

Testimony before the Sunset Review Committee

Presented by: Mike Davis, Administrator Office of Reentry & Enterprise Development

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

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Good afternoon Chairman Jordan, Vice Chair Brown, and members of the Sunset Review Committee. I am Mike Davis, Administrator for the Office of Reentry within the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak before the Committee today to discuss the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition.

1. **Commission's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:** Am. Sub. House Bill 130 which was enacted by the 127th Ohio General Assembly in 2008 formally created the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition. The coalition serves as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across state/local agencies and communities. The Coalition's overriding goals are to reintegrate offenders into society, reduce recidivism, and maintain public safety.
2. **The agency's past and anticipated workload, the number of staff required to complete that workload, and the agency's total number of staff:** The OERC conducts quarterly meetings consisting of 17 statutory members, inclusive of state agencies, a representative of the Ohio Health Care Licensing Boards, and an ex-offender. Past work of the coalition includes the development of a five year strategic plan (2009-2014) framed by core principles intended to guide stakeholders in addressing several reentry related areas that included but were not limited to: increased employment opportunity, increased participation in substance abuse services, increased family engagement in reentry, and increased participation in mental health services.

In further support of reentry efforts in Ohio, DRC has staff specifically designated to support the work of the coalition. The DRC Office of Reentry is comprised of a bureau chief, administrative assistant, and 4 regional reentry administrators. The DRC Office of Reentry staff are central to coordinating coalition meetings. Additionally, Office of Reentry staff work with local coalitions to develop strategies that respond to local needs aligned with state priorities. This technical assistance includes support of the Ohio Association of Local Reentry Coalitions. The primary method of support is found in our attempts to develop entities designed to enhance reentry efforts at the local level. To date 81 of Ohio's 88 counties are represented by a reentry coalition, alliance or partner.

3. **The agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:** The members of the coalition serve without compensation. Coalitions are reliant on federal and/or local funding.
4. **The number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation if any:** Per ORC section 5120.07, the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition is comprised of the following agencies: Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Department of Aging, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Board of Regents, Department of Commerce, Development Services Agency, Department of Education, Governor's Office, Department of Health, Department of Job and Family Services, Department of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Public Safety, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Department of Youth Services, Ohio Department of Veterans Services, Representative of Ohio Health Care Licensing Boards, and the Ex-Offender Representative.

In conclusion, Chairman Jordan, and members of the Sunset Review Committee. We would urge that the committee recommend reauthorization of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition due to its

importance in supporting the successful return of ex-offenders to local communities throughout the state. I would now be pleased to answer any questions you might have.

Definition of Coalitions, Alliances, and Partners

Reentry Coalition:

Coalition requirements are the completion of a needs assessment to determine the profile and issues associated with the offender population in that region or county, the development of a 5-year strategic plan, the forming of a diverse group of members including representatives from the local prison or jail, the Adult Parole Authority, the faith community and a commitment to reduce recidivism in the county by at least 50% over the 5 year period. Typical membership should also include, but not be limited to, judges, prosecutors, and local representatives from Job and Family Services, the Metropolitan Housing Authority, Family and Children First Councils, community action agencies, courts, recovery and mental health providers, and ex-offenders.

Reentry Alliance:

An Alliance represents an option within the first category. It is composed of those who are functioning collaboratively with multiple stakeholders, but who have not submitted a 5-year strategic plan and may not have a defined hierarchy in leadership.

Reentry Partner:

This category targets those individuals who offer a primary contact point with the ability to connect to other local agencies and individuals providing reentry-related services in that area or region. The designation will apply primarily to those counties who have very few persons returning annually from jail or prison, and whose staffing resources may be too limited to commit to regular travel to other areas for meetings or services. Community Reentry Partners will enjoy the same status as other association members regarding access to information and technical support.

