

Mercer County Reentry Task Force

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Location: 218 N. Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Trenton NJ

****Next meeting date is on May 15, 2013 at 218 N. Broad Street (2nd Floor),
Trenton, NJ @1:30PM****

In Attendance

Herb Levine- *Mercer Alliance to End Homelessness*, **Stacie McGeehan**- *Mercer County Department of Human Services*, **Greg Williams**- *Turning Point United Methodist Church*, **Denise Higgins**- *Catholic Charities*, **Kathy Kimmerley**-*Helping Arms*, **Anastasia Jackson**- *Probation*, **Orlando Kane**- *Manifestations Of The Prodigal Daughter*, **Lorna Colligan**, *Mercer Board of Social Services*, **Wendi Kornberg**-*DOC Office of Drug Programs*, **Doris Mesinoff**- *Mercer Board of Social Services*, **Scott Bollwage**- *sitting in for Craig Morris MCCC*, Lt. **James Dickinson**- *NJ Parole Board*, **James Gee**-*Office of Bonnie Watson Coleman*, **Daren Ivy**-*C.E.C. Bo Robinson*, **Tonya Coy**- *UIH Family Partners*, **Elzata Goodman**-*UJIMAH ministries*, and **Luis Rivera**-*One Stop Center*

Staff: Michelle Daniels- *AmeriCorps VISTA at Bonner Center*- recorded minutes.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting commenced at 1:30PM. Members did a general round of introductions and then an introduction of the services their agencies provide.

2. Agency Updates

Scott Bolders, *MCCC*-There will be changes to the GED test as of December 2013. GED will be computer based and much harder.

Lorna Colligan- *MCBOSS*- Questioned whether the agency is responsible for reporting their clients (who were sex-offenders) to the police. Answer: The agency does not have to report their clients to the police; it's the client's responsibility to make that report.

3. OLD Business

Ban the Box

Statewide legislation has been introduced to ban the box on employment applications that ask for incarceration history. James Gee, Legislative Aide to Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman spoke about the bill. He spoke about the Assemblywoman and her legislative ideas. The Black Caucus has 19 members and

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41 votes are needed for a bill to pass the Assembly. Task force can help by having people testify. Need to get people from non-traditional (i.e. Republicans) district/community to support the issue.

Housing - Drug-Related Issues

General Assistance (GA) can provide housing to everyone who doesn't have a drug conviction.

Individuals with conviction for possession need to go through a licensed program for drug conviction to be removed. We need to let inmates know about this option. What is the best way?

Note -- This option does not extend to those with drug distribution charges.

The bill about expungement for marijuana charges was passed.

4. New Business

No New Business

Meeting adjourned at 2:37PM.