

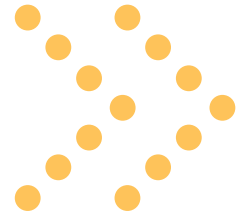


MALE EMPOWERMENT NOW

Adult Re-Entry Program

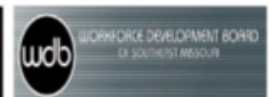
Newsletter | Second Chance Month 2020

Second Chance Month April 2020



Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium Inc.
Strengthen, Promote, Empower
Families and Communities

Partnerships with



Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium is the recipient of the FY2018 Second Chance Act Comprehensive Community-Based Adult Re-Entry Program Category 1: Community-Based Adult Re-Entry grant program. A program funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs #2018-CY-BX-0015, THE SECOND CHANCE ACT OF 2007 (PUB.L. 110-199).



WELCOME

Cynthia Dean
Chief Executive Officer/Director of Programs
Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium, Inc.

To commemorate the Second Chance Act month in April, this newsletter highlights programs, leaders, experts, partners, and agencies dedicated to providing the necessary resources to reducing recidivism rates and the transition back into the community.

The Second Chance Act is an essential step in collective work to end mass incarceration. The scale of change is high, but we must continue to build and promote a collective support system of compassion with emphasis on human dignity. Future generations depend on leadership to address disparities and discipline policies associated with the school to the prison pipeline.

The importance of diverse re-entry services has a critical role in the transition from incarceration back into the community. These include finding housing, stable employment, substance abuse, physical and mental health challenges and social isolation. Without these necessary services chances often increase for individuals returning to prison or jail.

A greater sensitivity and education are needed for re-entry individuals and correctional transition services in the communities. A strategic planning approach to building community-based partnerships is essential in promoting a shared responsibility and supportive environment for reducing recidivism.

Finally, we want to acknowledge and thank the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Program, the Second Chance Act of 2007, local and state partners and staff for their support for the Male Empowerment Now (MEN) Adult Re-Entry program.

1829 October 25

*Eastern State Penitentiary opens. Its first inmate: "...Charles Williams, Prisoner Number One. Buglar. **Light Black Skin.** Five feet seven inches tall. Foot: eleven inches. Scar on nose. Scar on Thigh. Broad Mouth. Black eyes. Farmer as trade. Can read. Theft included one twenty-one dollar watch, one three-dollar gold seal, one, a gold key. Sentenced to two years confinement with labor. Received by Samuel R. Wood, first Warden, Eastern State Penitentiary..."*

Source: <https://www.easternstate.org/research/history-eastern-state/timeline>

In a powerful 2004 State of the Union speech, President George W. Bush expressed that *"America is a land of second chance..."* His speech echoed the importance of providing resources for former incarcerated persons with the resources to become successful citizens in the communities they will return.



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The Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium was funded 2018 through a grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, The Second Chance Act of 2007 to implement a comprehensive community-based approach to reduce recidivism in the Missouri Bootheel providing pre and post release case management services to men. The Male Empowerment Now (MEN) Adult Re-Entry Program will provide these supportive services to their clients.

While growing up in Philadelphia, I would hear of individuals being arrested for crimes, but never believed or understood the disparities of black men being housed in jails and correctional centers/institutions out pacing the entire world. What blew my mind was a cartoon in the USA Today dated December 3, 1993. The cartoonist was Signe Wilkinson of the Philadelphia Daily News.

Let me provide the visual for you. There are three men in a prison, two men from South Africa and Uncle Sam with the stars and stripes hat and jacket. They are standing on a prison yard with black arms hanging out of a building with U.S. Prison engraved on it. One of the representatives with a briefcase with South Africa written in it says to Uncle Sam "WE'RE HERE TO STUDY YOUR BLACK HOMELAND SECURITY."

To this day Signe Wilkinson's cartoon is pinned to my bulletin board haunting me. It haunts me because one day I was trailed and stopped by a police officer because he was looking for a light-skinned black man with dreadlock, black car, Illinois tags. The crazy thing about it was the sheepish apology when the arriving officer says that is not him.

As a former employee the Missouri Department of Correction at the Southeast Correction Center (SECC), I personally saw criminal justice reform, preparing men for a SECOND CHANCE, in progress through continual systemic change of working with incarcerated men and staff who were about change. Working with the Missouri Department of Corrections; SECC Administrative, Classification, Custody, Institutional Probation & Parole, and Training staff; Ken Chapman, Annie Herman and offender organizations supporting every effort to prepare for the re-entry and reintegration of returning men.

The system of MASS INCARCERATION must change for men and women, TODAY. It was designed and implemented on old prejudices in the era of SLAVERY, JIM CROW, and profit (labor). The over representation of black men housed in jails and prisons must be overhauled. It's time to wake up to reality.

