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Somehow, a scrubbed house spells a fresh start.

~ Sheherazade Goldsmith ~

Community

What is a Community Partnership and Why should I care? These questions are often posed to us who work in this initiative. I have been involved in this work with our Community Partnerships since 1999 and know first-hand the difficulty in articulating exactly what we do. First and foremost, our work is about improving the lives of children and families in our state from the perspective of those who know it best -- our communities.

It was that kind of thinking that was at the root of the development of what is now 20 well-respected Community Partnerships located all over Missouri. At its core was the idea to engage communities in a process with private and public sectors to drive a *different* conversation about what works best to improve the lives of our children and families.

To begin those conversations at the community level, ones that connect all sectors of the community, a structure or system was needed to focus on that work. From that grew the idea of Community Partnerships, which would target several core result areas that would have the most impact on children and families. This required a philosophical change in the way we worked. It meant that com-

munities and their understanding of what their needs and their assets were would drive the dialogue. It would also take support from the highest level of state government and civic/business leadership across our state.

That support grew and an organization now known as The Family and Community Trust (FACT) was established by executive order to guide this effort in our state. FACT and 20 Community Partnerships, would collaborate to transform the way government and communities interact and work on behalf its children and families.

The Department of Corrections has been part of the FACT family from its inception. It became clear that ReEntry and helping those exiting our prisons transition successfully back into our communities would be key to their work with FACT and the Community Partnerships. All 20 of our organizations are involved in the Missouri Reentry Process on some level. Often they are at the center of local MRP teams, keeping the community focused on this important work. But they have done much more than that. They have



convened communities by hosting local conferences on ReEntry and have supported a statewide conference on ReEntry for the past 10 years. These organizations requested grant funding to support local efforts; volunteered to help understand the dynamic of children with incarcerated parents; setup opportunity centers for ex-offenders to help in their transition; and helped find housing, jobs, medical, dental and mental healthcare for those transitioning out of prison. They are doing what our Community Partnerships do best: step up when and where they are needed.

I encourage you to get to know a Community Partnership near you. You can find them on our website at www.mofact.org. FACT will celebrate its 25th Anniversary in 2018.

Bill Dent
Executive Director
The Family and Community Trust

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

Trainer's Travels



Staff from the Training Academy and training regions attended the Reentry Conference in November and took advantage of opportunities to network with department staff and community partners who were there. CRTC Training Officer Shelly Graf enjoyed the MRP Conference which was her first. "I was very impressed with the panel discussion that included a prior offender and loved his suggestions on working with family towards reentry," Graf says. She also was a presenter at this year's conference, presenting on Vicarious Trauma. Her thoughtful program was presented to a standing-room-only crowd who turned out. "I was pleasantly surprised to see the turnout for my presentation. I was originally concerned that being a ReEntry conference that people may believe there was no correlation with a discussion about staff and the trauma they suffer on the job. I appreciated the committees willingness to allow me to present this topic and show the connection to reentry for offenders. I enjoyed the opportunity and the feedback for attendees was positive." The department's new computer-based reentry simulation was released during one session at the conference by the Academy's David Nelson and Steven Medrow. The work on this project took the personally-immersive scenario from an in-person activity to the online, digital world. This transformation will allow technology to bring the scenario into the workplace as an activity that can be completed individually. Jim Wiseman, Chief of Staff Training, is appreciative of the fact the department was able to have the Academy so well represented at the event. "We weave the themes and benefits of reentry into every curriculum that we write, and encourage our training officers to keep the reentry perspective in mind as they present each of their classes. It is by attending and participating in events like our reentry conference that we are able to keep their skills second to none." Jason Royle (ERTC) is a department veteran who recently promoted to Training Officer at the Eastern Region Training Center in Farmington. He commented on the many benefits of attending the conference and the insights it provided for him about the department's reentry efforts. "If my mind could be viewed as a news feed it would read *'Corrections Officers, the missing link in MRP!* I truly was excited to attend this conference, coming from a custody background I felt I understood the idea but lacked any training to fill in the gaps. During the conference I became refreshingly aware of a role I could have been participating in my whole career. I am sure, myself and many others had been utilizing some of these same concepts without calling it MRP, however unaware of the positive impact. Listening to the speakers at the conference was like having explosions of new ideas and also creating a deep desire to share what I now come to feel is the CORE of Corrections. I have since taught my first MRP Basic class to new DOC employees. Understanding that MRP is everyone's role, and I can't help but realize the struggle Corrections Officers face, I know there are some personal barriers for them to overcome. I believe more face time takes place between Corrections Officers and Offenders than any other staff, which indicates more opportunity."

David Nelson, MS, Reentry Training Manager

Missouri Department of Corrections Training Academy

USE THE K DRIVE

The K-Drive folder "[MRP](#)" (click on MRP to open folder) has been updated to include all reentry topics, projects, forms and manuals. Historically, both the K-Drive and the DOC Intranet have been points of reference for all MRP-related topics; however, now the K-Drive will be the only accurate point of reference. IT is working with the Reentry Unit to fix the information on the DOC Intranet, but until that process is completed the K-Drive will serve as the only source of accurate, MRP information. All the information is up-to-date and current. In an attempt to make the "MRP" folder user-friendly, the information has been placed in files with appropriate titles. The files in the "MRP" folder on the K-Drive include: Community Resources, Department of Revenue Non-Drivers ID, Education and Vocational Training, Employment, Missouri Birth Certificates, MRP Flash Newsletter, Out of State Birth Certificates, Restorative Justice, Social Security Replacement Cards, and Veterans, etc. The information will be updated on a regular basis to keep staff informed of all updates, changes and deletions. Please watch the MRP Flash to see what files have been updated each quarter.

