

Marion County Reentry Council

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2016; 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Board Room

Courthouse Square, 5th Floor, Board of Commissioners Office

Attendees:

Reentry Council Members: Commissioner Janet Carlson, Commander Jeff Wood, Tamra Goettsch, Tim Murphy, Shane Conaway (for Bruce Bailey), Jon Tucker (for Julie Huckestein), and Dick Withnell

Others: Sergeant Anna Whitlock, Deb Giard, Tina Bialas, Ted Woodruff, Laura Shaver, Jan Calvin, and Allycia Weathers as recorder.

Welcome, Introductions

- Commander Wood called the meeting to order and requested introductions.
- Two council members unable to attend sent proxies for voting, and to achieve a quorum:
 - Shane Conaway attending for Bruce Bailey; and
 - Jon Tucker attending for Julie Huckestein.

Minutes Approval

- Minutes from March 8, 2016 were reviewed;
- Commissioner Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes:
 - The motion was seconded by Tim Murphy; and
 - A voice vote was unanimous.

Professional Mentors – Tim Murphy, Tina Bialas, and Ted Woodruff

- Discussion regarding professional mentor position vs. volunteer mentors;
 - Volunteer mentors are very valuable.
 - Advantages of professional mentors:
 - Certified by Oregon Health Authority;
 - Consistency for clients;
 - Have expertise in alcohol and drug recovery; and
 - Ability to bill Medicaid for services.
- Ms. Bialas provided a handout (attached) including:
 - Professional recovery mentor job description; and
 - Certification information.
- Professional recovery mentors are a crucial component to the work being done at Bridgeway; and
- Peer mentoring has moved into the realm of evidence-based practice:
 - Highly efficacious for multiple populations.
- Professional mentor services
 - Target criminogenic risk factors;
 - Require documentation of minimum continuing education hours to retain certification;
 - Are involved in treatment planning decisions; and
 - Also provide services including:

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- Transportation;
 - Support during appointments;
 - Assist with coping skills; and
 - Participate in prosocial activities.
- Regularly operating in a gray area:
 - Going into client homes;
 - Interfacing with client family and friends; and
 - Attending prosocial leisure activities with clients.
- Great importance for professional boundaries:
 - For that reason, structure of job description, policies and procedures are important for professional mentors; and
 - Structure is not readily available to volunteer mentors.
- Mr. Woodruff has been working with Bridgeway for three years:
 - Currently employed as a full-time recovery mentor; and
 - Assigned to Link Up program.
 - Was a volunteer mentor prior to employment with Bridgeway:
 - Went into Mill Creek facility;
 - Ability to build rapport with clients because of similar life experiences; and
 - Shared success stories to ease client anxiety.
 - Able to advocate for population and help bridge the gap with different services.
 - Does reach-ins in prison; and
 - Meets clients at the prison gate upon release:
 - Takes client to Parole and Probation intake;
 - Enrolls client in health plan services; and
 - Assists with housing needs.
 - First few days after release are crucial for those with substance abuse history:
 - Very likely to return to substance abuse upon release; and
 - Receive high intensity services through professional mentor role.
- Bridgeway employs seven mentors:
 - Over 100 clients receiving mentor services;
 - All of the corrections clients have access to mentor services; and
 - Most of the contracts with Bridgeway include a professional mentor.
- Marion County Health Department also employs professional mentors.
- Discussion regarding a pool of volunteer mentors:
 - Community based;
 - Tie to dollar savings associated with that service; and
 - Difficult to operationalize:
 - Volunteers often have restrictions.
- Professional boundaries training:
 - Needed to address situations such as parole or probation violations;
 - Stay in communication with parole/probation officers;

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- Release of information with clients for mentors;
- Provide coaching and direction to clients;
- Help clients face fears; and
- Provide support for clients who rebound:
 - Have built rapport;
 - Discuss what happened; and
 - Work to bring them back into services.
- Length of mentor services depends on client:
 - May continue contact even if formal services have ended;
 - Reengaging terminated clients in needed services; and
 - Based on relationship building.
- Transitioning clients from professional mentor to volunteer mentor:
 - Work to get clients connected with community such as Alcoholics Anonymous;
 - Appropriate for volunteer mentors to help with transportation or life skill issues; and
 - Have used peer-volunteer mentors previously.
- Bridgeway is working to develop volunteer support training.
- Bridgeway is required to conduct background checks on volunteers as a condition of their license. Union Gospel Mission (UGM) also has some individuals interested in volunteering:
 - Agree the structure set for professional mentors is important for this population;
 - Potential for peer volunteers without structure and boundaries to get into trouble; and
 - UGM has data to back up success of professional mentor involvement with the reentry population.
- Community ask for volunteers in 2006:
 - Over 400 people in attendance;
 - Statesman Journal has honored their commitment to advertise the need for volunteers in the community;
 - Started the Volunteer and Mentor Center under United Way; and
 - Transitioned to Community Action and affiliated with HandsOn.
 - Difficult to find sustainable funding:
 - Received a three-year grant, then no sustainable funding.
 - Easier for HandsOn Willamette to get volunteers for clean-up events or other one-time events; and
 - Difficult to get volunteers to commit to a regular schedule.
 - Need a place to refer volunteers signing up at the reentry breakfast.

