

## Testimony on Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board

## Sunset Review Committee

February 25, 2019

Chairwoman Roegner and members of the Sunset Review Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is William Eleby and I am Workforce Director of the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC). We are here today to testify on behalf of the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board.

We would like to begin by providing information regarding to the makeup of the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board. The Board is authorized pursuant to R.C. 5145.162 and consists of at least five appointed members. The members and chairperson shall be appointed by the director of DRC. And each member shall have experience in labor relations, marketing, business management, or business.

Furthermore, the Board's duties as outlined in statute include: soliciting business proposals offering job training, apprenticeship, education programs, and employment opportunities for offenders, releasees, and Ohio penal industries; It also provides information and input to the DRC Office of Enterprise Development to support the job training and employment program of inmates and releasees.

As you can see, the Board's purpose centers around job training and employment opportunities for offenders while they are incarcerated and upon release from prison. Numerous studies have shown that employment post release directly correlates to a lower rate of recidivism for the offender. Additionally, DRC has found that employment and job training can give an offender hope for a better life and a sense of purpose to provide for his or her family.

The effort of the board is particularly important due to the state's historically low unemployment rate. As this rate drops, employers are increasingly looking towards inmates and restored citizens as potential employees, and this current employment climate emphasizes the need for the Board and its role within DRC.

To that point, I have included some of our current employer partnerships below. I am proud of the partnerships which we have fostered with these employers, but there is always more work

to be done. We are constantly seeking out potential partners and if the members on this committee have any employers in mind, please feel free to send those to the Board.

In conclusion, Chairwoman Roegner and members of the Committee, I would urge that the committee recommend reauthorization of the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board. Thank you, and I would now be available to answer any questions you might have.

### **OED Advisory Board approved programs.**

- CDL Programs-550+ offenders have successfully completed the program and many are currently working in the transportation industry.
- JBM Envelope Company-Training program at the Pickaway Correctional Institution. Offenders are trained/certified in the printing industry. Candidates are offered employment after release. JBM has hired 18 restored citizens through training and the Restored Citizens Resume Program.
- Coffee Barista Training-86 offenders have received barista certificates and 22 have received employment after release.
- Union Supply-This program offers employment to 20+ offenders at the Union Supply warehouse. USG has hired 12 Restored Citizens through the OED partnership with OPI.
- Cleanturn, LLC-This 6 week training program is offered at 7 facilities.
- Millcreek Gardens-This landscape program currently offers employment to 6 offenders at their operation in Ostrander.
- VM Consultants-Partnership for manufacturing jobs in central Ohio. 26 restored citizens have been connected with employment.
- Barnes Nursery-Composting partnership at the Allen-Oakwood Facility. Ten+ offenders have received compost training/certification. This partnership is supervised by OPI.
- Commercial Works-Partnership for commercial jobs in Columbus through OPI.
- Hand 2 Hand-Floral arrangement training program at the Northeast Reintegration Center.
- Sims Bros., Inc.-Recycling program at the Marion Correctional Institution. Currently provides training to 150 offenders.
- RET3 Job Corp, Inc.-Training partnership at GRC. Offenders will receive training in computer refurbishing and recycling electronics at the RET3 location in Cleveland.
- PC's for People-Training program at the Trumbull Correctional Institution. Offenders will receive training in computer refurbishing and recycling mobile hotspots. This program is slated to begin in February.

- Faircosa Foundation-Transportation brokerage training program at the Grafton Reintegration Center. GRC and Faircosa staff are currently interviewing offenders for possible placement in the program.
- TruEnergy Services, LLC. Training program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women. Offenders will receive training and knowledge of the energy industry, while learning the tools of the trade in sales and customer service. This program is currently being reviewed by Director Chambers-Smith.
- Carrier Services Group (CSG)-Training program at the Trumbull Correctional Institution. Offenders receive daily training in the de-manufacturing of telecommunications equipment.