

**OFFICE OF
REENTRY**

Randy Focken

Director Office of Reentry

573-291-7997

randy.focken@doc.mo.gov

Dena Sikoutris

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

Annie Herman

Reentry Coordinator

Restorative Justice

Annie.herman@doc.mo.gov

573-526-6502

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

~John F. Kennedy~

MRP FLASH

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 13

APRIL 2017

Corizon Launches New and Improved Reentry Website

First launched in June 2011 as a coordinated effort between the Missouri Department of Corrections and Corizon, the Missouri reentry website was the first state-specific offender reentry website. Over the past six years, the website has continued to evolve with the newest enhancements going live in early 2017. The website has a number of unique and innovative features which allows the offender or those assisting the offender with transition planning to maximize the “reentry vetted” resources housed within this robust repository to create an individualized, offender specific plan.

The new enhancements include the ability to create individualized reentry plans, choose from 50 language translations and maximize resourcing with one click icons to include a mapping, website and ‘favorite’ icon located next to each resource. These, along with the enhanced geo-search feature are just

a few of the recent innovations that have been added to the website.

The website is composed of thirteen resources areas of fully vetted reentry resources including: crisis counseling/assistance, dental care, education and job training, employment resources, faith-based organizations, food and clothing, housing/shelter, medical/health care, mental health, social services, transportation, and Veterans services with the abil-

ity to expand these categories as needed.

A power point presentation featuring a tutorial on the enhancements and plan making is attached.

We encourage you to contact our Missouri website coordinator, Azell Amsinger Banoza with any additional reentry resources to be added to the site at

Azell.Banoza@doc.mo.gov

or

Azell.Amsinger@CorizonHealth.com



Find MRP on the web at www.doc.mo.gov



OCC recently held a Reentry Simulation exercise coordinated by Gateway contract employee Brian Barkhoff. The simulation was assisted by drug treatment program counselors and OCC Probation and Parole staff. Approximately 100 offenders, in two separate sessions of 50 offenders, assumed the identity of an ex-offender and performed tasks in four, 15-minute sessions with each session representing a week. By the end of this two-hour, eye-opening activity, participants had simulated a month in the life of someone released from prison. Participants encountered the same challenges faced by many released offenders as they tried to complete their court-ordered obligations, as well as maintain their day-to-day lives. This simulation suggested that ultimately, the ability to navigate “the system” may be a primary factor in the relationship between resiliency and recidivism. At times during the simulation, the Recreation Gym at OCC looked like a reality show version of the games Monopoly or Life, with offenders scurrying to meet obligations and avoid lines. Upon completion of the last session, discussion was held between offenders and staff, pointing out the numbers of offenders in the halfway house, jail, and homeless shelter, with approximately 20 percent of offenders remaining in the successful group. Offenders were asked to raise their hands if they had put more effort into the simulation than they had into their own success the last time they were released. Approximately 75 percent of them indicated they had put more effort into the simulation. Offenders were encouraged to continue to process their experience in their weekly small group discussions. The Reentry Simulation appeared to be very successful for the staff and offenders involved. In the picture, OCC offenders and staff members take a break between their 15-minute simulation sessions.

New recognition events will welcome

new hires to DOC team



In response to a request from MDOC Director Anne Precythe, the Training Academy has begun holding recognition ceremonies to celebrate the completion by new staff of their PreService training requirement. As the PreService training requirements for MDOC staff differ based on the positions they hold and the places they work, the Regional Training Centers (CRTC-Jefferson City, ERTC-Farmington and WRTC-St. Joseph) will be providing recognition ceremonies at the end of each phase of new staff training.

This means that some staff may be recognized at the completion of MDOC Basic Training (Week #1 at the regional training center); some at the completion of Institutional Basic Training (Week #2 at the regional training center); or the completion of Hard Skills Basic training (Week #4 at the regional training center). Probation and Parole officers and some others from that division will be recognized at the completion of their Initial Pre-Service Training, which is typically held at the Training Academy in Jefferson City.

According to Chief of Staff Training Jim Wiseman, the Academy has received an amazing response from the department’s divisional leadership by attending these ceremonies and promoting the accomplishment of this training milestone. “As we begin to show these new staff members how much their leadership cares about them and their success in this way, we are cementing a link between learning and performance. We have already had a few of these recognition ceremonies and what I have already seen has been very promising. I have seen Wardens, Deputy Wardens, District Administrators and Chiefs of Custody interacting with our new staff. We know that communicating with one another in this manner will help create and maintain a healthy work culture.”

This is evidenced by recent recognition events when we ended a COI Basic class in the western region that had both WRDCC Warden Ryan Crews and Major Christopher Brewer in attendance; and in the eastern region ERDCC Assistant Warden Teri Lawson attended.

These recognition ceremonies will mark the completion of the newly hired staff members’ basic and pre-service training. In accordance with Director Precythe’s instructions, MDOC staff who are issued a badge in relation to their duties (Corrections Officers, Probation and Parole officers, etc.) will be issued their departmental badges during this recognition ceremony.

