

**Ohio**

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

# “Volunteers Making A Difference”



## HB 113 Annual Report October 2013

John R. Kasich, Governor

Gary C. Mohr, Director

# **MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR GARY MOHR**



The 127<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 113 in May, 2008. The legislation requires the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) to collaborate with representatives of all nonprofit, faith-based, business, professional, civic, education and community organizations to provide reentry services to offenders.

HB 113 prohibits DRC from endorsing or sponsoring any faith-based reentry program, endorsing any specific religious message or requiring offenders to participate in faith-based program.

HB 113 also requires DRC to provide an Annual Report to demonstrate progress in meeting the 16 recommendations from the Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force. Since the passage of the HB 113, DRC has successfully implemented all of the recommendations of the Task Force.

We are fortunate to have many organizations and individuals provide various programs and services to offenders and ex-offenders. For the past 5 years, their dedication and resources have been instrumental in addressing the four major areas of the Task Force: alternatives to incarceration, prison programming, reentry programming, and prison infrastructure.

We trust that you will find this report informative and evidence of the agency's compliance with the committee's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary C. Mohr". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary C. Mohr  
Director

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# Recommendations

As stated in the **Correctional Faith-Based Initiatives Task Force Report**

**Recommendation 1:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should be encouraged, wherever practical, to utilize faith-based and community programs that address documented criminogenic needs. The agencies, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, should make available to the faith community examples of evidence-based programming that has been shown to impact offenders' lives.

**Recommendation 2:** Directors of the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Service should work with wardens and superintendents to develop programs that will facilitate a cultural change in institutions to encourage collaboration with faith-based and community service providers.

**Recommendation 3:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should develop a marketing plan to assist in recruiting volunteers from the community and faith-based institutions. The plan should also discuss educating volunteers about the justice system.

**Recommendation 4:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should develop a standard training program for staff, volunteers, and the community to facilitate working in institutions together. The program should include information on:

- Ethics of working with offenders.
- Confidentiality issues.
- Ensuring safety and security of volunteers.
- Working with volunteers.
- Rules and regulations for volunteers.

**Recommendation 5:** Revise Ohio law to remove unnecessary and unreasonable collateral sanctions which inhibit offenders' successful reentry.

**Recommendation 6:** Improvement should be made in the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Service with regard to communication about programs and services between staff and volunteers; staff and the community; and other parts of the criminal justice system and the community.

**Recommendation 7:** Revise statutes to increase judicial use of community options for non-violent offenders so prison space can be reserved for violent offenders.

**Recommendation 8:** Encourage faith-based and community programs to supplement existing community and diversionary programs for offenders and provide services that are not currently available.

# Recommendations (continued)

**Recommendation 9:** State agencies need to take a more active role in linking with the faith-based community to develop programs to meet the gaps in services to adult and juvenile offenders.

**Recommendation 10:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction, Youth Services and Job and Family Services should, in partnership, expand efforts to work with the employment centers and faith community to increase practical employment opportunities for offenders in the community. A job placement program should be implemented, focusing on the following:

- Providing information on job fairs to ex-offenders.
- Education of business/employers on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders.
- Incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders (i.e., tax breaks).
- Increased involvement of faith-based and community groups.

**Recommendation 11:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should work with the faith community and faith volunteers to develop and expand programs within the institutions such as:

- Life skills.
- Financial management and budgeting.
- Personal hygiene.
- Family programs, including:
  - Family and community-based orientation.
  - Family mediation.
  - Family education and orientation programs.
  - Transportation and video conference for visitation.
  - Parenting.

**Recommendation 12:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should expand partnerships with national organizations including faith-based and community organizations to provide programming in state institutions.

**Recommendation 13:** The departments of departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should involve the faith community, when appropriate, in the development of release plans for the offender that flow from the institution to community reentry.

**Recommendation 14:** Develop methods to increase and encourage the involvement of the faith community in various reentry efforts, and to encourage collaboration among faith groups.

**Recommendation 15:** To address housing issues, the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services should inform offenders of various options before leaving prison or immediately upon release. This could be accomplished through seminars, with free legal or consultation services, along with the increased involvement of the faith community.

# Recommendations (continued)

**Recommendation 16:** The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services will partner with grassroots and community organizations in an educational effort towards the general public aimed at decreasing the negative stigma of ex-offenders and making the public aware of the needs involved in the process of reentry.



## Recommendation 1

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should be encouraged, wherever practical, to utilize faith-based and community programs that address documented criminogenic needs. The agencies, in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, should make available to the faith community examples of evidence-based programming that has been shown to impact offenders' lives.

