



WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

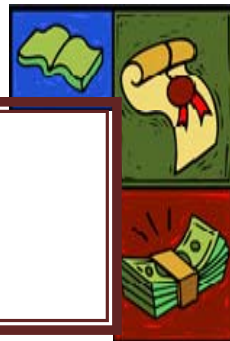
Seattle Work Release Advisory Board

April 23, 2010
9:00 am—2:00 pm

New Holly Learning Center
7058 32nd Ave So Bldg
7058 2nd Fl Rm. 205
Seattle, WA

Transition Resource Fair

Newsletter



Chance for Change

Committed to providing our mutual clients with a variety of services and opportunities to assist their successful reintegration to the community

Transition Resource Fair Partners:

- AAHAA-Sober Living
- Downtown Emergency Center
- Federal Bureau of Prisons-Community Corrections
- King County Community Corrections
- New Connections of So. King County
- Pioneer Human Services
- Seattle Conservation Corps
- Sound Mental Health – Re-Entry & Offender Services
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- So. Seattle Community College
- U.S. Pretrial Services
- U.S. Probation Services
- U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs
- WA State DOC- Seattle Work Release Facilities & SCJC/DRP
- WA State DSHS – Belltown CSO; Div. of Child Support; Juvenile Rehabilitation Admin.; DVR
- WA State ESD-Offender Employment Service
- WA State Veteran Affairs
- YWCA ~ Passage Point Re-Entry



Productive Day Spent at the Transition Resource Fair

By Miss Jorgensen, Perkins Leadership Student SSCC

My day spent at the Resource Fair at New Holly was a very productive one. I was recently released from HBR work release and even though I had accomplished quite a bit, I still had many more tasks to accomplish during my transition to the community. I was in search of clean & sober housing, I owed back child support, and I was in search of chemical dependency treatment, a mental health provider and other support services.

Before attending the Resource Fair, I was beginning to feel a little overwhelmed with all that I needed to accomplish and still continue to attend South Seattle Community College. If it had not been for this Resource Fair, I am not sure that I would have accomplished all of these challenges by now. It's as though the 500 pound gorilla has been lifted from my shoulder. I didn't have to play phone tag, travel to each location by bus, miss school and stress over all of these tasks. Instead, they were all in the same building and working together to resolve and assist me with my very real obstacles.

I had DSHS working with Sound Mental Health to accommodate my needs, DCS was there and informed me of my rights and we filed documents to reduce my debt, and Society of St. Vincent de Paul was there and was committed to assisting me with any financial needs in moving into AAHAA Sober Living. There were also support services there to assist with resumes, interviewing skills and assistance with 2nd Chance Employers database to assist in seeking employment.

I feel blessed to have been a part of that day and I am very grateful to all of the supportive people there. I pray that the support continues to grow and the people in transition see what a wonderful opportunity this is and utilize it.

Servanthood; A Shared Experience at the Transition

Resource Fair

By Doug Hebert, M.Ed. Case Manager, St. Vincent de Paul

On behalf of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Seattle / King County Council, I wish to congratulate Mr. Garcia, his staff and the other members of the Community Partners for Transition Services team who were present at the April 23, 2010 Transition Resource Fair. As a vendor, I was particularly impressed by the genuine effort and enthusiasm I saw from the 30-odd vendors present, representing 18 different Partners. The effort and enthusiasm of the students / clients who interfaced with me was equally genuine and appeared intrinsically rewarding for them. In 35 years as a case manager, I have never attended an event that offered so much encouragement, so many opportunities, information and compassion for such a difficult

to serve population (the students / clients are not difficult, society's barriers to reintegration make it difficult.)

I had the distinct pleasure to see a dozen or so of our current clients, who all had positive things to say about the Fair. They also took time to introduce me to their friends and fellow students, describing both me and our assistance program in a very flattering manner. We never truly know the impact we may have on our clients until we see them in action, following their "get-well plans" and introducing us to their peers as someone who truly cares about their lives in general, their transitions in particular. I had tears in my eyes after just such interactions with Mr. Dunn and Ms. Jorgensen. They are wonderful examples of why we do what we do. Every student / client I talked with indicated how impressed they were with the physical lay-out of the Fair. The ability to get various forms of assistance in one room, to get DSHS and OSE help in another room, and to have access to our work data base in another room were received with the wide-open eyes of a child on Christmas morning!

I also had the pleasure of meeting colleagues, collecting business cards, networking and receiving congratulations from others for previous collaborations. I wish I could experience such exhilarating feelings from my work on a daily basis! I am truly looking forward to attending the next Resource Fair. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such a positive organization, it has been an honor.

MY DAY AT THE RESOURCE FAIR

By Michael Finn, Volunteer, St. Vincent de Paul

I am a volunteer with St. Vincent DePaul and attended the Resource Fair as an assistant to Doug Hebert a social worker and dispenser of resources.

