

Connections Through Change

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*Dr. Jean Hernandez,
Edmonds Community College President*

Positive Changes

Assisting students and our community members transform their lives is at the core of the Edmonds Community College mission, from our classrooms to the connections with our community. We were so pleased to host The Community Partnership for Transition Services, Snohomish Re-Entry Coalition 2-day Summer Institute where leadership from throughout the region came together. This opportunity for criminal justice professionals to network, share, and learn was a prime example of this kind of life-changing action. We are extremely proud of what our leadership accomplishes everyday in support of those adults who earned their 2nd chance opportunities. With the support of committed faculty and community members, many lives have been changed for the positive, and safer communities have been restored. It is especially heart-warming to see the volunteerism of so many who have spent the past six months to make the Summer Institute a huge success.

Community partnerships like this are part of our collective mission, and “giving back” to the community is one our values. Many of our ongoing and new community relationships reflect our commitment to sustainability practices. I salute the sweat equity put into this Offender Workforce Development Summer Institute’s Workgroup, and the 185+ criminal professionals that participating in 2012 Institute. I truly believe we are strengthening our communities when we help those individuals who were formerly incarcerated into educational pathways that lead to living wage jobs. By giving them the tools they need to lead productive lives, we ensure their “2nd Chance” remains a reality.

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Agents of Change
Regional Conference

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Complexity Yields Change

by: **Connie Smith, U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer, Western District of Washington**



In past practice, individuals under court supervision were told to get a job. Limited direction and assistance was provided, and knowledge was dated about available resources. We've come to realize this way of doing business does not work. Obtaining employment is difficult if there is no place to call home. On the contrary, a residence is almost impossible to secure if an individual does not have employment. The complexity of these issues goes way beyond a simple solution.

The U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Office in the Western District of Washington has adopted the term Workforce Development to address the many issues those under our supervision face to obtain and retain a livable wage job. Being engaged in Workforce Development requires our officers to be agents of change, which refers to people or thought processes that cause change from the traditional way of handling or dealing with a problem.

"Agents of Change" was the theme of the 2012 Regional Reentry Conference held at Edmonds Community College in July. The conference spanned two days allowing officers to be fully engaged with community partners in an effort to provide wrap-around services to those under our supervision. Feedback received from this conference indicated workshops were pertinent and informative to those on the frontline.

Officers received straight forward solutions to minimize and address barriers individuals face in obtaining meaningful employment from child support modifications to motivational interviewing. As an administrator, it is refreshing to see the number of agencies and individuals who aspire to be change agents. The passion and dedication to change.

As an administrator, it is refreshing to see the number of agencies and individuals who aspire to be change agents. The passion and dedication to change the way of doing business is not an easy task. Congratulations to the Community Partnership for Transition Services of King County, Edmonds Community College, and the Snohomish County Reentry Coalition for bringing reentry issues to the forefront and being true agents of change by providing attainable solutions to these issues.

Take Good Care of My Baby (What About The Children?)

by: **Kathy Wong, Instructor, Correction Education, SSCC**

Long ago, child support enforcers were pictured as the "evil-doers" hotly pursuing the negligent parent, stripping him of all his hard-earned money, taking his driver's license away and subjecting all to abject poverty. However, that picture has since been re-painted.

Currently, the Seattle/King County

Division of Child Support (DCS) piloted a new approach to educate and do outreach to the Non-Custodial Parent (NCP) on how to navigate the system and feel they are a responsible parent.

In the workshop, **What About the Children?**, a simple and straightforward example of the changes being

made was a carry-all red bag with a giant heart laid out on the desk for each participant. That universal

symbol for love offered a sweet reminder written inside the heart: Child Support Pays.



Take Good Care of My Baby continued

Presenter Ron Hawk, Outreach Supervisor for the Division of Child Support - Seattle Office for the past 25 years emphasized the importance of family and how children needlessly experience the wrath of parents and federal



laws on the responsibility of caring for the children. With new pamphlets and a short one-sheet (SAVE THIS PIECE OF PAPER) asking if DCS can assist and how, this allows us, **Agents of Change** and the Non-Custodial Parent in transition to open up a dialog on how to respond to meaningful changes

without fear of judgment. If negotiating a payment agreement or discussing a modification or believing a debt was written off while incarcerated is significant, then all the excuses are taken away. Sign the Consent Form and send it in.

