Human Services Planning & Development

2018 Annual Report
Including FCFC Progress Report on Community Focus Areas, Indicators, and Initiatives

CELEBRATING

20 YEARS
Investing in People

In 2018, the Montgomery County Office of Reentry celebrated its 8th Anniversary, continuing its delivery of quality programs and services to justice-involved citizens – in effort to promote public safety, minimize barriers to successful reentry, and promote a reduction in recidivism. The Reentry Team, including staff, community partners, volunteers, and consultants contributed to the following 2018 service outcomes:

**MISSION:** Serving the citizens of Montgomery County with program and services that minimize barriers to effective reentry and promote a reduction in recidivism.

**Prison/Jail Pre-Release Engagement**
- 34 Prison In-Reach Events/Fairs
- 8 Video Prison In-Reach Presentations
- 12 Jail In-Reach Events/Presentations

**Reentry Career Alliance Academy (RCAA)**
- 42 RCAA Collaborative Partners Engaged
- 91 RCAA Graduate Completions - 7 Cohorts
- 203 RCAA Workshops Conducted

**Community Education and Engagement**
- 32 Outreach Events
- 55 Juvenile Probation Evening Reporting Center (ERC) Workshops
- 8 Reentry Collaborative Meetings/Events
- 332 Community Reentry Volunteer Hours

**2015-2018 IMPACT**
- 781 Enrollment Intakes
- 469 Graduate Completions
- 32 Cohorts

The Office of Reentry continued to align strategic direction in 2018 to enhance the lives of Montgomery County citizens by “Investing in People” through client-centered support initiatives. Through the Reentry Career Alliance Academy (RCAA), graduates were encouraged to take social responsibility for their investment in public safety. RCAA team leaders selected by their cohort associates assumed the responsibility to serve as hosts for their respective graduation ceremonies and took ownership in the special celebration of their program completion. Those who successfully completed the program received their career passport and BCC proclamation. Graduates sharing sentimental moments with family and reentry networks, through the RCAA “experience,” instilled pride and increased motivation for positive change.

During National Reentry Week in April 2018, the Office of Reentry celebrated the success of 389 of 409 RCAA graduates, reflecting a 95.11% post-program graduate success rate. As 2018 unfolded, the resilient stories of restored citizens served by the Office of Reentry were embraced with the spirit of acceptance and change. The impact these champions had on audiences area-wide sparked a level of social responsibility, tenacity, success, and a ray of hope through the eyes of our program graduates in their efforts to give back to society.

Beneficiaries of their formal and informal speaking engagements and motivational dialogue included audiences such as Reentry Career Alliance Academy Ceremonies, Kettering Rotary Council Luncheon, Montgomery County Fatherhood Banquet & Fashion Show, National Reentry Week “Passing the Torch” Ceremony, “Focus on the Family” Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Quarterly Meeting, University of Dayton Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Presentation, Clothes That Work Fashioning Futures Luncheon, Youthful Offender Symposium, the Dayton Woman’s Club, and the Restoration, Recovery & Reentry Conference.

James Clay, Reentry Career Alliance Academy Graduate, delivered an engaging keynote address at the 2018 Montgomery County Fatherhood Banquet.
For the second year, Office of Reentry graduates, Montgomery County staff, and program volunteers participated in the “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.” The Office of Reentry will continue to encourage returning citizens to commit to community service, investing as volunteers for worthy causes within the community through “Action, Alliance, and Accountability.” The Office of Reentry team maintains commitment to collaboration and continuous engagement of restored citizens’ woven participation into the fabric of local community initiatives. As a 2018 Miami Valley Community Action Partnership “Helping Hands” Award Recipient, the reentry team was recognized for its effort to promote public safety and service through collaboration and social responsibility to “impact lives.”

Growth Through Transition
At the close of 2018, reorganization and growth opportunities have transitioned the partnership with the University of Dayton Behavioral Activation Project into a new direction through the St. Vincent de Paul Homeless Shelter Urban Gardening Initiative. The Office of Reentry will continue to receive shelter guest referrals to address the needs of those with criminal histories and build a bridge to reentry services. In addition, we also experienced the career transition of Volunteer Coordinator Robin Titus in August 2018. We are grateful for the successful framework which has been laid via the Volunteering Is a Lifestyle blueprint and branded tools she developed. These tools have equipped the Office of Reentry to transition seamlessly into 2019, enabling the office to maintain engagement with community reentry volunteers.

Strategic direction to “Engage, Educate, and Empower” through RCAA curriculum enhancements, including the newly developed RCAA Client Handbook, will add value to client service delivery. In the effort to serve clients and their families through innovative practices, such as video conferencing and family orientation, the need for onsite assistance will be critical. The Office of Reentry will continue through respected partnerships with Goodwill Easter Seals of the Miami Valley Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) to serve as a host site and, in addition, will continue shared comprehensive Case Management in partnership with the City of Dayton Human Relations Council through 2021.

