Ex-Offender Reentry Policy Board

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Policy Board
The Montgomery County Ex-Offender Reentry Policy Board was created in 2010 to support the Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry (MCOER), to provide oversight to the MCOER, and to seek long-term stability and financial resources for reentry services for Montgomery County. The Policy Board completes it assignments through several working subcommittees: Housing, Employment and Training, Financial Sustainability, Continuum of Care, Community Education, and Legal and Legislative Issues. During 2012, the Policy Board:

- examined a “Reentry Housing Model” incorporating some best practices from across the country and including recommendations for zoning reform to allow unrelated adults to share single family properties;
- learned that recidivism rates fell from a high of 43% in 2008 to 36.5% in 2010 to 32.2% in 2011 (rates are based on individuals released three years earlier);
- received a marketing and media plan; and

The Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry
The Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry, through the Reentry Policy Board and the Office of Family and Children First, has been serving individuals with criminal histories since opening in July 2010. The formation and early operations of the Board and of MCOER have been described in earlier (2008 – 2011) Reports. In its brief history the MCOER has received national recognition, including the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2011 Achievement Award. Demand for MCOER services increased 45% in 2012, averaging 145 client contacts monthly. As of December 2012, MCOER routine customer requests for service have surged to over 4,000 contacts. Significant progress has been made in meeting the community and policy board goal to reduce felony recidivism in Montgomery County by 50% within 5 years (2015) through “Action, Alliance, and Accountability.” (See chart below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECIDIVISM STATISTICS</th>
<th>Reentry</th>
<th>Pathways</th>
<th>ACTS</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCOER Client Engagement</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1,371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Clients Sentenced To State After Program</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>128</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Clients Sentenced To State After Program</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MCOER Motto: Action, Alliance & Accountability
In February 2012 the MCOER Reentry Collaborative scheduled its first bi-monthly meeting to enhance network strategies for reentry providers throughout the community. The MCOER collaborates with the Ohio Adult Parole Authority and reentry stakeholders in the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition meetings held at the newly dedicated Benton J. Cooper Reentry Complex (formerly the Montgomery County Education & Pre-Release Center). This meeting highlights local reentry efforts and proposals from the newly formed Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions. As a result of the ongoing efforts of the Reentry Collaborative, the network committed to and conducted two community-based “Open House” forums in July 2012 at the Circle of Vision Keepers, and November 2012 at the Wesley Community Center to strengthen collaborative efforts and provide site visit highlights of shared supportive service opportunities.

Throughout 2012, an academic partnership continued with Kaplan College Internship Program. A new partnership developed with Wilberforce University during the 2012 academic year, consisting of three MCOER-supported internship opportunities.

Advanced Cognitive Treatment Services (ACTS) Grant Project
The Advanced Cognitive Treatment Services (ACTS) project, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice and coordinated by MCOER staff, targeted moderate-to-high-risk male and female ex-offenders, 18 years or older, returning to and/or residing in Montgomery County who possessed high criminogenic needs in the areas of antisocial attitudes, peer associations, and personality traits. The ACTS project objective was to serve a total of 168 clients by providing routine cognitive programming to address high priority criminogenic needs and selected cognitive and educational workshops to occupy the free time of ex-offenders on a post-release basis. Orientation sessions were conducted for those clients within 6 months of release from incarceration to assess level of interest, commitment, and eligibility to participate. Participation in the ACTS Project was voluntary and based on a random selection process overseen by the Wright State University School of Professional Psychology, a project partner. MCOER staff worked with prison staff to identify client need for completion or review of the Ohio Risk Assessment System tool for effective reentry decision making. Cognitive behavior intervention programming completed prior to the inmate’s release from incarceration was taken into consideration during the reentry planning process.

From March through October 2012, eligible candidates expressing interest in the ACTS project totaled 171 moderate- and high-risk candidates – all of whom were recruited and referred to Wright State University’s evaluation team for filtering through the random selection process.

MCOER staff and service partners utilized cognitive based approaches in the program. The participants’ participation allowed them to modify their criminal thinking and behavior.
ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The organizations listed below represent a dynamic and comprehensive collaboration among local government agencies, nonprofit organizations and community stakeholders. The partners in this collaboration are committed to working to serve persons with felony records overcome barriers to effective reentry in Montgomery County, and are to be commended for their commitment to strengthening families and public safety.

**Lead Project Applicant:**
Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry / Office of Family & Children First

**Referral Providers:**
MonDay Community Based Correctional Facility
Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office
The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
   Dayton Correctional Institution
   Lebanon Correctional Institution
   London Correctional Institution
   Madison Correctional Institution
   Warren Correctional Institution
   The Volunteers of America

**Contracted Service Providers:**
Cognitions LLC
Family Services Association
Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley
Think Tank Inc.
Wright State University – SARDI Program

**Service Providers & Supportive Agencies:**
AccountNow
Baha’i Center
CARE House
Chronic Choice Solutions
Circle of Visionkeepers / Two Trees Inc.
Comtech Realty
Fre-Flo Distribution
Ginghamsburg Church
Good Samaritan House
Gray Hawk Payment Technologies
Greater Dayton RTA
Kaplan College CJ Externship Program
LMK Consulting
Meyot
Miami Valley Career Technology Center
Miami Valley Fair Housing
Montgomery County Administrative Services
Montgomery County Criminal Justice Council
Montgomery County Ex-Offender Reentry Policy Board
Montgomery County Job and Family Services
Montgomery County Job Center
Montgomery County Prosecutor’s Office Victim/Witness Division
Montgomery County Support Enforcement Agency
Mt. Olive Church
Ohio State University Extension, Montgomery County
OPES
Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County
Sinclair Community College
St. Vincent DePaul Center
The Entrepreneur Center
The House of Bread
The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition
Trinity Outreach Ministries
Wilberforce University Internship Program
Wright State University