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Fifteen Years!**

# 2013 Progress Report

on Community Outcomes, Indicators and Strategies



**Montgomery County Family and Children First Council**



# Economic Self-Sufficiency

## Ex-Offender Reentry Policy Board Outcome Team Roster

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**STAFF: Jamie Gee** (Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry) **Amy Piner** (Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry) **Mike Ward** (Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry)

### Recidivism - Impact on Public Safety

The Montgomery County Ex-Offender Reentry Policy Board (Policy Board), the Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry (the Office), and county-wide stakeholders worked diligently through the year 2013 to optimize partnerships and leverage resources to serve the citizens of Montgomery County with effective reentry programs and services, thus minimizing barriers to successful reentry and promoting further reductions in recidivism.

Since the evolution of the Community-Wide Ex-Offender Reentry Task Force (2008), publication of the “Blueprint for Reducing Recidivism in Montgomery County” 5-year strategic plan (2010) and opening of the Office (2010), the Montgomery County recidivism rate has declined from 43.0% to 28.7% (2012), now consistent with the State of Ohio recidivism rate. (See Figure 1.) Formal Reentry programming efforts have proven to show definitive impact on client recidivism (re-incarceration) rates. As of November 2013, the recidivism rate for clients who engaged in our formal programming averaged 15.1%. (See Figure 2.)

Ohio and Montgomery County Recidivism Rates (2008-2012)

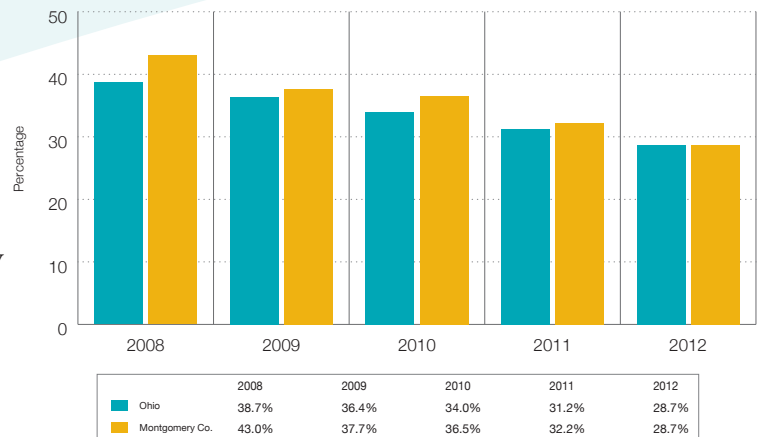


Figure 1. There has been a steady decline in recidivism over the past five years.

RECIDIVISM STATISTICS				
	Grant #1 (2010)	Grant #2 (2012)	Grant #3 (2013)	Total
Clients	878	405	87	1,370
Cases	881	405	88	1,374
Deaths	16	11	0	27
Clients Sentenced To State After Program	140	48	19	207
Percent Of Clients Sentenced To State After Program	15.9%	11.9%	21.8%	15.1%

Figure 2. The average recidivism rate for clients engaged in a formal program was 15.1%.

## Policy Board and Office of Reentry Strategic Initiatives – At a Glance

The Policy Board sub-committees have spearheaded several new initiatives in 2013:

- Public endorsement of our employment program by U.S. Senator Rob Portman (who was the original author of the Federal Second Chance Act), Congressman Mike Turner, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce President Phil Parker, and local entrepreneur Judi Law.
- The Policy Board Housing Sub-Committee has recruited over 12 apartment managers and rental agencies to rent to Ex-Offenders and is working on developing a revolving loan fund to assist clients seeking stable housing.
- The Policy Board Employment Sub-Committee has continued its Mock Interview sessions with many volunteer interviewers coming from the Dayton Rotary Club. Four sessions were held throughout the year with over 100 Ex-Offenders benefitting from the interview practice sessions.
- The Policy Board has created a “Women in Reentry” Sub-Committee to study the differences in successful Reentry for men and women.