Ending: *"I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Matthew 25:36, "To change someone, you must first love them, and they know that you love them."* -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



GIBSON



Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start



10:00 am - 11:00 am

Certificate of Completion will be provided



This will be a Zoom Meeting

(This program is funded by the United States Department of Justice and Second Chance Act of 2007)



Trauma-Informed Care Video Training

June 24, 2020	Sign and Symptoms of Physical & Verbal Abuse
July 29, 2020	Substance Abuse
August 26, 2020	Child Abuse and Neglect
September 30, 2020	Emotional Safety
October 28, 2020	Special Needs Clients
November 25, 2020	Crisis Intervention
December 16, 2020	Stress
January 27, 2021	Motivational Interviewing
February 24, 2021	Self-Care
March 24, 2021	Suicide Prevention Intervention

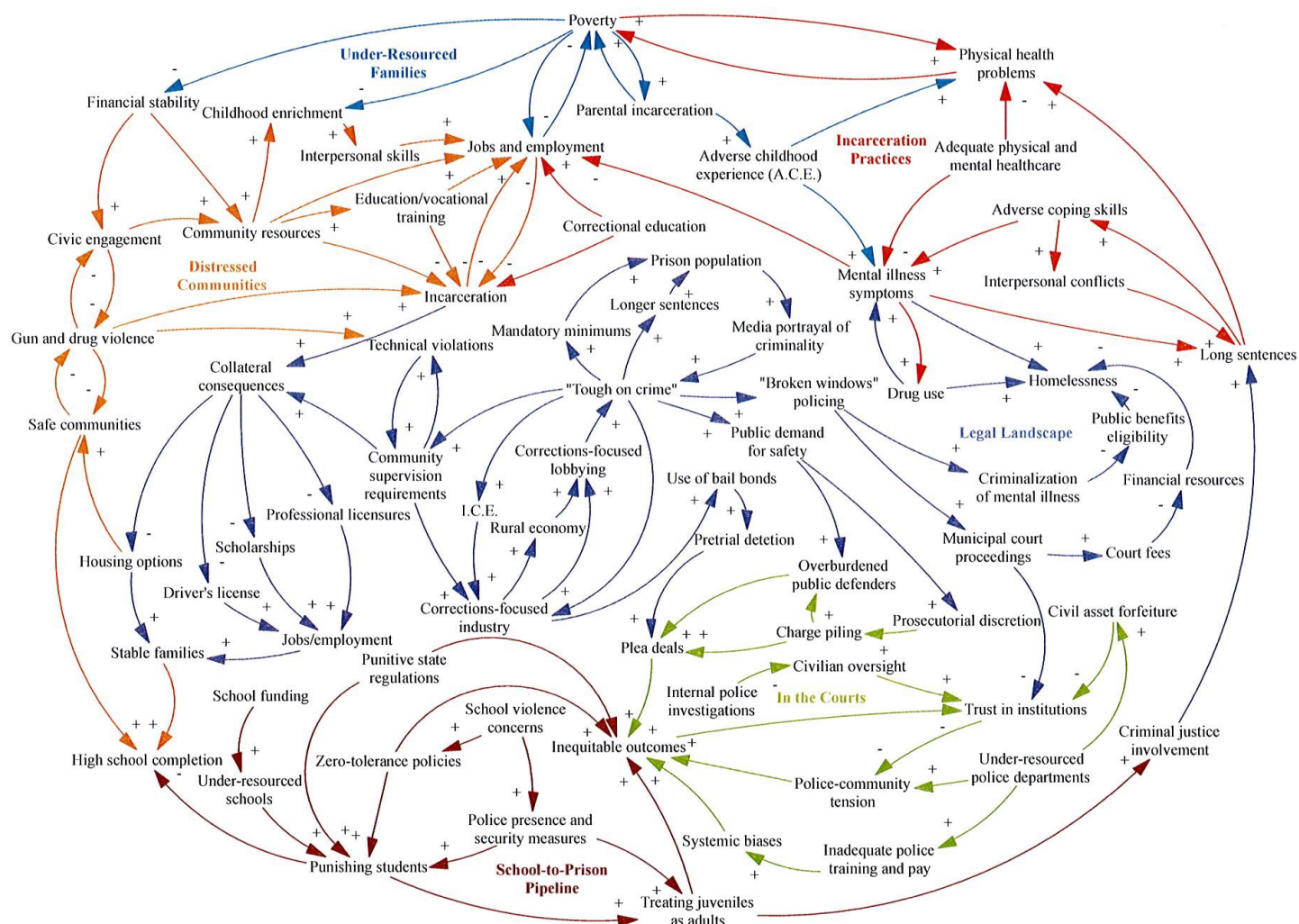
- These sessions will include MBRC Adult Re-Entry Program Advisory Committee Members, MBRC staff, and community representatives.
- Sessions will be facilitated by Gibson Recovery Center.
- Each session will last 1 hour-10:00 am-11:00 am
- Certificates of completion will be provided to each participant.
- Sessions will be held as Webinar via Zoom.
- Evaluations of training sessions are conducted.
- Register by email to: yjohnson@mbrinc.org
- For more information about the video trainings call our Toll Free number 1-888-317-4949

