

Community Services Administration: Re-Entry

165 Church Street
203-946-7907

Division Head:

Eric Rey

ERey@newhavenct.net

203-946-7665

Additional Point Person:

Althea Marshall Brooks

amarshallbrooks@newhavenct.net

203-946-7909

Positions: **GF-** **SF- 1**

General Fund Budget:

\$ 0

Capital Fund Budget:

\$0

Special fund Budget:

\$122,860

Legal Authority: Grant Funded

The division is funded by a federal earmark as such funds are restricted to the purpose of the program – serving Re-Entrants and building the capacity of organizations that serve this community.

Attention Required by March 31st:

- A Bi-Annual report is due to the Department of Justice on January 31, 2014, July 31, 2014 and the closeout report is due by December 31, 2014 for Prison Reentry Initiative Enhancement Grant #- 2010-DD-BX-0438. Log in information is as follows:

Mayor

Community Services Administration
Althea Marshall Brooks

Deputy CSA
Ron Manning

Prison Reentry Initiative
Eric Rey

Budget Summary:

DOJ - Prison Reentry Initiative Enhancement Grant - 2010-DD-BX-0438 ~ \$122,860.00

Personnel:

Prison Reentry Initiative Program Assistant (PT): \$21,700 (1 year @ 100%)

Community Organizer: \$53,500 (1 year @ 100%)

Fringe Benefits:

Community Organizer: \$21,400 (1 year @ 100%)

Supplies: \$1,896 (1 year @ 100%)

\This money will be used for printing the Reentry Resource Guide, other fliers, general printing, and general office supplies.

Contracts: \$15,000

Community Empowerment Program \$15,000 (1 year @ 100%)

The Community Empowerment Program will provide four community-based groups with technical assistance and financial support to engage in programming in targeted neighborhoods (those with highest rates of incarceration) in five service areas: substance abuse support, peer mentoring, family support, employment opportunities and educational support.

H. Other Costs: \$1,250

Identification Stipends \$1,250 (1 year @ 100%) - The budget allocates \$1,250 each year for identification stipends.

TOTAL: \$122,860.00

Summary of Open Items:

Grants: Second Chance

Outstanding Grant Application Award Notice Expected November 2013

The City of New Haven's Prison Reentry Initiative (NHPRI), established in 2008, is the only reintegration initiative in the State of Connecticut led by and housed in local government. NHPRI facilitates the coordination of advocates, community partners, state agencies and other stakeholders to create an efficient, responsive service delivery system that leads to reduced recidivism, increased employment, and the long term self-sufficiency of returning citizens. NHPRI, working alongside the New Haven Police Department, has taken the lead in developing an ambitious "Justice Reinvestment" partnership with state agencies, city departments, and community organizations to address the connection between ex-offender reintegration and the issue of neighborhood gun violence. The strategy uses evidence-based principles of cost-effective justice reinvestment policies. It is the combination of supervision and reentry services focused on medium/high risk offenders with greatest propensity for violence and recidivism. The project will identify/serve 150 reentrants; maintain a 70% retention rate and baseline 30% recidivism rate. The Yale School of Public Health's Community Alliance for Research and Engagement is the evaluator and data will be collected using the BJA Performance Measurement Tool (PMT).

Justice and Mental Health

Outstanding Grant Application Award Notice Expected November 2013

The City of New Haven's Prison Reentry Initiative will be applying for funds under the 2013 JMHCP Category 2: Planning and Implementation and we are requesting \$250,000 over two years for the New Haven Community Transition and Reentry Collaborative—N H-CTRC. The lead applicant is the City of New Haven's Reentry Initiative with co-lead and collaborating partners, the State of Connecticut Department of Corrections (CT DOC) and the Transitions Clinic. The NH-CTRC plans to serve individuals exiting incarceration to the City of New Haven. On an annual basis, approximately 800 releasing inmates with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders return from Connecticut's prisons to their home community of New Haven and surrounding towns. The NH-CTRC proposes to serve 800 releasing inmates per year for two years. The CT DOC houses approximately 17,000 inmate offenders at any given time; there are approximately 8,000 releasing inmates annually with 294 returning to the City of New Haven quarterly. The NH-CTRC is designed to build community and correctional linkages in order to facilitate the successful transition and reentry experience of offenders returning from Connecticut prisons to New Haven, Connecticut. In addition, it will enable community —based professionals to rapidly engage releasing inmate offenders in appropriate medical and behavioral health care services and benefit programs such as trauma informed care and cognitive behavioral therapy because each releasing inmate will be provided with a comprehensive assessment of treatment and benefits needs pre-release upon reintegrating into the New Haven area. This collaboration will link together medical and mental health providers, substance abuse treatment professionals, the City of New Haven Mayor's

