

## Mercer County Reentry Task Force

### Meeting Minutes – 11/4/15

**Attendance:** Perry Shaw III (A Better Way), Stacie McGeehan (Mercer County HHS), Adams Sibley (TCNJ CELR Center), Tara Clayton-Butler (A Better Way), Ed Whitmann (Trenton Council of Civic Associations), Ed Oskay (Campaign to End the New Jim Crow), Luis Rivera (Mercer County One Stop), Barbara Flythe (CENJC), Abdul Muhammad (Trenton Violence Reduction Strategy), Gail Muhammad (Women Who Never Give Up), Julie Janus (TASK), James Ellerbe (Mid-Atlantic), Sophia Robinson (NJ DOC), Wendi White (NJ DOC), Doris Mesinoff (NJ DOC), Lorna Colligan (NJ DOC), Denise Higgins (Trinity Cathedral), Robert Epstein (Family Support Center of NJ)

Meeting commenced at 1:45pm.

Members introduced themselves and reviewed minutes, which were accepted by consensus.

There was a presentation by Robert Epstein (Family Resource Network, an ACA navigator agency). Mr. Epstein described the services FRN provides, including navigation of the Affordable Care Act, NJ Family Care, Medicaid, and other healthcare systems. Mr. Epstein serves Hunterdon, Mercer, Ocean, and Somerset Counties. FRN does not charge for this service. Open enrollment for the ACA is November 1-January 31. Individuals who enroll between November 1 and December 15, coverage will begin January 1. Those who enroll between December 15 and January 31 will receive coverage beginning February 1. Those who enroll between January 15 and February 28 will receive coverage beginning March 1. Plans change every open enrollment period. Prices are based on age and income. In 2015, there was a \$325 penalty (or 2% of income, whichever is greater) for not having health insurance. In 2016, the penalty will rise to \$695 per person.

Enrollment for NJ Family Care is ongoing. Individuals (US citizens/permanent residents only) age 19-64 and earning \$15665 annually qualify. A family of 4 earning under \$32000 would receive Family Care. For a family of 4 making \$40000, only two children would receive Family Care. There are different eligibility requirements for pregnant women.

Mr. Epstein is available to come to Task Force member organizations to do enrollments. He also offers enrollments on Tuesdays in his Robbinsville office. Contact [frnnavigator@familyresourcenetwork.org](mailto:frnnavigator@familyresourcenetwork.org).

Members shared updates and announcements.

Campaign to End the New Jim Crow will hold a mass incarceration conference on November 21 from 9:15am to 3:30pm at Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church – topics range from pre-entry to re-entry. UMIO is organizing a resource table. Contact Barbara Flythe.

Rescue Mission is attempting to break the Guinness Record for most clothing collected in a single day. Clothing can be dropped off at 150 locations across the area. Go to [www.rescuemission.org](http://www.rescuemission.org) for more information.

The Second Chance Act Conference, sponsored by National Reentry Resource Center, will be held in December. Registration deadline is November 15. Contact Barbara Flythe.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual reentry conference will be held in February 2016. The focus of the conference will be expanding services for the reentry population. The conference will be held at Mercer College and feature Bonnie Watson-Coleman as the keynote speaker.

TCNJ graphic design students are designing a new graphic identity for the Task Force. Updates forthcoming.

Square2, a new reentry resource website developed by TCNJ students, is live at [www.square2nj.org](http://www.square2nj.org). Members who have feedback regarding format and content – especially new resources – are encouraged to contact Adams Sibley at [sibleya@tcnj.edu](mailto:sibleya@tcnj.edu).

Perry Shaw III, chair of the Task Force, hosted an open conversation regarding recent events implicating his organization. Members are encouraged to share any concerns in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm.

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*The next meeting will be held on January 6, 2016.*