Strengthen, Promote, Empower Families and Communities

Male Empowerment Now (MEN) Adult Re-Entry Program A Comprehensive Approach

The target population for this project is men who are currently incarcerated at either the Farmington Correctional Center (FCC) or Southeast Correctional Center (SECC) and will be released during the project period. Annual averages of 168 individuals were released from these institutions. We are using the sentencing county as a predictor of the county to which the ex-offenders will return to upon release. Although 168 ex-offenders will likely be released back into the service area annually, we only have the capacity to serve 50 ex-offenders annually in the Male Empowerment Now (MEN) Adult Re-Entry Program. Over the duration of the project, we will serve 150 former offenders who return to the Missouri Bootheel region. Ex-offenders will be accepted into the program based on their needs and our ability to meet those needs successfully. In order to be eligible for this project, ex-offenders must be men who are classified as medium to high risk, be returning to the service region, be non-sex offenders, have participated in the pre-release program, and have needs that match the service provided.

Justice-Involved Persons will face as many as 50,000 collateral consequences as they reintegrate and reestablish themselves in their communities. These collateral consequences include housing, employment, transportation, family reunification, health and public benefits, trauma-informed care and education as they maneuver through the Mass Incarceration Ecosystem Map.



The Male Empowerment Now (MEN) Adult Re-Entry Program will provide pre/post release services to ex-offenders returning to the Missouri Bootheel 9 months prior to released date and 12 months after they are release from Missouri Department of Corrections. These services will assist men with case planning/management, basic needs, transportation, employment training, substance abuse treatment, and recovery support services. MEN will connect participants to various resources in the Missouri Bootheel.

MEN Re-Entry Program goals are:

1. Improve public safety by reducing future criminal offenses.
2. To reduce the recidivism rate of ex-offenders.
3. To have re-entry participants become self-supporting,
4. productive citizens.

Table 1.10 Felony Sentences to Prison or Probation Received by the Missouri Department of Corrections, General Population and Sentencing Rate for FY2018 (Sentences exclude revocations and ranking is based on sentencing rate.)

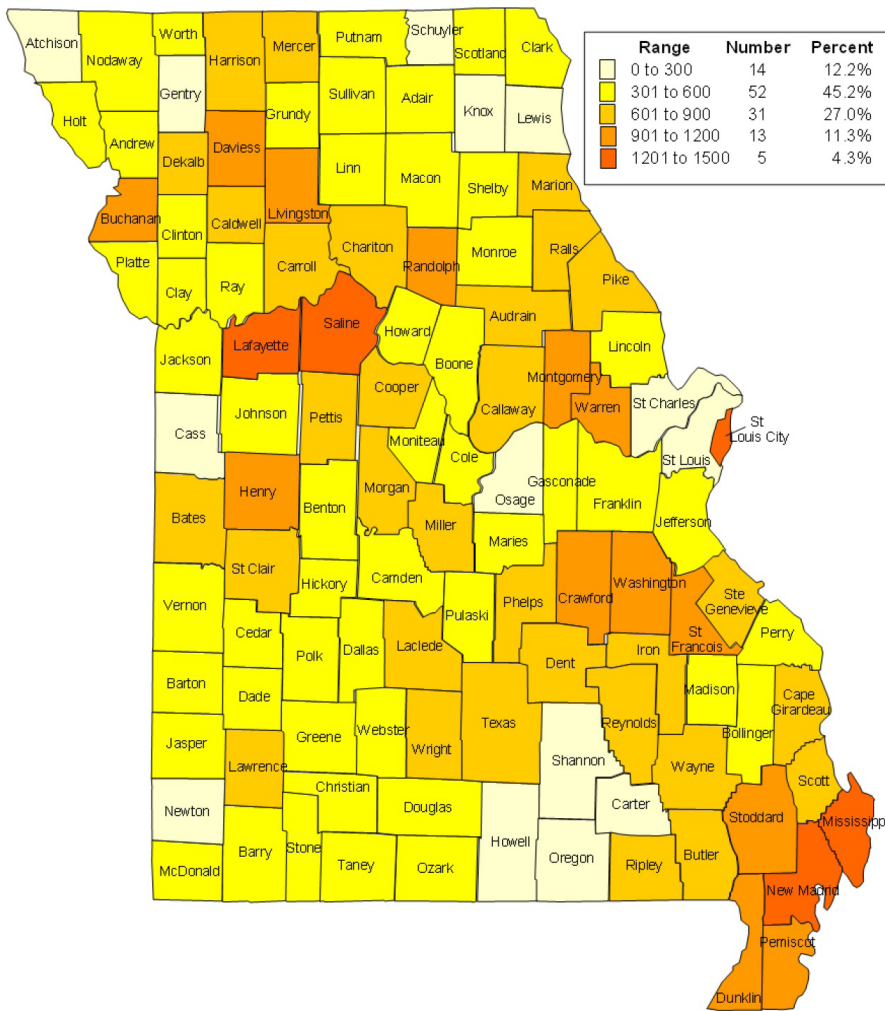
Felony Sentencing Rate By Sentencing County
FY 2018-Missouri Bootheel Region