DRC utilizes faith-based and community organizations to facilitate programs that meet criminogenic needs, such as employment readiness, marital/family support, social interaction, substance abuse, community functioning, personal development and attitude.

These programs are available throughout the agency, and specifically in the Faith-Based Housing Units, Reintegration Centers and Offender Network for Employment (O.N.E.) Stop Centers.

All of the specialized housing unit programs and employment centers are designed to meet criminogenic needs. The program curriculums consist of evidence based programs, mentoring sessions, community service projects, job readiness, life skill classes and other meaningful activities to develop pro-social and productive decision making skills.

AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to American (VISTA), Prison Fellowship, Horizon Prison Ministry, Ridge Project, Kindway Embark, Dr. Steve Hawley's Personal Achievement thru Choices Empowering Re-engagement Program, Pastor Frank & Stacie Johnson's Family is First Unification Program, Ohio Reentry Coalitions, Hispanic Urban Minority Drug and Alcohol Outreach, Goodwill/Easter Seals, Urban Minority Alcohol, Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADOP), Clark County Life Skills Reentry Program and Gem Leadership Development Program are a few of the organizations making a difference in DRC by providing programs addressing criminogenic needs.



## Recommendation 2

Directors of the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should work with wardens and superintendents to develop programs that will facilitate a cultural change in institutions to encourage collaboration with faith-based and community service providers.

DRC utilizes faith-based and community service volunteers to provide programs and activities that impact the daily lives of offenders and the culture of the prisons. Kairos Prison Ministry International is one of the programs facilitated throughout DRC. With the support of volunteers,

Kairos serves as a change agent in the lives of incarcerated offenders, their families and the culture of the prison. They are consistently recruiting volunteers to meet the needs of the organization. Kairos largest volunteer base is currently at Toledo Correctional Institution. They have over 180 volunteers participating in Kairos programs at this facility.

In addition to the Kairos Inside programs, the organization also facilitates Kairos Torch and Kairos Outside. Kairos Torch is a mentoring ministry for offenders age 25 and under. The volunteers address all facet of the youthful offenders' life including mental health, socialization and decision making. Kairos Outside provides support for women impacted by incarceration. This program provides a safe place, unconditional love, spiritual growth and support groups to meet the challenges faced by these individuals.

Bill Glass Prison Ministry, Sun Reign Ministry, Epiphany Celebrations, Alpha Programs, Catholic Services, Buddhist Services, Islamic Services, Spanish Language Services, The City Mission, Jewish Services and numerous other Chapel programs are made available to the offender population. These programs consist of dedicated local and national volunteers providing hope, encouragement and opportunities for change through faith-based programs.

In addition to the faith-based organizations, volunteers are actively engage in community services, victim awareness programs, recovery services, tutoring programs and recreational programs at each prison. These activities, events and programs create an environment that supports rehabilitation and reduce the amount of idleness in a prison operation. A few examples of these programs are listed below:

- Several prisons held family non-denominational worship services. Approved visitors were permitted to attend services with their incarcerated loved ones. Trumbull Correctional held their first family worship service on March 3, 2013. Twenty-five offenders and sixty-five visitors attended the service.
- Belmont Correctional Institution partnered with Zane State College and The Ridge Project to provide a certificate welding program to the offenders at the institution. This program provides welding safety requirements and Metal Inert Gas (MIG) welding training.
- Volunteers from the Columbus chapter of "Dress for Success" held an Empowerment Fashion Show at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Clothing was donated by local vendors.
- Lorain Correctional Institution collaborated with the Lorain County Beekeeping Association to develop a program to teach the art and science of beekeeping.
- Numerous volunteers are involved in Community Service Dog Programs throughout DRC. These programs include K-9, Pilot Dogs, Circle Tails, Pure Breed, Berea Animal Rescue, Under the Wing and Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. Because of the numerous hours of care and training provided, offenders can receive an animal training apprenticeship.
- Victim Services volunteers facilitate Victim Awareness Programs throughout the agency, to include Adult Parole Authority Regions, Halfway Houses, Community Based Correctional Facilities and Probation Departments. These programs enhance an offender's understanding of the pain and suffering their actions have on victims and the community.

- Volunteers assist with musical choirs, poetry classes, art classes, tutoring, recreational events and other meaningful activities throughout DRC. One of those choirs, under the direction of Dr. Katherine Roma, won several golden diploma level awards during the World Choir Games in 2012. The Umoja Choir from Warren Correctional Institution received this prestigious recognition. Dr. Katherine Roma also directs the Ubuntu Choir at Madison Correctional Institution.
- The Recovery Services Department at Franklin Medical Center has a long standing working relationship with Columbus-Franklin County 12 Step Community. Volunteers provided 79 Alcoholic Anonymous meetings, 60 Cocaine Anonymous and 2 Narcotic Anonymous meetings for the offender population.
- The Gavel Club is a program provided by volunteers at Lake Erie Correctional Institution. It is a forum in which to gain confidence and skill in oral communication and community involvement.