Volunteer Program – Jan Calvin

- Need for infrastructure, agency and organization for volunteers;
- Catherine Trottmann is a community member with an interest in reentry;
- Catherine is willing to work to develop pool of volunteers:
 - “Two client” concept where volunteer is also considered a client to be served with a “successful experience”;
 - Volunteers receive support, resources and coaching;

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- Develop workshops based on client needs; and
- Volunteers provide services in a workshop format.

- Workshop setting may be a successful model:
 - One workshop per month;
 - Volunteers commit to one or more workshops; and
 - Meet on the site of a nonprofit or Parole and Probation:
 - Screening, transportation, and confidentiality become less of an issue.
 - Topics may include resume writing, dress for success, hobbies, etc.
- Discussion regarding background checks and guidelines for volunteers:
 - Sergeant Whitlock and Jan Calvin are working with Catherine to develop guidelines for volunteers.
- Will begin recruiting volunteers at the reentry breakfast:
 - Community Services will work to get information from interested volunteers to Catherine, Sergeant Whitlock and Jan as soon as possible.

Client & Victims Fund – Tamra Goettsch

- Quarterly report ending March 31, 2016 attached;
- Community Services Department manages the client fund;
- Includes donations from the reentry breakfast, and donations throughout the year; and
- Agreement with five agencies to access fund to:
 - Remove barriers to education;
 - Assist with transportation; and
 - Assist with medical expenses.
- Current fund down to approximately \$3,000; and
- Getting closer to the end of the fiscal year for this fund:
 - November through October; and
 - Have had to put a hold on the fund for a couple weeks to ensure funds last through the fiscal year.
- Most requests through Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR);
- Many requests for identification and birth certificates;
- Many requests for eye glasses;
- Established waiting period of four weeks for SOAR participants to request these funds; and
- Working to leverage other resources prior to requesting the client fund.
- Likely going out for Request for Proposals for vision next year:
 - Ensure the best price possible;
 - Potential for additional vendors; and
 - Currently only working with Shopko.
- Funds available for anyone on supervision:
 - Including jail diversion population.

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- Have allowed any individual with a criminal background to use fund for identification or other lower cost items; and
- Identification costs generally for replacement, not first-time identification:
 - Oregon Department of Corrections is no longer destroying identification;
 - Release counselors are assisting with providing identification; and
 - May not be initiating process early enough to obtain identification prior to release.
- Commissioner Carlson made a motion to approve the report:
 - The motion was seconded by Dick Withnell; and
 - A voice vote was unanimous.

MCRI Breakfast – Commissioner Carlson

- The eighth annual reentry breakfast is upcoming October 25th; and
- Focus on housing.
- Working on videos:
 - Footage taken at Restoration House and New Options;
 - Deputy District Attorney Paige Clarkson is the keynote speaker;
 - Joshua Lair is the closing speaker:
 - Current Bridgeway employee and former SOAR client.
 - Congressman Schrader will attend and has asked to speak;
 - Currently above the 200 seat capacity at 219;
 - Costs are covered by sponsors:
 - \$7,400 in sponsorships; and
 - Video production largest expense:
 - Allied Video on site to assist with video and sound.
 - Broadway Commons is charging for the room this year.
 - Video will go on Marion County Reentry Initiative (MCRI) website;
 - Discussion about venue and capacity:
 - Broadway Commons allows outside caterer; and
 - Other venues considered, but were not as conveniently located.
 - List of about 800 email addresses receive invitation, which grows each year.
 - MCRI raised \$14,000 in donations last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. by Commander Wood.

Completed by: Allycia R. Weathers

Completed date: 9/14/2016

Attachments: Professional Mentor Handout
Client and Victims Fund Report