“This is just the beginning of what the National Institute of Corrections has identified as ‘Learning and Performance’. Learning just doesn't take place in our classrooms. The majority of learning takes place after our staff leave the classroom. They need to know they have the support of their leadership and that their leadership understands and supports what is being taught in the classroom. This is very important to me and something I believe that will have a huge impact on this agency,” Wiseman concluded.



MRP
Missouri Reentry Process

Offenders facing Homelessness

Offenders often face a multitude of challenges upon their release from incarceration. A place to call home is often at the top of the list. However, a new coordinated entry system designed to more effectively and efficiently deliver homeless services to our most vulnerable, including released offenders, is expected to have significant positive impact on homelessness as well as other challenges, including recidivism.

The Coordinated Entry Network Initiative (CENI) streamlines access to homeless services by connecting service providers to a regional single point of contact.

For example, during the normal course of program administration, departments such as Corrections, Health, Mental Health and Social Services are often presented with the reality of homelessness, or risk of homelessness, for the families and individuals they serve. Identifying and connecting these families and individuals to private sector homeless service providers that can assist is sometimes a daunting task, particularly in the rural areas.

In his formal written statement to members of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Dr. Ben Carson wrote:

In order to provide access to quality housing for the elderly, disabled, and low-income we need to work across silos

CENI is specifically designed to do just that. By bringing agencies and private sector service providers together through a single point of contact coordinated entry system, homeless services will now be delivered more effectively and efficiently than ever.

Currently, the CENI model is operating in 18 counties. The single point of contact for these counties is noted below:

Brandi Sutherland, Ozark Action, Inc., (844-554-6635): Laclede, Douglas, Ozark, Howell, Texas, Wright, Dent, Shannon, and Oregon

Roxanna Parker, Pettis County Community Partnership, (660-287-2228): Cass, Bates, Lafayette, Johnson, Henry, St. Clair, Saline, Pettis and Benton

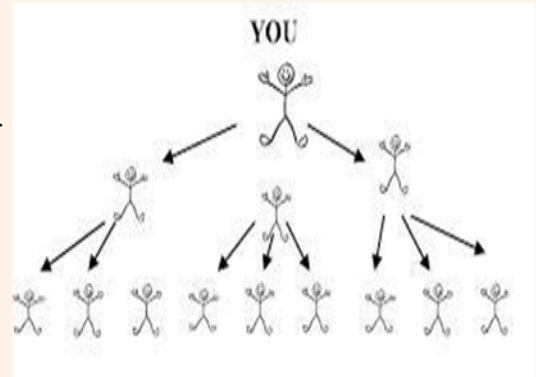


Offenders at Moberly Correctional Center Pay It Forward

Over 5 years ago DOC staff were challenged by George Lombardi with the task of engineering ways to assist offenders to learn the importance of helping others. With some creativity, talent and leadership, the Pay It Forward group began. The development and maintenance of the Pay it Forward group has taken a interdepartmental cooperation effort like no other. All departments at Moberly Correctional Center work together to ensure that this group is successful. The group got it's name is from the book and movie called Pay It Forward whose original premise was to help three people in a significant way while asking nothing in return except that each recipient help three other people.

Offenders at Moberly Correctional Center Pay It Forward

Over 5 years ago DOC staff were challenged by George Lombardi with the task of engineering ways to assist offenders to learn the importance of helping others. With some creativity, talent and leadership, the Pay It Forward group began. The development and maintenance of the Pay it Forward group has taken a interdepartmental cooperation effort like no other. All departments at Moberly Correctional Center work together to ensure that this group is successful. The group got it's name is from the book and movie called Pay It Forward whose original premise was to help three people in a significant way while asking nothing in return except that each recipient help three other people.



The Pay It Forward group at MCC is designed for offenders to help other offenders through three on- going Pay it Forward Outreach groups, each targeting a specific offender population: severely mentally ill, the new and youthful and the chronically/terminally ill. The Pay It Forward members agree to donate 4 hours of volunteer time per month with these groups in addition to attending a weekly character development class. This group also sings Christmas Carols at Christmas time to lift spirits, hosts a talent show to boost morale and a Veterans Day program to honor those who served and they make cards for educational and vocational graduates. Each year they also pick a community outreach to support, making hats and scarves and partnering with Restorative Justice to make other items. The Pay It Forward group does so many good things. To be a member it requires a lot of heart and the sacrifice of time. The following are two testimonials from current Pay It Forward members:

"My name is Jay Steinle. I have been in the Pay It Forward group for several years. In that time, I have been involved in all of our outreaches: Positive Socialization Outreach, New and Youthful Offender and the Infirmary Group. The Positive Socialization Outreach has been difficult for me at times because it required me to interact with people that are different than I am, However, that is a small price to pay to see the faces of the ones we are helping and to see their excitement when they see one of us. The New and youthful Offender group his on a personal challenge for me: To speak to a group of people that I have never seen and not knowing how they will respond. I now know it is possible to speak publicly and not have an irrational fear of being rejected, even when things don't go perfectly. I am new to the infirmary group. The first time I went to the infirmary, I met a guy that has having some pretty severe health issues and was feeling alone, isolated and abandoned. I was only able to a spend a couple hours with him but in that short time we both had the opportunity to share lots of things. When it was time for me to leave his attitude had changed. He was no longer depressed and seemed to have found some peace. He told me that he wanted me to know much much he appreciated someone to take the time to just spend time with him and listen. All of our groups do different things for me and others. The biggest change that Pay It Forward has done for me is to allow me to let down the protective walls to show what is really in my heart."