**Congratulations on
your retirement,
Jeananne.
We wish
you well.**



Warming up the Community

District 11 staff discovered a large number of clients did not have winter coats and decided to team up with their local MRP Community Reentry Team to host the 1st annual Winter Warm Up coat, hat and glove drive. This would allow the office to keep some winter coats on hand and donate the remainder to The Salvation Army. Donation boxes were placed within the community of Phelps County at community partners: Phelps County Courthouse, Phelps County Sheriff's Department, Missouri Career Center, Pathways Behavioral Health, Vocational Rehabilitation, Phelps County Children's Division/Family Services, First State Community Bank and the District 11 Probation and Parole office. A total of 150 items, over 100 coats, were collected in about a two week period!



Pre-Release SSI/SSDI Applications

Pre-Release SSI/SSDI Applications

Department of Corrections (DOC) partnered with Social Security Administration (SSA) to implement and enhance the pre-release Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application or reinstatement process. This process allows DOC and SSA staff to assist offenders in applying for benefits prior to release. The process can also assist offenders with having benefits reinstated upon release. An application filed before release allows SSA to make a determination based on what the situation will be after the offender is released. This promotes maintaining a continuity of care by allowing eligible individuals to receive payments shortly after they reenter the community.

The main difference between SSDI and SSI is the fact that SSDI is available to workers who have accumulated a sufficient number of work credits, while SSI benefits are available to low income individuals who have either never worked or who have not earned enough work credits to qualify for SSDI. Although they are two completely different government pro-

grams, both are overseen and managed by the Social Security Administration and medical eligibility is determined in the same manner for both programs.

The 120 day pre-release list that is currently being used for pre-release Medicaid applications will also be used to screen offenders for SSI/SSDI applications. Social Security pays disability benefits to insured individuals who are unable to work because of a serious medical condition that is expected to last at least a year or result in death.

In the near future, DOC and Corizon staff will be contacted about scheduling training for this process. The training will either be in person or by teleconference.



Missouri Veterans

The Missouri Veteran Reentry Program was developed and launched in October 2015. The primary mission of the program is to assist veterans, who are incarcerated with the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC), to prepare them for reentry back to society and once released, to assist them in a smooth and timely transition back into the workforce. The DVOP (Disabled Veteran Outreach Program) Specialists will work with the veterans one-on-one to provide them the tools they need to obtain and retain employment so they can successfully reintegrate back into society.

The program consists of three phases: Veteran Court, Pre-Release, Post Release.

Phase one (Veteran Court) works to prevent veterans from entering the correctional institutions or decreasing the amount of time that they spend in the correctional institution. The DVOP's work with the judges and prosecuting attorneys is to develop a plan where the veteran obtains employment so they can overcome the barriers they are facing. This is accomplished by conducting an assessment and referring the veteran to the appropriate services so they can resolve the underlying issues that they are facing.

Phase two (Pre-Release), DVOP's provide services to veterans while they are incarcerated and work to give them the tools and resources so they have the skills to enter the workforce. The DVOP's also case manage these veterans and track their progress so when they are released they will have a smooth transition into the civilian workforce.

Phase three (Post Release), DVOP's work with the released veteran to provide them placement services. The LVER (Local Veteran Employment Representative) will work with employers to advocate on the veteran's behalf to find suitable employment for the veteran. The veteran will continue to be case managed so their progress can be tracked.

Our hope is that this program will decrease the recidivism rate among veterans who are released from Missouri's correctional institutions. For more information regarding this program please contact Robert Ruble at Robert.ruble@ded.mo.gov.



Heartland Recovery Resource Center invites you to their **“Love from the Heartland Bowling Fundraiser”**. Heartland Recovery Resource Center is a non-profit organization that offers support resources to the individual, family and community. Deadline is February 21st. Please fill out [form](#) (click on form and send along with payment to:

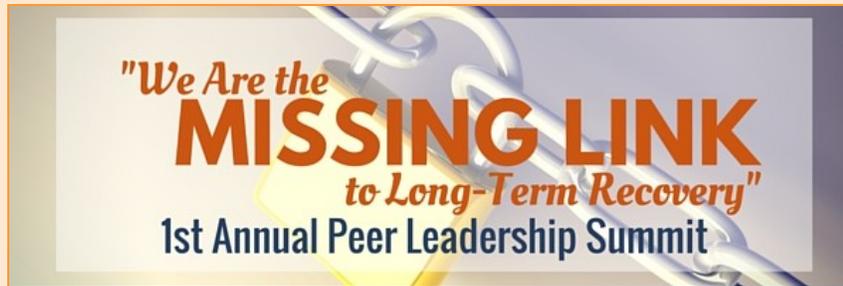
Heartland Recovery Resource Center
515 S. Kentucky Sedalia, MO. 65301

For more information please contact:
Claudia Kays—660-202-9619 or
Kathy Wilson—660-287-2579

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



Click on [2016 Missouri Housing Summit Attendee Registration Form](#) to register.



The Missouri Recovery Network is excited to announce that we will be hosting the first annual Peer Leadership Summit March 18, 2016, at the [Lodge of Four Seasons](#) at the Lake of the Ozarks. Please click here [Peer Leadership Summit March 2016](#) for registration information.



Click on [Conference Registration Form](#)
MADCP 18th Annual Drug Court Training Conference
April 4-6, 2016 @ Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO

Although no one can go back & make a brand new start, Anyone can start from now & make a brand new Ending.
~Carl Bard~

