

***Meeting Review***  
***Boone County Offender Transition Network***  
***8:30 – 10:30 August 21, 2008***

**Columbia/Boone County Health Department**

**The Mission of the Boone County Offender Transition Network is:**

*To promote a healthier and safer community, by creating and maintaining an effective network of services that addresses the needs of offenders, their families and our community.*

Present: Steve Tatlow, Kandys Bleil, Craig Morton, Julia Goodell, David Barnes, Becky Markt, George Norman, Jr., Julio Lorio, Twilla Cross, Sara Lemberger, Vicki Fessler, David Meyer, Christine Smith, Art Schneider, Gary Taylor, Eugene Elkin, Dan O'Farrell, Kathleen Mims

**Review Subcommittees Progress**

- **Service Delivery** – Will be reorganizing & meeting in the near future. David Meyer will be contacting members to coordinate next meeting.
  
- **Community Resources** – Much Progress has been made based on diverse input and experiences. Has been concentrating on building a program design for community level transitional housing. Budget has been developed and program support from members is available. Much Progress has been made based on diverse input and experiences. Currently, an organization has not been identified to operate such a program.
  
- **Prevention – YC2**  
The Prevention Sub-committee (YC2) is helping to organize a Peace Rally designed to involve citizens in creating safe streets in the community on September 21 and march to the Boone County Court House where they will hear from several speakers. The City of Columbia will provide law enforcement support and a mayoral proclamation. Youth participation is encouraged. After the event neighborhood vigils will take place in different areas of town where violent incidents have been on the rise. Anyone interested in helping with this event should contact Heather Windham at 449-0182.

On September 25, YC2 is bringing in R.E.A.C.H. Communications, Inc. for a U Matter conference targeting 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders in Columbia Public Schools. The event purpose of the event is to develop peer leaders who can influence others to make healthy, safe choices. There will be an evening concert targeting older youth in a downtown location to be determined. For more information, contact Becky Markt at 443-2556, X. 1250.

In October, YC2 is partnering with the City of Columbia to conduct a mass planting of 1200 tulip bulbs. Youth volunteers will plant the bulbs in 48 different sites in the First Ward to signify their promise to make healthy choices. Each student will receive a card identifying where their tulips are planted so that they can revisit the site in the spring when the flowers bloom. Groups who are interested in being a part of this project can contact Becky Markt at 443-2556, X. 1250.

- **Education** – R.A. W. Reentry Simulations have been held in Jefferson City, Hannibal, Sedalia, Kirksville & Columbia. Future simulations are scheduled for Monet & Springfield. “Bringing Down The Walls” Community Reentry Conference is scheduled for October 23 & 24 in Columbia. This has occupied all of the sub-committee time in the past 3 months.

## **Project Review**

**Reentry Resource Guide** – Updated August’08. 4 additional pages including dental resources added. More resources are being requested for inclusion. Copies in bulk are printed on request & usually available within 1 week, often sooner. There is no cost to the requestors.

**Website** – Thanks to Art Schneider and MU extension, we are getting the website up to speed. Items for inclusion in the site are requested. Especially needed are events, classes, workshops, etc. to be placed on the calendar. Send submissions to [SchneiderA@missouri.edu](mailto:SchneiderA@missouri.edu) .

**Newsletter** –The BCOTN newsletter is in development & scheduled for September. Ideas, stories & articles for inclusion are requested and should be sent to Dan O’Farrell ( [dofarrell@boonecountycommunitypartnership.com](mailto:dofarrell@boonecountycommunitypartnership.com) ). *Suggested items included:* Events calendar, ROC activities, interesting facts section, events reports with photo’s, success stories, jobs wanted section for educating and matching skills with employer needs, projects in development, sub-committee reports, etc. Twilla Cross & Kandys Bleil offered to assist Dan in the layout.

## **Reentry Opportunity Center**

Report on the growth in programming at the R.O.C.

Offerings include: GED Classes during the day & evening, Building Strong Families, pre-employment skills class, Welcome Home workshop, Pathways to change and Keeping It Together.

Programming space and infrastructure support *at no charge* is still remaining for those interested.

**Conference Report** – Bringing Down the Walls community based reentry conference is scheduled for October 23 & 24 in Columbia, MO. Call for presentations is still out. Registration has begun. Small group facilitators are needed both days of the event.

**Citizens Advisory Board** – Discussed the concept of a community advisory group who could fund restorative justice projects as well as returning ex-offender needs.

**Schedule of meetings** – Group chose to go to an every other month meeting format instead of quarterly.

## **Next Meeting**

***8:30 – 10:30, Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup>***  
***Columbia/Boone County Health Department***