

**BCOTN Conference Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2011**

Attendance: Katie Butterfield, Dana Thompson, Art Schneider, Carol Mertensmeyer, Sue Long, Dan Hanneken, and S. David Mitchell

Minutes:

Summary: NEW CONFERENCE DATES – **OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 2012**

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Date: SEPTEMBER 1, 2011
Time: 8:30 – 10:30 A.M.
Place: University of Missouri Law School
 Hulston Hall, Room 111

Agenda (please see Appendix I for a detailed version of the agenda):

- I. Revisit Conference Date
- II. Venue
- III. Format
- IV. Budget
- V. Possible Speakers
- VI. New Conference Committee Chair

Discussion:

- I. Revisit Conference date

The meeting began with a discussion about the dates of the conference. At an earlier meeting of the entire BCOTN organization, it was decided that the conference would take place on October 12 and 13 and that one of the goals was to register attendees.

- These dates were chosen to avoid having a conflict with the MU football games. However, there was concern that attendance on Saturday, October 13 would be low.
- In addition to attendance problems, it was discovered after researching the rules for voter registration that individuals registered at the conference would be ineligible for the November 6, 2012 election. For an individual to be registered in time to vote in an upcoming election, they must be registered at the latest by the fourth preceding Wednesday. With the original dates, individuals would be ineligible.
- Also, it was discussed that there were two other conferences that may be occurring around the same time. The “Opening Gates, Opening Hearts” may be taking place during the second week in September. Also, in the third week of November, it was noted that the State Reentry Conference would be taking place. So, the September conference would be a good place to

advertise for the BCOTN conference which would serve as a springboard to the statewide conference.

After much discussion, it was concluded that the conference dates be changed to reflect the attendance concerns and the registration issue. The **NEW CONFERENCE DATES ARE: OCTOBER 4 AND 5, 2011**. The dates are a Thursday and a Friday with the majority of conference activities to take place on Friday (see Format Section below for more detail).

II. Venue

The discussion of the venue centered on having the conference in a location where lunch could easily be obtained provided that no organization, business or other entity would donate lunches. In addition to having the conference in a location where lunch was easily accessible, it was also decided that the venue need to have space for smaller breakout rooms as well as space for information booths from a variety of organizations that serve ex-offenders and their families, and where other participants can get further information about the various reentry efforts in Boone County. Three places were suggested as possible venues:

- **The United Methodist Church** (which hosted the 2008 Conference). This space was secured through the efforts of two members of the church who were also on the planning committee for that conference. The church has the advantage of centrally located with ease of access to places for lunch. **ACTION NEEDED:** We need someone to approach the church to inquire about the possibility of having the 2012 Conference in their space.
- **The Parkade** was suggested as another potential venue. According to Carol Mertensmeyer, the proprietor of the Parkade is looking to have the space used for such community opportunities. There are also available breakout rooms for smaller group discussions. Carol Mertensmeyer will investigate and report back to the committee.
- **1500 Vandiver** (which I believe hosted the 2007 Conference) was suggested as a possible venue. There was concern about seeking approval from the building's occupants. Dana Thompson will investigate whether this is a viable option and report back to the committee.

III. Format

The majority of the conversation at the meeting focused on the topic and the format of the conference. The topic that was discussed the most and settled on as an appropriate issue was employment.

The topic will be addressed at the conference by looking at the issue from various perspectives and offering concrete solutions to assist and allay concerns. For example, the issue of ex-offenders seeking employment and having to overcome obstacles is one issue. Another related issue was from the business perspective and addressing the potential concerns of hiring ex-offenders.

The tentative title of the conference is: “**A COMMUNITY THAT WORKS.**” The goals are:

- For ex-Offenders and Families
 - To provide concrete solutions to ex-offenders as they seek sustained employment.
 - To address what these men and women view as obstacles that are directly and indirectly related to successful employment.

- For Employers
 - To provide employers with information about ex-offenders that demonstrates that the chance that may feel they are taking are not as risky as perceived because ex-offenders have been vetted by a number of different institutions and agencies before they approach an employer.

With the two day format where the conference begins on a Thursday and continues through the next Friday, the following was suggested.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011

A reception or some event where there is a big name speaker. Suggested keynote speakers were Judge Price of the Missouri Supreme Court; George Lombardi, Dir. Of Missouri Dept. of Corrections. Other suggestions?

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011

Morning Session

1. Courts – Looking at Reentry Courts and Alternative Sentencing. This session was proposed to present the full picture and show the different pathways that offenders get to where they are. The point was made that not all offenders return from somewhere but may have been sentenced directly to probation. The point was to have this session so that judges could explain the reasoning behind why folks end up where they are; the risk assessments etc.
 - A. Reentry Courts – Possible Speakers: Bradley; Adrian Johnson with On-Track
 - B. Alternative Sentencing – Carpenter; Rob Harrison
 - C. Circuit Court – Judge Oxenhandler
 - D. Court Administrator: Kathy Lloyd

2. Institutions / Agencies
 - A. DOC – George Lombardi (possibly a lunch time keynote); Tina Waldron; Dan Hanneken
 - B. Probation and Parole – District Administrator (Dana Thompson’s successor)
 - C. Treatment Community
 - i. Burrell Behavioral Health (mental health) – Chris ?
 - ii. Family Counseling Center – Beth Berhorst (contacted by Dan Hanneken)
 - iii. Phoenix House (substance abuse) – James Kimbo (contacted by Dan Hanneken)
 - iv. Others?

Afternoon Session

3. Transitional Services
 - A. Love Inc. (contacted by Dan Hanneken)
 - B. Volunteer Action Committee
 - C. Career Services
 - D. On-Track (may not need here because of earlier presentation)
 - E. Job Point

4. Employment
 - A. Breakout Sessions
 - i. Large group – Panel Discussion (Tiffany, Employers and Ex-Offenders)
 - a. Offenders
 - b. Employers
 - c. Employment Specialist – Christina Tiffany

 - ii. Small Group

 - B. Employers (Small Business Network (contacted by carol Mertensmeyer)
 - i. Incentives
 - ii. Information about vetting of ex-offenders
 - iii. Liability
 - iv. Bonding

 - C. Employees (ex-offenders)
 - D. Families
 - i. Issues related to families associated with employment seeking and being employed for ex-offenders (e.g. childcare, transportation, etc.)

- IV. Budget – not discussed (need to look at old conference cost items)

- V. Possible Speakers – see above Format Section

- VI. New Conference Committee Chair – Due to time constraints, S. David Mitchell cannot serve in the capacity as chair. While he will still be a member, it is necessary to identify a replacement.

**BCOTN
Conference Committee
Agenda
August 4, 2011**

I. Revisit Conference Date –

Currently October 12 and 13. If voter registration is a goal, then the date needs to be changed to September 21 and 22 (non-MU football Saturdays). Registration Rule – deadline is the fourth Wednesday before the election (Nov. 6, 2012).

II. Venue – Investigate places to host event

Questions

Are there funds to rent a place?

What is the expected number of participants? (size)

What is the format (large speeches, smaller breakout sessions, etc.)? (structure and amenities)

III. Format

Questions

Are both days intended to be identical?

Will one day target one population (i.e. service providers) while the other day will target clients (i.e. ex-offenders and families)?

Will there be program overlap or repeated programs?

IV. Budget

Questions

What is the budget?

Are there funds available?

Are there sponsors willing to donate key items (venue, printing of media materials, speaker honorariums, etc.)?

Possible Sponsors

MU Law School

Center for Family Policy & Research

MU Extension

V. Possible Speakers

VI. New Conference Committee Chair