Coaching and partnership were evident during the workshop. During the Q&A session, the new generation of support officers from DCS – Seattle were introduced. Several times, questions were deferred by Outreach Supervisor/

Coach/Colleague Hawk to these officers who skillfully responded to the audience's questions. Also in the audience was a specialist from the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Family Support Division who emphasized how the partnership between DCS and the KC Prosecutor -Family Support Division worked in assisting NCP in finding solutions and parenting plans.

By DCS engaging Non-Custodial Parents to take a more personal responsibility approach in supporting their children, these steps including community partnerships strengthen the direction needed, breaks barriers about Child Support, and how our children are loved. Now these parents begin the process of learning to be loving and caring moms and dads.



Agent of Change

Connecting to What Works

by: Amy Kiilsholm, Probation Officer Snohomish County

The Agents of Change Institute was excellent. Having the opportunity to learn about new resources, connect faces with names, and get a renewed sense of inspiration motivates me as I carry out my work. The training sessions provided education, a new perspective on working with defendants, and reminded me that there are a plethora of people in this field who

share a common goal of reducing recidivism.

Research has shown that education followed by employment is the most effective combination at reducing recidivism. Children of parents who serve time have a significantly greater likelihood of serving time themselves than other children. However, early childhood education is the most

effective protective factor in preventing children from following in their parents footsteps. So it seems pretty clear that we need to educate and employ our defendants, as well as provide their children with educational opportunities to reduce generational recidivism. "Call and speak with Joe Garcia, at South Seattle Community College regarding employment.

Connecting to What Works continued

Here's his number." or "Here's an early childhood education program. Give them a call."

Here are some highlights I found at this training.

1. Carie Sattler, Case Manager at C.C.S. who assists in-custody defendants with mental health issues transition back into the community.
2. Lori Black, C.C.O. with Department of Corrections who offers women's counseling groups to address alcohol/drug issues, family and transition issues, etc... These classes are available to our misdemeanor defendants. Lori said that they often do creative projects (sewing hand bags, etc.) because when women work on something creative that's often when the real conversations happen.
3. Phil Dudley with the Everett Gospel Mission shared a lot of information on what services they provide to the homeless ranging from alcohol/drug classes, to serving meals 5x a day, to offering showers to the homeless between 4-5pm each day.

They also have a separate women's homeless shelter that looks like a condominium where they offer parenting and education classes. He suggested that P.O.'s schedule a tour at the Everett Gospel Mission as many people are encouraged by all the great things going on at the mission.

4. Ron Hawk with Child Support Enforcement answered a variety of questions about child support issues. For example, did you know that the

"...we need to educate and employ our defendants, as well as provide their children with educational opportunities to reduce generational recidivism."

state of California charges 10% interest on back child support? The payments can be applied towards interest first and principal second. So some people never get their principal paid down. That surprised me. So if defendants have child support issues in WA and in CA, it is in their best interest to transfer the CA case to WA in order to avoid the interest.

5. Vanessa Hernandez, an attorney with the ACLU spoke about employer access to a defendant's criminal history. This is important information to pass onto defendants as they search for jobs, a name/face connection.

6. Joe Garcia at South Seattle Community College has a program called Life Skills to Work. The title speaks for itself. Along with teaching life skills, Joe also helps defendants find work, and has a large contact list of employers who will employ people with a criminal history. Defendants can show up on any Saturday at the New Holly Learning Center Campus in West Seattle and attend an all day orientation. And the list goes on.....YWCA, Goodwill Services, Pioneer, Work Source, Fresh Start Consulting. The number of agencies represented at this training was truly remarkable. Many program resources are congregated on this website: <http://bit.ly/wdwa>

Although the website is great, it cannot replace the value of a name/face connection.

I walked away from this conference with a renewed sense of inspiration, a larger group of colleagues to learn from, and a deep and abiding appreciation for the power we hold as Change Agents. I hope to attend more of these types of trainings and perhaps Snohomish County will develop a branch of CPTS - Community Partners for Transition Services.

