

TREC/State Agencies

Agenda

January 8, 2010

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| I. | Welcome | Jim Cosby |
| II. | Introductions | Group |
| III. | Review of October Minutes | Jim Cosby |
| IV. | Member Announcements/Updates | Group |
| V. | TREC: Moving Forward | Becky Ney |
| VI. | Next Meeting: Friday March 12th | |
- Adjournment**

October 23 TREC minutes

Attendees:

Nashville – Judy Sullivan, Andrey Brinson, John Jarrett, Monica Lester, Tina Benson, Ann Marie Dixon, Sarah Conkwright, Cleatrice McTorry, Emily Laursen, Carla Murray, Alan Enzo, Jeaneice Shearon, Sheryl DeMott, Malinda Wilson, Rae Ann Coughlin, Cyndi Taylor, Jim Cosby, Lee Ragsdale, Tim Dempsey, Bill Barnes, Bobby Halliburton, Cathie Ragsdale, Eileen Hosking, Ron Turner, Susan Cunningham, Nancy Johnson, David Delbridge

Recorder-Betsy Fletcher

Chattanooga -Jim Alsip, Floyd Davis, Calvin Figgures, Andrea Bible, Mimi Neighbors, Holly Oliver, Tanya Pace, Dennis Dodson, Jan Johnson, Pamela Gray, Gale Reed

Memphis -Helen Ford, Kimberly Farris, Bob Sauter, Freddie Nealy, Jim Kennedy, Lee Moten, Jr., Linda White, Sharon Williams

Knoxville- Elizabeth Day, Lisa Tipton, Mary Hanson, and Kathleen Daily

Mr. Cosby welcomed attendees. As we have many new members that have joined since TREC was first initiated, we are going to take a little bit of time at the beginning of each TREC meeting to allow members to give an overview of his/her organization and what role they play in the community as it relates to offender reentry. We will have one organization present at each meeting. David Delbridge has graciously agreed, with short notice, to give us an overview of Project Return today.

David Delbridge and Nancy Johnson gave an overview of Project Return. Project Return had over 6000 client contacts during 2008. Project Return assists offenders through pre-release employment training, career assessments, and conflict resolution. Post-release services include relapse prevention, individual counseling, substance abuse treatment plans, and money management classes. In addition, assistance is provided with obtaining housing, clothing, medical and mental health services, and documentation (birth certificates, ID cards, Social Security Cards, etc.). Nancy Johnson talked about criteria for services. They do serve sex offenders, but have very limited jobs for them.

Ron gave an update on the AmeriCore Vista program. The AmeriCore Vista program is in 2nd yr. We have 6 of 8 positions filled. Nashville still has 2 openings for GSN staff. We now have 42 partner organizations across the state. We have been given the approval to fill the Director of Volunteer Services position. We expect to have that position filled by the first of the year.

Elizabeth Day-Some of the institutions are beginning to get on board with the program. Elizabeth has been able to travel as the GSN team leader. Her role is much like an ambassador position.

Kimberly Farris is the new GSN in Memphis, serving along with Linda there. Memphis has 21 total partners with MOU's, 61 active MENTORS, and 22 matches. They have had some news coverage that generated 25 calls. Sarah Conkwright is keeping Nashville going and actively recruiting in Clarksville. She is going on a local Pastor's TV show next week and hopes to generate more mentors from that.

SUB-COMMITTEES:

Research (Cleatrice McTorry): We have hit a snag with SSI right now, but we hope to have this worked out by January. The State Id policy went into effect; 42 have been issued since February. We are meeting with senior management at the Department of Safety next month. This is an overall complex process. We are also working on Career Readiness Certificates to help offenders be ready for employment once released. Emily is now working with TDOC on a Byrne/JAG grant and will test 2000 offenders over the next 18 months.

Employment (Susan Cunningham): Discussed the impact that the OWD program is having. Each participant of OWD was given the opportunity to talk about how it has helped with his/her career and personal lives. She will also send out a survey in that will ask for input on having another class.

Jim Cosby announced that a representative from the Office of Criminal Justice Programs could not be here however they did send a short update. Bill Scollon is receiving his 20 yr service award today. OCJP has been awarded a grant to continue funding the Washington County jail, and The Davidson County Drug court.

A representative from the Department of Veterans Affairs could not be here.