## Advanced Cognitive Treatment Services (ACTS)

**Grant Project Outcomes** – The Advanced Cognitive Treatment Services (ACTS) Project was a comprehensive research project focused on cognitive behavior therapy combined with a curriculum of life and job skill development. The control group received referrals for service while the test group received the full program. Both groups received stipends for participation. The ACTS Project Study, funded by the Department of Justice/ Bureau of Justice Assistance and the FCFC Economic Self Sufficiency Outcome Team, closed at the end of March. The research grant was highlighted at the 2013 American Public Health Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in a presentation (Figure 3) by Dr. Josephine Wilson, Director of the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine – Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI) Program Director and grant partner.

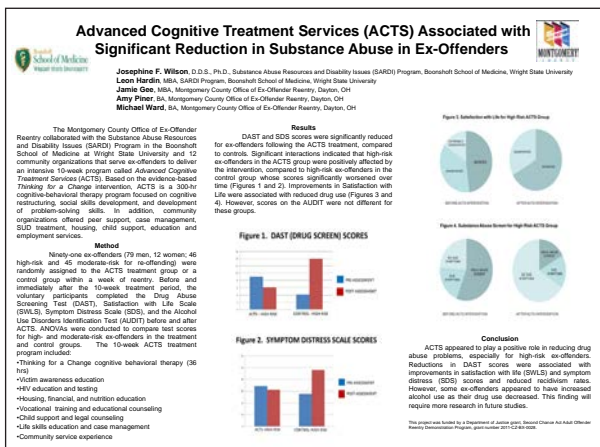


Figure 3. Poster presentation at the 2013 American Public Health Association Conference.

The Office staff has completed development of the modified 8-week ACTS Program curriculum model for targeted impact for moderate risk clients and enhanced high-risk client engagement.

## Employer Engagement & Offender Workforce Development (OWD)

**OWD Workshop Series** - In March, the Office staff developed a direct referral procedural agreement in partnership with a local major manufacturer. This partnership led to the Office staff creation of a seven-module Offender Workforce Development (OWD) Workshop Series Pilot. The pilot project resulted in production worker employment opportunities for over 33 course graduates to date, and additional opportunities for client job placements with other employer partners. Between March and November, Office staff completed five OWD Program cycles. 54 clients have successfully graduated OWD; the manufacturer has engaged with over 85% of these graduates through a Pre-Hire Orientation process. The OWD workshop series was not only successful in connecting reentry clients to employment opportunities, but also in engaging community-based employer representatives and advocates through the “mock interview process,” actively supported and coordinated by the Policy Board Employment Sub-Committee.

**Drug-Free Workplace Support** – In March, the Office began enhancing efforts to support the drug-free workplace needs of employers by providing pre-employment drug screening of referred candidates. Prior to referral to an employer or enrollment in the Offender Workforce Development pilot program, candidates were provided a drug screen. A positive test result provides an opportunity for the client to access treatment programs. It does not remove them from the program. Naturally, no job referrals take place without a negative test. The Office tracked the outcomes of pre-employment drug screenings; the results can be seen in Figure 4.

## 2013 Client Drug Screen Results

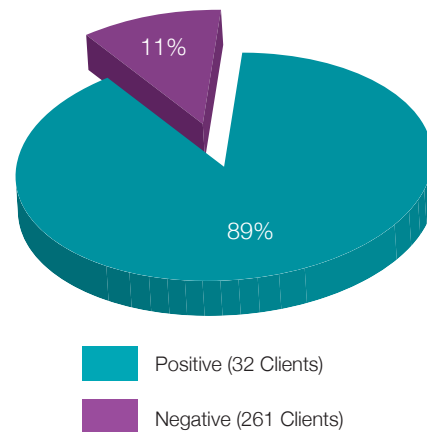


Figure 4. The vast majority of clients had negative drug screens.