An extensive list of faith-based volunteers and organizations facilitating religious services throughout DRC is provided in the Addendum A.



## Recommendation 3

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should develop a marketing plan to assist in recruiting volunteers from the community and faith-based institutions. The plan should also discuss educating volunteers about the justice system.

DRC Recruitment, Training and Supervision of Volunteer Policy, 71-SOC-01, provides guidelines for volunteers who provide programs or services to offenders. In addition to the policy, the DRC Volunteer Booklet provides information on the Role and Responsibilities of Volunteers, Standard of Conduct, Security Issues and Prison Operations.

The DRC Volunteer webpage is a marketing tool to educate potential volunteers of opportunities to serve the community by assisting offenders with programs and services to aid in the transition back into the community. The webpage is found on [www.drc.ohio.gov](http://www.drc.ohio.gov).

In an effort to assist volunteers in making contact directly to the prisons, the Volunteer Coordinator's contact information is available on each prison's webpage. These individuals can provide specific volunteer information and opportunities for each prison.

Throughout DRC community partners and volunteers participate in Reentry Coalition Quarterly meetings, conferences, community resource fairs and annual volunteer appreciation banquets. .

In January 2013 over 100 community partners and volunteers attended the annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at Grafton Correctional Institution. Events like this one are sponsored by each prison to demonstrate appreciation for the valuable contributions volunteers make to the agency.



## Recommendation 4

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should develop a standard training program for staff, volunteers, and the community to facilitate working in institutions together. The program should include information on:

- Ethics of working with offenders.
- Confidentiality issues.
- Ensuring safety and security of volunteers.
- Working with volunteers.
- Rules and regulations for volunteers.

DRC continues to review and update the Recruitment, Training and Supervision of Volunteer policy, 71-SOC-01. During the most recent review, language was added to define the role of reentry mentors. A reentry mentor is a volunteer who is affiliated with a community organization to assist offenders with community reentry.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 was also added to the list of topics to address with current and future volunteers. All current volunteers are required to complete PREA training by the end of 2014 calendar year.

PREA addresses the problem of sexual abuse of persons in the custody of correctional agencies. DRC has a zero-tolerance for incidence of inmate sexual assault and rape.

Each prison has a volunteer coordinator to ensure a cooperative working relationship exist between volunteers and staff. These individuals are also responsible for volunteers receiving the appropriate training as stated in the 71-SOC-01 policy. The name of each volunteer coordinator is available on the prison's webpage.



## Recommendation 5

Revise Ohio law to remove unnecessary and unreasonable collateral sanctions which inhibit offenders' successful reentry.

A diverse group, including DRC, Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS), Governor's office, legislators, stakeholders and other interested parties, attended forums across the state to develop public policy ideas to assist ex-offenders in obtaining employment opportunities. As a result of

these efforts, SB 337 was signed by Governor John R. Kasich and became law on September 28, 2012. SB 337 is a landmark piece of legislation that addresses collateral sanctions for the 2 million Ohioans who have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. A few of the SB 337 provisions are listed below:

- SB 337 creates a Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) for relieving, on a limited basis, collateral sanctions imposed by law. The CQE lifts the automatic bar of a collateral sanction, leaving an employer free to consider on a case by case basis whether it is appropriate to grant or deny a job opportunity, without being held liable for negligent hiring.
- SB 337 requires the Ohio Optical Dispensers Board, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, the Construction Industry Licensing Board, the Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Licensing Board, and the Director of Public Safety to prohibit the preclusion of individuals from obtaining or renewing licenses, certifications, or permits, due to any past criminal history of the individual, unless the individual had committed a crime of moral turpitude or other specific disqualifying offense.
- SB 337 allows the court discretion in sealing non-support convictions if any individual is current in his or her child support payments.
- SB 337 also modified child support policies to allow Child Support Enforcement Agencies to use actual earning potential for an individual while incarcerated and after being released from prison.
- SB 337 reforms the sealing of adult records allowing for the sealing of one felony and one misdemeanor committed at different time periods, or two misdemeanors so long as they are not for the same offense.



## Recommendation 6

Improvement should be made in Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services with regard to communication about programs and services between staff and volunteers; staff and the community; and other parts of the criminal justice system and the community.

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) continues to function as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across state and local agencies and communities. The collaborations enable state and local agencies to become a partnership in approaching offender programs, treatment, service delivery, and public safety.

