



Ohio Sunset Review Committee

Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition

Point of Contact Kyle Petty, Legislative Liaison

Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:

House Bill 130 formally created the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC). 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:

1. reintegrate offenders into society,
2. reduce recidivism, and
3. maintain public safety.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff:

The OERC conducts periodic meetings consisting of 17 statutory members, inclusive of state agencies, a representative of the Ohio Health Care Licensing Board and an ex-offender. At the direction of HB 130 the coalition works in collaboratively with service providers, community-based organizations and local governments to examine existing barriers to successful reentry and identify strategies that lead to successful reentry.

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. The inherent principles of the coalition are grounded in collaboration and engagement with local communities.

Since the development of the strategic plan this work is continued as coalition members examine opportunities to develop a continuum of supportive networks that lead to successful reentry and increased public safety.

The inherent principles of the coalition are found in the mission of DRC to reduce recidivism among those we touch and its vision to reduce crime in Ohio. As such DRC Director Annette Chambers-Smith actively serves in the role of coalition chairperson as defined by statute. Director Chambers-Smith personally attends each meeting. Further, the Director is involved in the development of each meeting agenda and the identification of meeting priorities.

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 Deputy Director, Assistant Deputy Director, 4 regional reentry administrators and 8 reentry coordinators. 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.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:

The members of the coalition serve without compensation. The funding sources for local coalitions currently vary and many coalitions face routine challenges to secure funding for their important work throughout Ohio communities. Coalitions are reliant on federal and/or local funding. A definite benefit to the state, is the ability of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition and its statutory members to identify state/federal funding opportunities and develop coordinated efforts to seek resources to support successful offender reentry.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any:

Per Am. Sub. HB 130, the Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition is comprised of the following agencies:

- § 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 Agency
- § Department of Youth Services,
- § Ohio Department of Veterans Services
- § Ohio Health Care Licensing Boards, and
- § Ex-Offender Representative
- § Members of the House of Representatives
- § Members of the Senate

In conclusion, Chairman 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.

Agency-recommended legislative changes to improve organizational efficiency:

None currently.

Additional notes:

Below are a few highlights of the past year recognizing the work of the coalitions and its allied partners.

The Video In-Reach Program

The goal of the video in-reach is to connect resource providers with offenders preparing to return to the community from prison prior to release. The program leverages existing technologies and provides the opportunity for a direct connection for our incarcerated population with those key rehabilitation service providers that will make their transition to the community more successful. 87 counties are represented in the Video In-Reach Initiative.

Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Office of Reentry works with a variety of community stakeholders to provide programming and services to the men and women who are returning to Montgomery County from state and local prisons and jails. The Montgomery County Reentry Collaborative serves as a community education assembly which promotes reentry provider networking, organizational support via resource building, and long-term sustainability through leveraged partnerships. The collaborative body is comprised of service providers and advocates working cooperatively with the Montgomery County Office of Reentry to promote programs, services, and partnerships that minimize barriers to successful reentry and promote a reduction in recidivism.

Second Chance Opportunities for Restorative Employment

SCORE Ohio's Mission is create awareness of certifications and opportunities that benefit both employers and restored citizens. SCORE works to break the stigmas employers have regarding restored citizens and share positive impact they can have on any organization. The brand name SCORE-OHIO derived after a CQE presentation before the Workforce Development Board in 2018. Several collaborative meetings between the Board, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Legal Aid Society, Alvis, Inc. Governor's Office of Workforce Development, and Franklin County Office of Justice Policy and Programs to host our first CQE event to market the certificate to Employers. Last year SCORE hosted several events one in January 2019 and June 2019. This year's event was January 29, 2020. The next one is tentatively scheduled for June 17th, 2020.