# Economic Self-Sufficiency

## Community Partnership Building-Support, Education & Advocacy

**Reentry Collaborative (Local)** - The Montgomery County Reentry Collaborative (Figure 5) was established in 2011 and serves as a community education assembly which seeks to promote reentry provider networking, provide organizational support, and foster long-term sustainability through leveraged partnerships. Evidenced-based strategies are shared to enhance program standards, service delivery, and improve measurable outcomes.

The Reentry Collaborative increased from 29 to 68 collaborative partners in 2013; active partners who assisted in the development and completion of the Reentry Collaborative 2013-2014 Action Plan participated in (10) ten community education and network partner open house events throughout the year, and provided generous toy donations on behalf of the Policy Board Supportive Services Sub-Committee's gift pledge to "Toys For Tots" for 2013.



**Figure 5.** The Montgomery County Reentry Collaborative (left to right): Jamie Gee, Office of Reentry; Al Howard, The Ridge Project; Amy Piner, Office of Reentry; Jajuana Jackson, Alvis House; Kamarr Gage, Montgomery County DDS; Mike Newsom, MCDJFS; Sharma Fox, Sinclair Community College; Rick Harmon, ODRC-APA; Melissa Sutter, Montgomery County Adult Probation; Dionne Jenkins, Alvis House; Sean Walton, CIRGV; Quinn Howard, Wilberforce University; Elizabeth Redmon, Miami Valley Fair housing Center; Raymond Hood, Goodwill Easter Seals of the Miami Valley; Shirley Jordan, Montgomery County DDS; Mike Ward, Office of Reentry; Edith Thompson, Veteran's Administration; Carl Mitchell, UMADAOP Dayton; John Smith, Jr., MEYOT

**Youthful Offender Partnerships (Local)** - As a proactive approach, the Office welcomed engagement with grant initiatives, such as YouthBuild and County Corp partnership construction training project, which provided paid training opportunities for eligible youthful offenders (18 -24 years). The Office staff provided on-site recruitment, drug screening, and logistics assistance in support to the project. This initiative ignited new interactions with Montgomery County Juvenile Court Probation

and Ohio Department of Youth Services representatives. In addition, the Office staff actively participated in the 2013 planning and support of the newly formed Juvenile Branch of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition.

**Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC)** – During 2013, the Office received OERC Letter of Recognition (March) and Certificate of Appreciation (November) on behalf of the collaborative efforts of the Montgomery County Reentry Coalition. Our "Welcome Home Video" production was posted on the ODRC website, and is currently being used by ODRC staff for inmate introduction to Montgomery County Reentry. In addition, the Office actively participated in over a dozen ODRC prison reentry fairs, attended quarterly OERC meetings, and provided support and technical assistance to webinars and strategic planning meetings. The Office continues to be actively involved with the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and serve in leadership capacities with the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions (OALRC).

## Sustainability

**Organizational & Grant Support** - The Office supported a reentry grant proposal in partnership with Wright State University Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues Program (SARDI) to target services needed to enhance the intake, assessment, and ongoing behavioral health needs of clients. As a result, the Office staff will begin referring eligible reentry clients to Wright State SARDI services.

**Strategic Alignment & Continuous Improvement** – The Office has been working diligently to refine and improve the quality of our processes, programs and services, in alignment with the Montgomery County 2013-2016 strategic plan. The Office's improved "5-Step" Intake Orientation process began in October 2013, and continued integration of evidenced based practices will enhance ongoing efforts to increase public safety and reduce recidivism among the clients served.

**Leveraging & Optimizing Resources** – Reentry partners continue to express their appreciation to the Office for coordinating the mission to help shared reentry clients overcome their barriers and make positive life changes. Our conversations with representatives from community parole, probation, prison, jail, community-based organizations, and other internal and external stakeholders are ongoing and productive. The Office continues to strengthen new and existing relationships to identify the barriers, and contribute to addressing the needs of returning citizens for seamless transition and meaningful contribution and reintegration within their communities.