We were at the fair for 5 hours and many people came to inquire what St. Vincent's is about. Our handout was simple and self-explanatory, so if we didn't have what they needed we would direct them to the appropriate person at another booth. There were two of us at the St. Vincent's booth and much of the time we were both needed.

I liked the layout of the fair. Many of the general services, probably 15 to 20, were in a main room. Housing support was in a separate room and the data-base of employers in the computer lab. Many booths had well thought-out displays. We learned much so our signs and hand-outs will be better next year.

One of my clients came to the fair at my suggestion and found a few of the resources he needed, for which I was grateful. It was so crowded he didn't even find the booth I was attending. One booth from the state of Washington gave me helpful tips for this client.

For myself I was happy to meet many of the other resource people and to learn more in detail what they provide. It is pleasure to help people navigate to a better life. It is also inspirational to be with good, committed people and I find that to be a motivation to me.

SWAB and Growing Local Partnerships for Safer Communities

By Ms. Susie Leavell, Supervisor, Helen B. Ratcliff and Madison Inn Work Release, WA State DOC

In a challenging economy, the value of meaningful recognition multiplies. While it may be financially prudent to forgo expensive awards or events, the Community Partnership for Transition Services strives not to lose sight of what recognition is all about. Whether companies are large or small, we want them to know that what they do makes a positive difference, and employers should hear it now more than ever.

As companies scale back on formal awards and events, recognition becomes less about the stuff and more about how the message is delivered in a meaningful way. In fact, studies show that what employees crave most is a sincere “thank you for a job well done.” And, fortunately, it’s exactly that kind of recognition that moves the needle towards the positive in engagement, retention, and increased outcomes. Tony Fuoco, Director of the Bishop Lewis Work Release facility was instrumental in leading the DOC Seattle Work Release Advisory Board (SWAB) over the past year in partnering up with the Community Partnership for Transition Services in organizing and pulling off the 3rd Transition Resource Fair on April 23rd. Bringing together community corrections and partner agencies to work together to build programs and partnerships in support of safer communities.

Joseph E. Garcia shared the importance of education, training and GO2WORK programs in support of adults in their successful transition from prison & jail back to their communities. Mr. Garcia further stated, “Community reintegration through a purpose driven cognitive behavior Learn-to-Learn curriculum, and hands on 2nd Chance Employment opportunities are key to successful transition back to the community.”

Pioneer Human Services, St. Vincent de Paul, U.S. VA, AARP, a number of housing vendors, DSHS’ DVR, Child Support, Food Stamps and other community service organizations provided an array of integrated counseling, treatment, housing, re-entry, and job training services.

Christina Davis from WA State Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Gwen Mimms, from the Re-Entry programs of the YWCA, John Taylor from the Seattle Conservation Corps, Ben Thorpe and Christine from FDC SeaTac, Arinda Phillips, BOP, Community Corrections and Ms. Brown from the DSHS Graham St, CSO conducted mock interview, resume prep coaching sessions to assist community members to **GO2WORK**. This was a successful collaboration event that is an “added value” between community partners and community corrections.

