

Reentry News

Corrections Division
Reentry Program



October 5th, 2010

Volume III, Issue I

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Sheriff's Office Awarded Over \$374,000 in Federal Funding

The United States Department of Justice has approved two separate federal grants submitted by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. The two grants will provide welcome support for the Douglas County Correctional Facility's Reentry Program which was launched in January 2008. The \$144,268 Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative grant will fund the hiring of **two full-time case managers**. They will develop pre-release transition plans for sentenced inmates returning to the community and continue case management supportive services for up to 180 days post-release. The \$229,945 Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant will fund a two-year Assess, Intervene, Mobilize and Succeed (AIMS) Initiative in collaboration with

Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center. Its goal is to implement corrections, transitional, and reentry supportive services for mentally ill or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse inmates in the Douglas County Correctional Facility. The new **AIMS case manager** will identify inmates needing these services, provide interventions during incarceration, plan for the continuation of post-release mental health and substance abuse services, and follow through with those services in the community. Both grants will be evaluated by the University of Kansas' School of Social Welfare to measure targeted recidivism goals.

The Sheriff's Office Reentry Program strives to enhance public safety by bringing together the public and private

resources of Douglas County to help offenders successfully re-enter their neighborhoods as accountable, self-sufficient, and law-abiding citizens. The Douglas County Correctional Facility was selected in 2008 by the National Institute of Corrections as one of two jails nationally to serve as a pilot site for implementing the Transition from Jail to Community project (TJC). The TJC project has provided technical assistance to address the challenges and needs the Reentry Program faces, and has helped improve the program's overall goal of targeting public safety.

The 2 Reentry Case Manager positions have been posted on www.dgso.org and www.douglas-county.com. Closing date is October 8th, 2010.

WELCOME GREENBUSH, OUR NEW LEARNING LAB PROVIDER

Effective July 1st, 2010, Greenbush, the Southeast Kansas Education Service provider, is the facility's new Learning Lab provider. Greenbush states "In collaboration with school districts and state agencies, Greenbush operates Community Learning Centers and alternative education programs giving students who have previously dropped out-of-school a second chance to receive a high school diploma. Other contracts with the Social Rehabilitation

Services, Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Authority, and local school districts insure that all students receive an educational experience leading to a positive and productive lifestyle." We welcome Greenbush aboard in their new venture with local correctional facilities.

For more information, see www.greenbush.org.

MENTAL HEALTH & CORRECTIONS

Mental health and corrections professionals face the reality of the overlapping issues that face our populations. The Bureau of Justice Statistics published a special report highlighting such evidence nationally.

The following information has been adapted from this report, compiled in 2005 on jail inmates with a mental health problem (MHP), may be found at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=789>.

- ◆ 64% of all jail inmates had a mental health problem, 6 times higher than the general population (11%)
- ◆ 54% reported symptoms

1955 : 1 psychiatric hospital bed for every 300 people

2005 : 1 psychiatric hospital bed for every 3,000 people

Source: USA Today, <http://bit.ly/b3KenPope>.

- ◆ 30% met criteria for major depression
- ◆ 24% met criteria for a psychotic disorder
- ◆ 75% of females and 63% of males had MHP
- ◆ 76% had co-occurring substance abuse or dependence problem
- ◆ 24% reported being physically or sexually abused in the past, a rate 3 times higher than jail population
- ◆ 23% had received treatment in the year prior to arrest
- ◆ 17% had used medication in the year prior to arrest
- ◆ 7% had stayed overnight in a hospital due to MHP in the year prior to arrest
- ◆ 1 in 6 had received treatment during incarceration
- ◆ 17% were homeless within the year prior to incarceration, compared to 9% without a MHP
- ◆ 14% had lived in a foster

home or other institution while growing up, compared to 6% without a MHP

- ◆ Inmates with MHP were NOT more likely to have used a weapon during their offense
- ◆ Jail inmates with MHP were 4 times more likely to have been charged with a physical or verbal assault on a correctional staff or other inmate,
- ◆ 3 times more likely to have been injured in some altercation while incarcerated, and
- ◆ Twice as likely to have been charged with facility rule violation.

“(A) team of researchers from the nonpartisan Council of State Governments Justice Center and Policy Research Associates found that 14.5 percent of males and 31 percent of females - or 16.9 percent overall - met that criteria. The percentage of women with serious mental illnesses in jail is double that of men - a particularly troubling finding given the overall growth in the female jail population and the lack of research on the reasons for this overrepresentation. These estimates are three to six times higher than the general population, and indicate that as many as 2 million bookings of people with serious mental illnesses may occur each year.”

http://consensusproject.org/press_releases/new-study-documents-high-prevalence-of-serious-mental-illnesses-among-nations-jail-populations

Program Spotlight: Heartland Book Bank

Heartland Book Bank provides the majority of our library's materials. On July 28th, Mike Caron made his quarterly trek to Kansas City and returned with:



- ◆ 327 paperback

books

- ◆ 98 hardback books
- ◆ 52 magazines

The in-kind donation equaled \$1,587.05.

