

Meeting Review

Boone County Offender Transition Network

8:30 – 10:30 January 20, 2009
Columbia/Boone County Health Department

The Mission of the Boone County Offender Transition Network is:

To promote a healthier and safer community, by creating and maintaining an effective network of services that addresses the needs of offenders, their families and our community.

The following people were present:

Mike Webber / Department of Corrections / Probation & Parole
Pat Fowler / Missouri Office of Service-Learning
Louisa Bolinger – DOC Reentry Unit
Steve Meyerhart
Eugene Elkin / Community Advocate
Crystal Goslin – Reality House
Dianah Schlautman / CMCA AmeriCorps Vista
David Meyer – District 6 P&P
Art Schneider – MU Extension
Becky Markt – YC2
Kandys Bleil DWD
Dan Hanneken / Phoenix Prog./The Crossing/ Columbia
Lighthouse
Gary Taylor / Job Point
Claire Plott / Stepping Stones / New Living Hope
Josef Carr / BCCP
Sara Lemberger / Probation and Parole
Vicki Fessler / Probation and Parole

Dan Ofarrell / BCCP
Ryan Doxley / BCCP
Carolyn King – Encouragement House
David Mitchell / MU Law School Professor
John McClure / The Adult Learning Center
Tereska Chatman/ Citizen Advocate
Stephen Harris/BCCP
Lolita Lucas / Columbia Housing Authority
Charles Stephenson / Power House Comm. Development Corp.
Terri McNeal / Probation and Parole / BCC Transitional Housing
Dan Fite / Light House Ministries
Tony Lenci / Light House Ministries
Ted Solomon / Family Counseling Center
Pamela Johnson / Citizen Advocate

Steve Tatlow welcomed the group, and introductions around the table were made.

- A review of the 2008 BCOTN successes;
 - Mike Webber shared information on the expanding activities and participation at the ROC. New partners and several new projects including; Pathways to Change, Welcome Home, Impact of Crime on Victims, Substance Abuse Assessments and the Transitional Assistance Group were added in 2008. All programs offered at the ROC have been at no charge to ex-offenders. Organizations wishing to partner to provide additional opportunities for ex-offenders at the ROC are being sought.
 - Steve Tatlow shared that over 500 individuals have participated in the Reentry Awareness Workshops statewide. 150 of these, including local elected officials have been in Columbia, MO.
 - Other successes shared by members with support of BCOTN included:
 - 3,000 Reentry Resource guides were distributed
 - Several new transitional homes were opened
 - Substantial networking/referral system has been established
 - Community wide agreement with input of 200 participants identified our 5 greatest barriers to reentry and established 3 strategies to address each of these.

- Columbia Faith Reentry Committee – Dan Hanneken announced the formation of a faith based coalition to address reentry issues. Significant interest was present and a meeting is being scheduled for later in January.
- Suicide Prevention Project – Becky Markt (YC2) announced that there would be a group working on implementing strategies with funding from DMH.
- Offender Resources – Dan Hanneken, representing The Crossing Church announced that they have received funding to provide ex-offenders with needed items to restart their lives. They will be targeting individuals within 12 months of release. In addition, they are planning to provide housing supports for 4 individuals at a time.
- A meeting to initiate the “Welcome Home Backpack Project” will be held on 1/22/09 at the offices of the Boone County Community Partnership.
Ryan Doxley (BCOTN VISTA) is currently coordinating the project to supply to offenders re-entering the community from prison with needed resources. Several individuals & organizations expressed a significant interest in contributing.
- A BCOTN Organization Resource Assessment was distributed for the purpose of identifying specific opportunities to better address the needs of returning offenders. 14 were completed at the meeting. A electronic version will be distributed.
- Upcoming DOC Funding Opportunity – Information was shared on the upcoming funding announcement. Once released, a meeting for BCOTN members to coordinate will be announced.

Next Meeting

8:30 – 10:30, Thursday March 12th

Columbia/Boone County Health Department