County	Rank	Felony Sentences	Population Estimate	Sentencing Rate
Dunklin	1	394	30,119	1,308
Mississippi	8	135	13,586	994
New Madrid	2	221	17,582	1,257
Pemiscot	13	152	16,826	903
Scott	26	309	38,541	802

2018 Profile of the Institutional and Supervised Offender Population.
Published by the Missouri Department of Corrections, 6/10/2019

Figure 1. 7. Map of Missouri counties shaded by range of incarceration rates as of June 30, 2018 (Incarceration rate is number of incarce1-ations per 100,000 general population. Legend includes number and percent of counties falling within each range.)

Missouri Counties Incarceration Rate FY2018



2018 Profile of the Institutional and Supervised Offender Population.

Published by the Missouri Department of Corrections, 6/10/2019



MBRC Re-Entry Advisory Meeting • May 30, 2019

Advisory Committee Partners

U.S. Missouri Senator Roy Blunt Office
Missouri Department of Corrections
Gibson Recovery Center
Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation
Workforce Development Board of Southeast Missouri
Sikeston Job Center
Mission Missouri
Bootheel Counseling Center
Brightlife Sober Living House
Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division /Child Support
Bootheel Counseling Center
Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start
Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium



MBRC Re-Entry Advisory Meeting • October 4, 2019

Agencies:

Southeast Missouri State University

- Victor Wilburn, Ph.D.
- Laura Krieger-Sample, M.S.

Southeast Correctional Center

- Donna Wigfall
- Lorene Armstrong
- Timothy Seabaugh
- Michael Ballew
- Kelly Scorzafava

Lewis University

- Morris Jenkins, J.D., Ph.D.



**Southeast Correctional Center Staff-
MBRC Re-Entry Trauma Informed Care Training**

Participants:

Donna Wigfall, Function Unit Manager

Sgt. Robert Steger

Cpt. Gabriel Porter

Sgt. Jeremy Pickett

Sgt. Dennis Wilson



Missouri Reentry in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic

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573 522-1206

COVID-19 has created a new appreciation for the value of social distancing, hygienic practices, and personal protective equipment. Meanwhile, men and women continue to exit Missouri prisons and return to local Missouri communities. Corrections has approached the pandemic as an opportunity to consider and implement new policies and procedures related to virtual communications and creative supervision measures.

Governor Mike Parson and Director Anne Precythe have been proactive with swift actions and responses. Creative and innovative solutions will help clients be successful. While reentry providers and volunteers are restricted from being inside facilities (at the time of the writing of this article), we hope to slowly begin transitioning those service providers back into our facilities. We will do so in such a way to ensure the health and safety for justice-involved individuals, corrections staff, reentry providers, and the public.

I want to encourage all of you to be positive, resourceful, patient, and collaborative as we transition to a new day in reentry! COVID-19 is not going away, but it can be contained and controlled. We will adapt to make sure that timely services are provided. We will continue to work with state agencies, reentry service providers, local community stakeholders, and families to provide supports and resources to assist clients.

If you have concerns or questions about reentry or the future transition of services, please reach out to me or the Reentry Unit staff. Let's continue with the mandate that we are working together to "improve lives for safer communities"!

Kennett Community Supervision Center

Ian Evans
Unit Supervisor
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Kennett, MO 63857
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Ian.Evans@doc.mo.gov

The new model of the Kennett CSC was designed to promote a safer community by offering resources, programs, and services for individuals on supervision to become productive, law abiding, and successful within their community. Clients are now screened using the ORAS assessment tool, the CSC's have a standardized four phases, and programming has been introduced into the CSC's.

To ensure appropriate clients are placed in the CSCs, clients are screened using the ORAS, which indicates if their risk/need level is appropriate for entry, and their primary domains of need to be addressed. Criminogenic needs such as attitudes, peers, personality, leisure, education, substance use, and family are addressed through onsite programming or other outside resources.

