

This Week at Second Chance...



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

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."

May 12, 2010

Volume 2, Issue 5

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 Chance

[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)

Research Presentation: Examining Offender Reentry in Metro Kansas City A Gaps Analysis May 18th, 2010 at 4PM, Pioneer College

Funded by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Gaps Analysis will serve as a tool to guide the metropolitan area in the development of a strategic plan to respond to prisoner reentry. We hope you will also find this qualitative research to be helpful in your pursuit of grant applications and other funding. Public and private organizations participated in the research, conducted by Criminology Professor, Dr. Alex Holsinger, of UMKC, and Second Chance Program Director, Lora McDonald, of the KC Metropolitan Crime Commission. Many offenders, currently and formerly incarcerated, also contributed their ideas to the research. A wealth of information was gathered and themes were compiled based on focus group input.

Many of you participated in our focus groups to help identify service, policy, program and system gaps in the Kansas City Metropolitan area. Our year of research has been concluded and we welcome you to attend our first public presentation on **May 18th at 4PM at the Auditorium of Pioneer College, 2700 E. 18th Street, KCMO, 64127** (for easiest access, park on the East side of

Program!

Coming Soon

**Second Chance
Advisory Board
Meeting (for
board members
and by**

**invitation) June
15th 3PM 3100
Broadway, Rm
132**

***Kansas City
Metropolitan
Reentry
Coalition**

**Tuesday, May
25th, *2-4PM
(networking
before and after
meeting)**

**Pioneer Campus
of MCC, 2700 E.
18th St, K.C. Mo.,
Auditorium**

***Note time
change- 2-3PM
presentation
from Johnson
County
Corrections of
their Resource
Database; 3-4
PM General
Meeting.**

the college). **Please RSVP to Lora McDonald, lmcdonald@kc-crime.org if you plan to attend so adequate seating can be arranged.**

Gaps Analysis Presentations have already been made to the full Crime Commission Board and the Second Chance Advisory Board. If you are unable to attend and would like to schedule a presentation to your group, you may contact Lora McDonald at (816)277-5912. The full report and presentations on video will be made available in the coming weeks on the Crime Commission's website, www.kc-crime.org; you will be notified when these links are posted to the site. A big thank you goes to the Health Care Foundation, for recognizing that prisoner reentry, and public safety, is a critical health issue in the metro. Everyone who participated in the groups offered valuable input and we thank each of you who assisted in scheduling people to attend and providing information at the groups.

Second Chance Makes for Good Business

By Kathie Kerr, an active member of the Reentry Coalition

They sat and ate cinnamon rolls made by formerly incarcerated adults now working for Big Mama's (a Crown Center business). The business people listened while speakers talked about the practical implications of hiring people out of prison for the lower-paying jobs many companies have trouble filling, even today.

The bottom line was attractive. Tax incentives. Free bonding. A pre-screened pool of adults who would have continual drug testing and counseling that employers wouldn't have to pay for. A silent partner in the form of a probation officer who would handle any problems that might arise.

But at the end of the symposium sponsored by the Kansas City Crime Commission's Second Chance program, what seemed to impress the group of hard-core business owners from Jackson, Wyandotte and Johnson counties was something more of the heart than of the check book. They learned how a simple action of giving someone a second chance can change a life, a family, a community.

Second Chance Offices

3100 Broadway,
Suite 226

Kansas City, Mo
64111

816-960-6800

Pioneer Campus Office

2700 E. 18th St,
Rm 207

Kansas City, Mo.
64127

816-285-8668

Contact Us

**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,**

Maybe it was who was doing the talking that made the difference. Two of Kansas City most prominent and successful business people are behind the Kansas City Crime Commission's Second Chance initiative. When William H. Dunn, Sr. and Carl DiCapo speak, business people listen. And, they are passionate about giving formerly incarcerated adults a second chance. They, too, see the social and economic benefit of keeping people from re-offending and paying taxes to house them in prison or to build new prisons. They make note that the almost 12,000 people on parole in Jackson, Clay/Platte, Cass, Wyandotte and Johnson counties each year are living in all our communities, no matter what the social-economic profile of that community. And, it's better to have these neighbors working than not, they assert.



Above from Left to Right: Tony Taylor (Employer/ Community volunteer); Christine McDonald (employer and Community Volunteer; Carl DiCapo (business/ community leader/ Second Chance Board VP); and William Dunn, Sr. (Chairman Emeritus, J.E. Dunn Construction, Second Chance Advisory Board Pres.); Both Tony and Christine were honored at the event for their commitment to the community.

Both men have done more than their fair share of hiring people with challenging backgrounds: Dunn in the construction business and DiCapo in the food industry business.

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

Chi King

John Modest Miles

C. Eugene Morgan

Julie Porter

Cliff Sargeon

Marilyn Scafe

Willard Snyder

Kent Sunderland

Bailus Tate

Marlene Weatherford

With the fervor of an old-time evangelist, DiCapo, who made his mark on Kansas City first with the Italian Gardens restaurant and later by single-handedly raising some \$13 million to restore the WWI Memorial, talked of a UPS truck driver pulling him over and thanking him for his second chance. Now, the driver, close to retirement age admits that he is retiring wealthy today. Another story comes from a head chef at one of the finest dining facilities in Kansas City. "You gave me a chance when no one else would," he told DiCapo one evening when DiCapo asked to see the chef to thank him for the best meal he ever had.

There were also testimonies from current business owners and managing supervisors who readily admit that their rap sheets at one time were thicker than a best selling novel. But someone gave them a chance. Now, they are homeowners, tax payers and conducting street ministries for people once like themselves in areas of our city hardest hit with crime and homelessness. It's their way of paying back.

These moving testimonies aside, one business man brought the meeting back around to business essentials.

"At the end of the day we do this, not because of the social aspects, but because this pool of people are the best pool of employees to choose from for our jobs, which don't pay much. They've been to boot camp; they know the ropes. They do not want to go back to prison," says Buzz Kelsey, president of Hannah Rubber Company. "If I have an employee who isn't part of this pool of people, and he or she comes in drunk, I can say, 'Well, I'm going to fire you if you come in drunk,' and they say, 'So, what?' With ex-offenders, the consequences are so dire that they will give you their best. Do they all work out? No, but when they do, they are the best employees we have. Our most valuable asset is the stability and quality of our workforce. That's the bottom line for us. That's something very tangible."

Employers interested in the Second Chance program and contacts at agencies for pre-screened individuals who want to work can call (816) 277-5912 (cell, Lora McDonald, Program Director).

Follow-Up: Landlord Forums in Kansas and Missouri Promote Safer Communities

The Housing Committee of the Reentry Coalition hosted 2 landlord forums, one in Kansas and another in Missouri in the past 30 days. This committee worked diligently and, through the forums and other public presentations, they have generated **20 new landlords** in Missouri and Kansas who will now consider the former offender as a viable tenant. The committee will continue to follow up with landlords and disseminate information to you, our partners, as properties become available. The Crime Commission would like to extend a big thank you to every member of the committee, Crime Commission Board, and Second Chance Advisory Board who attended this event. The Housing Committee is still cultivating new landlords and we would welcome referrals from you as you meet management company staff and property owners in the community.



Landlord Forum Panel (MO) From Left to Right: Jim Ryan, Landlord; Theresa Britt-Lewis, Kansas Wyandotte County Reentry Program; Robert Sanders, Community Volunteer; Jeff Page, Catholic Charities Turnaround Program; Marlene Weatherford, Missouri Division of Probation & Parole, Samantha Chandler, Connections to Success