Reentry Initiative, Yale University, the Transitions Clinic directed by Dr. Emily Wang, and the CT DOC, in order to increase the effectiveness of transition and re-entry programs for reentrants with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders returning to New Haven. The pivotal role in this program will be the care, referral, coordination and management function played by the CT DOC, Transitions Clinic and the City of New Haven Reentry Initiative. The key objective of this project is to enhance and coordinate relationships between CT DOC's facility management teams including wardens, their deputies, reentry counselors, parole and community services management with community based medical and behavioral health providers to increase the effectiveness of community supervision efforts and reduce recidivism while increasing long term sustainable reintegration of reentrants or ex-offenders.

Major Functions / Projects:

Elm City Resident Card

The Prison Reentry Initiative helps to verify the identity of people coming out of incarceration in a number of different ways. We get information from parole and probation about the address and identity of an individual so that we can be assure that a person with little or no ID can get a resident card. This card can at times help that person secure a job, open a bank account or gain access to buildings such as the federal building to obtain a Social Security Card.

Total issued: **186**

Meet and Greet

Every other week parole and probation officers call recently released individuals returning to New Haven where they have a brief conversation with law enforcement. They are also offered connection to services in the city through the Prison Reentry Initiative. This is done as a violence reduction strategy.

Total that attended meet and greets: **424**

Unlock the Vote

The Prison Reentry Initiative has endeavored to help those returning from incarceration and not currently on parole to register to vote. In Connecticut if you are convicted of a felony you lose your right to vote while incarcerated. You may register again once you have completed your sentence but it does not occur automatically. Many are not aware of this. We believe that this is another way to empower reentrants in their communities. We also think that is a way to foster more civic engagement in reentrants.

Total registered to vote: **271**

Total New Haven residents registered: **239**

Total that voted in November 2012 election: **112** or **54%**

Reentry Roundtable

The roundtable continues to meet once monthly on the third Tuesday. They have become a vibrant and informative exchange of resources. The Prison Reentry Initiative has made it a point to invite speakers that can offer substantive information that is relevant and timely to the reentrant community. Some of our topics have included Employment, Healthcare, Housing, and Veterans. In each case we have invited local subject matter experts including Mr. Dixon of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Danso of Gateway Veterans Affairs, Ms. Reynolds of New Haven Works, Dr. Wang of Transitions Clinic, and Ms. Leeks of the New Haven Housing Authority to name a few.

Roundtable Email List

- This is pretty straightforward; I sometimes get questions sent to the inbox, which I answer as they come in.
- I use the list to send out meeting and pardons session reminders. I also use the list to send out announcements to the group. In general, I try to minimize the number of emails I send by combining announcements into a single email when possible.
- You can find the email list in a draft- just copy and paste this into the BCC field to email the group. I always use BCC. You can delete or add addresses to the list as necessary.

Average attendance: **40-50**

Pardon Session

The New Haven Prison Reentry Initiative facilitates a pardon session every other Wednesday from 4 to 6. These sessions are free and open to both reentrants and service providers alike. They are designed to be an informational introduction to the process of obtaining a pardon. Participants are given the actual application as well as a guide to completing the application. General instruction is provided with time left at the end of each session in the event that someone needs help with their specific application. They are done in an open format so that people can attend as many sessions as they feel they need.

Total that attended sessions in the passed year: **217**

Housing Pilot

This is a small pilot program with HANH that seeks to assist those looking for housing with a criminal record. They are provided with case management and supports through HANH and the Prison Reentry Initiative. This is something unique to New Haven and although it is a small fraction of the actual need for this type of service it is an important step in the right direction.

Total Housed: **15**

Total Evicted: **3**

Adult Education Pilot

The Initiative has been working very closely with New Haven Adult Education as well as New Haven Parole and Driven to Inspire, a personal development organization to provide enhanced educational and enrichment experiences for at risk young adults. In addition to their normal GED preparation students in this program remain at Adult Education for various workshops and seminars designed to assist these young people in moving passed this part of their lives. Some topics have included goal setting, creating a safety plan, networking, interview skills and effective communication. The program also provides referrals and linkages to other resources on an as needed basis.

Total Served: **25**
Total Recidivated: **5**
Total Enrolled in College: **5**

Project Longevity

Project Longevity is a violence reduction strategy. One of the clearly positive aspects of this initiative is the level of collaboration that it has fostered not only amongst the various law enforcement agencies but within the service sector and the community at large. It has been used with promising results in other parts of the country and has the support of Attorney General Holder. The Prison Reentry Initiative is the service arm of this project and has been providing case management and referrals for all Project Longevity participants.