Representatives from community-based organizations, service providers, local governments, and individuals interested or involved in the reentry of offenders are invited to participate in Coalition meetings and consulted by the Reentry Coalition during the course of its work.

The OERC, through the DRC, recently launched a Reentry Program Repository. This “first of its kind in Ohio” is intended to be used by service and treatment providers, offenders, agency

personnel at the state, county, and municipal level, advocacy organizations, colleges and universities, and citizens across the state.

Its purpose is to provide timely and easy-to-access information on programs in Ohio that will aid offenders in their successful transition back to their home communities. The Office of Offender Reentry within the DRC oversees the Ohio Reentry Program Repository. Subject Matter Experts have been identified to review program applications submitted through the website at [www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov](http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov).

In addition to the work of the Coalitions, the Justice Reinvestment Officers (JRO) serves as liaisons between the court and DRC. They provide the court with important information pertaining to offender program participation, residential placement options, employment opportunities and valuable information from the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) and other valuable data. The courts utilize this information to determine suitable offenders for judicial release, transitional control, and provisions within House Bill 86.

Additional information regarding the duties and responsibilities of the JRO is available on the Parole and Community Service webpage at [www.drc.ohio.gov/web/parole.htm](http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/parole.htm).



## Recommendation 7

Revise statutes to increase judicial use of community options for non-violent offenders so prison space can be reserved for violent offenders.

On June 29, 2011 House Bill (HB) 86 was signed by Governor John R. Kasich. This legislation contained a number of provisions diverting low-level non-violent offenders to community corrections alternatives. In order to offset the financial impact to local communities, Probation Improvement and Incentive grants were established to assist the Court of Common Pleas Probation Departments. They are administered by the Bureau of Community Sanctions, which administers DRC funded community correction programs.

The number of Community Correction Act programs continues to increase with the support of the Legislative and Executive branches of state government working through the DRC.

In Fiscal Year 2012, Jail Diversion programs diverted the highest number of offenders in the history of the program. A total of 22,178 offenders were placed into these programs.



## Recommendation 8

Encourage faith-based and community programs to supplement existing community and diversionary programs for offenders and provide services that are not currently available.

The Community-Based Correctional Facilities are an alternative to prison incarceration for low level felony offenders and are typically utilized as the last step in the continuum of increasing punishment. Each program is highly structured with assessment, treatment, and follow-up services to reduce future criminal behavior by offenders. Emphasis is on cognitive behavioral based programming, substance abuse education/treatment, employment, education, community service and transitional services in the community.

Faith-based and community organizations continue to provide supplemental programs and services to Community-based Correctional facilities and other support service agencies. These organizations offer a full range of supplemental services to offenders, such as grief counseling, parenting, sexual abuse support services, religious services, victim services, substance abuse support, domestic violence support and other social service program needs.



## Recommendation 9

State agencies need to take a more active role in linking with the faith-based community to develop programs to meet the gaps in services to adult and juvenile offenders.

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) continues to provide strong support for the growth and expansion of local reentry coalitions across the state. This development represents a unique set of state/local partnerships grounded in wide-ranging collaborations connecting ex-offenders to community resources. There are now 22 local reentry coalitions, 7 reentry alliances, and 26 local reentry partners. Though located in 52 counties, some local reentry coalitions include several counties bringing the total number involved to 63. The goal is to have every county either serving as or associated with a local reentry coalition.

Under the auspices of OERC, 37 local reentry coalitions have produced “Welcome Home” videos. The videos feature a representative of the reentry coalition sharing information regarding county resource contacts for inmates, ex-offenders and their families. Inmates furnish the technical design and production behind the creation of these videos in their work assignments for the Prison News Network at the Marion Correctional Institution.

The Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions (OALRC) was granted official recognition and approval from OERC in 2012. OALRC has since completed and ratified Association Bylaws, obtained tax-exempt status, and elected officers to guide its work. It recently obtained a one-year \$10,000 grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services via Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant. With this boost, OALRC inaugurated a series of monthly trainings via interactive webinars for reentry partners across the state. The topics, all related to reentry growth and development, include: Grant Writing 101, Legislative Updates, Identifying Community Resources and Best Practices, and Establishing a Reentry Coalition.

To learn more about the above, go to the website of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition at [www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov](http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov).



## Recommendation 10

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Department of Youth Services and Job and Family Services should, in partnership, expand efforts to work with the employment centers and faith community to increase practical employment opportunities for offenders in the community. A job placement program should be implemented, focusing on the following:

- Providing information on job fairs to ex-offenders.
- Education on the benefits of hiring ex-offenders.
- Incentives for employers to hire ex-offenders (i.e., tax breaks).
- Increased involvement of faith-based and community groups.

