



Location: JFS 1345 Lagonda Ave, Springfield OH



Date: April 15th



Time: 8:30-9:30 AM

Meeting Minutes

- I. The meeting called to order at 8:35 with 24 people in attendance.
 - a. All 24 attendees introduced themselves.
- II. Coalition reviewed the minutes from February and March. A motion to approve the minutes from both February and March was made by Emily Parsons and seconded by Abby Glaser. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. Committee Updates:
 - a. Haitian Coalition: Casey Rollins shared information about an offshoot of the Haitian Coalition called Springfield Neighbors United. This group has formed to explore ways to educate Haitian community members about their rights in response to upcoming changes, with a focus on helping families prepare for what may come next. Additionally, the group is working to build trust within the community, specifically aiming to encourage families to grant power of attorney for their children, ensuring that necessary support and legal protections are in place. For those interested in getting involved, please contact Casey Rollins at caseyrollins59@gmail.com.
 - i. The executive committee meeting for the Haitian Coalition is scheduled for the afternoon of April 14th. A more detailed update will be available at the May meeting.
 - b. Partners in Prevention: No update
 - c. Parole: No update
 - d. Probation: No update
 - e. Clark County Jail: No update
 - f. Transportation Council: Brooke Wagner attended the recent Transportation Council meeting, where it was noted that an update on the micro-transit program might be available at today's meeting. Although there was initial hope that the program would be finalized by now, contract negotiations are still ongoing as of last week. As a result, no official update is available at this time. Glen Massey agreed to attend the May meeting and provide an update.
 - g. ODRC: Update was provided during New Business. .
 - h. Reentry Committees: Brief updates were provided for each of the reentry committees, highlighting ongoing efforts and any recent developments.
 - i. CAP: The committee is currently focused on collecting data to support the strategic plan. Over 40 surveys have been completed so far at March FCW and through our community partners One-2-One, CCHD & McKinley Hall. The committee will continue collecting surveys throughout this month and plans to partner with McKinley Hall again to target individuals there. The data



collection is progressing well, and the committee is excited about the insights so far.

- ii. **Community Education Committee:** April is Reentry Month, officially recognized by a proclamation from the Clark County Commissioners. To mark the occasion, the Reentry Committee is hosting several events, including a Reentry Simulation on April 29th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Hollenbeck Bayley Creative Arts and Conference Center. Lunch will be provided, and only four participant seats remain; volunteers are still needed. A PTSD Training will take place immediately after the meeting, and the Community-Based Family Forum will be held tonight from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. This forum supports families with incarcerated loved ones and provides information on the transition process. ODRC and CareSource were key partners in organizing the event.
- iii. **Access to Service:** The March Fair Chance Wednesday event was a great success, with a record turnout of 37 participants and 25 vendors. The increase in attendance is credited to the committee's targeted outreach and marketing efforts, including a new plan that utilized Facebook groups and online platforms. The committee is thankful for the support and plans to apply the same strategies for the May event.
- iv. **Housing:** The committee had previously been working on establishing a Homeless Court, but progress stalled. As a result, focus has shifted to exploring an eviction sealing program, modeled after similar efforts in Columbus, Dayton, and other areas in Ohio. The committee met with Zack, who helps run Dayton's eviction sealing initiative, to learn about the structure, criteria, and key players involved—particularly the crucial role of the Clerk of Courts. Brooke reached out to the local Clerk, who expressed interest and indicated he would speak with a judge about potential next steps. The committee is also working on gathering local, state, and national data to support the case for eviction sealing in Clark County. A key takeaway from Dayton's program is that individuals must pay off any rent owed to qualify for sealing, which has increased support among property owners. This aspect could help build a broader community and stakeholder buy-in. The committee is hopeful about moving this effort forward.
- i. **Legislative update:** see attached.

IV. **New Business:**

- a. **Tuesday talk:** ODRC's upcoming Tuesday Talk will focus on "Justice for Heroes: Empowering Justice-Involved Veterans Through Health Care and Legal Support," featuring Gina Kicos. Those interested need to register and log in early, as the Zoom session is limited to the first 100 participants. These sessions are known to be informative and valuable. The event flyer was shared with the coalition via email.
 - b. **BMV Training Opportunity:** During the last Fair Chance Wednesday, it was shared that the BMV is implementing statewide changes to fees and fines, including lifting
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some for eligible individuals. In response, the BMV was invited to provide a training update, but they indicated they would need a full hour to present. The group discussed options for scheduling this session and agreed it would be best to invite the BMV to present during a future meeting, either in May or July, with an extended time frame. This would allow attendees and community partners to benefit from the training. Once confirmed, the training will be promoted to ensure broader participation.