Total Attending Call-In: **76**
Attendees in Contact with Initiative: **15**
Attendees Engaged in Services: **8**

Mini Grants

The Initiative has distributed funds to local service providers via an RFP process that was designed to target opportunities for improvement in the service provision for reentrants. Services include housing, employment/job readiness, GED prep, transportation, substance abuse, mentoring, mental and behavioral health services, family services and basic needs to name a few. Because of these mini grants area providers have been able to increase their capacity by almost 67% as a whole while almost half of the providers doubled their output. One statistic that stands out is that of 315 reentrants served only 12 recidivated. Just under a third of those served were homeless.

Total Served: 315
Men: 217
Women: 98
Percent increase of service: 67
Number recidivated: 12
Total dispersed: \$55,000

Welcome Committee

In April the Welcome Committee introduced the Service Buddy program. It is a group of volunteers that have agreed to sit with a reentrant through a religious service. The program is meant to help facilitate the connection of individuals to faith communities upon their release from incarceration. We believe that this connection can help to provide a support network for those that have found comfort in a faith practice.

Key Systems/Processes:

SAGA support

The Reentry Initiative in conjunction with SAGA support has worked together to help those returning to New Haven from incarceration find employment. Individuals must have an open case with the Department of Social Services for State Administered General Assistance in order to participate. They are given case management, job leads as well as bus passes to aid in their job search. This is another area where New Haven is out in front of service provision for this community.

Meet and Greet

Individuals recently released on Parole and Probation are asked to attend "Meet and Greet" on every other Thursday at the police station on Union Ave. Generally they are called in within two weeks of release from incarceration. The purpose is to introduce services. The Reentry Initiative is represented along with the Transitions Clinic.

Elm City Resident Card

The Prison Reentry Initiative helps to verify the identity of people coming out of incarceration in a number of different ways. We get information from parole and probation about the address and identity of an individual so that we can be assured that a person with little or no ID can get a resident card. This card can at times help that person secure a job, open a bank account or gain access to buildings such as the federal building to obtain a Social Security Card.

System Deficiencies/Attention Required

Space

The prestige of the Mayor's Office is impressive. However it does not necessarily represent most comfortable environment for clients and staff to have a frank and open discussion about what may be going on in their lives. The open cubicle space makes it difficult maintain confidentiality and privacy. I believe that working for city government and the being included on the Mayor's staff is very important to the efficacy of what can be accomplished in the community. With that said however, the reentrant community and its stakeholders would benefit from a home to call it own.

Staff

In 2012 Reentry Initiative had two staff members and an intern. The promotion of Ms. Brooks left a vacancy in the Reentry Initiative. While it makes sense in my opinion that the initiative should fall under the CSA umbrella there is a need to have full staffing. With about 100 reentrants returning to New Haven a month and about triple that number on parole or probation at any one time just working with clients is a daunting task. When you add to that the work we do with service providers a more accurate picture of the full workload begins to come into focus. There are several community meetings, advisory boards, and steering committees that should have a voice from the Mayor's Office advocating for reentrants but of course and individual can not be in two places at once.

Key Contacts:

Most communication is conducted via email.

CT Department of Corrections

Kitty Dudley – Supervisor of Reentry Counselors Statewide kitty.dudley@po.state.ct.us
Jon Elder – Reentry Counselor (Whalley Ave CC) John.elder@po.state.ct.us
Patrick Hynes – Director of Programs and Best Practices Patrick.Hynes@po.state.ct.us

Parole (DOC)

Marvin Anderson- New Haven Parole Chief marvin.anderson@po.state.ct.us
Stephen Noto - New Haven Parole Chief steve.noto@po.state.ct.us
Levonne Perez-Sutton New Haven Parole Officer levonne.perez-sutton@po.state.ct.us
Darlene Dailey-New Haven Parole Officer Addiction Svcs darlene.dailey@po.state.ct.us

CT Court Support Services Division (Probation)

Leonard Jahad – Probation Chief leonard.jahad@jud.ct.gov
Brian Coco – Probation Chief brian.coco@jud.ct.gov
Richard Sutterlin - Probation Officer Richard.Sutterlin@jud.ct.gov
Craig Capone – Probation Officer Craig.Capone@jud.ct.gov

Roundtable Co-Chairs

William Dyson dysonwilliam@att.net
Pamela Allen allen06511@aol.com

Project Longevity

William Mathis - Project Manager projectlongevitynh@gmail.com

Meet and Greet

Alberto Merced – Detective NHPD amerced@newhavenct.net

Transitions Clinic

Jerry Smart - Community Health Worker Jerrysmartjr@gmail.com