The 3rd Community Transition Resource Fair

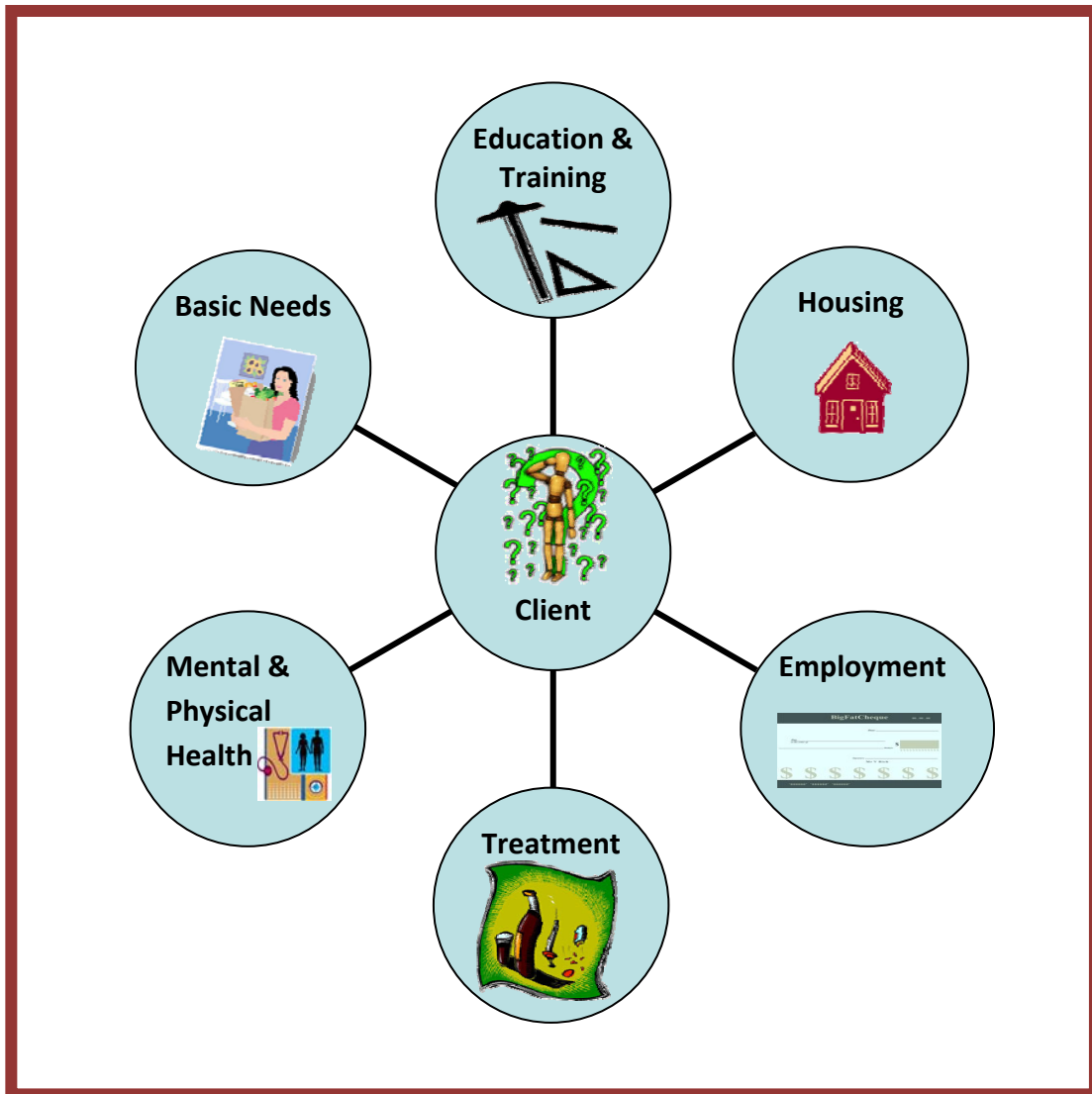
By Joseph E. Garcia, Corrections Education Programs, South Seattle Community College

Following-up on the successful 2008 and 2009 launching of the 2nd Chance Employer Forums, the **Community Partnership for Transition Services in King County (CPTS)** linked-up with the **WA State DOC Seattle Work Release Advisory Board (SWAB)** workgroup in the Fall of 2009 to co-sponsor the 3rd Transition Resource Fair held at the New Holly Learning Center in Southeast Seattle. The April 23rd event was highlighted by special guests **Commissioner Ms. Vicki Turetsky**, U.S. DHHS – Office of Child Support Enforcement, Seattle Community College District **Chancellor Dr. Jill Wakefield**, **Interim President Dr. Jean Hernandez**, South Seattle Community College and attended by over thirty Community Partner vendors and nearly 100 community members. This day long community gathering focused on **“How to improve and connect the critical support services and systems for adults transitioning from prison and jail back to the community”**. Recently completed studies are showing a significant impact of Transition and Re-entry programs on recidivism, specifically those programs focused on education, training and employment opportunities. For local releasees going through a structured learn-to-learn cognitive-driven process during their supervision as a condition of their release requirement can make a big difference in whether they find employment, complete their GED, a treatment or training program or recidivate. Moreover, substantial support services need to be available and provided by committed and trained professionals. Our special guests were

very impressed by the array of Transition and Re-entry programs, whose efficacy confirms “Best Practices” and “validated outcomes”, “There is great advantage to creating safer communities, with structured intervention and appropriate support to releasees during their community supervision time and being enrolled in a local community college is a great place to start” Dr. Wakefield stated. Commissioner Turetsky commented that the “2nd Chance Act and President Obama envisioned this type of partnership at the community level as the best place to create safer communities”. With approximately 2.3 million people in prison or jail, the United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world-by far. And most of those imprisoned are poor and uneducated, disproportionately drawn from the margins of society. For one group in particular, however, these figures have concrete and have deep-rooted implications - African-Americans, especially young black men, and especially poor young black men. They represent 13% of the general population, but over 50 percent of the prison population. Blacks are incarcerated at a rate eight times higher than that of whites.

Transition and re-entry programs, need to start prior to their release or as a key requirement to their community supervision plan. Furthermore, Dr. Hernandez, Interim President at SSCC has been continually impressed by “the quality of educational, training and employment services provided by the dedicated faculty in the Corrections Education Programs at SSCC and the community partnerships connected to the college’s efforts”.

Many thanks to our Community Partners, service vendors, community members, Seattle University and SSCC Perkins Leadership Spring Qtr student’s contribution to this event’s success. Moreover, we thank Tony Fuoco’s leadership coupled with the Transition Resource Fair Work Group’s diligence is pulling all the necessary pieces together that made the April 23rd venue relevant to all those in attendance.



FACES OF CHANGE