A partnership between DRC, the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and local workforce development partners established the O.N.E Stop Center to reduce recidivism through employment training and support services. Pre-Release and Post Release employment training and support services are provided; ensuring the offenders have a good understanding of the job market, access to resources, opportunities for employment within specific markets, and are prepared to search and connect to work upon release via employment plans. These centers provide in-house services that replicate job search activities and programs in the community.

The first pilot began at Trumbull Correctional Institution in March 2012. O.N.E. Stop Centers have also been designated for Marion Correctional Institution, Pickaway Correctional Institution, Ohio Reformatory for Women, Richland Correctional Institution, Southeastern Correctional Institution, Grafton Reintegration Center and Northeast Reintegration Center.

Resource Fairs are also facilitated throughout DRC. Information is provided to offenders from Reentry Coalitions, Workforce Development Programs, Benefit Bank services, Veteran Administration, Child Support Agency, Colleges and Universities, Reentry programs and other

social service providers. Warren Correctional Institution had 130 offenders attend their Community Resource Fair in March 2013.

Noble Correctional Institution hosted the Muskingum County Reentry Coalition and the Franklin County Task Force for an institution visit. The Task Force conducted a presentation with over 100 offenders returning to Franklin County.

Lucas County Task Force conducts monthly visits to Toledo Correctional Institution to help offenders returning to Lucas County. They assist the offenders with social services and community resources prior to release, as well as assisting with driver licenses, social security application, etc. Staff from Legal Services of Northwest Ohio visit monthly to assist offenders with legal issues; and Lucas County Child Support Enforcement Agency visit monthly to meet with offenders regarding child support issues.

Grafton Correctional Institution and the local Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle partnered to provide reentry services to offenders. Three reintegration offenders were transported to the North Olmsted BMV on Saturday, January 26, 2013 to get their state IDs.

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicle Reinstatement staff provided Annual Regional BMV training for Ohio Court Judges, Magistrates, Clerks of Court, Court staff, Probation and law enforcement personnel. This training allowed them to become current on law changes, various BMV mandated initiatives and pending law changes under consideration. As of July 25, 2013, over 750 non-dangerous suspended drivers signed up for driver license reinstatement.

## Recommendation 11



The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should work with the faith community and faith volunteers to develop and expand programs within the institutions such as:

- Life skills.
- Financial management and budgeting.
- Personal hygiene.
- Family programs, including:
  - Family and community-based orientation.
  - Family mediation.
  - Family education and orientation programs.
  - Transportation and video conference for visitation.
  - Parenting.

DRC collaborates with faith-based and community organizations to develop and expand programs within the prisons.

The establishment of specialized housing unit programs throughout the agency, such as Faith-Based Housing Units, Veterans Units, Reintegration Units, O.N.E. Stop Centers and Long Term Offender programs, have expand opportunities for offenders to participate in life skill classes, mentoring programs, family unification programs and personal responsibility classes.

**Chillicothe Correctional Institution** has 245 volunteers facilitating various programs, such as Horizon Inter-Faith Housing Unit program, CCI mentorship program and the Forgotten Warriors program for Veterans. On June 9, 2013 fifty-one offenders graduated from the first Horizon Inter-Faith group at Chillicothe under the direction of Jeff Hunsaker, Executive Director.

**Correctional Reception Center** volunteers provide Benefit Bank services to offenders and their families. In 2012 CRC completed 38 Medicaid application and 366 applications for food assistance. A total of \$899,244 in food assistance benefits was allotted in 2012. In addition to this work, volunteers facilitate numerous religious service programs.

**Northeast Reintegration Center** community volunteers provide various programs such as The Hispanic Urban Minority Drug and Alcohol Outreach program facilitated by Ms. Nereida Diaz is an example of a holistic program addressing various issues. This program consists of speakers, films, group discussion on parenting, domestic violence awareness, peer leadership training, nutrition information, AIDS awareness and substance abuse information. Northeast Pre-Release Center has 125 active volunteers facilitating workshops and classes in Healthy Boundaries, Anger Management, Grief Recovery, Literacy, and Writing Skills

**Dayton Correctional Institution** the Goodwill/Easter Seals Miami Valley facilitates a mentorship program that assist offenders preparing to return to the community. In addition to this organization, Urban Minority Alcohol Drug Abuse Outreach Program, Montgomery County Reentry Services, Clark County Life Skills Reentry Program and GEM Leadership Development provides assistance with employment, housing, relapse prevention, spirituality, violence prevention, alcohol and other drug education and support.

**Lorain Correctional Institution** volunteers facilitate The Egan's Skill Builder Program Model. This program assists offenders in developing problem solving skills and utilizing available resources more effectively. Volunteers from Prison Fellowship also facilitate the "Iron Sharpens Iron" program at Lorain. It is one of the most successful faith-based reentry programs at Lorain. "Iron Sharpens Iron" builds integrity, character and personal accountability.

