

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."

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The Second Chance Program focuses on metro-wide reentry efforts through Research and special projects, Advocacy through our 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

Message from Barry Mayer, Vice-President, Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission:

As you know, our Second Chance Program currently has a priority to provide local pertinent research on reentry, advocacy for reentry and fundraising for reentry for the metro area.

In our brief existence, we have applied for and received funding from a wonderful community partner, the Health Care Foundation, for UMKC to partner with us to conduct a gaps analysis and feasibility study over the next several months. Dr. Holsinger and Lora met again today to cover methodology and several interview panels with offenders, probation & parole professionals and service providers are being organized for surveying. They ensure me that regular progress reports will be made available on their efforts. This study is crucial to identifying special projects that can have the greatest impact on recidivism with local resources.

Secondly, we prioritized advocating for reentry in the metro. We primarily are accomplishing this first with the establishment of a Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, now with over 70 member organizations, agencies and individuals. They meet the last Tuesday at 3pm monthly at the Pioneer Auditorium and Lora invites any board member anytime to participate. She has very much appreciated when a board members organization represents them at the meetings, for example, LISC, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, KCCC and City Human Relations to name a few. Yesterday's meeting marked the Coalition establishing their platform for advocacy work and the development of 5 working sub-committees on important obstacle and barrier issues, as follows: Public Education/Advocacy, Employment, Transportation,

Chance Program!

Coming Soon

Board Meeting –
June 16, 2:30pm,
Liberty Memorial
(Board members &
invitees)

- Kansas City
Metropolitan
Reentry
Coalition,
Tuesday, June
29th, 3-4PM
(open networking
2-3PM) Pioneer
Campus of MCC,
2700 E. 18th St,
K.C. Mo.,
Auditorium

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

Resources (besides the standard need for a current directory/database, this group has already begun looking at the wisdom in establishing a local hotline, perhaps through 211), and finally a single purpose task force on Anti-discrimination of offenders that City Human Relations is helping lead.

Other Advocacy has included relationship development with the Department of Corrections Secretary Roger Werholtz in Topeka, the Department of Corrections Director George Lombardi in Jefferson City, U.S. Probation Services, various courts, police and sheriff departments, local and county prosecutor's offices, county corrections (jails) and release centers, the Chamber of Commerce, federal, state and local politicians, local foundations and the list never ends. There remains a lot of work to do in this area to inform the public and gain their support in the future. Johnson County has now established a Johnson County Reentry Task Force, notably led by Sheriff Frank Denning, which will be addressing the transition from jail to community in the future. I'm excited to be a member and look forward to sharing their model with other local county sheriffs and county corrections. In fact, Rick met with Platte County Sheriff Richard Anderson this past week and Sheriff Anderson has indicated a strong interest to the extent he would like to be considered for our board membership.

Finally, we have prioritized fundraising. We couldn't have picked a more difficult era to do this, but we are pursuing fundraising vigorously regardless. Our fundraisers, Kern and Associates, have helped put over 4 million dollars in requests out to foundations, senators and through grant applications. Some of the foundations are in the process of considering our requests thanks to Mr. Dunn and Mr. DiCapo and others on the fundraising committee. While we have received several responses that were negative, we were invited to apply in the future when the economy and their respective assets improve. Future requests will have the benefit of the results of our research which should help our case for support. As our advocacy efforts reach the public's knowledge, I can't help to not hope that local public funding would want to be prioritized to address this public safety issue and gain additional foundation support.

Over the past 6 months, we have worked towards educating ourselves and our board on national and local reentry issues through a presentation format at our board meetings. We've heard from the heads of Department of Corrections from both states, we've heard about the work of many of our non-profits, we've heard from men and women in Probation & Parole about the critical need to develop offender's ability to be employed and the need for trained specialists in the community to help make that happen, we've heard from elected officials and we've heard the stories from the offenders themselves.

Contact Us

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Our next steps should include the development of board committees to track the progress of our research, to support the Reentry Coalitions work and advocate ourselves as a board, and to help fundraise for special projects that our research or evidence-based practices tell us will reduce the public threat and save taxpayer dollars.

An Executive Committee has been established with our board's officers, Mr. Dunn, Mr. DiCapo, Mr. Riederer and Finance Committee members, Mr. Tate and Mr. Dana.

A Fundraising Committee has been established with Mr. Dunn and Mr. DiCapo, Mr. Riederer, Mr. Peter Dunn, Mr. Ken Gibson, Ms. Julie Porter and Rev Bob Hill, so far.

We have set a meeting for the Fundraising Committee and any other Board Members who would like to participate in this meeting for Thursday, June 4th at 1130am at the Crime Commission, 3100 Broadway, Suite 226. We will provide box lunches, so please RSVP if you are able to attend.

The Crime Commission has been in existence since 1949 serving and supporting public safety. We do not give up and are committed to providing leadership for this program's mission.

Thanks.

Barry

Congrats to Chi and Lora!

Congratulations to Second Chance Board Member Chi King, Ms. Brandi Jahnke (Connections to Success), Shirley Cliff (Missouri Career Center, our own Lora McDonald and 7 other local reentry practitioners for recently completing Offender Workforce Development Specialist Instructor Training this month. They are now certified and capable of providing the OWDS training to others in our community. This is a great accomplishment as we know the more we can increase the number of people trained in Offender Workforce Development the more potential there is to reduce recidivism.

Peter Dunn
Elena Franco
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Bill Grojean
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Ernie Johnson
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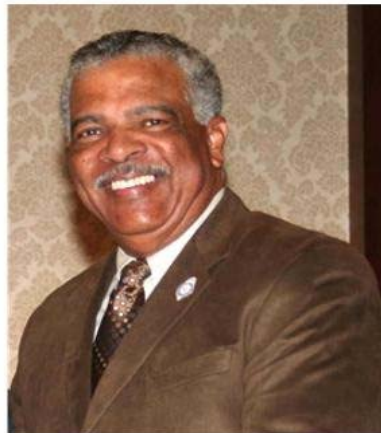
Second Chance attends MASW Task Force Meeting

Peter Kindle and Lora McDonald went to the Missouri Association of Social Welfare Criminal Justice Task Force meeting last week in Jefferson City. The group's invited speaker was former task force member George Lombardi, MO DOC Director, who spoke highly of the reentry work and leadership in Kansas City. This group addresses policy issues on a statewide level, including our recent work on Senate Bill 34. Catholic Charities and several other local Kansas City colleagues were in attendance.

Johnson County Establishes Reentry Task Force

Kudos to Sheriff Frank Denning and Johnson County for the establishment of a reentry task force to address the transition from jail to community in Johnson County. Second Chance Board Member Marilyn Scafe and Barry Mayer have joined the task force who have divided into sub-committees addressing administration, Internal Programming, Community Partnerships and Research/Evaluation (to be performed by UMKC's Alex Holsinger). Even though the task force is in its early stages, it already appears evident that they are developing a worthwhile model for other local counties to review.

Meet the Second Chance Board:



Bailus M. Tate earned a B.S. in business administration from Park College and an M.A. in personnel administration from Central Michigan University. He

retired in 1991 as Vice President of Human Resources of the Kansas City Power and Light Company where he was responsible for providing services to 2,300 employees.

His awards include recognition as the Park College Outstanding Alumnus in 1996 and one of Kansas City's 100 Most Influential African Americans in 1994.

Mr. Tate is a past President of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners and past Chairman of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission. He has also been associated with the Kansas City Police Pension Board, the Police Athletic League, the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund (SAFE), the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault, and the Citizens' Task Force Office of Citizen's Complaints (KCPD).

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