TCRB (Tim Dempsey): They are examining whether or not they can continue the GSN when VISTA is over. They are looking at finding some money for a local CRB. They are also looking at how to continue the Faith in Corrections.

Bobby Halliburton gave an LS/CMI update for BOPP. They have trained 300 officers and are still looking for a psychiatric social worker.

The next door will be coming to Knoxville and Chattanooga soon.

Davison County Jail is working on a transition plan.

Jim Cosby: We only had 2 committee reports this time. We have accomplished a lot since TREC started, but there is still a lot to accomplish. We still need to keep working on the housing effort. LS/CMI and TAP-BIG will be in all TDOC institutions by the end of June. At the next meeting we will begin to look ahead and determine where to focus our efforts over the next couple of years. Keep this in mind and come back in January.

Next meeting is January 8th.

Tennessee Reentry Collaborative (TREC)

Recommendations from the

Advisory Board Meeting

“A” List

1. Develop a wider range of housing options for offenders released from institutions, including transitional housing for substance abusers.
2. Establish a Transition Accountability Plan (TAP) that includes a comprehensive assessment of all personal needs associated with an individual; including a plan to secure documentation.
3. Give all TDOC rehabilitative field **STAFF** access to the Internet so they will have the ability to use all resources that are available, and to eliminate costs associated with printing and updating hard materials.
4. Establish a comprehensive mentoring program for offenders transitioning to communities.
5. Provide offenders with state ID card, DD214, birth certificate, and social security card upon release from prison.
6. Expand and provide employability skills, life skills and expanded vocational training to all offenders who would benefit from it prior to release from prison.

Tennessee Reentry Collaborative (TREC)

Recommendations from the

Advisory Board Meeting

“B List”

1. Develop a targeted educational effort for prospective employers that demonstrate the benefits of hiring offenders following release from prison; possibly through job fairs and state tax incentives to participating business.
2. Establish specialized housing units in each institution for offenders preparing for transition, including specially trained staff and full transition resources.
-While TDOC is in the process of piloting this idea at CBCX, the idea of specialized transitional housing is something that could be explored in CCA facilities, as well as in transitional housing situations.
3. Offer evidence-based, full-blown, family reunification programming at all institutions. This should include a therapeutic child and offender visitation program at all institutions (similar to the program currently being conducted at TPW). As well as services for inmates, train institutional visiting room staff to handle the needs of offenders prior to release from DOC institutions.
4. Develop a relationship with all areas of the judicial system in Tennessee in order to combat the financial problems associated with the reentry process.
-This will include issues such as child support, court fines and fees, and victim restitution orders as required by courts. This recommendation is in no way intended to advocate that ex-offenders be excused from these fees, but rather to provoke a conversation about the impact of extreme financial burdens on the success of an ex-offender once he is in the work place.
5. Establish/revise institutional substance abuse treatment curriculums and certification standards to place an emphasis on discharge planning, transition practices, and successful linkage to community providers, outpatient treatment for full continuity of care.
6. Institutional mental health services providers do formal mental health discharge planning; allow them to make direct linkage to community providers for continuity of care.
7. Develop an employability screening and rehabilitation plan process for each offender received into the Department of Correction.
8. Establish Memorandum's of Understanding with all associated state agencies and departments, in order to clearly define all roles (major and minor) in the offender reentry process.
9. Establish a means for all offenders who qualify for any state or federal entitlement funds, to apply for such funds prior to release.

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10. Create a comprehensive, web-based resource guide of services and resources.
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11. Develop an infrastructure to share offender information electronically so that it is in the hands of the people, who need it for transition planning, continuity of treatment services collaborative outcome measures and so on, but in compliance with HIPPA.
-This is already in progress within DOC as we begin to develop the electronic case conferencing tool through our MIS department.
12. Prepare regular (e.g. monthly or quarterly) academic achievement reports for all offenders in Adult Basic Education/GED preparation classes.
13. Improve keyboarding and computer skills as part of adult education and literacy services; possibly by using old computers that are not Internet compatible and with typewriters.
14. Establish linkage to the Division of Workforce Development and workforce investment boards for services to offenders prior to release.
15. Provide the written driver's license test inside correctional centers; this should also include an opportunity for driver's license renewal (where fees do not prevent the renewal) and the issuance of a state ID, prior to release.
16. Allow tutoring to count toward community service hours for probationers that are GED (or higher) graduates.