HUMAN SERVICES
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
2019
INCLUDING FCFC PROGRESS REPORT ON COMMUNITY FOCUS AREAS, INDICATORS AND INITIATIVES
In 2019, the Montgomery County Office of Reentry increased focus on enhanced service integration, capacity building, and collaboration for continued success. Since the Reentry Career Alliance Academy started in 2015, 545 people have graduated the program – 95% of which have maintained life outside of the prison system.

The Reentry Career Alliance Academy program has received recognition by the National Association of Counties (NACo) as a 2019 Achievement award recipient. New positions were added to the reentry team to meet growth of the program. The office celebrated the relocation of the Reentry Training Center to the Job Center in August. In partnership with the National Institute of Corrections, the Office of Reentry hosted Employment Retention Specialist (ERS) training for county staff and community partners to enhance the capacity of the Office of Reentry to manage local workforce needs and promote long-term employment success among returning citizens.

The Montgomery County Office of Reentry was awarded $300,000 to launch the 3-year Eichelberger Prison Outreach Program. This project was funded by a grant from the Jack W. & Sally D. Eichelberger Foundation of The Dayton Foundation to promote targeted pre-release reentry planning for inmates returning to Montgomery County; optimizing community resource connectivity and referrals to the Reentry Career Alliance Academy and to address barriers to transportation.

The Office of Reentry has also secured a contract with a consultant into 2020 to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator and Resource Navigator which will increase community collaboration. The Reentry office will continue to “invest in people” through quality services and continuous improvement strategies which inspire community involvement and pro-social engagement in the lives of those seeking change - through our motto, Action, Alliance, and Accountability.

**Mission:** Serving the citizens of Montgomery County with programs and services that minimize barriers to effective reentry and promote reduction in recidivism.
The Montgomery County Reentry Council Co-Chaired by Commissioner Debbie Lieberman and U.S. Judge Walter H. Rice, fostered continued support of the Office of Reentry’s mission through targeted strategies which help advocate for reduced barriers and to address the systemic needs of Restored Citizens within and returning to Montgomery County. A grant award from the Jack and Sally Eichelberger Foundation of the Dayton Foundation in the amount of $300,000 was received in 2019 through dedicated advocacy and support of the Council, in effort to launch the 3-year Eichelberger Prison In-Reach program. This project has provided an opportunity for the Office of Reentry to add a dedicated In-Reach Reentry Specialist staff member to the Reentry Team. The primary goal is to focus on building a bridge of reintegration to the Reentry Career Alliance Academy (RCAA) through intentional pre-release reentry planning, community resource connectivity, and transportation needs.

REENTRY SUBCOMMITTEES

The six Reentry Council Subcommittees were actively involved in educating, engaging, and empowering Office of Reentry stakeholders in the areas of Public Education, Legal Issues, Women in Reentry, Housing, Supportive Services, and Employment.

The Public Education subcommittee focused on informing a variety of audiences of the impact and success of the Reentry Career Alliance Academy program, and provided an opportunity for reentry stakeholders to engage in conversations of transformation with program graduate speakers with presentations focused on engaging law enforcement including Vandalia, Clayton and the Montgomery County Sheriff Command Staff.

The Legal subcommittee provided proponent testimony for House Bill at the Ohio Statehouse relating to critical reentry legislation. Members also participated in “A Turn For The Better” Legal Clinics in partnership with local partners.

The Women in Reentry subcommittee focused on discussion surrounding existing Reentry planning tools that address the unique needs of women. The group worked with the new In-Reach specialist via the Eichelberger Foundation grant to identify unique challenges facing women as they return to the community. A representative from The Storybook Project provided overview of a program for prison inmates to engage with their children. This distinctive program allows inmates, by recording stories, to maintain, or sometimes establish a relationship with the children while incarcerated.

The Housing subcommittee published the “Moving Forward” Housing Directory, and continued to nurture relationships with local landlords via lunch & learn presentations. The Move-In Assistance initiative continued to support RCAA graduate families with one-time grants up to $250 to help with move-in costs to new, stable housing.

The Supportive Services subcommittee successfully supported its annual Reentry resource event in April called Providing Assistance for Returning Citizens to provide access to resources for returning citizens. Members also assisted RCAA graduate families and their children in preparation for school year with its Uniforms, School Supplies and Backpacks and its winter attire event through its Global Warming event, including gifts for the holiday season.

The Employment subcommittee was instrumental in sharing the Reentry Career Alliance Academy model with local, state, and national workforce partners; including employer and graduate testimonials shared with the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board and Rotary Club of Dayton.
Thank you for your service!

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