

LEBANON COUNTY REENTRY - Theory of Change

DRAFT as of 8/29/2015

Strategies

- Establish permanent reentry entity with full representation, clear goals, good communication, clear understanding of CJ issues & agency roles, and cohesive system for working together
- Educate people about existing resources & how to access them
- Connect people with services & mentors pre- & post-release
- Establish a “one-stop shop” for services

- Educate community about needs of people w/ criminal background
- Engage employers willing to hire people w/ criminal background

Assumptions

- Everyone deserves a second chance
- The community consensus is that people coming out of prison/jail will add to the community as valued citizens
- If offered opportunities & resources, people want to & are capable of change
- The community offers resources for successful transition
- Procedures can be put in place to give people a plan/path to successful transition
- Community leaders are willing to put aside bias to invest in success

Influential Factors

- Strength of agencies involved in coalition
- Existing resources in the community

- Resource shortages & access issues (transportation, housing, jobs, D&A, MH)
- Policies that add barriers (fines/fees, probation stipulations & re-incarceration policies, program eligibility criteria, background checks)
- Community stigma
- Changes in govt leadership, priorities, funding

Problems or Issues

- CJ-involved people need housing; soft & hard skills; education; jobs; transportation; immediate access to insurance, meds, MH and D&A treatment; mentors/peer supports; pro-social leisure activities; family services; guidance to navigate various “systems”; cognitive behavioral/ motivation/accountability skills
- Not enough housing resources in the community
- Community stigma / lack of understanding of CJ issues

Community Needs/Assets

NEEDS:

- Community needs to understand CJ and reentry needs/issues
- Coalition needs relationship-building, improved communication, clear goals, common understanding of client needs & agency roles

ASSETS:

- Good D&A, education & reentry-specific resources
- Supportive Pres Judge, Commissioner, Warden & Probation Chief
- Philanthropic community (businesses, foundations, indiv donors)
- Strong faith community
- Central Booking

Desired Results

- Published strategic plan for reentry
- Published reentry resources guide
- % increase in # people connected w/ mentors/sponsors
- % increase in # of people connected w/ needed services
- % increase in # of employers willing to hire
- % decrease in recidivism
- % decrease in crime rate

(note: need baseline data, definitions of “success”, “recidivism” & other terms, measurement criteria & defined data collection methods)