Residents of the CSC enter a standardized four phase, evidence and progress based program offering 100 hours of core programming. The objective is to assist clients to remove or overcome barriers relating the client's problem domains. Depending on the client's specific needs, an additional 50-150 hours of programming could be assigned as determined from validated assessment tools.



New programming including cognitive journaling, and Cognitive Behavioral programming has been utilized. Outside resources including MBRC, EDGE, UM Extension, Goodwill, DAEOC, and Family Counseling Center have offered programming in areas such as life skills, money management, healthy cooking, family unification, employment readiness, and substance use.

As of date, approximately 80 clients have successfully completed the program. Their success is directly related to their willingness to change, the opportunities offered and supported by outside resources and the new direction of the Missouri Department of Corrections.

Pemiscot County Probation & Parole Office



Pemiscot County Probation and Parole Staff

The Pemiscot County office is also referred to as the District 31 Probation and Parole Office under the Missouri Department of Corrections. The main office is located in Caruthersville at 911 Highway 84 West, Caruthersville, MO. The sub-office is located in Hayti at 317 East Broadway, Hayti, MO. The staff consist of District Administrator Dan Martinez, Unit Supervisor Jessica Prude-Rose, two clerical staff, and seven Probation and Parole Officers. Probation and Parole works very closely with the 34th Judicial District and the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole. The staff work with and supervise offenders that have been put on probation through the local courts, offenders who have been released from Missouri Institutions on parole, and also offenders who have transferred into Pemiscot County. Probation and Parole officers perform a number of duties to assist their clients in successfully completing supervision. The Officers help their clients to find employment. If the client is struggling with substance abuse issues,

the officers assist them with admission into an area rehabilitation facility. The staff has set up and referred their clients into a wide range of educational classes to help teach them basic life skills. Pemiscot County is known as an economically depressed area and many of the clients suffer because of that. Probation and Parole uses all resources available to assist their clients. The staff work by the Mission statement established by the Department of Corrections and that is "Improving Lives for Safer Communities".

For more information or to speak with a staff member please contact (573)333-2809.

Scott Schlosser
District Administrator
Probation and Parole Office
102 Arthur
Sikeston, MO 63801
573-472-5353
Scott.Schlosser@doc.mo.gov



Missouri Probation and Parole in Scott, New Madrid and Mississippi Counties offers re-entry assistance for individuals released from prison and those placed on supervision by the court. Our Mission is "Improving Lives for Safer Communities". During the Initial Assessment Phase of Supervision Officers meet with clients to determine their needs and risk factors. The areas assessed are Criminal History, Education/Employment and Financial Situation, Family and Social Support, Neighborhood Problems, Substance Abuse, Peer Associations and Criminal Attitudes and Behavioral Patterns. This assessment is called the ORAS and was adopted by the Missouri Department of Corrections and implementation began during the Spring of 2019 throughout the state. PO's and clients talk about the various areas covered in the ORAS. The ORAS assist PO's in determining the Level of Supervision a client needs.

In addition the ORAS highlights areas of concern with regard to risk and need as the foundation of developing a fluid CasePlan customized for each client. The CasePlan is not developed solely by the PO..the client has tremendous input on areas they would like to work on and how they plan to go about it. During the course of supervision the CasePlan is ever changing depending upon the risk, needs and accomplishments of the client. PO's discuss community referral options with clients such as housing assistances, substance abuse and mental health needs, food and clothing assistances, how to build a budget, job referrals, education aspirations, parenting classes, financial management classes, anger management classes, trauma counseling and many more. PNP offers in house classes covering a wide array of topics as well as referrals to community partners to assist clients of the three offices.



Male Empowerment Now Program

Joey Hayes, M.A.
MEN Program Director
Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium Inc.
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573-471-9400

The Male Empowerment Now Program works within Bootheel communities to provide education and case management services for fathers. The MEN Program is proud to provide a safe space for fathers; who can come together from different communities and circumstances to develop themselves as fathers and as men.

During the time MEN Participants are enrolled in the program education is provided to them through attendance of weekly fatherhood classes. In these classes participants learn new approaches to fathering topics such as how to build relationships with the mother of the child, how to communicate with children and tips on ways to spend time with children. Many of the participants in the MEN Program may have had absences from their children's lives for a number of different reasons such as breakdown of the relationship between the mother and father, incarceration, etc.

The MEN Program also works to support the development of our participants through case management services. Participants are helped with the development of an individual service plan (ISP) with goals for the fathers to aim towards during their time in the program. As goals are met and completed participants are able to update their ISP. By setting goals with the fathers we are able to focus on skill development and build the sense of self responsibility.

