

Reentry News

Corrections Division Reentry Program



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Effective Parenting and the Art of Teaching Life Skills

E. Kent Hayes is bringing his inmate-based parenting curriculum to facilities nationwide. A training video of the curriculum is in the final production stage from *Free State Studios* with marketing to jails and prisons nationwide to begin this fall. The video is designed to assist correctional facilities to integrate an inmate-based parenting curriculum. It comes with a facilitator teaching tool along with an inmate study guide.

A number of studies have found that increased contact between inmates and their families positively contribute to a successful reintegration. This support system is twofold: It creates a successful relationship for the inmate to remain in the community and allows the children

to maintain their bond with the parents that are there to support and guide them through these formative years. Successfully reentering our communities is a great indicator of reduced risk to re-offend. Institutional programming such as E. Kent Hayes' *Effective Parenting* curriculum and improved visitation policies within a facility can encourage healthier familial relationships—and address the continued forces of intergenerational cycle of crime. Information is abound about the hereditary chain of incarceration among families. By providing these opportunities in such an environment only makes sense to improve inmates' awareness that their link to their familial support, their children and subsequently

the community as a whole is vital to breaking the cycle

Kent Hayes has pinpointed a missing piece within our correctional programs: You can't teach what you don't know.

The 13 principles for effective parenting include improving personal acceptance and skill building to becoming a communicator and champion teacher to your children, wrapping up through defining yourself and family as a part of the larger community.

We wish to thank Kent for his continued support of inmate programs that target their needs for a safe and successful reintegration into our community along with *Free State Studios* for their time and energy into making this project a reality.

Programs & Volunteers

Reentry and the Programs Division are developing an orientation workshop for potential mentors. Starting a volunteer mentor-inmate mentee relationship prior to release is a strongly-held evidence-based practice to assist inmates in maintaining positive support in their community. "The moment of release from jail, and the hours and days that follow, may be a pivotal point in ... (the) transition to the community. ... Reof-

fending rates ... are also highest in the first weeks and months after release (*Life After Lockup*, pg 43; see page 3 of this publication)".

The orientation will include an overview of facility policies and procedures, inmate behavior including addiction and mental health information, and community linkages.

Potential mentors agree to participate for a minimum of one year with weekly or bi-weekly contact with their

matched mentee. Evaluations will be conducted to examine the outcome of the relationship.

*Interested in volunteering
your particular niche or have questions?*

*Contact Mike Caron at
785.830.1055 or
mcaron@douglas-county.com.*

Teddy Bears Made with TLC

The Stull United Methodist Church Sewer's summer project is gearing up to make a large batch of homemade teddy bears to give to the Sheriff's department in July. The individualized bears will be distributed to the patrol division for use in community crisis events that involve children along with the corrections division to provide to children of incarcerated parents.

The group also makes blankets for nursing homes in the spring along with knitted hats for young oncology patients in the fall.

Will TJC Be Coming to Douglas County?

Undersheriff Kenny Massey has been a roundtable advisory committee member on the Urban Institute's and National Institute of Corrections' *Transition from Jail to Community* (TJC) project since early 2007. He and Shannon Murphy attended the final project meeting this year in Washington DC in which it was announced 6 agencies nationwide would be chosen as learning lab sites to implement and evaluate the TJC model. Two agencies will be chosen as pilot sites for the start of 2009 with four more sites to come on board by 2010. The model is designed for local jails to utilize in setting forth system elements for initiating facility-based reentry programs to improve public safety and the successful return of offenders to the community. The model is broad in scope. It can apply to small and large facilities and to a variety of inmate populations: Pre-trial and sentenced inmates with either short- or long-term sentences. The model is also flexible enough to meet local needs and resources.


In June, 15 agencies—including Douglas County—were selected and interviewed by Kevin Warwick, a TJC representative and president of Alternative Solutions, as 1 of the 6 potential learning lab sites. The project would provide technical assistance directly to the agency in improving the needs and challenges the particular reentry program would face. Program evaluation will be a key component of the pilot project to help document activities and processes, gauge how the on track the model is through implementation and to improve the program's overall operations for targeting public safety.

Douglas County is honored to be one of a select few agencies nationwide for consideration of piloting the TJC model. As an agency that worked for over 2

years developing the foundation for a reentry program that came to fruition in 2008 through the support of the County, the administration and the community, it shows the great culmination of all those involved—staff, community stakeholders, government leaders—in seeing this mission into its reality.

