

BCOTN Community Resource Subcommittee

DRAFT ON FUNDING POLICY Prepared for distribution April 8, 2008

Background

At the end of 2007, the Boone County Offender Transition Network (BCOTN) transitioned from monthly meetings into various subcommittees that would meet as a steering committee quarterly.

One of the subcommittee formed was to address Community Resource needs. The subcommittee quickly identified as priorities the need for housing for offenders and the need for recruiting employers to provide jobs. The subcommittee decided its initial priority would be to develop housing.

Housing Statement

A major barrier to offenders retuning to society as productive citizens is the transition period from incarceration to independent living. Offenders without strong family supports are unlikely to have funding to make rental or utility deposits. Ancillary issues are transportation from home to the worksite, which must be within walking distance or accessible by public transportation.

The subcommittee has reviewed several options for housing:

- Community based housing directly operated by BCOTN.

- Community-based housing operated by a contracted entity.

- Faith-based housing operated by a contracted entity.

For all three entities, the intent is to have a community of residents who live in a single household that is under the direction of a manager. The households will have common entry and exits to serve all residents and congregate sites for meal, fellowship and support.

For all three options, support organizations will be necessary to assist returning offenders to purchase food, **clothing** and personal items while the offender is seeking work, assist offenders to reconnect with third families, learn to cook on their own, secure eligibility for medical care, manage household budgets, develop or utilize skills for living-wage occupations, and manage chemical addiction.

Funding Policy Guidelines

The BCOTN Community Resource Subcommittee will initiate fundraising efforts to develop one or all three housing options. Funds raised—by direct donation, through grants, through contracted services—shall be received and administered by a third party.

Initial efforts shall be directed toward funds to rent, lease or purchase a housing unit. It is the expectation of the subcommittee that the housing units be self-sustaining through the contributions of the resident members. Each resident will be expected to set aside 10% of personal income in a savings plan. Residents shall be expected to share proportional costs for the housing unit monthly mortgage or rent and utilities plus a stipend for the resident manager from the date they become residents. For example, if there are seven residents and a manager,

the seven residents will be responsible for one-seventh the cost of housing and utilities and the manager's stipend. Residents will purchase and prepare their own meals.

Expenses will be prorated for the proportion of the time period they are residents the first month. Residents will be able to utilize up to \$500 from a common fund to meet housing, utility, transportation and food expenses while they are seeking work and until they receive their first paycheck. This is a revolving fund that they shall repay.

Residents are expected to have employment within 30 days of residency.

Funding Policy Priorities

To meet its goals, the initial fundraising effort shall set an initial corpus goal of \$50,000 that will be used as seed money toward purchasing, renting/leasing or contracting with an agency to operate a housing unit. Funding may also be used for utilities.

Ten percent (\$5,000) of the \$50,000 will be set aside as a revolving fund for use by the residents to meet housing, utility, **medical/dental (to include medication and ER visits)**, food and transportation expenses while they are seeking work.

Five percent (\$2500) of the \$50,000 will be used for equipment (laptop or desktop computer, filing cabinet, desk, office chairs, FAX, and other items needed by the resident manager),

Five percent (\$2500) of the \$50,000 shall be used to purchase furnishings for the residents. Each bedroom shall have bunk beds).

Ten percent (\$5,000) shall be set aside for a common vehicle for the manager to take residents to appointments, jobs, etc... that are not accessible by public transportation).

The remaining funds (\$35,000) shall be used for housing acquisition and utility deposits.

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