

# This Week at Second Chance ...



"A public safety program of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission"

[www.kc-crime.org](http://www.kc-crime.org)

Second Chance Mission: "To provide a crime prevention strategy for Metropolitan Kansas City through research, advocacy and the funding of programs that improves opportunities for ex-offenders to lead productive lives."

January 27, 2010

Volume 2, Issue 2

The Second Chance Program focuses on metro-wide reentry efforts through Research and special projects, Advocacy through the Reentry Coalition, and Fundraising to support local organizations providing direct services to the offender population.

In an effort to keep you more informed on what's happening in the Second Chance community, we will send out this e-newsletter periodically with the latest and greatest news and information!

Thanks for your support of the Second

Have you missed an issue of this newsletter? Go to our website for the archived copies: [www.kc-crime.org](http://www.kc-crime.org)

Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary,

**Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition**

Everywhere I go people are impressed that more than 100 organizations have connected to do the important work of removing barriers that prevent the success of people with an incarceration history in metropolitan Kansas City. As today marks the one year anniversary of the development of the Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, I wanted to acknowledge **all of you** for the work **you** do and tell **you** how much the currently incarcerated, the newly freed, and the broad community appreciate **you**.

From Lansing Correctional Facility to the Capitol Building in Jefferson City, I have been thanked for the work **you** are all doing together to further our collective goals, fulfilling our mission, and making this a safe community for ALL. In fact, when I was busy impressing people with our work in Jeff City yesterday, you were back here at Pioneer doing the actual work to further our goals. A big thank you goes to Nelson Hopkins, Sr., who graciously

Chance Program!

### Coming Soon

Board Meeting –  
February 16th at 3PM  
location TBA for  
members and  
invitees.

Kansas City  
Metropolitan Reentry  
Coalition, Tuesday,  
February 23rd, 3-  
4PM (networking  
before and after  
meeting) Pioneer  
Campus of MCC,  
2700 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St, K.C.  
Mo., Auditorium

### Second Chance Offices

3100 Broadway, Suite  
226

Kansas City, Mo  
64111

816-960-6800

### Pioneer Campus Office

2700 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St,  
Rm 207

Kansas City, Mo.  
64127

816-285-8668

### Contact Us

accepted a leadership role in yesterday's meeting. People keep telling me what a great job he did. Nelson is "all in," as they say, and I think many of you are, too.

This is the mission you set for the coalition:

**The mission of the Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition is to support the success of ex-offenders reentering the metropolitan area by ensuring a comprehensive state of the art continuum of services and complementary public policies.**

Sometimes social change feels slow. Sometimes interpersonal change feels slow. I am a "I want it now" kind of gal. But the very best things I have achieved in life have been slow and absolutely worth the wait. (This job is one of them.) Sometimes the people we work with have the same feeling. I was in jail on Monday with Dr. Alex Holsinger, conducting the final focus group for our Gaps Analysis, funded by Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, when a young woman in the group said this, "Programs don't work for people who want to feed instant gratification. If you go and think they are going to hand you a job on the first day or if you go thinking someone is going to make you sober, you aren't going to be satisfied. But if you go and are willing to do the work you will be successful." I think we need to listen to her advice. We need to be willing to do the work to remove barriers and create the kind of community that allows opportunities for all people to be successful. This year, with our continued works, I anticipate two big victories, one in Missouri and one in Kansas.

Come to our next Reentry Coalition Meeting to find out how to be a part of those victories in very specific ways. Ask other reentry providers in the community what they are doing to further the work of removing barriers. Get them involved, if they aren't already. More importantly, ask yourself what you are doing to further our goals and then see if there is something more you can do. The next meeting is February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3PM, see the left column in this letter for details.

