



This Week at the Second Chance Foundation...

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."

March 6, 2009

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In an effort to keep you more informed on what's happening at the Second Chance Foundation, we will send out this e-newsletter periodically with the latest and greatest news and information! The news items will be identified as Research, Advocacy, Public Relations, Special Project or Fundraising related.

Thanks for your support of the Second Chance Foundation!

Coming Soon

- Board Meeting – March 17th, 3pm, Kauffman (Board Members and invitees)

Board Meeting – April 21, 3pm, Kauffman (Board members & invitees)

A Sneak Peek:

This is a four part series on: Advice for State Policymakers on Designing Strategies That Improve Employment Outcomes and Increase Public Safety. This newsletter will discuss STEP ONE- "Who should receive employment services supported by reinvestment efforts, and what are the desired outcomes?" as recently published in a bulletin by the The Council of State Governments Justice Center.

Part One - Introduction

States everywhere are struggling with budgets strained to their limits, growing prison populations, and crime. In response, many are engaging in a "Justice Reinvestment" approach that involves better managing corrections spending and other criminal justice processes, so that the resulting cost savings can be reinvested in strategies that increase public safety and draw on the expertise and experience of community and faith-based organizations. A reinvestment priority for many states has been to reduce unemployment among people under criminal justice supervision, who are particularly likely to commit crimes.

Research confirms that employment can help individuals with a criminal history stay out of prison and jail, lowering recidivism rates and victimizations. The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, with support from the Department of Labor (DOL), is advancing strategies for high-risk populations that recognize the uniquely valuable role that community and faith-based organizations can play. These strategies help promote employment opportunities for people returning from prison or jail and others in neighborhoods that struggle with high crime, poverty, substance abuse, and other challenges.

This bulletin provides a preview of an upcoming blueprint, made possible through the

- Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, March 31st, 3-4PM (open networking 2-3PM) Pioneer Campus of MCC, 2700 E. 18th St, K.C. Mo., Auditorium

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support of DOL and private foundations, to use data-driven strategies to reduce criminal activity by helping connect at-risk individuals to short- and long-term employment. The release of this document will include information about how states may reinvest in community services to individuals who are likely to return to prison or jail.

Connecting Probationers and Parolees to the Workforce

There are four essential questions for legislators and state executives to consider as they determine how best to allocate scarce resources among people with criminal records to have the greatest impact on their becoming productive members of communities and families. Policy makers should collaborate with their department of corrections, probation and parole agencies, department of labor, workforce investment boards, private-sector employers, and other key stakeholders to develop an employment reinvestment effort, including addressing the following questions:

Step 1: Who should receive employment services supported by reinvestment efforts, and what are the desired outcomes?

Step 2: What types of employment services do they need?

Step 3: Do employment service providers have the requisite capacity and skills to meet this population's needs and the ability to coordinate with criminal justice agencies? What gaps exist?

Step 4: How should employment services be organized and implemented?

Who should receive employment services supported by reinvestment efforts, and what are the desired outcomes?

- State officials should develop criteria to determine which individuals on probation or leaving prison or jail will receive services through the reinvestment initiative. Among the variables to consider are the individuals' risk of recidivating, their age and likelihood of maturing out of criminal activity, where the majority reside, and the time between release and when they can be engaged in employment activities.
- Policy makers should select several neighborhoods for reinvestment and apply the criteria to the universe of probationers and parolees in the selected area to estimate the size of the service population.
- After determining the size, scope, and geographic distribution of the group to be served, state officials should agree on specific criminal justice and employment outcomes that policymakers and others hope to achieve through the reinvestment initiatives. These measures should vary depending on local data collection systems and the ability to track relevant information. State policymakers should try to align selected outcome measures with similar definitions used in federal workforce investment grant programs.

Next week: Step Two – What types of employment services do they need?

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Meet the Second Chance Board:

Over the next few weeks join us in meeting the board members of the Second Chance Foundation. Up first, William H. Dunn, Sr.



William H. Dunn, Sr.
Chairman

William H. Dunn, Sr. joined J. E. Dunn in 1946. He has been chairman of the board since 1974 until January 2000 when he became Chairman Emeritus. J. E. Dunn Construction Company has been in business continuously since 1924, and has been listed among the top 400 contractors by Engineering News Record for over 20 years. J. E. Dunn Construction is headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, and currently has office in Topeka, Kansas and Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Dunn is also Chairman Emeritus of Dunn Industries, Inc., the parent company of J. E. Dunn Construction. In addition to J. E. Dunn Construction, Dunn Industries, Inc. also includes Dunn Industrial Group of Kansas City, Missouri, Witcher Construction of Minneapolis, Minnesota, J. E. Dunn Construction-Portland of Portland, Oregon, J. E. Dunn Construction-Houston of Houston, Texas, Hughes/Smith Construction of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and R. J. Griffin Construction of Atlanta, Georgia who maintain other office in Nashville, Tennessee, Charlotte, North Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, and Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Dunn is active in community affairs and has spoken before many civic and professional groups in the construction industry. He served with the Naval Air Corps in World War II.

Willard Snyder
Kent Sunderland
Bailus Tate
Marlene Weatherford

Recognition that there is a substantial leadership and coordination vacuum related to ex-offender reentry in the Greater Kansas City area must first go to William H. Dunn, Sr., Chairman Emeritus of J. E. Dunn Construction. In the last ten years, J. E. Dunn Construction has built 48 prisons and William Dunn says, "I'm tired of building prisons" (Kansas City Star, October 15, 2008). The Second Chance Foundation exists to provide an alternative.

Miss a newsletter?

All Second Chance Foundation newsletters are retrievable on our webpage at the Crime Commission's website: www.kc-crime.org

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