

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 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 Program!

Coming Soon

Board Meeting – No September meeting due to Legislative

Second Chance works in support of Criminal Justice systems in our metropolitan area. This newsletter features information about Kansas, both the Johnson County system and the state system that is in place in Wyandotte County. Second Chance Advisory Board Member, Marilyn Scafe, has connected staff of the Crime Commission to both of these programs to assist in furthering their goals.

Johnson County Reentry Task Force

When law enforcement backs reentry programming, the community recognizes the value of decreasing recidivism as a public safety issue. This metro area is rich in support from leaders in the law enforcement community; In Johnson County, Sheriff Denning has been leading the efforts to create a county reentry plan.

"Sheriff Denning has done an awesome job of leading the Johnson County Task Force. Over 30 justice and community professionals have come to the planning table with energy and commitment to make reentry happen in Johnson County. Currently we are waiting to see if we will be funded for the Second Chance Act grant that we have submitted. However, the Sheriff has expressed a commitment to this cause and fully expects to find a way to fund this project should we not get the grant. It has become clear to the Sheriff and the Task Force that planning for successful reentry is key to the success of the offender's return to the community as well as providing safety to the community in working to prevent the offender returning to the cycle of crime and incarceration,"
Rise Haneberg.

Johnson County Criminal Justice Strategic Plan

Criminal Justice Advisory Council established 2008

Creation and Purpose: The Johnson County Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) is hereby created for the purpose of providing a working forum to support communications and collaborative coordination between and among key justice system officials, advisory bodies, agencies and

Luncheon; Next meeting Oct. 20th at 3PM @ Liberty Memorial for members and invitees.

Kansas City Metropolitan Reentry Coalition, Tuesday, September 29th, 3-4PM (networking before and after meeting) Pioneer Campus of MCC, 2700 E. 18th St, K.C. Mo., Auditorium

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departments, and community leaders to promote public safety, to address the root causes of criminal behavior and to help create a better community.

Criminal Justice Advisory Council Goals

- Study and evaluate the County's criminal justice system;
- Oversee the collection of criminal justice data for use by the council and, as required, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) or other County officials, agencies, departments and operating units;
- Identify causes for past and current increases in jail population; analyze the flow of processes in the criminal justice system, especially those directly impacting the County's jail population and make recommendations for process improvement that will directly impact the jail population;
- Identify gaps or deficiencies in the criminal justice system and make recommendations that will eliminate duplication of services and fill service gaps;
- Make recommendations that will help control the costs of managing offenders;
- Evaluate and recommend crime prevention programs and early intervention and prevention programs, or other initiatives or programs that will reduce recidivism and that will reduce recidivism; and
- Increase community support for the criminal justice system, strategies for reducing the need for jail beds, and the overall goals established by the Board of County Commissioners.

Creation of Johnson County Reentry Task Force as a subcommittee of the CJAC occurred March 2009 for the purpose of establishing a reentry plan for adult offenders released from the Johnson County Adult Detention Center and to pursue the application of the 2nd Chance Act grant.

Kansas Department of Corrections Focuses on Wyandotte County

Why the Wyandotte County Re-Entry program?

Each year, about 350 adult felons return to Wyandotte County after completing prison sentences in Kansas Prisons. Wyandotte County is the third largest county in the state in terms of number of returning offenders (after Sedgwick and Shawnee counties). They are often released back to the neighborhood, because this is where they have resources and a place to live. Upon release many have little or no money, no place to live, no job or ability to achieve sustained employment and no social supports. In addition, many continue to cling to the same lifelong patterns of anti-social influences and thinking. The result is that nearly half of those who are high risk/need return to prison within 6 months. Through the Wyandotte County Re-Entry Program (WCRP) we now have the

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opportunity to help make our communities safer by improving the chances of success upon the offenders' return home.

What is WCRP?

WCRP is the Wyandotte County Re-Entry program and is administered by the Kansas Department of Corrections. This program implements a comprehensive program to prepare and assist individuals transitioning back into the community. The services are a part of a statewide initiative to establish research-based, effective re-entry models and practices in facilities and communities all over the state. It is modeled after wide-based research, recommendations by the United States Department of Justice, and the Shawnee and Sedgwick County Re-Entry programs here in Kansas.