Since the beginning of the program in 2018 we have now served over 200 participants, who have taught us that every dad faces different challenges that can impact their ability to father their children.

The Male Empowerment Now (MEN) program is funded through the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division and Child Support.



Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start Fatherhood Program

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Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start (MBHS) has a rich history of serving families in the Bootheel since 1997. MBHS serves the five southernmost counties (Bootheel) in Missouri. With being only one of two centers in Missouri and being located in a rural underserved area it can present many challenges, but we've also envisioned and created innovative solutions in order to serve families. Serving fathers is a vital part of reconnecting the family structure by a holistic approach to better serve the communities our clients call home. There are so many benefits to the program. If a client has a desire to serve the community more he can become a volunteer through our CAN group or he can volunteer

to become a part of the Fatherhood Advisory Board. If he inspires to enhance his public speaking abilities he can join MBRC Toastmasters.

If he's seeking employment, we have partners that work exclusively in that field and specialize with finding employment in the Bootheel region. Our Fatherhood Program also offers one on one education tailored to an individual specific needs (case management). This also includes using the curriculum 24/7 DADS. Educating the family on healthy eating, safe infant caring practices, building good communication skills, understanding psychological fatigue, and encouraging dads to be involved in his child life are just some of the methods MBHS Fatherhood Program reaches fathers and families.



A Balanced Approach

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Structural factors in the context of offender reentry represent those systems or elements of the community that when efficacious enable residents to enjoy an enhanced quality of life and public safety. By examining the characteristics of the communities into which citizens returning from prison predominately return, we realize that leaders must adopt a macro-level view of the conditions that permeate these communities and not solely focus on the individual level characteristics that define the returning citizen.

A key feature of these communities is the instability in structural factors and informal social controls that support socio-economic stability and public safety. These communities typically have higher crime rates, unemployment rates, higher poverty rates and significantly higher transient populations than city, state and national averages.

Communities must be intentional in working with correctional agencies to create systems of reentry that include a balanced approach in responding to the needs of returning citizens. Steps toward achieving this can be accomplished by (1) addressing the collective efficacy of socially/economically disadvantaged communities and (2) addressing the individual level risk to recidivate factors of our returning citizens. Correctional agencies and communities both have a role to play in creating opportunity for successful or non-recidivating reentry for citizens post incarceration.

In my home state of Ohio, this balanced approach to reentry is realized through a state-level reentry coalition. The coalition is chaired by the Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). Because the launch point of reentry is the correctional



Department of Rehabilitation & Correction

Mike DeWine, Governor
Annette Chambers-Smith, Director

system, the Director of the ODRC is well positioned to chair the statewide committee. Beyond correctional leaders, the coalition is comprised of other state level agency directors, state/community level organizational leaders, returned citizens, and other allied partners. The statewide coalition is bolstered by county level reentry coalitions who like the state coalition, support efforts to address barriers associated with successful reentry.

By working together, through the creation of a two-pronged approach, functioning in a coordinated system, we can ensure better outcomes for returning citizens. Targeted programs inside, addressing criminogenic risk-factors must be complemented by communities on the outside, intentionally seeking to create equity, and opportunity for those returning from prison. Conversely, prisons must seek to improve the condition of those committed to the correctional environment while under their care. This may require new and innovative approaches to corrections. Again, drawing from the Ohio experience, the ODRC, under the leadership of current Director Annette Chambers-Smith developed the Office of Holistic Services a one of a kind model aligning; Medical, Mental Health, Education, Recovery Services, Religious and Recreation Services.

This office is designed address the mind, body and soul of each incarcerated adult. By more closely aligning internal systems, e.g. Holistic Services working with the agency's Office of Reentry, the ODRC is creating enhanced responses to the needs of its incarcerated population. Remember, recidivism occurs in the community, that is where success is measured, however, the foundation for that success begins in the correctional environment.



Restorative Justice for Justice-Involved Persons

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Empirical research has routinely demonstrated that the U.S. approach of imposing lengthy prison sentences in an attempt to deter future criminal activity has been largely ineffective and has come at tremendous financial and social costs. As such, reform advocates have proposed restorative justice, a community-facilitated model based on remedy and restoration that has been successfully implemented in countries around the world.

Restorative justice emphasizes repairing the harm caused by certain criminal behaviors. This is accomplished through a process that includes all willing participants who have been impacted—victims, offenders, and community members. The restorative justice approach is unique in many ways: 1) victims become central to the process, which involves dialogue and negotiation; 2) victims have their harms/needs addressed; 3) crime control happens in the community, with community members

being facilitators of the process; and 4) the response focuses on the harm that was caused by the offender's behavior, with an emphasis on healing those affected. A successful restorative justice program results in the offender assuming responsibility for their actions/harms, providing redress for victims/survivors, and exiting the justice system in a better condition than when they entered. Programs in this model vary and can include a combination of compensation and/or restitution payments, community service, community reparative boards, victim-offender mediation, and victim-offender panels.