**Noble Correctional Institution** facilitates the Transformation/Spiritual Formation class, Financial Peace University, Life Healing Choices, Forever Dads and Rhema Christian Ministries Reentry Program and Ridge Project.

**Richland Correctional Institution** volunteers participate in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Program, Inside-Out Dad Program, Fatherhood Initiative, Money Smart Program, Goal Setting program and Toastmaster program.

**Toledo Correctional Institution** has over 180 volunteers providing numerous programs and services to offenders. The University of Toledo teaches Inside/Out Classes at Toledo Correctional. This program allow outside university students and offenders from the prison to participate in selective classes held at the prison. The selective classes are history, writing and

ethics. University of Toledo professors are also participating as group advisors to the “People of Change” group, which is an alumni group of students and offenders within the prison.

**Trumbull Correctional Institution** held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mentoring through Erudition graduation this year. Seventy-four offenders received certificates of completion. This program is held by the Bridge Network Reentry program to instruct offenders on Anatomy, Physiology, Serving Safe Food, Sustainable Agriculture/Urban Farming and various other educational/vocational subjects. Trumbull Correctional Institution has a total of 375 active volunteers.

**Warren Correctional Institution** continues to provide numerous volunteer programs to offenders; such as Greg Dougherty’s “Experience the Divine through Poetry” class, Family is First Unification Program, Personal Achievement thru Choices Empowering Reengagement, Community Assimilation Program and the Strait Gate Program facilitated by the Cincinnati Dream Center.



## Recommendation 12

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should expand partnerships with national organizations including faith-based and community organizations to provide programming in state institutions.

National Faith-based and Community Organizations are valuable contributors to programs facilitated throughout DRC. Kairos Prison Ministry continues to expand to additional facilities each year. Added Kairos weekends were held at Pickaway Correctional Institution, London Correctional Institution and Belmont Correctional Institution this year. They also facilitated Kairos Outside, and Kairos Torch at Marion Correctional Institution.

Prison Fellowship continues to facilitate numerous programs throughout the agency. They are collaborating with Urban Ministry Institute to provide unique educational programs to offenders. This program promotes pro-social values and behaviors; and is fully paid for and run by Prison Fellowship staff and certified volunteers. It is a proven program with emphasis on inward transformation, moral decision-making, and giving back to the community.

Ann Edenfield continues to facilitate Wings Ministry events throughout DRC. This ministry brings families of offenders and volunteers together to build relationships that transform lives. Wings collaborated with Presbyterian Church of Lancaster and Southeastern Correctional Institution to host the largest family visitor and volunteer event in its history in Ohio. Wings also conducted a well attended event at Grafton Correctional Institution and Lorain Correctional Institution this year. Ann Edenfield is expanding this program to Belmont Correctional Institution and Noble Correctional Institution in the Fall of 2013.

The Ridge Project is a nationally recognized faith-based program focusing on family unification. This organization provides programming and mentoring throughout DRC. The TYRO Dads

program and Keeping FAITH program consist of a 10 -18 week course on parenting skills, communication skills and other pro-social skills. The Keeping FAITH program attacks cultural barriers of incarceration to produce responsible, healthy fathers, families, and citizens. Ron and Cathy Tijerina are the Executive Directors.

Opening Doors is another faith-based organization providing an offender pre-release program in DRC. They provide a three day program titled “Ready for Change”, which encourages personal growth, building community trust and conflict resolution. Opening Doors also facilitate Trauma Recovery and Empowerment, Thinking for a Change, Boundaries, Forgiveness, Victim Awareness, Addiction Recovery, Responsible Lifestyles, Anger Management and several other evidence based programs. James Himsworth is the Executive Director.

AmeriCorps VISTA, Bill Glass Champions for Life, Aleph Institute for Jewish services, Promise Keepers, Trinity Broadcast Network, Toastmaster International, Gospel Express Prison Ministry, Ridge Project, World Harvest Church Prison Ministry and Alpha Prison Ministry continue to provide services and program opportunities to DRC offenders.



## Recommendation 13

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should involve the faith community, when appropriate, in the development of release plans for the offender that flow from the institution to community reentry involvement of the faith community.

The faith-based housing units, reintegration units and O.N.E Stop Job Centers provide opportunities for the faith community to assist in development of release programs.

Embark is a faith-based reentry organizations that provides guidance and support as offenders transition from incarceration to independence. The program and mentoring is provided to DRC offenders at Ohio Reformatory for Women and Marion Correctional Institution. Embark accepts men and women that are eligible for release or have a parole board hearing within 12-15 months of entry in the program. Candidates are carefully assessed for their readiness to participate in Embark. Embark trains volunteers from the community to deliver programs and services.