"Hello my name is Benjamin Delinger. I am now in my second cycle of Pay It Forward. I take part in the Positive Socialization Outreach and the New and Youthful Offenders. I look forward to these times to interact with them. When I take time out of my day to give back, I feel better about myself when I am helping others. By taking part in Pay It Forward I have learned empathy, responsibility, patience and the need for human connection. Being in prison is dehumanizing but being part of Pay It Forward gives me back some of my humanity."

The very nature of crime is selfish, self-focused, all about what feels good or looks good in the moment without regards to consequence. Pay It Forward challenges this way of thinking by educating its members on their impact on the world, identifying how each choice has a ripple effect. Implementing this type of program in a prison society can be very difficult because it goes against the grain of criminality, however the pay-offs have been great. Pay It Forward has actually changed many offenders, helping them to see the bigger picture, learning that placing the needs of others in front of their own is a noble cause. No matter what their crime is, no matter where their past took them, offenders can see that going forward they have the power to be part of the positive ripple effect in this world.

April 28th is International Pay It Forward Day, a day set aside to remind the world that kindness is the greatest currency and we should be "spending" it daily to impact the lives of others. Think about this for a second: if You started the Pay It Forward ripple effect today imagine how many people will be touched by the time you go to sleep tonight! Each and every person has the ability to start this ripple effect at any time, but how many of us actually will? Pay It Forward all starts with YOU.

The Pay It Forward group at MCC is designed for offenders to help other offenders through three on- going Pay it Forward Outreach groups, each targeting a specific offender population: severely mentally ill, the new and youthful and the chronically/terminally ill. The Pay It Forward members agree to donate 4 hours of volunteer time per month with these groups in addition to attending a weekly character development class. This group also sings Christmas Carols at Christmas time to lift spirits, hosts a talent show to boost morale and a Veterans Day program to honor those who served and they make cards for educational and vocational graduates. Each year they also pick a community outreach to support, making hats and scarves and partnering with Restorative Justice to make other items. The Pay It Forward group does so many good things. To be a member it requires a lot of heart and the sacrifice of time. The following are two testimonials from current Pay It Forward members:

"My name is Jay Steinle. I have been in the Pay It Forward group for several years. In that time, I have been involved in all of our outreaches: Positive Socialization Outreach, New and Youthful Offender and the Infirmary Group. The Positive Socialization Outreach has been difficult for me at times because it required me to interact with people that are different than I am, However, that is a small price to pay to see the faces of the ones we are helping and to see their excitement when they see one of us. The New and youthful Offender group his on a personal challenge for me: To speak to a group of people that I have never seen and not knowing how they will respond. I now know it is possible to speak publicly and not have an irrational fear of being rejected, even when things don't go perfectly. I am new to the infirmary group. The first time I went to the infirmary, I met a guy that has having some pretty severe health issues and was feeling alone, isolated and abandoned. I was only able to a spend a couple hours with him but in that short time we both had the opportunity to share lots of things. When it was time for me to leave his attitude had changed. He was no longer depressed and seemed to have found some peace. He told me that he wanted me to know much much he appreciated someone to take the time to just spend time with him and listen. All of our groups do different things for me and others. The biggest change that Pay It Forward has done for me is to allow me to let down the protective walls to show what is really in my heart."

"Hello my name is Benjamin Delinger. I am now in my second cycle of Pay It Forward. I take part in the Positive Socialization Outreach and the New and Youthful Offenders. I look forward to these times to interact with them. When I take time out of my day to give back, I feel better about myself when I am helping others. By taking part in Pay It Forward I have learned empathy, responsibility, patience and the need for human connection. Being in prison is dehumanizing but being part of Pay It Forward gives me back some of my humanity."

The very nature of crime is selfish, self-focused, all about what feels good or looks good in the moment without regards to consequence. Pay It Forward challenges this way of thinking by educating its members on their impact on the world, identifying how each choice has a ripple effect. Implementing this type of program in a prison society can be very difficult because it goes against the grain of criminality, however the pay-offs have been great. Pay It Forward has actually changed many offenders, helping them to see the bigger picture, learning that placing the needs of others in front of their own is a noble cause. No matter what their crime is, no matter where their past took them, offenders can see that going forward they have the power to be part of the positive ripple effect in this world.

April 28th is International Pay It Forward Day, a day set aside to remind the world that kindness is the greatest currency and we should be "spending" it daily to impact the lives of others. Think about this for a second: if You started the Pay It Forward ripple effect today imagine how many people will be touched by the time you go to sleep tonight! Each and every person has the ability to start this ripple effect at any time, but how many of us actually will? Pay It Forward all starts with YOU.

