

Lake County Reentry Coalition

LCRC

Five Year Strategic Plan

June 2013

Background

At yearend 2011, about 4,814,200 offenders were supervised in the community on probation or parole, and 2,239,800 were incarcerated in state or federal prisons or local jails. About one in 50 adults was under community supervision while about one in 107 adults were in prison or jail.¹ In efforts to bring these numbers down to what they are now in April 2008, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act of 2007. The Second Chance Act represents a federal investment in strategies to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, as well as to lessen the financial burden of corrections on the state and local governments.² Whoever, if current trajectories continue, state and federal prisons will grow by 13 percent by 2013, adding an additional 192,000 prisoners at a cost of \$27.5 billion.³

For February 2013, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation (ODRC) housed 49,710 offenders in 28 institutions, which is well over the 38,450 capacity. The average cost to tax payers for each offender is \$65.27 per day or \$23,823.55 annually. DRC also released 22,567 ex-offenders in 2011. Out of that number 11,278 were released to some form of supervision and 11,289 were released without any form of supervision.⁴ With Ohio's recidivism rate for technical returns at 5.8% and for new crimes it is 25.4% (total of 31.2% for a 3 year period)⁵.

Due to these numbers the state of Ohio is focused on reducing recidivism and focusing in on the challenges of reentry. According to the *Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Five-Year Strategic Plan Fiscal Years: 2012-2016*⁶:

Ohio has been committed to assisting offenders as they reentry the state's communities in an effort to become law-abiding and productive citizens. In December 2008, the Ohio General assembly passed a historic piece of reentry legislation, *House Bill 130 (HB130)*, offering a framework for long-term investment in the welfare of the state by addressing legal and other barriers to employment for individuals released from prison. A key component of the bill called for the formation of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (hereafter the "Reentry Coalition") to server as a guiding hub for expanding and improving reentry efforts across state of local agencies and communities.

The mission of the Reentry Coalition is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Reentry Coalition will achieve these goals

¹ <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/press/cpus11ppus11pr.cfm>

² http://www.reentrypolicy.org/documents/0000/1277/2.14.12_Second_Chance_Act_Fact_Sheet_.pdf

³ http://www.reentrypolicy.org/documents/0000/1278/2.14.12_Second_Chance_Act_Talking_Points.pdf

⁴ <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/Reports/FactSheet/February%202013.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/web/Snapshots/lake.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov/docs/OERC%20-%205%20Year%20Strategic%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%202012%20-.pdf>

through collaboration partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations and other stakeholders. It will utilize a holistic evidence-based approach that starts at the point of contact with the criminal justice system and includes, education, families, health services, alcohol and other drug treatment, job training, mentorship and housing.

The overall aim of the Reentry Coalition is to be supportive of all agencies, counties, municipalities, organizations, and individuals interested or already committed to working with the reentry of ex-offenders into the community.

Lake County Demographics

Lake County is located east of Cuyahoga County, west of Ashtabula County and north of Geauga County with Lake Erie to its north. Lake County is the smallest county in Ohio with just under 228 square miles and has a population of 230,041 (2010), which means 1011 persons per square mile⁷. Lake County is the eleventh most populous county in Ohio.

Lake County Assessments

According to Lifeline Inc. (Lake County's Community Action Agency) 2011 Social Services Needs Assessment⁸:

Of the 2,260 individuals that they serviced 32% had a high school diploma or GED; 29% had some post-secondary education in addition to a high school diploma GED; 20% were non-graduates completing some high school; 11% had only education levels through 8th grade and 8% had completed a two or four year degree. According to the assessment the #1 overall issue regarding impact on quality of life was unemployment.

The assessment went on to report that health related problems in Lake County are as follows: #1 Adult Obesity at 53.4%; #2 were Drug Addiction at 44.4% and #3 was Mental Health. Housing continues to be an issue as well for Lake County residents. Since 2000 the amount of foreclosures filed was 580 and in 2010 it was up to 1,728 (increase of 33.6%). According to Lake Metropolitan Housing Authority, currently Lake County has 240 public housing units, 236 of which are filled and have a waiting list of approximately 831 households. Lake County has 1,304 residents receiving housing

⁷ <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/39/39085.html>

⁸ 2011 Social Services Needs Assessment for Lake County, Ohio completed by Lifeline, Inc.

choice vouchers, but the waiting list is currently closed with approximately 872 households on the waiting list. The waiting list for housing choice vouchers has been closed since October 2009.

