



MONTGOMERY
C O U N T Y

Human Services Planning & Development 2017 Annual Report

Including FCFC Progress Report on Community Focus Areas, Indicators, and Initiatives





Action, Alliance, & Accountability

Action

In 2017, the Montgomery County Office of Reentry celebrated its seventh year in the delivery of quality programs and services to justice-involved citizens – to promote public safety, minimize barriers to successful reentry, and promote a reduction in recidivism. In January, the Office of Reentry kicked off the year with a Reentry Team Retreat and Community Justice Partnership Roundtable. The retreat set the stage for member-facilitated workshops on team building, SharePoint overview, and roundtable discussion with seven community corrections professionals who serve youth and adult justice-involved citizens community-wide. This input equipped the Office of Reentry with proposed strategies to enhance client and community engagement. During 2017, the Reentry Team, inclusive of staff, consultants, community partners, and volunteers, contributed to the following annual service outcomes:

Client Pre-Release Efforts

- 732 Engagement Postcards Distributed
- 11 ODRC Resource Fairs Attended
- 352 Fair Face-to-Face Contacts
- 25 Reentry Meetings Conducted

Client Post-Release Efforts

- 304 Clients Scheduled for RCAA Orientation
- 236 Clients Attending RCAA Orientation
- 209 Clients Enrolled in RCAA
- 153 RCAA Graduate Completions - 9 Cohorts
- 252 RCAA Workshops Conducted - 504 hours
- 165 Pre-Employment Drug Screens
- 72 RCAA Graduate Job Placements
- 41 CIRGV (Community Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence) Case Management Referrals
- 31 UD Homeless Shelter Guests Referrals
- 83 Served via ADAMHS Reentry Funding
- 2,516 Transportation Tokens Provided

Community Education & Engagement

- 60 Community Presentations/Events
- 45 Juvenile Intervention Workshops
- 388 Evening Reporting Center Contacts
- 6 Reentry Collaborative Meetings
- 596 Reentry Volunteer Hours Served

Alliance

The success of the Office of Reentry could not be realized without the support of a broad collaboration of over 200 reentry stakeholders. Through these staff partnerships, consisting of community leaders, consultants, community

advocates, and volunteers, the Office of Reentry team works interdependently with the Reentry Policy Board, Reentry Collaborative, Reentry Career Alliance Academy (RCAA) Partners, and RCAA Graduates to transform “obstacles into opportunities” for individuals willing to help themselves overcome life challenges and become contributing members of the community. In July, the work of over six dozen partners was celebrated during a special RCAA Partner Appreciation Breakfast Meeting and Retreat held at Madison Lakes Learning and Conference Center. Valuable reentry stakeholder input was shared at the bi-annual meeting, and continuous improvement recommendations were captured and added to the “Wish List” of strategies for RCAA enrichment. In addition, partners were informed of the progress of the Office of Reentry’s Life Coach/Mentor Team planning, which began in March 2017, to provide comprehensive training and an opportunity for RCAA graduate alumni to “give back,” and to provide supportive engagement to other RCAA candidates within the ongoing curriculum. The Office of Reentry is honored to share RCAA program success in partnership with its stakeholders, and is dedicated to continuous improvement of the 4-week, 58-hour program model, to impact recidivism - as highlighted in the August 1st, 2017 edition of the Dayton Business Journal.



Reentry Career Alliance Academy Graduation Ceremony – National Reentry Week April 2017

Accountability

In 2017, the Office of Reentry celebrated a three year milestone with completion of nine RCAA cohorts and 153 dedicated graduates. Upon completion of the last RCAA Cohort of 2017, the following annual successes were captured:

- 27.5% Increase in Graduate Completions
- 30% Increase of Female Graduates
- 6% Increase in RCAA Job Placements
- 97% Negative Pre-Employment Drug Screens

In 2017, RCAA graduates selected 11 team leaders who assumed the responsibility to emcee their respective cohort ceremonies and take personal investment and ownership in their success. Cohort members participated in video testimonials of

their progress during Week 3 of the RCAA, and videos were captured as graduation highlights and public education tools for the Office of Reentry to share graduate progress over time. Focus group feedback from RCAA participants continuously reflects the quality of services and benefits received from the Office of Reentry staff, partners, and volunteers. Points of personal value include the following: comprehensive program coordination, partner networking, resource building, mock interviews, case management, and a welcoming environment among reentry stakeholders.