*You don't need to do everything (praise God) but for the Love of God, do something.*

**Lora McDonald,  
Program  
Director, 816-  
277-5912,  
lmcDonald@kc-  
crime.org**

**Barry Mayer,  
Vice-President,  
KCMCC, 816-  
960-6814,  
bmayer@kc-  
crime.org**

**Richard Easley,  
President,  
KCMCC, 816-960-  
6800, reasley@kc-  
crime.org**

**SECOND CHANCE  
PROGRAM  
Board of Directors**

CHAIRMAN OF THE  
BOARD

William H. Dunn, Sr.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Carl DiCapo

SECRETARY

Albert Riederer

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

Richard Anderson

Charles Battey

Alvin Brooks

Terry Calaway

Bill Dana, Jr.

Peter Dunn

Elena Franco

Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.

Kenneth Gibson

Ellen Hanson

Wallace Hartsfield

Robert Lee Hill

Ernie Johnson

Cathy Jolly

James Kanatzar

## Meet our KC Metropolitan Reentry Coalition Member: Community Housing Network

Community Housing Network learned about the work of the Reentry Coalition when director, Kristina Peters, met Lora McDonald at a LISC Meeting and began discussion on how CHN can work with the reentry population. **Community Housing Network** is interested in working with other organizations as they work on a development plan for an ex-offender apartment building.

Community Housing Network, Inc. is a 501 C (3) non profit dedicated to developing housing opportunities for the mentally disabled. CHN's mission is to provide housing opportunities and assistance to the mentally ill in the seven county area surrounding Greater Kansas City. Community Housing Network became interested in the coalition because growing statistical data underlines the significant number of offenders who suffer from mental illness. The present prison system does little to identify or provide treatment for these individuals either incarcerated or in the midst of reentry. Further data supports the reality that housing opportunities for the reentry population are minimal at best. CHN's mission is serving the housing needs of the mentally ill and we are now working out details on a housing project specifically developed for this population.

CHN is located at 2600 East 12<sup>th</sup> on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Prospect. The telephone number is (816) 482-5744. Their website address is [www.communityhousingnet.org](http://www.communityhousingnet.org)

CHN has three housing voucher programs that are accessed through an individual's case manager. Program participants are enrolled with a mental health organization that provides case

Chi King  
John Modest Miles  
C. Eugene Morgan  
Julie Porter  
Cliff Sargeon  
Marilyn Scafe  
Willard Snyder  
Kent Sunderland  
Bailus Tate  
Marlene Weatherford

management services. They are also developing a 6-8 unit apartment building specifically designed for ex-offenders. CHN welcomes a dialogue with coalition members about the development of such housing in the community. Kris Peters provided the Q/A information for this article.

## Meet our Second Chance Advisory Board



*Rev. Robert Lee Hill*  
Member of the Board

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and raised in Texas, Dr. Robert Lee Hill has served since 1987 as Senior Minister of the Community Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Before being called to Community in 1985 as associate minister, Dr. Hill served as Special Projects Director and Co-Director of Project Return, Inc., a non-profit agency working with ex-prisoners and their families in Nashville, Tennessee. He also previously served as a Youth and Family Worker at All Peoples Christian Center in south central Los Angeles.

Dr. Hill holds three degrees: B.A. (Texas Christian University), M.Div. (Vanderbilt University Divinity School), D.D. (Christian Theological Seminary). He has spoken as a keynoter and guest

speaker at assemblies, retreats, conferences, colleges, auto plants, seminaries, and a variety of ecumenical and interfaith venues across the U.S.

He has served the greater Kansas City community as a board member for Kansas City Hospice, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, Institute for Spirituality in Health, and ReStart, among other organizations. From 2005-2010, he served as the Co-Chair of the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE). Since 1991, he has been, with Judy Hellman, the co-chair of the Greater Kansas City Martin Luther King Interfaith Service. From 1992 to 1996 he served as Chairperson of The Council of Mayors ' Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. From 1998 through 2000 he was co-chair of "Compassion Sabbath" for The Center for Practical Bioethics (formerly Midwest Bioethics Center). Since 1993, Dr. Hill has been a co-host of the Sunday morning radio call-in show, "Religion on the Line," on KCMO-Talk Radio 710AM.

Dr. Hill is the author and/or editor of eight books, the most recent publication is titled ***The Color of Sabbath***.

He is married to Priscilla Reckling, and they live in the Brookside neighborhood in Kansas City, Missouri.