Homelessness continues to exist in Lake County. According to the January 2011 Point in Time study done by the Lake County Continuum of Care, 127 homeless persons were identified as homeless. Of those homeless surveyed, 41.3% identified themselves as chronically homeless and 53.7% estimated that they have been homeless for more than 90 days. Of those surveyed, 87.2% were homeless with shelter, leaving 12% unsheltered. The overwhelming cause of homelessness, of those surveyed, was loss of job or income source (46%).

Another assessment completed in 2010 in Lake County, which is the Lake County Criminal Justice Mental Health Collaborative Needs Assessment⁹:

Offenders with mental illness face additional barriers not only because of their illness but also their criminal background. This combination can make for a challenging responsibility. The rate of completed suicide is also disproportionate. The rate of suicide in the United States is approximately 11 per 100,000. However, in jails and prison the rate is 52 per 100,000.

Re-Entry data from Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) in 2008 include the following: for Lake County, 356 offenders were released back to the community. Eighty-one percent of those released were male and 18.2% were female. Of the 356, just under 20 were on the mental health caseload while in prison. Substance abuse, unemployment and emotional problems prior to incarceration all had significant numbers.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health reported 26.2% of general population suffers from mental illness 24% of prison population and 21% of jail population suffers from mental illness.

According to the 2011 Corrections Division Annual Report for the Lake County Sheriff's Department¹⁰:

The Lake County Adult Detention Facilities processed 5,413 inmates into two jails, The average daily population of inmates being housed on Lake County Charges averaged 314

⁹ Lake County Criminal Justice Mental Health Collaborative Needs Assessment 2010 compiled by Julie Kalina-Hammond LISW-S
¹⁰

<http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/Portals/34/PDF%20Files/Corrections/2011%20Corrections%20Division%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Lake County inmates per day, and increase of 30 Lake County inmates per day over 2009. Note, this is an increase of 53% over 1993 when the jail averaged 206 inmates charged under the Lake County courts. Of the 314 inmates housed each day, 255 were males and 59 were females. Of these inmates, 70% were Caucasian, 23% were African-American, and 8% were Hispanic.

The jail system averaged 123 Misdemeanor inmates per day, and 191 Felony inmates. This is the fifth year in a row we have averaged more Felons per day then we did Misdemeanors.

These offenders had many issues that lead them to their incarceration or reincarceration and the Lake County Jail tries to assist them while they are in custody. The Lake County Jail offers many programs but probably the two most used programs are the Jail Treatment Program and Mental Health Services. Below is some important information pertaining to these programs.

According to the Lake County Sheriff’s Office Jail Treatment Program Year in Review 2011¹¹, they had 288 participants go through their program in 2011. 40.4% had Felony convictions, 57.5% had Misdemeanors and 2.1% had Juvenile offenses. The program had an average daily census of 29.5. See the chart below for the primary drug of choice:

2011 PARTICIPANTS PRIMARY DRUG OF CHOICE (DOC) *[In order of frequency]*

Alcohol = 98 (34.15%)	Cocaine (Powder) = 6 (2.1%)
Heroin = 67 (23%)	Methamphetamine = 3 (1%)
Marijuana = 61 (21.25%)	Benzodiazepines = 3 (1%)
Opioid Pills = 25 (including Vicoden, Percocet, Oxycodone, Methadone, Oxycontin, etc.) (8.71%)	
Cocaine (Crack) = 22 (7.67%)	Bath Salts = 2 (0.7%)
	Water/Wet/PCP = 1 (0.35%)
<i>Total = 288</i>	

The next graph shows what the number of 2011 Participants with:

	YES	NO
Prior DUI/OVI offense	125	163
Prior prison incarceration	66	222
Prior treatment episode	222	66
Prior mental health diagnosis	137	151

¹¹

<http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/Portals/34/PDF%20Files/Corrections/1011%20Annual%20Report%20Jail%20Treatment%20Program.pdf>

The most common mental health diagnosis was Depression. However, 66 of 137 had multiple diagnoses such as Depression, Bipolar, PTSD. Borderline, Intermittent Explosive Disorder, Panic Attacks, Anxiety, and ODD were some of the coupled diagnoses as well.

According to the 2012 Annual Report- Beacon Health Mental Health Services¹² for the Lake County Jail:

The focus of mental health service continues to be community linkage of consumers to mental health agencies upon release from jail, evaluation/assessment for appropriateness of participation in the Felony Intensive Case Management Program, court ordered mental health assessments that are required before release, and in some cases, intake and assessment of individuals while they are incarcerated in order to fully link them with services upon his/her release from jail.