When compared to traditional prison sentences, research has highlighted that well-implemented restorative justice programs can result in the following: 1) improved victim satisfaction with the criminal justice process; 2) reduced victims' PTSD symptoms and related costs; 3) decreased financial costs; 4) increased offender satisfaction with the criminal justice process; and 5) improved offender reintegration.



"The importance of including the voices of directly-impacted people"

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Here in New York City, we are seeing first-hand of the need to elevate the voices of directly-impacted people.

Indeed, the COVID-19 virus has hit New York City harder than any other city in the world – and has particularly impacted incarcerated people on Rikers Island. For example, on Sunday, April 5, Michael Tyson, a 53-year old man, died from the virus on Rikers, after being detained solely for a parole violation, for example.

This is unacceptable.

No matter who we are, we all deserve the same right to human dignity, respect and having a voice in the actions that impact them – but directly-impacted people have consistently been left out of the conversation about their treatment, their safety and their health. And as we've always said at JLUSA, "those closest to the problem are closest to the solution, but furthest from resources and power."

It's time we changed this.

As formerly incarcerated people, we have experienced the horrible conditions and inadequate health care within jails and prisons, and we know that marginalized people, including Black and brown, have traditionally been considered second-class citizens, and so JLUSA is working on policies to uplift the voices of directly-impacted people, to decarcerate the United States and to give marginalized people a seat at the tables they've so long been excluded from.

Among those policies include, making formerly-incarcerated people a protected class, eliminating the clause in the Thirteenth Amendment that supports slavery, and restoring voting rights for all Americans, including directly-impacted people.

Only by educating, elevating and empowering directly-impacted people will we achieve the decarcerated world we'd all like to see. So that people like Michael Tyson would never have gone to jail in the first place.



Women's Re-Entry

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Pathways both into and out of the criminal justice system are often different for males and females, and research indicates that reentry can be particularly challenging for women. While recent endeavors in reentry programming has the potential to address important issues in the lives of women, these efforts frequently pay little attention to gendered pathways that existed both before and after incarceration. Moreover, the issues that are correlated with female criminality are often compounded after release. In general, they face barriers in finding employment, reestablishing a home on their own, building relationships with family, navigating social stigma, adequate transportation, substance abuse treatment, and medical and mental health assistance (particularly for trauma).

The discussion of female reentry is one that goes far beyond an individual program. There are implications for fostering community and social support structures, identifying and responding to the complex realities faced by many women experiencing reentry, and thinking critically about change.

In order to adequately address this issue, we must call upon policymakers, criminal justice professionals, and service providers to truly consider women's gendered pathways to incarceration and reevaluate social aims for reentry.



The Benefits of ORAS

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Adult Re-Entry Program

In order to achieve reentry success, an objective tool is integral to the process. In my humble opinion, the Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) is the best instrument.

ORAS was developed to classify the risk level of offenders in the system while also identifying both criminogenic needs and barriers to programming. Dynamic risk factors (also called criminogenic needs) are factors that, when changed, have been shown to result in a reduction in recidivism. Dynamic risk factors can include substance abuse, personality characteristics, antisocial associates, and antisocial attitudes. The needs principle suggests that effective classification systems should identify dynamic risk factors directly related to recidivism so that they can be used to target programmatic needs. The responsivity principle focuses on identifying barriers to treatment.

Although dynamic risk factors are directly related to recidivism, there are other issues that are likely to keep individuals from engaging in treatment. Some examples of responsivity factors include intelligence, reading ability, language barriers, and cultural barriers. If left unaddressed, it is likely that these influences can interfere with the completion of treatment and, as a result, indirectly prevent a reduction in recidivism from occurring.

The instrument can be used throughout the criminal justice process, pre-trial sentencing through reentry. ORAS has also undergone rigorous testing for reliability and validity. ORAS is an objectivity means of determining risks, however it allows for subjectivity, professional discretion, determination of factors that may not be addressed through the ORAS instrument. Lastly, ORAS measures the needs of offenders. It provides an effective means of balancing the offender's risk with their needs.



A Time to Rest

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Center on Poverty & Social Policy at Columbia University states that we are expected to increase our numbers of people living in poverty by 21 million. This would mark the highest recorded rate of poverty since 1967. Now if that information isn't enough to cause a little stress in your life then I don't know what will. Obviously, this is a stressful time and the longer we sit in seclusion watching the loss and sadness being reported by media outlets the more COVID-19 will continue to weigh on us. During these pressing times it is crucial that we take a break from things that stress us. Make time to rest.