Montgomery County Reentry Council
The Montgomery County Reentry Council was created by the Board of County Commissioners in April 2018, to replace the Reentry Policy Board in place since 2011. The new Reentry Council is an effort to streamline, focus, and continue to support the mission of the Montgomery County Office of Reentry. The 16 member council continues to operate under the direction of Co-Chairs County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman and U.S. Judge Walter H. Rice. The Reentry Council, consisting of subcommittee chairs, fosters conversations for policy development in the areas of employment, housing, legal issues, public education and advocacy, supportive services, and women in reentry. The Council continues to plan and develop strategies to address the systematic needs of restored citizens and individuals preparing for return home to Montgomery County from incarceration.
Employment
The Employment Subcommittee increased member participation during 2018, and developed new objectives to increase employer education and engagement. In early 2018, Employment Subcommittee member Don Schweitzer, of Day Air Credit Union, coordinated a reentry presentation in partnership with the Office of Reentry to the Kettering Rotary. Co-Chair Linda Ashworth had an opportunity to share reentry best practices with the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Dayton members.

Housing
The Housing Subcommittee increased engagement with landlords this year, resulting in additions to the Reentry Housing Landlord Resource List. The Move-In Assistance Fund Program (supported by multiple public and private funders) provided over 20 Reentry Career Alliance Academy (RCAA) graduates with one-time funding of up to $250 for use towards down payment or moving assistance. One family used the program assistance funding toward their Habitat for Humanity home. In October, Co-Chairs John Zimmerman and Jessica Jenkins held a successful Landlord Engagement Lunch & Learn Event at The Opportunity Center which opened doors to new housing providers and provided networking opportunities for new landlords.

Legal and Legislative Issues
The Legal and Legislative Issues Committee members continue to support each returning citizen obtaining a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE). Moving forward, the Subcommittee plans to support interactive CQE workshops to integrate into the RCAA curriculum. In addition, members focused on the passage of Ohio Senate Bill 66 and its impact on the local criminal justice system.

Public Education
The Public Education Subcommittee celebrated 2018 with the creation of an impactful informational video in partnership with Cathy Petersen, who was then the Montgomery County Director of Communications, and the Office of Reentry team. In April 2018, the Public Education Subcommittee experienced the loss of a longstanding member, Vandalia Police Chief Doug Knight. The video, in memoriam and appreciation, has been shared throughout the community in 2018 via presentations to an array of audiences including the Vandalia Police Department, University of Dayton Lifelong Learning Institute, St. Charles Church, and the Dayton Women’s Club.

Supportive Services
The Supportive Services Subcommittee has continued to sponsor the annual Office of Reentry Uniforms, School Supplies, and Book Bags (USB) Drive for RCAA graduate families and children. In celebration of National Reentry Week in April, the subcommittee facilitated a Reentry Resource Fair called “Providing Assistance for Returning Citizens” or PARC. Over 200 clients attended the Resource Fair. The team continued partnership with the Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI) Community Service Unit for the subcommittee’s annual Global Warming initiative. DCI inmates knitted hand woven hats, scarves, and gloves for the initiative, while member agency sponsors worked collaboratively to provide matching coats and boots for RCAA graduate’s children during the 2018 holiday season.

Women in Reentry
The Women in Reentry Subcommittee published “Preparing Your Family for Possible Incarceration: Your Rights & Responsibilities,” a project inspired and developed through member contribution, collaboration, and advocacy. During 2018, Women in Reentry Subcommittee members focused on the “voices” of women experiencing challenges of justice involvement and the impact such experiences have had on their families. The publication is available at https://www.mcohio.org/Preparing_Your_Family_for_Incarceration_02_12_18.pdf

Reentry Council Roster
CO-CHAIR Commissioner Deborah A. Lieberman (Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners)
CO-CHAIR The Honorable Walter Rice (United States District Court) 
Linda Ashworth (Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce)
Bonnie Beaman Rice, J.D. (Community Leader) 
Branford Brown (Miami Valley Urban League) 
Pastor Sherry Gale (Grace United Methodist Church - through 08/06/18)
Joyce Gerren (Community Leader) 
Jessica Jenkins (Montgomery County Human Services Planning & Development) 
Steven Kopecky (Daybreak) 
Sasha Naiman (Ohio Justice and Policy Center) 
Michael Newsom (Montgomery County Job and Family Services) 
Rev. Arvin Ridley (Victory In Power) 
Criminal Justice Director Joe Spitler (Montgomery County) 
Cheryl Taylor (Sinclair Community College) 
John Theobald (Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners Office) 
John Zimmerman (Miami Valley Fair Housing Center)
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