



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."

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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 the second phase of a series on: Advice for State Policymakers on Designing Strategies That Improve Employment Outcomes and Increase Public Safety. This newsletter will discuss STEP Two and Three- "What types of employment services do they need? And Do Employment service providers have the requisite capacity and skills to meet this populations needs and the ability to coordinate with criminal justice agencies? What gaps exist?" as recently published in a bulletin by the The Council of State Governments Justice Center.

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

The types of services offered should address desired outcomes and multiple factors, including the population's education level, work experience, and employment needs. State Officials should develop several different service packages that are tailored to meet the selected group's needs, as determined by available data.

Policy makers should consider a multifaceted approach that includes the use of job placement services, transitional employment, and mentoring and job coaching. These approaches should integrate case management, job retention, and skill development services.

State officials should analyze the data on the selected population and the estimated service needs to determine the average cost of providing various service packages. With this information, state officials can determine a range of anticipated costs.

Step Three: 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?

- 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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State policymakers should work with local officials to conduct an assessment of organizations, including smaller community and faith-based groups that are accessible to the selected neighborhood residents and have the capacity to provide the required employment services. Through this analysis, policymakers can determine where gaps exist in capacity and where challenges to “scaling up” and improving the quality of the services may exist.

When deciding where to spend reinvestment dollars, state officials should consider whether organizations use or have the potential to employ best practices, including working well with other criminal justice agencies. Other considerations include whether organizations consolidate related services into a centralized location or, at minimum, link participants to other necessary services beyond simply providing referrals. Providers should have experience working with individuals with criminal records and fully understand the implications for employment (for example, how to explain a criminal record to a potential employer), incentives for employers (such as the Federal Bonding Program, Work Opportunity Tax Credit and local tax incentives, and first-source agreements), and statutory occupational barriers. Sometimes investing in a seasoned intermediary might be the best investment.

Providers must recognize that some individuals are going to need multiple opportunities to engage with transitional employment or other services before they are prepared and ready to commit to permanent employment.

Policy Reforms:

- **Policymakers should prioritize reforms that can improve the effectiveness of the reinvestment initiative. For example, state officials may choose to review and remove particular legal barriers to employment for some categories of people with criminal records. State leaders may also want to reexamine such issues as personal identification, federal benefits, transportation to jobs, and other issues that can destabilize the individual and his or her family.**
- **Policymakers should consider any analyses of the local labor market to determine where opportunities exist for people with criminal records and encourage job growth in those sectors. They should also consider policies that would encourage the expansion of services in areas in which gaps in provision are identified.**

Next week: Step Four – How should employment be organized and implemented?

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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.




Carl J. DiCapo
Vice Chairman

Beginning as the cashier of Italian Gardens Restaurant in 1953, Carl J. DiCapo rose to become Chairman of the Board for the restaurant, President of the Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Restaurant Association, and finally President of the Missouri Restaurant Association statewide.

Mr. DiCapo's civic contributions include 55 years of service to the Boy Scouts, almost 40 years with the Italian American service organization UNICO, and decades of additional service to organizations like the Don Bosco Community Center, the Salvation Army and the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission. Without his effort and influence Kansas City might not enjoy the Park Lane Medical Center, the annual Mike Murphy Cattle Drive, the annual St. Patrick Day Parade, or the National World War I Museum below the Liberty Memorial.

Mr. DiCapo awards are literally legion. Most tellingly, perhaps, is that he lives on a section of Main Street renamed the "Carl DiCapo Drive" by City Council resolution in recognition of his many years of service to the community.

No stranger to the legislative process, Mr. DiCapo can point to



specific changes in Missouri laws as long ago as 1976 that have a bit of the DiCapo touch. His down-to-earth approach in dealing with social problems has recently been turned toward the challenge of ex-offender reentry. Like his friend, William H. Dunn, Sr., Mr. DiCapo understands that an alternative to the upward spiral in correctional costs must be found. That is why he supports the work of the Second Chance Foundation.

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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