At the statewide level, the three-year (2012 releases) Montgomery County recidivism rate for inmates released from Ohio prisons reflects a three percentage point increase from 28.7% to 31.7% in 2015 (latest rate published). Additionally, the State of Ohio recidivism rate also increased one-and-three-fourths percentage points from 27.51% to 29.26%. While there has been an increase in recidivism for Montgomery County, there has also been a specific increase in technical violations by three percentage points over the same period. County

commitments to ODRC have declined since 2016, due to various factors which are beyond the scope of this report. While there is a correlation between declining county commitments and releases, the Office of Reentry will take into account the recidivism rate trends in relation to declining release numbers.

Building accountability outcomes will be a priority of the Office of Reentry into 2018. The commitment of collaboration and continuous engagement of restored citizens woven into the fabric of local community initiatives will add value to and promote public service through social responsibility. In the fall of 2017, the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk” and “Clothes that Work – Fashioning Futures Luncheon” events were opportunities for restored citizens to “give back” and invest as volunteers for worthy causes within their communities. This strategy will undoubtedly move the Office of Reentry into a new year with an emphasis on “Investing in People” through dedication to community service – through “Action, Alliance, and Accountability.”



Montgomery County Reentry Policy Board

In 2017, all six Subcommittees of the Montgomery County Reentry Policy Board committed to completion of compression planning objectives within their respective work plans. They continually recognized their inherent interdependence and the necessity to collaborate. The following summaries reflect strategic efforts accomplished with the cooperation and support of the Office of Reentry:

Employment

The Employment Subcommittee committed to engaging with civic, trade, and service groups to help their members understand the value of hiring returning citizens through employer/employee showcase presentations to Job Developers and Workforce Investment Board Members. The group also fostered employer groups where those with hiring responsibility shared relevant experiences, policy guidelines, insight, and other information-sharing ideas via an Employer Roundtable in partnership with the Second Chance Employment Professionals Group. In addition, they created opportunities for contact between returning citizens and potential employers through collaboration with Sinclair Community College and the Supportive Services Subcommittee to host the REENTRY COPE (Reentry - Cost of Poverty Experience) Simulation, which engaged community stakeholders, including Reentry Career Alliance Academy (RCAA) participants, Sinclair students, employers, and volunteers.

Housing

The Housing Subcommittee worked closely with area landlords to enhance their understanding of the RCAA program and increase their participation through events, such as the

Landlord Housing & Resource Provider Workshop held at the Montgomery County Business Solutions Center, and Landlord Lunch and Learn held at the MVHO Opportunity Center. The events allowed members to engage with local stakeholders on housing assistance, fair housing policies, and best practices, and educated them regarding Office of Reentry partnerships, programs, and supportive services available to returning citizens. This broad engagement and outreach to interested landlords was successful and led to the expansion and update of the Reentry Housing Landlord Resource List which, in turn, fostered increased participation and commitment to reentry housing assistance. Utilization of the Move-In Assistance Program was optimized and increased from 10 to over 23 housing providers. The program (supported by multiple public and private funders) provided 24 income eligible RCAA graduates with one-time housing assistance up to \$250, for use towards rent, deposit, utilities, and household support.

Legislative Advocacy

The Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee collaborated with the Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project (GDVLP) and Community Action Partnership Legal Clinic to provide client access to free, convenient legal services and counsel as they navigate the pathway to resolve issues, such as record sealing, expungement, license suspension, license reinstatement, and other legal-based challenges. The GDVLP, in partnership with WilmerHale, engages with RCAA clients in routine “Legal Matters” workshops. In addition, Subcommittee members engaged in free CLE Training, hosted by the Community Action Partnership Legal Clinic in collaboration with the Ohio Justice & Policy Center and with Dayton Municipal Court, covering

the topics of Certificates of Qualification of Employment (CQE's) and Sealing Criminal Records. Members continue to support reentry education and advocacy for increased job opportunities for returning citizens in support of CQE's, and supportive hiring practices for restored citizens who are viable candidates for the local workforce.

Public Education

The Public Education Subcommittee engaged in planning efforts to develop marketing tools needed to foster community response and educate the community regarding the Office of Reentry's initiatives, impact, and commitment to public safety. The Subcommittee supported the Office of Reentry in refining a standardized volunteer presentation for a community call to action. This presentation, entitled "Volunteering: An Extraordinary Opportunity to Serve Your Community," was presented at the Montgomery County Jail Chaplaincy hosted Restoration, Recovery & Reentry Conference in October 2017. The Subcommittee is committed to the ongoing survey of unique reentry volunteer opportunities of interest for sustainability and community engagement.