***This Is How We Roll On* by: Ethan Hilliard, Reentry Corps: Voices & Faces Advocate**

Reflecting back in attending and population. The presenting at “Agents of Change” host of present-regional conference, it was truly a ers added to the humbling experience. The knowl- momentum of edge of the number of people this synergetic and Community Partners who are determination. I in solidarity to improving the com- met and chatted munity’s social health is phenome- with a lot of beautiful people who I nal. To see their sincerity and appreciated, in treating me as a dedication to knocking down barriers citizen instead of just an reentrants is nothing short of great ef- fender. Do not get me wrong, there were a smattering of folks effort. The two day conference held with predetermined judgments of entation evaluations gave me great an atmosphere of positive energy my contribution. Luckily, I know insight on how to improve present- that surrounded the event. I felt humanity wins out in the end. I ing and conveying the Reentry the revitalization of networks also valued those who came up to Corps: Voices & Faces message in through sharing of ideas, innova- us following our presentation, giv- the future. Thank you for the awe- tive methods for collaboration and ing us accolades and encourage- some opportunity. communication in the common ment to keep rolling on through goal to better serve the reentrant meeting goals. There were profes-



The Reentry Corps are advocates of efficient and productive transitions from prisons or jails back into society. Our members consist of former reentrants and family members who are supportive of our commitment to “paying forward” by assisting in building healthier lives and stronger communities. We are positive testimonials and encouragement to our peers.



We will:

Plug into the network of support systems of the Archdiocese of Seattle Criminal Justice Ministry Reentry Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul’s 2nd Chance initiatives, Catholic Community Services and appropriate faith-based and community-based organizations

- ⇒ Lead by example
- ⇒ Conduct speaking engagements, inside and outside of prisons/jails
- ⇒ Create a platform for positive testimonials and peer support
- ⇒ Motivate and educate (Breaking Barriers, Corrections Education Program, 2nd Chance Opportunities

www.reentrycorps.com

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Thank you contributors.

Dr. Jean Hernandez
Connie Smith
Kathy Wong
Amy Kiihlholm
Ethan Hilliard

South Seattle Community College

Connections Through Change

Community Partnership Transitional Services

CPTS Vision/Value Statement: To build a community that takes into consideration the talents and contributions of **ALL** its members, including adults who are in transition from prison & jail back to their community and families. We aspire to join those in their life changing and defining **TRANSITION** as they integrate into society through a holistic and comprehensive set of services and support, which will allow these adults to build and lead more self-sufficient and productive lives. (William A. Ramos)

Purpose Driven Mission: To translate our vision and values through a series of purpose driven community venues that support successful transition for adults who have earned their return back to the community and their families.

Event Announcements

Online announcements link: <http://bit.ly/wdwa>

AUGUST 2012

CPTS Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 17, 2012 at 12:15 pm
New Holly Learning Center, 7058 32nd Ave S, Seattle

SEPTEMBER 2012

September 7th - Pierce Co. Transition/Re-Entry Formation Meeting 10a-12
September 12th - KC PAO Offender Re-Entry Summit Meeting 9a-12
September 21st - CPTS Meeting 12:15 pm
September 28th - Western WA Transition/Re-Entry Network Formation Gathering 8a-4p;

OCTOBER 2012

October 19th - 2nd Chance Employer Database Consultation 8a-3p

NOVEMBER 2012

Mock Interview Job Fair

Held annually at the Federal Detention Center at Seatac, this event allows those transitioning from prison to practice their interviewing skills. If you are an employer, employer representative, or community partner and interested in participating in this event, please contact Ben Thorpe at 206-870-5726 for more information.

Date: November 28, 2012

Time: 7:30 am - 2:00 pm

Location: FDC Seatac - 2425 S 200th St.

MARCH 2013

March 22nd - 2nd Chance Employer Forum, Filipino Community Center 8a-2p

Transition Resource Fair - TBA

Resource Link of the Month

ACLU of Washington's new Criminal Records Project webpage www.aclu-wa.org/criminalrecords