Volunteers from the faith community are involved in local Citizen Circles that provide positive interaction and accountability for offenders upon release. Offenders and their families develop relationships with members of the community and together develop a plan to help the offender become accepted as a productive citizen and member of the community. The Citizen Circle helps offenders understand being a positive community member demands responsibility and obligation. Warden Deb Timmerman-Cooper, Deputy Warden Jeff Noble from London Correctional Institution attended the February 15, 2013 Clark County Citizen Circle meeting hosted by the Opportunities for Individual Change organization.

DRC provides offenders with information on how to obtain a birth certificate, driver's license, Veterans Discharge Status Form DD-214 and a Social Security Card. DRC also ensure offenders have opportunities for community linkage to medical, mental health, substance abuse services, clothing bank, Benefit Bank and contact with a community member prior to release.



## Recommendation 14

Develop methods to increase and encourage the involvement of the faith community in various reentry efforts, and to encourage collaboration among faith groups.

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC) continue to be the catalyst for increasing and encouraging faith-based and community organizations to collaborate with DRC in providing programs and services that assist offenders returning to local communities. Various faith groups, such as Prison Fellowship, Horizon Prison Ministry, Opening Doors, Kairos, and local prison ministries attend the OERC quarterly meetings.

The mission of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Coalition achieves this mission through collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations and other stakeholders.

**Making Use of Services Can Lead to Empowerment (M.U.S.C.L.E)**, is another valuable centralized guide for Department staff, offenders, families, and community partners that provides assistance in locating community resources and information to foster strong, safe communities.

The Reentry Resource Guide is a collection of county by county fact sheets that provides vital information to assist offenders' reentry into society. Areas include social services, human services, local, county, state, and federal agencies, and other service agencies such as libraries, substance abuse programs, mental health counseling, veterans services commissions, educational opportunities, faith-based agencies, food, clothing, and job training and placement.



## Recommendation 15

To address housing issues, the departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services should inform offenders of various options before leaving prison or immediately upon release. This could be accomplished through seminars, with free legal or consultation services, along with the increased involvement of the faith community.

The Ohio Rural Recidivism Reduction Project (OR3) is an example of a collaborative undertaking among the DRC, the local courts, community corrections agencies, local reentry coalitions and local service providers; to meet the needs of offenders returning to rural counties.

**The objective of the project is to improve the reentry capacity by providing carefully targeted and seamlessly coordinated programming and services to moderate-to-high risk offenders** returning from prison to a ten-county area in South Central Ohio. These counties are: Athens, Fayette, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

The overall goal of OR3 is to reduce levels of recidivism that are on average higher in these counties than the overall statewide rate of recidivism.

The underlying philosophy of the OR3 Model is that long-term sustainable programming is dependent on developing existing resources/local infrastructures so that effective strategies can enhance what the community already has to offer. The ODRC selected the following project partners based on their current capacity to serve the higher-risk offenders returning to the community:

- The Terry Collins Reentry Center (with services provided through Alvis House and the Ross County Sheriff Department)
- Turning Point Applied Learning Center
- STAR Community-Based Correctional Facility
- Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action Program (HAP CAP)
- Ross County Reentry Coalition
- Athens County Reentry Coalition
- Highland County Reentry Coalition

Together, these organizations will collaborate to provide evidence-based programming (including cognitive behavioral programming) that addresses criminal attitudes, associates and thinking, and substance abuse. To increase access to such programming and services, they will offer transportation assistance to offenders participating in the project.



## Recommendation 16

The departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Department of Youth Services will partner with grassroots and community organizations in an educational effort towards the general public aimed at decreasing the negative stigma of ex-offenders and making the public aware of the needs involved in the process of reentry.

This recommendation is the mission of the Ohio Ex-offender Reentry Coalition. The OERC collaborates with government entities, faith and community-based organizations, and other grassroots initiatives to assist and educate these stakeholders in resources availability, to include tools and information to enhance programs and services development for ex-offenders.

The Justice Reinvestment Officers have also become heavily involved with work in the community including Citizen Circles and Reentry Coalitions. They are assisting with the following groups: Fayette County Reentry Coalition, Cuyahoga County Reentry Coalition, Erie County Reentry Coalition, Lucas County Reentry Coalition, Allen County Reentry Coalition, Franklin County Reentry Taskforce, Mid Ohio Reentry Coalition, Transformation Network (Ashland County), West Central Reentry Coalition, Belmont County Reentry Coalition, Tri County Reentry Coalition, Erie County Citizen Circle, Logan County Citizen Circle, Darke County Citizen Circle, Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry, and the Hamilton County Reentry Program. The Justice Reinvestment Officers provide presentations on sentence reform and collateral sanctions legislation.