Supportive Services

The Supportive Services Subcommittee hosted the Spring Reentry Expo event in April 2017 at the Montgomery County Job Center. Over 30 community resource providers and 130 returning citizens attended the affair. Members routinely support Reentry Collaborative meetings, special events, and resource support. The Subcommittee continues to sponsor the annual Office of Reentry Uniforms, School Supplies, and Back Bags (USB) Drive for RCAA graduate families and children, providing back-to-school needs and resource support to over 22 children. In October 2017, members assisted with planning and direct onsite registration in support of the "Women in Reentry Symposium: The Road to Empowerment" event, sponsored by

Sinclair Community College (SCC) and the Office of Reentry. The Symposium welcomed Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI) Warden Wanza Jackson-Mitchell, Pens to Pictures film makers and song artist (inmates and returning citizens), and luncheon keynote speaker and Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW) "Warden of the Year" Ronette Burkes-Trowsdell. The team also partnered with the DCI Community Service Unit for the Subcommittee's annual Global Warming initiative. DCI inmates knitted 24 sets of hand woven hats, scarves, and gloves for the initiative, while member agency sponsors worked collaboratively to provide matching coats and boots for 28 children of RCAA graduates during the 2017 Global Warming holiday season. In addition, the Subcommittee continues to connect with local transportation providers to discuss workforce transport alternatives and to foster meaningful community connections.

Women In Reentry

The Women in Reentry Subcommittee committed to building bridges to the community for support of responsible reintegration. Members supported workshop facilitation in support of the "Women in Reentry Symposium" and provided moderator support of the event's "Returning Citizens Impact Panel" featuring six dynamic women, including reentry program alumni, peer mentors, and volunteers. In the fall of 2017, members toured the ORW female prison facility in Marysville, Ohio. A speaker series was incorporated in Subcommittee meetings to provide women in reentry with a "voice," Subcommittee engagement, and discussion of strategies needed to enhance gender responsiveness. Members continue to assist in the development of the Office of Reentry publication "Preparing your Family for Possible Incarceration: Your Rights & Responsibilities," scheduled for distribution in early 2018. More information is available at http://www.mcohio.org/departments/reentry/publications_and_research.php

Reentry Policy Board Roster

CO-CHAIR Commissioner Deborah A. Lieberman (Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners)
CO-CHAIR The Honorable Walter Rice (United States District Court) **Jamiyl Al-Haniyf** (Estate Building Management)
Rabbi Bernard Barsky (Community Leader) **Cheryll Bennett** (Federal Public Defender - Southern District of Ohio) **Chief Richard Biehl** (Dayton Police Department) **Adam Blake** (County Corp) **Branford Brown** (Miami Valley Urban League) **Catherine Crosby** (City of Dayton Human Relations Council) **The Honorable Steven Dankof** (Montgomery County Common Pleas Court) **James Dare** (Montgomery County Common Pleas Court) **Herb Davis** (Veteran Service Commission) **Richard C. Dixon** (Community Leader) **Commissioner Judy Dodge** (Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners) **Derrick Foward, President** (Dayton NAACP) **Pastor Sherry Gale** (Grace United Methodist Church) **Joyce Gerren** (Community Leader) **Robert Gruhl** (Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services)
Jessica Jenkins (Montgomery County Human Services Planning & Development) **Steven Johnson, President** (Sinclair Community College) **Tom Kelley** (Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services) **Chris Kershner** (Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce) **The Honorable Michael Krumholtz** (Montgomery County Common Pleas Court) **Larry Lane** (Montgomery County Jail) **Senator Peggy Lehner** (Ohio Senate) **Sasha Naiman** (Ohio Justice & Policy Center) **Michael Newsom** (Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services) **Phillip Parker** (Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce) **Tina Patrick** (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) **Bob Pawlak** (Community Volunteer) **Sheriff Phil Plummer** (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office) **Bonnie Beaman Rice, J.D.** (Community Leader) **Rev. Arvin Ridley** (Victory In Power) **Chief John Sedlak** (Miamisburg Police Department) **The Honorable Gregory Singer** (Montgomery County Common Pleas Court) **Executive Director Joe Spitler** (Montgomery County Criminal Justice Council)
State Representative Fred Strahorn (Ohio House of Representatives) **Cheryl Taylor** (Sinclair Community College) **John Theobald** (Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners Office) **County Administrator Joseph P. Tuss** (Montgomery County)
Rev. Robert C. Walker, D. Min. (Community Leader - Faith Community) **Michael Ward** (Cornerstone Project) **Rick Wegmann** (Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley) **Director Rudy Wehner, J.D.** (Montgomery County Public Defender's Office) **Mayor Nan Whaley** (City of Dayton) **John White** (Dayton Circles Campaign) **Anthony Whitmore** (Greater Dayton Area Regional Transit Authority) **Josephine F. Wilson, D.D.S., Ph.D.** (Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine - SARDI Program) **Gwen Woods** (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) **John Zimmerman** (Miami Valley Fair Housing Center)