

CPR ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY 7, 2009 MEETING NOTES

Leaders-

Although the day in Montgomery was wet and dreary, our group had a very productive meeting. Here are some of the highlights:

1. Bill Johnson shared information about the various programs that are available through ADECA that may be useful in adding to the pool of resources that can be used to address prisoner reentry. He provided information on the following programs:

a. Homeless Prevention - funds may be available to help people who may become homeless; funds may not be used for homeless shelters. For more information please contact tracey.varner@adeca.alabama.gov.

b. Weatherization - This programs provides up to \$6,500 to weatherize homes of eligible applicants. You may contact steve.till@adeca.alabama.gov for more information. Or you may contact your local Community Action Association.

c. Summer Teen Hire--Funding to pay salaries of summer hire participants who work for non-profit organizations You may contact mickey.hutto@adeca.alabama.gov.

d. Habitat for Humanities Job Opportunities - They are interested in hiring qualified employees in the field of construction. This is seen as potential job opportunities for recently released individuals. You may contact Brenda Lawless at 251-476-7171 for more information.

2. ADECA has submitted an application for the Second Chance Act Grant 2009. ADECA has taken a systematized approach to prison reentry efforts. The grant amount is \$1.5M which includes matching funds. The application proposes to leverage existing activities such as Workforce Development, ADOC Pre-Release Programs, AIDT, Bibb County Facility Pre-Release effort, Career Centers, faith-based organizations and others to provide a seamless service. This service design allows performance monitoring and involvement of every facet of the community. Grant award announcement is expect by August 2009. For more information on the Second Chance Act, contact Ken.Hollingsworth@adeca.alabama.gov.

3. Jimmy Lester, of the CPR Administrative Office, presented the status of CPR activities over the past few months.

a. We have distributed 700 CPR Pre-Release Assessment Tools and have received 55 completed forms that are currently being worked. A copy of this form is attached for your review. These forms are distributed during ADOC Pre-Release Classes held at each facility. They are also being distributed to our regional representatives. The ADOC Chaplains service has been provided copies of the form with a request for feedback. We are pleased we have met our goal of getting a product in the field that will help us prepare for release of previously incarcerated persons. However, as this process matures, we expect to be able to improve the content of the form and better pinpoint effective distribution points.

b. Responding to requests for support, our ability to mobilize more of our representatives, better integration of our services with ADOC services and the faith-based community were just a few of the successes mentioned.

4. Frank Cain reported on the status of the CPR website (www.cprnet.alabama.gov) The CPR website has undergone a facelift. We have added information on services, regional representatives, regional maps, CPR Administrative staff contact information and meeting notices. We have detected an increase in the number of website visitors. Great news.

5. Mr. Frank Petrusnek presented information on the Work Opportunities Tax Credit program. In summary, up to \$2,400 in tax credits is available to non-profit employers who hire individuals from the target group. That group includes food stamp recipients, ex-felons and others. The handout from the presentation is attached. For more information, or if you'd like to schedule a presentation please contact Frank Petrusnek at WorkTrain USA directly at 205-807-5500.

6. Dana Dunn indicated there is a Homeland Security requirement to be met for anyone working at the ports or any operation connected with the ports. There are two documents, a TWIX application and a waiver form that may be necessary. Dana has been kind enough to provide us these two documents. Please contact her for more information on when these documents are needed and how the process works. For your convenience, these two forms are attached to this email. You may reach Dana Dunn at 334-637-3100.

Several Action Items resulted from our meeting:

1. Provide more detailed guidelines on the the Homeless Prevention Program. (ACTION: CPR Admin)
2. Provide more details on the Habitate for Humanities program and hiring (Contact Brenda Lawless)
3. Individuals who have not been able to register for the Selective Service due to incarceration currently have to seek a waiver. However, we should investigate ways to eliminate the need for such a waiver. (ACTION: CPR Admin)
4. Intensify involvement of County Sheriffs and other law enforcement activities in the CPR process (ACTION: CPR Admin)
5. Intensify involvement of ADOC Chaplains in the Pre-Release Assessment Tool process (ACTION: CPR Admin)
6. Schedule a CPR Advisory Council meeting in 30-45 days to review status of our action items and discuss recommendations for handling sex-offenders. (ACTION: Vickie Locke)
7. Post CPR Advisory Council meeting notes on the CPR website (ACTION: Frank Cain)

Thanks again for your steady support.

Cheers,
Vickie

Vickie Locke
Alabama Community Partnership for Recovery and Reentry--CPR Network
334-303-5116