Additional information on the roundtable discussions and information may be found at <http://www.urban.org/projects/reentry-roundtable/roundtable9.cfm>.

KUDOS!



...to Lt. Dillon, Undersheriff Massey, Sharon Zehr (Bert Nash), Colette Johnson (medical) and Cpl Morris for going the extra mile on June 3rd. A mentally ill special management inmate that showed a significant improvement in stability through his incarceration was suddenly released time served. Lt. Dillon set into motion work for a release plan, all within 2 hours. Sharon Zehr set up transportation from the jail to a crisis housing bed for the inmate; Undersheriff Massey approved a week's worth of medication, which Colette Johnson provided with only 20 minutes notice; and Cpl Morris passed along the release plan to the inmate. At least for the immediate future, the inmate had connected to continuing community mental health services.

THANKS FOR YOUR QUICK WORK!

GPS TESTED IN WORK RELEASE

Sgt Deathe and Shannon Murphy have been testing out GPS electronic monitoring equipment on work release inmates, monitoring job search activities and employment movements throughout their time in the community. The goal is to provide structured pre-release options to more inmates for the ability to begin earning an income prior to their return to the community. With an expanded job readiness program that includes a job retention piece alongside resume development and subsequent job search, inmates have more resources to gain employment prior to their release.

Numbers, numbers, numbers

06/18/2008-

- 58% of inmate population pre-trial
- 27% sentenced
- 9% pending KDOC admission
- 6% admitted or pending admission to Larned or Osawatomie State Hospital)

01/30/2008-

17% of inmates reported a homeless address field (shelter, "transient", or "homeless")

02/13/2008-04/30/2008-

70% of posted bonds were for \$600 or less

Calendar Year 2007-

78% of inmates reported substance abuse had resulted in legal, social or economic problems

Housing News

Several projects are on the move to explore and expand potential housing options for homeless people in our community.

Housing Connection: The Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority has expressed interest in being a liaison between vacant property owners and homeless individuals eligible for emergency transitional housing (ETH). Social service providers are drafting an agree-



ment for the provider and the tenant to ensure continued community case management for maintenance of the residence.

Reintegration: A community task force is looking into substance abuse reintegration options in our local Lawrence-Douglas County community. Members include representatives from Salvation Army, Valeo Behavioral Health Center, Oxford house, the AA/NA community, SRS, the probation department, Community Coalition on Homelessness, Bert Nash outreach, the reentry program and other affected stakeholders. The task force initially came together to discuss a perceived need for a substance abuse detox and inpatient facility. After discussions, it was concluded the existing Level III

facilities in Topeka and Kansas City meet this residential portion fine: What is really needed are the continued community connections, including safe, drug/alcohol-free, structured housing for aftercare.

Community Commission on Homelessness (CCH): "CCH was established and appointed by the mayor as recommended by the Task Force on Homeless Services in order to work with existing service providers and agencies to facilitate implementation of the Final Plan and Recommendations. With the support of City staff the Commission will make regular progress reports to the community and will develop a broad-based funding plan for homeless services (courtesy <http://www.ci.lawrence.ks.us/boards#.homelessness>)."

**Corrections Division
Reentry Program**

Shannon Murphy, Director
3601 E 25th Street
Lawrence, KS 66046
PH: 785.830.1001
FX: 785.830.1085
smurphy@douglas-county.com

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.

The first Community Collaboration Council on Reentry will be held Thursday August 7th, 2008 at 3:30 PM at the facility.

Resources from the Urban Institute

**FEEL FREE TO
REDISTRIBUTE**

TO:

“Life after Lockup: Improving Reentry from Jail to the Community,” by Amy L. Solomon, Jenny W. L. Osborne, Stefan LoBuglio, Jeff Mellow, and Debbie Mukamal, is the first national resource focusing on jail inmates’ transition from incarceration to society. It presents an overview of U.S. jails and their population and how reentry from jail differs markedly from reentry from state and federal prisons. The report examines concrete reentry steps, profiles 42 reentry programs around the country, and explores probation’s role in the process. “Life after Lockup” is available at <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411660>.”

A companion report, “The Jail Administrators’ Toolkit for Reentry,” is a handbook on such issues as assessment of inmates’ needs, identifying community resources, educating the public, and measuring success. The Toolkit is available at <http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=411661>.