The program works with many community partners; corrections, law enforcement, businesses, job service/training agencies, neighborhoods, political representatives, landlords, mental and medical health providers, substance abuse services, victim services, ex-offenders, also faith and community based organizations.

Who are the individuals participating in the WCRP?

Eligible participants are identified throughout Kansas prisons. Risk/needs assessments are completed to identify high risk individuals. Necessary transfers are made to house male participants at Lansing Correctional Facility; and females in Kansas are housed at the Topeka Correctional Facility. Program participants must meet the following criteria;

- Scheduled for release to Wyandotte County
- Have 12-18 months remaining on their sentence
- Be considered high risk for re-offending

How does WCRP assist?

SERVICES:

Once selected, participants are interviewed to determine risks and needs. With the guidance and assistance of a facility/community based Case Manager, participants select and receive services suited to their individual needs. Participants are referred to these services by Re-Entry staff and the sessions are facilitated by staff and/or volunteers.

Services may include:

- **Employment** - Resume writing, Job application assistance, Work ethics, Job search assistance
- **Family Transition** – Relationship building, Family communication, Parenting, Community resources
- **Re-Entry Planning** – Relapse prevention, Overcoming stigmas, Goal setting, Time management
- **Cognitive Thinking** - Problem solving, and Social skills interventions
- **Family Workshops** – A discussion between participants and his/her family around issues they expect to face, and how they will handle the challenges of re-entry.
- **Budgeting** – addresses identifying obligations and living within means

Prior to release from prison, Case managers will identify resources and develop a plan to help bridge the individual from institution to the community i.e. obtaining a drivers license/ID/Social Security paperwork, exploring housing options and employment opportunities, locating faith-based or other social supports, arranging for participation in support groups and/or other social service agencies, etc.

FAMILY SUPPORT

We understand that those releasing from prison are most successful when they have the support of positive family members and friends. Participants may identify positive family supports and request re-entry staff contact and invite them to attend the family workshop, possibly meet with parole and re-entry staff to assist with release planning. Re-entry staff is available to keep those lines of communication open.

CONTINUED SUPPORT UPON RELEASE

The goal is that with the link to the community already in place, individuals may have a better transition into the community based support groups, educational opportunities, and other identified services with little disruption.

Participants will be asked to present before an accountability panel of community volunteers that have the best interest of the community and the success of these returning citizens in mind, and who provide a network of support and encouragement as well as accountability to each participant.

The WCRP will provide alumni services through periodic gatherings for successful graduates providing forums to celebrate success and give opportunities to “give back” as graduates remain stable productive citizens in the community.

For more questions contact: Theresa Britt-Lewis, Program Director
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Meet the Second Chance Board:



Marilyn Scafe
Member of the Board

Marilyn Scafe graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in education and taught English on the secondary level. She has been a probation and parole officer with the state of Missouri and remained active as a volunteer and past president of the Missouri Probation and Parole Citizens' Advisory Board while pursuing a career in advertising sales. Marilyn then co-founded and became executive director of the an offender program under the Kansas City Crime Commission which developed and monitored community service projects for the area courts. In 1995, she was appointed to the Kansas Parole Board and served three four year terms and was chair of the board for

eleven years. Her current position is executive director of the Kansas Reentry Policy Council.

She has been involved in various community boards dealing with prevention programs, including serving as president of the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency for Kansas City and vice president of the Kansas Family Partnerships. Professionally, Ms. Scafe served on the Kansas Sentencing Commission, Kansas Reentry Policy Council, and an ongoing reentry subcommittee for the legislature. She was also the chair of the Kansas Council for the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision. She currently serves on the board of Kansas City Community Center, Johnson County Criminal Justice Advisory Council, the Johnson County Reentry Task Force, and the Administration of Justice Advisory Board for Johnson County Community College. Ms. Scafe is a Director of the Board of First National Bank of Kansas.

Her professional memberships include American Correctional Association, American Probation and Parole Association, and the Association of Paroling Authorities International of which she was past president. She is a recipient of the President's Award from the Kansas Correctional Association for her contributions to the criminal justice field in Kansas, the Vincent O'Leary Award for her contributions to the work of the Association of Paroling Authorities International and the Kansas Public Service Award from the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency.

Ms. Scafe is married to Myron Scafe, Retired Chief of the Overland Park Police Department. They have five children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.