- c. COHHIO Notice: A notice from COHHIO was shared with the Housing Committee and included in the meeting packet. Originally sent on April 1st, the notice highlighted proposed significant cuts to homelessness funding in the House version of Ohio's state budget. Although the request was to advocate before the budget moved to the Senate, it has since advanced with those cuts still in place. Further updates are expected in the coming months.
 - d. NRCC: Staff from the Reentry department attended the National Returning Citizens Conference on April 11–12, which was held in Ohio for the first time. The event, largely organized by ODRC, featured high-profile speakers like Chef Jeff and several impactful authors and presenters. Workshops covered topics such as entrepreneurship and family reunification in the reentry process. The experience was powerful, and attendees were encouraged to consider attending next year's conference in Jacksonville, FL.
 - e. ODRC updates:
 - i. ODRC is working to expand the reentry coalition coverage across Ohio, currently at 63 of 88 counties. There's an increased emphasis on having a stronger reentry presence inside prisons. ODRC continues its "Tuesday Talks" series and statewide family-focused community events.
 - ii. Upcoming prison tours are available (next one at Lebanon Correctional). These tours showcase programs such as dog training, college courses, and more. Community partners that may be interested in participating should reach out to Ernest Stockton for more details.
 - iii. There is a Reentry in Action event on April 23rd, from 8-1 in Montgomery County. This resource fair is designed to connect individuals impacted by the justice system with real-time support and opportunities. The event will serve a wide regional audience, including Montgomery, Greene, Darke, Miami, and Preble counties.
 - iv. ODRC is expanding services that connect incarcerated individuals with identification documents before release. Efforts are underway to provide individuals with their Social Security cards and birth certificates prior to release. If they work with their Correctional Program Specialist (CPS) while incarcerated, they can be added to a list to have these documents processed in advance. The birth certificate process typically takes about two weeks, and
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once completed, the documents are included in their release packet. If an individual loses their release ID after leaving prison, they can contact the regional reentry coordinator to request a replacement. The replacement must be sent to a verified case manager or government agency—not directly to the individual. If needed, the coordinator can reach out to the releasing institution or use creative solutions, like retaking the photo with the required orange background, to ensure the individual receives their replacement ID. This process has been working smoothly and has already helped many returning citizens remove a key barrier to rebuilding their lives post-release. Reminder: For individuals on parole, it's recommended they consult with a BMV representative before using the prison ID to access and driver's license to ensure there are no blocks or holds due to child support or other issues that may delay the process.

- V. Old business: The group discussed several events, including the Resume Clinic, Clark County Job Fair, the sock drive, and SMART Reentry Housing Project.
 - a. Resume Clinic: The resume clinic was held on April 3rd. Twenty individuals registered, and seven participants attended.
 - b. Job Fair: The Clark County Job Fair is on April 15th from 1:00 to 4:30 PM at the Hollenbeck Creative Arts and Conference Center in downtown Springfield. Agencies sending participants were reminded that employers who are second chance-friendly would have a designated symbol at their tables—a sun with a plant growing from it, which matches the logo from the Clark County Reentry Department. This symbol indicates that the employer is open to hiring justice-impacted individuals. However, it's important to note that second chance hiring is typically considered on a case-by-case basis, and there may still be limitations depending on the nature of an individual's convictions.
 - c. Step Into Stability Sock Drive: The donation drive is currently underway. Organizations that volunteered to collect socks received collection boxes from the Reentry department, and we appreciate their participation. These boxes will be picked up at the end of the month. Donations can be brought to the May coalition meeting if that's more convenient.
 - d. SMART Reentry Housing Project: The SMART Reentry Housing Project is continuing to move forward. We have not received any indication from BJA that funding will be cut. As part of that progress, the Reentry Department is currently hiring a Housing Specialist. The position is posted online, and we are looking for someone who is well-connected in the housing community—ideally with experience in real estate, with SMHA, or similar housing-related work.
 - VI. For the good of the order:
 - a. Brooke reminded everyone about the Coalition Engagement Agreements. The agreement serves as a formal acknowledgment that your organization is part of our
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Reentry Coalition. This documentation is needed to comply with grantors requiring a complete and accurate list of all coalition partners. Additionally, the information collected in these agreements helps the Reentry Department coordinate and plan more effectively. The goal is to have all engagement agreements submitted by the end of May. If you'd like to remain an official partner and appear on the coalition roster, please complete and return the form to Brooke Wagner.

- b.** Casey shared information about a peaceful rally on April 19th at City Hall for the Springfield Neighbors United initiative.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.





Attendees:

Abby Glaser
Amy Bracken
Bonita Burch
Bonita Vangorden
Brittany Burks
Brooke Wagner
Brynn Cunningham
Casey Rollins
Charlie Patterson
Deric Nichols
Emily Parsons
Ernest Stockton
Gina Kicos
Jacob Clark
Jason Bond
Jessica Neuerer
John Catenacci
Josie Kelley
Kelly Binegar
Merri Shearer
Raphael Allen
Thomas McGrath
Vince Carter
Wendy Doolittle