Heartland's mission is to collect and distribute reading & educa-

tional materials to encourage life-long reading. They operate wholly on the hard work of volunteers, sponsors and donated office space.

Thanks to Heartland Book Bank for keeping our library well-stocked of materials!

MENTORING CHILDREN OF PROMISE (MCP)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Douglas County is one of the BBBS of Kansas agencies to receive funding through the Mentoring Children of Promise grant.

"Mentoring Children of Promise allows children with an incarcerated parent to experience the support of a mentoring relationship. These children often need extra support and encouragement to live up to their potential.

Children with an incarcerated parent are more likely to become mad or depressed, take a dim view of police and authority and tend to not do as well in school. They are six times more likely than other kids to be incarcerated during their lives. For these children, a positive relationship with a Big Brother or Big Sister can be the key to breaking the cycle of incarceration. Research shows that a Big Brother or Big Sister can improve a child's academic performance, behavior, self-concept, and family and peer relationships.

Kansas Big Brothers Big Sisters also offers a faith-based mentoring program for children of incarcerated parents. In Amachi, congregations recruit parishioners to mentor children of promise and become friends, listeners and confidants. These people of faith are motivated to volunteer because they realize incarceration is not just the children's problems, it's a community problem."

Inmates may self-refer their children to BBBS: Referrals may be found in the library and on the intranet under Reentry Documents and forwarded to Reentry.

Commonly asked on group tours:

Where did that phrase the term "sally port" come from?

A 'sally' is a military maneuver made by defenders to harass isolated or vulnerable attackers before retreating. A 'port' is Latin for door.

Oh, how the garden grows...

Through the initiative and direction of Mike Caron, the garden is taking shape. A 50 by 40 foot fenced plot hopes to be full of tomatoes, peppers, carrots, cucumbers, radishes, pumpkins, melons and apples. Our kudos to...

☀ Henry's Plant Farm for tomato & pepper plants, the time and energy from volunteers;

☀ Jason Hering, President of KU EcoJustice, and numerous other volunteers for their time, energy and how-to information;

☀ Bob Geist for the use of his truck to haul supplies;

☀ The Haskell Wetland Preservation Organization for their donation of seed packets; and, of course...

☀ The inmate workers assisting in hauling, planting and soon to be pulling the fruits of their labor.

Check it out sometime, southwest of the facility.



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES FOR ALL

"The Crime and Justice Institute and the National Institute of Corrections are proud to present a series of eight whitepapers on the implementation of evidence-based practices (EBP) known as the Box Set. The papers are designed to share information with criminal justice system stakeholders about how the implementation of evidence-based practices and a focus on recidivism reduction affect their areas of expertise":

- ◆ Community Corrections,
- ◆ Criminal Defense,
- ◆ Jails,
- ◆ Judiciary,
- ◆ Pretrial Services,
- ◆ Prisons,
- ◆ Prosecution, and
- ◆ Treatment.

The articles may be found at <http://cjinstitute.org/boxset>.



**Corrections Division
Reentry Program**

Shannon Murphy,
Director & TJC Coordinator
3601 E 25th Street
Lawrence, KS 66046
PH: 785.830.1001
FX: 785.830.1085
SMURPHY@DGSO.ORG

REENTRY MISSION

**TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY BY BRINGING
TOGETHER THE PUBLIC & PRIVATE
RESOURCES OF DOUGLAS COUNTY TO HELP
EX-OFFENDERS SUCCESSFULLY RE-ENTER
THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AS ACCOUNTABLE,
SELF-SUFFICIENT &
LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.**

TJC INITIATIVE MISSION

**TO DEVELOP & SUSTAIN A
COLLABORATIVE THAT IMPROVES PUBLIC
SAFETY OUTCOMES BY INCREASING
SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION.**



**Visit us @
www.jailtransition.com &
www.dgso.org**

NEW CLOTHING BANK: —by Brandi Nichols

Community Corrections is pleased to inform you of our new clothing bank . The clothing room has been up and running for a few months now. I would like to extend an invitation to other professionals in the community who have regular contact with offenders or those in severe need. We have clothes for babies and children from age three months to age seven. We also have a nice selection for tween or teen girls, which includes many shirts from Aeropostale and Abercrombie as well as many sweaters, pants and jeans. The women's clothing is mainly dress clothing for events such as interviews. However, we do have some casual jeans and shirts. We also have a small selection of maternity clothing. For the men, we mainly have dress shirts and pants. We also have quite a few light, dress and heavy coats and jackets. We have men's, women's and children's shoes along with many pair of nice wool socks. Please, if you have offenders who are on probation or clients who are in severe need of clothing, please contact Community Corrections at 832-5220.

TO:

