

## REENTRY UNIT

Dena Sikoutris  
DOC Reentry Manager  
dena.sikoutris@doc.mo.gov  
573-522-1206

Stacy Elseman  
Reentry Administrative Office  
Support Assistant  
stacy.elseman@doc.mo.gov  
573-526-1664

Alice Stever  
Reentry Coordinator  
alice.stever@doc.mo.gov  
573-522-6128

Ken Chapman  
Reentry Coordinator  
ken.chapman@doc.mo.gov  
573-522-1935

Jeananne Markway  
Reentry/Restorative Justice  
Coordinator  
jeanne.markway@doc.mo.gov  
573-526-6502

# MRP FLASH

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## Preparing Offenders for Employment

MOHealthWINS and MOManufacturingWINS programs were awarded a \$20 million grant by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. These programs are designed to train unemployed and underemployed Missourians for careers in the growing markets of healthcare and manufacturing. Administered through the Missouri Community College Association, these programs offer free educational and vocational training for Missourians, including felons, who are unemployed or underemployed.

DAI and the State Technical College of Missouri recently enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Starting in November, Tipton Correctional Center will have a digital literacy class. This class will consist of one morning and one afternoon class with 15 offenders in each.



The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) is a portable credential that demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills in Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information (WorkKeys).

WorkKeys assessments measure "real world" skills that employers believe are critical to job success. Test questions are based on situations in the everyday work world. The goal is to have 30 or more offenders test every 3-4 weeks, focusing on offenders who are 30-60 days from release.

After this MOU was developed, another partnership began between DOC and The Cole County Certified Work Ready Community Committee. This program will be implemented at the Algoa Correctional Center.

For more information please contact Ken Chapman, Reentry Coordinator at 573-522-1935.

Find MRP on the web at [www.doc.mo.gov](http://www.doc.mo.gov)

## It Can Get You Where You Need To Go

Talent wins games, but  
teamwork and  
intelligence wins  
championships"

Michael Jordan

Jefferson County has created the county's first public transportation system that seeks to provide greater transit options for seniors and persons with or without disabilities. JeffCo Express will get you to work, medical or parole appointments, meetings, college and shopping. You will not have to fight traffic or search for parking space and you can save the cost of parking, car repairs, insurance, as well as

the cost of gasoline. JeffCo Express will deviate from the fixed route services as long as an advance reservation is made within 2 business days. To learn route-specific hours or to request a printed schedule, visit the website [www.jeffcoexpress.org](http://www.jeffcoexpress.org) or contact Dennis Murphy at: (636)465-0983. Please share this information with any releasing offender that will reside in this area.



## Advanced Motivational Interviewing



### David Nelson, Reentry Training Manager

Earlier this fall the Training Academy hosted a special two-day session of Motivational Interviewing training. MI consultant Jason Anderson, Director of the Itasca County (Minnesota) Probation Department presented an advanced session on quality assurance and coaching utilizing the tenets of MI.

Anderson's presentation focused on the use of affirmation during the MI process. Each participant was asked to bring an audio recording of an interview session with a client. Attendees commented on the unease of hearing their voices on the recording, but saw the value in listening to their interview. This process of listening to a recorded MI interview (coding) provides an insight into the interviewer's proficiency.

Other topics of the event included a look at the fundamental processes of MI and feedback and self-assessment. He utilized a DVD clip to demonstrate the interviewer's need to recognize ambiguity and autonomy. In the clip, viewers observed a man choosing not to participate in chemotherapy despite a cancer diagnosis. The man's family wants him to undergo the procedure, despite his terminal prognosis. They tell him that he "has no choice" and that "he has to do this." He responds that, although he has no say in the outcome he does have a say in how the process will play out.

Mr. Anderson compared our use of MI to the scenario depicted on the DVD clip. Despite our temptation to tell the client "you have to do this" or "you have no choice" the offender always maintains autonomy, and will always maintain the ability to choose.

District Administrator Shannon Kimsey (D-27) was a participant in the class, and she enjoyed the "engaging" environment that Anderson created in the classroom. "I thought he had us all engaged throughout the training," she said. "I felt like he was really there with us, and not talking above us or below us. He spoke on our level." She has been able to see the improvement in her use of MI since her participation in the training. "It brought my abilities into focus and enabled me to say to myself 'that's a better way to ask that question.' It has allowed me to be more specific about the way I ask questions."

## Dreams to Reality

The mission of Dreams to Reality is to help low-income women of Missouri meet their employment goals and build self-confidence by providing appropriate interview and business apparel, motivation and follow-up support.