## **Addendum A: Faith-based Volunteer and Community Organization programs provided throughout DRC**

Abundant Life  
Accountability Class  
Addicts at the Cross  
Agape Outreach  
Alpha Prison Ministry  
Aleph Jewish Ministries  
Anchor Prison Ministries  
Antrim/Friends  
Apostolic Discipleship  
Assembly of Yahweh  
Autumn Rain Prison Ministry

Basketball for Christ  
Ben Buzhardt  
Beth Messiah  
Bethlehem Temple  
Bill Glass Ministry  
Bishop Kay Robinson  
Bob Vogel Hispanic Studies  
Brother's In Christ  
Buddhist Meditation

Carol Kuck's Bible Study  
Catholic Religious Services  
Chaplain Jim Wilcox  
Christ the King  
Christian 12-Step  
Christian Counseling  
Christian Science  
Church of God in Christ  
Church on the Rise  
City Mission  
Cleveland City Mission  
Columbus Christian Center

Dave Berenson  
Delaware Mentors

Eat at Joe's Discipleship  
Eastern Orthodox  
Ebenezer Mennonite  
Edenlight  
Epiphany Prayer, Share, Reunion  
Epiphany Weekend

Exclusively His  
Evangelical Friends Church  
Faith Assembly  
Faith United Methodist  
Findley First Assembly  
Fitchville United Methodist Church  
Foundations of Our Faith  
Free Indeed Ministry  
Freedom of the Spirit  
Freiheit Messengers  
Friendship Baptist Church  
Former State Senator Ray Miller

Gideon's International  
Good Shepherd Baptist  
Gospel Express  
Gospel House  
Gospel Posse  
Grace Church  
Greater Columbus Baptist  
Greater Emmanuel Church  
Greater Works  
Grief and Loss Ministry

Harbor of Hope  
Heart to Heart  
Heritage Memorial  
Higher Faith Apostolic  
Hindu Religious Service  
Hope Baptist Church  
Hope Community Church  
Huddle Discipleship

Iglesia Del Salvador  
In-faith Mighty Men Ministry  
Inside Out Prison Program  
Islamic Religious Services

James Slangland  
Jehovah's Witnesses  
Jewish Studies  
Joe Hochstetler  
Jesus El Camino  
Jesus the Rock – Bob Jones

Kadri Parris  
Kairos  
Kairos Prayer & Share  
Kairos Resident Council  
Kairos Retreat  
Kairos Reunions  
Kenneth Gant  
  
Lakeview Lighthouse  
London Christian Fellowship  
  
Martin Weaver  
Matthew Prison Fellowship  
Mennonite Services  
Mike Casto Ministry  
Minerva Christian Fellowship  
Mitch Zajak  
Missions For Christ  
Monastery of the Heart  
Mega Arms  
  
Nazarene Church  
New Beginning Protestant  
New Harvest Church  
New Life Church  
North Coast Baptist  
Northridge Freewill Baptist  
  
Ohio State Extension  
Omega Baptist Church  
Our Lady of Sorrows  
  
Pastor Haggins Ministry  
Pastor Joel King  
Pentecostal Prison Ministry  
Precept Ministry  
Prison Fellowship  
  
Rachel's House  
Rag Tag Worship  
Rama Prison Ministries  
Redeemed Prison Ministry  
Reformed Theological Studies  
Reformer's Unanimous  
Refuge Temple  
Rehoboth Temple Church  
Restored Life Ministries  
Restoration Ministry

Revival Center Ministries  
Rhema Christian Center  
Ric Bonice Ministries  
Ridge Project  
Rock of Ages  
Ron Kuntz  
Rosary Class  
  
Salem Mennonite  
Seventh Day Adventist  
Sidney Apostolic Temple  
Solid Rock Church  
Son Reign Ministry  
Sound Word Ministry  
Spanish Services Volunteers  
Spencer Curry  
St. James COGIC  
  
TAG Spanish Class  
The Gospel Sensation Singers  
Thomas McLain  
Tried stone Baptist Church  
Tyro Dads/RIDGE  
  
Upper Arlington Grace Brethren  
United Methodist Millersburg  
United Methodist Shelby  
Universal Meditation  
  
Vera Jackson  
Vineyard Church  
  
Way Out Ministries  
Weigh Down Ministries  
Wiccans Worship Service  
Wise Men & Women  
Wiseman & Women Bible Study  
Witness Gospel  
Worship Center Church  
  
Yoke Fellowship