jaime mentioned that all handouts from the November meeting were available.

AGENDA ITEMS

Day Reporting Center:

Steve discussed premise of the day reporting center and indicated that several community partners met last week and brought to the table different services they could offer/provide to clients at the Day Reporting Center. Jaime Strange gave brief description of the St.Louis Day Report Program. Many questions arose about the target population the center would serve. Jaime mentioned that the St.Louis Program was geared towards youthful unemployed and uneducated clients. Bill Doiron stated that recently paroled clients might be ideal candidates, as the center and the resources provided in it could

help with the transition process. Dave Perkins mentioned targeting offenders who are released from 120-day programs within the Department of Corrections, as they are most often high risk/need individuals. Jaime reported that a "Reentry Court" could be established within the day reporting center to address the reentry issues faced by clients and that this is a possibility for the immediate future. Denise Heet reported she is currently reading a book entitled, "Back from the Dead", by Joan Cheever, who followed several men who were released from death row in the 1970s and chronicled the struggles they endured reentering society.

Steve also mentioned the preventative possibilities of the day reporting center and possibly utilizing it to target juvenile offenders and preventing people from entering the system on the front end. Many members agreed the juveniles and youth were an important group that needed more attention and preventative efforts. Steve Harris reported he works with juveniles at the Imani Mission Center and that most can be confronted and changed at a young age. John McClure discussed the GED program he is proposing to run at the day reporting center and not wanting to have a GED program exclusively for Probation and Parole clients, but something more integrated.

It was ultimately determined that the day reporting center is still at its most fundamental level of planning and that more information will be forthcoming. It is hoped that at the next meeting a tentative floor plan will be handed out to assist in the visioning process. The day reporting center will also offer the structure needed to refer clients to appropriate agencies to address their varying issues therefore the interest of all agencies is greatly appreciated.

Charter:

Steve reported several months ago we reached a point in the charter process where we needed to resolve, "what are the issues going on in Boone County" that needed to be included in the charter. As the statistical data as been received it is hoped we can move forward on completion of the charter. It was noted that question #1A on the data handout was incorrectly calculated based on the question posed; therefore more clarification is needed on that question prior to inclusion in the charter. Steve stated that the charter is a formal document that could possibly assist with grant writing and the establishment of any non-for profit groups.

Technology Resources:

Steve provided update on technology resources and reported still waiting for Voluntary Action Center's blue book of resources to become available to develop a website of local resources and eventually establish a program where agencies can communicate with each other. Steve also gave explanation of the 211 System and reported that recently close to five million dollars has been made available to expand the 211 System to the entire state of Missouri. Steve indicated that there are no limits to the information that can be included in a 211 system. The nationwide 211 manager will be in Missouri in January and has indicated will make himself available for questions regarding the 211 System. The software for the 211 system will be paid for and can be used to link all current information. An individual who utilizes the 211 system will be able to enter a topic and a detailed list of available local resources will appear in regard to that topic area. Kansas City currently utilizes the 211 system and it was discovered that some agencies in that region provided a lot of information of others provided little.

Community Forum:

Steve indicated that he is proposing the concept of a weekend community forum centered on re-entry initiatives and other local projects. The question posed would be "Who is doing what in regard to re-entry and what hasn't been brought to the table?" The timeline for the forum would be spring of 2007

and would allow for local agencies to network and discover what other agencies are doing for the local offender population. Agencies knowing what other agencies are doing can only enhance their knowledge and ability to help their own clients. Joe Carr passed around a sign up sheet for those interested and several agencies signed up. Larry Brady proposed coordinating the community forum with the opening of the Day Reporting Center and utilizing the meeting rooms in resource center for the forum. The event could also be the official open house of the Day Reporting Center. All agreed that this was a good idea if feasible.

Offender Mentoring Group:

Joe Carr reported that he is putting together a mentoring team for offenders and ex-offenders. Joe reported that it took someone to get him to where he is currently in life and that mentors offer a lot of support for offenders. Joe indicated that there are a lot of agencies and people out there mentoring but there is no connectivity. Terri McNeal reported that she is aware of a faith-based mentoring program that allows for offenders to leave prison with the name and telephone number of a mentor, however she did not know the specific name of the program. Joe requested that anyone who is interested in mentoring or knows of mentoring programs to let him know. Joe passed around a sign up sheet to get name and agency information.

Offender Focus Group:

Mike Harper stated he is trying to gather individuals who have reentered society and what agencies they utilized when doing so to attend a focus group. Also interested in “how they made it” and “what their needs were”. Focus group will discuss what is missing in the community, what is working, and what are the barriers faced by offenders? Focus group open to offenders, ex-offenders, and community partners. Currently it is scheduled for Thursday January 11, 2007 at 6:00 P.M. at the Boone County Community Partnership Office located within the Parkade Plaza. Mike also passed around a list to capture the agencies currently participating in this endeavor so he can keep an accurate list.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Hawkins from the Division of Workforce Development reported that the Parents Fair Share Program could assist with dental work if a parent’s teeth are presenting a barrier to employment. Parents Fair Share can also provide rent assistance and transportation if there is a need. To be eligible for this program a non-custodial parent must have an active child support order and be unemployed or underemployed and able and willing to go to work.

John McClure from the Adult Learning Center reported that GED classes start on January 3, 2007 at all locations and that interested parties can sign up now by calling 214-2690. Classes are currently offered in the morning, afternoon, and evenings. There is also an online GED program.

Denise Heet from the VA Hospital reported she is currently organizing/planning a “Stand Down” event for the homeless sometime in the fall of 2007. The event will provide haircuts, clothing, and other basic needs to the homeless population of Columbia. More information will be forthcoming.

Steve Tatlow reported that on 12-14-06 the results and goals of the Coordinated Transportation Study would be discussed at the Chamber of Commerce building in the evening. The study was conducted over the course of a year and will share goals for enhancing coordination in regard to transportation in the Columbia area.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 11, 2007, 8:30 A.M. at the Probation and Parole Office located at 1512 Heriford Dr., Ste A Columbia, Missouri.

Boone County Offender Transition Network

January 11, 2007

8:30 – 10:30

**PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICE
1512 Heriford Drive Ste A, Columbia, MO**

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Review December minutes
- 3) Charter
- 4) Day Reporting Center/Floorplan of Center/Tour Day Reporting Center
- 5) Spring Conference
- 6) Focus Group
- 7) Mentoring
- 8) Announcements