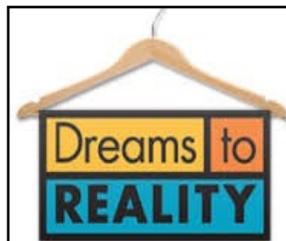
Clients may include women who:

- Live in an area of Missouri where no other similar organization exists.
- She qualifies as low-income as defined by the referring agency.
- The woman is actively seeking employment.

If you believe you have a releasing offender that will qualify, please contact a referring agency and request their services and a referral to Dreams to Reality.

Here are just a few of our referring agencies:

- Department of Corrections
- Board of Probation and Parole
- Pathways
- Rape and Abuse Crisis Service
- Samaritan Center
- Vocational Rehab
- MO Women's Council
- Workforce Development



For a complete list of Referring Agencies please visit Dream to Reality website at [dreastoreality-jc.org](http://dreastoreality-jc.org) or contact our office at 573-681-9675.

## Up-Coming Events

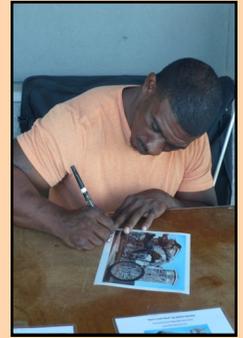
### 2014 Missouri Reentry Conference

Dates: November 19-21, 2014  
The Lodge of the Four Seasons  
Lake Ozark, MO

Please provide any upcoming events to your designated Reentry Coordinator or the Reentry Unit.

## 2014 Bikers for Reentry

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Cape Girardeau area reentry team, which serves District 22 (Cape Girardeau, Perry, and Bollinger Counties), held its Bikers for Reentry bike run and bike show at Lawless Harley-Davidson. Partnering agencies organizing the event, in addition to District 22, where US Probation, Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri, Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation, United Way of Southeast Missouri, and Community Caring Council. Over 40 bikers registered for the run on the hottest day of the summer of 2014, which took them on a tour of landmarks across all three counties of the district. Many other people attended to view the bikes, socialize, and enjoy music from *Stronghold* and *Called*, as well as the free food, door prizes, raffles, and 50/50 drawing. In all, the event raised over \$3000, which will be used to fund incidental expenses for local Probation and Parole clients needing assistance with ID cards, birth certificates, work uniforms, transportation, etc. Funds will be managed and disbursed by the Community Caring Council. Sponsors and donors included many local not-for-profits; service providers; businesses; churches and faith-based groups; musicians; and state, federal, and private probation agencies. Overall the event was a great success and next year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bikers for Reentry is already being planned! Visit [www.bikers4reentry.org](http://www.bikers4reentry.org) for more information.



## Need help paying for medications?

Prescription Drug Assistance Program helps individuals nationwide who find it difficult to afford their costly medicines gain access to them through Patient Assistance Program (PAP).

PAP are programs offered by major pharmaceutical companies which disburse prescription drugs in the United States. In essence, these programs offer free brand name drugs to people who do not have adequate healthcare coverage. Because each pharmaceutical company has different procedures or acceptance, it is extremely difficult for the average American citizen to complete the required paperwork with a high degree of accuracy. Because of the paperwork hassle, many American citizens fail to qualify for the medication. That is where the Patient Advocates at Regional Healthcare Foundation (RHF) become involved.

Patient Advocates use a sophisticated software program that helps ensure each client is properly enrolled in the prescription assistance programs to receive their medications from the pharmaceutical companies. RHF is a service driven non-profit foundation whose vision is "healthy people living in healthy communities".

Now the question: "How do I apply?"

You can print the necessary applications and forms at the Regional Healthcare Foundation website [www.regionalhf.org](http://www.regionalhf.org). Once you have reviewed, printed and completed the necessary forms you can mail them to Regional Healthcare Foundation, 215 W. Grant Dexter, MO 63241.



# Did you know?

In the past year the  
Reentry Unit  
has processed:

3,898 Missouri birth certificate  
applications

1,537 out-of-state birth  
certificates

1,115 Missouri State ID's

2,337 replacement  
Social Security Cards

892 pre-release Medicaid  
applications

The Reentry Unit is in the initial phase of creating a formal agreement with Social Security Administration concerning pre-release application for Social Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). More details about these services will be provided in future FLASH publications.

Please continue to send the Reentry Unit idea and/or articles you would like to have considered for upcoming FLASH publications.

“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.”

~ Helen Keller~