According to selfcareforum.org, self-care empowers us "with the confidence and information to look after ourselves." It "gives us greater control of our own health, and it encourages healthy behaviors that help prevent ill health in the long term." When we take care of ourselves it not only benefits us it also benefits all those we encounter as we are better to each other when we are rested.

When we encounter another human, we have two choices, we either add value or we take value. By adding value we say you matter, you are important and you are worthy. As humans, we do not, I repeat, do not have the right to choose who is worthy. Gender, color, race, ethnicity, or title should not factor into whether or not we extend worth to another human. A human is worthy because they exist.

SUCCESS STORIES

"To the staff and supporters of MBRC, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your help and support as I begin my life from scratch. I just spent eight and a half years behind bars for a robbery I committed when I was nineteen years old and, honestly, I didn't think I would find help as I came back into a world I don't really recognize. Your staff have been very uplifting, giving me motivation when I felt like giving up. Last Friday I got the chance to go shopping with Zachariah Green. I expected to maybe get one or two outfits for the job I received recently. All told, nearly three hundred dollars was spent so that I will have clothes for my current job, interview clothes for anything I do to further my career and some much needed hygiene essentials. Truthfully, I had nearly given up and just quit trying to do right and this blessing came when I needed it most. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. It means so much to know that, regardless of my past, people still care enough to help. I don't know what I would have done without you."

Sincerely,
Michael F. Hawkins, MEN Re-Entry Program Client

**How Prison Saved My Life**

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In 1994 when I was convicted of attempted murder and first degree armed robbery and sentenced to life + 100 years in prison, I KNEW my life was over. In actuality this is when my life really began. My first day in County jail another inmate gave me some items I didn't have and I thought he was trying to make a move on me. Because I thought that, I knew I needed to take his life so that I could protect mine. Later that night when I ran into his cell to try to kill the guy, I stumbled up on him and a few others having Bible study. He gave me a Bible tract and I went back to my bunk bed. In my mind this was my last chance of survival and I couldn't even get that right. After reflecting on my life and the many mistakes I had made, I decided that I should just take my own life because it had no value and I didn't know how to live my life

without messing it up. I didn't have a gun to carry out my thoughts and I couldn't sleep, so I decided to read the Bible tract. It told me about how everyone was a sinner (Rom. 3:23) and that because of that everyone would be judged accordingly which meant everyone would spend eternity in hell (Rom. 6:23). The verse also told of a man named Jesus Who came to save the world from their sins so that they could spend eternity with Him in Heaven. It said that if I put my faith and trust in Jesus that I would be saved from my sins and that I could have a new life in Him. I decided this was not only what I wanted but exactly what I needed. I put all my faith and trust in a rising Savior named Jesus and this is how prison saved my life.

MISSOURI BOOTHEEL REGIONAL CONSORTIUM**MALE EMPOWERMENT NOW
Adult Re-Entry Program**

A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH

RE-ENTRY ADVISORY MEETING*Save This Date !***JULY 16, 2020****Zoom Video Conference****10 AM-11 AM****PROGRAM UPDATE****CO-SPONSORED BY PARTNERS***"America is the land of second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."**— President George W. Bush, 2004 State of the Union Address***WHO SHOULD ATTEND**

Community-Based Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations, Law Enforcement, Health Care Organizations, Mental Health Agencies, Business Owners, Criminal Justice Students, Local Public Housing Authorities, Local Public Health Agencies, Veteran's Commission, Substance Abuse Recovery Organizations, Community Advocates, Department of Corrections Staff (Adult Institutions/Probation and, Parole), Community Health Workers, Case Managers, Social Service Agencies, Educational Institutions, Chamber of Commerce, Transportation Agencies, Judiciary, Justice-Involved Individuals, School Administrators

**TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE CALL: 1-888-317-4949 OR VIA E-MAIL yjohnson@mbrcinc.org BY FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020**

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- Office of Justice Programs (OJP)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

United States Missouri Senator Roy Blunt

Missouri Department of Corrections

- Farmington Correctional Center (FCC)
- Southeast Correctional Center (SECC)
 - Probation and Parole Office

Districts: # 14, 14A, 14B, 23, & 31

Institutional Probation & Parole Offices (FCC and SECC)

Missouri Department of Social Services

- John Ginwright, Deputy Director

Family Support Division

Workforce Development Board of Southeast Missouri

Gibson Recovery Center

Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation

Charleston Department of Public Safety

Sikeston Department of Public Safety

Missouri Bootheel Regional Consortium

Missouri Bootheel Healthy Start

Jereme Lytle, Prosecuting Attorney, Pemiscot County

Nicholas Jain, Prosecuting Attorney, Dunklin County

Sikeston Job Center

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