The mental health staff received a total of 1,341 referrals in 2012, some of these were duplicated. Of the 1,341 referrals, fifty four percent of them were self referred, thirty-eight percent were referred by correctional staff and medical staff in the jail, and the remaining eight percent of referrals came from other sources, i.e.-attorneys, family, courts, probation officers, community mental health agencies, police, and the Jail Treatment Program.

MHCs saw 374 individuals a total of 682 times in 2012. Of the individuals seen by the MHCs, fifty percent had some type of contact with a mental health provider before coming to jail, and eighty-two percent were linked with an outpatient agency upon release from the jail. Ninety-one percent had some type of housing before incarceration and ninety percent had housing upon release. (NOTE: housing may include residential treatment facilities, independent living, prison, etc.) Nine percent were homeless before coming to jail and ten percent were homeless upon release. Eighty-two percent used or abused some type of substance before incarceration. Twenty nine percent were employed before incarceration. Thirty three percent) of those reporting being prescribed medications at intake had also reported compliance with the medications before coming to jail. Eighty-three percent of the individuals that were seen by the MHCs had a discharge plan completed before release

¹²

<http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/Portals/34/PDF%20Files/Corrections/2011%20Annual%20Report%20mental%20health.pdf>

Figure 1. Reasons for Referral

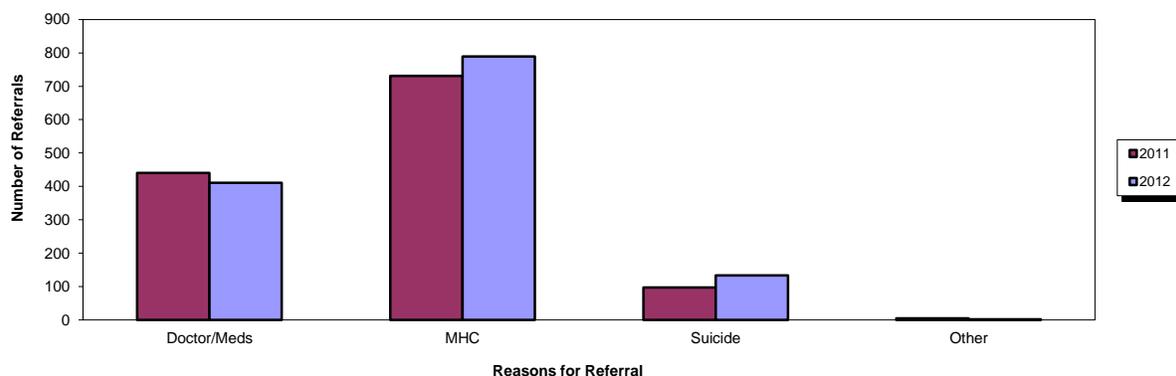


Figure 2.

Pre-Jail MH Treatment	
Pre-Jail MH Treatment	Total
No services	200
Irregular	149
Regular	40
Active Tx	9
N=sample population	398

Figure 3.

Post Jail Agency Linkages	
Post Jail Agency Linkages	Total
Unknown	75
Beacon	171
Lake Geauga Center	6
Signature Health	27
Outside of County	54
Prison	51
Other	33
N=sample population	417

Figure 4.

Pre Jail Housing Status	
Pre Jail Housing Status	Total
Independent Living	47
Living with other	255

Figure 5.

Post Jail Housing Status	
Post Jail Housing Status	Total
Independent Living	28

Supervised Living	8
Treatment Facility	8
Homeless	33
Prison	9
N=sample population	360

Living with other	190
Supervised Living	6
Treatment Facility	16
Homeless	31
Prison	45
N=sample population	316

Figure 6.

Substance Use / Abuse	
Substance Use / Abuse	Total
No substance use	52
Substance Use	50
Substance Abuse	194
N=sample population	296

Figure 7.

Pre-Jail Employment Status	
Pre-Jail Employment Status	Total
Employed	85
Unemployed	206
N=sample population	291

Figure 8.

Medication Compliance	
Medication Compliant	Total
Non Compliant with Meds	159
Compliant with Meds	78
N=sample population	237

Figure 9.

Discharge Plan	
Discharge Plan	Total
No Discharge Plan	64
Discharge Plan Made	302
Pink Slipped/Hospitalized	7
N=sample population	373

Figure 10. Diagnosis

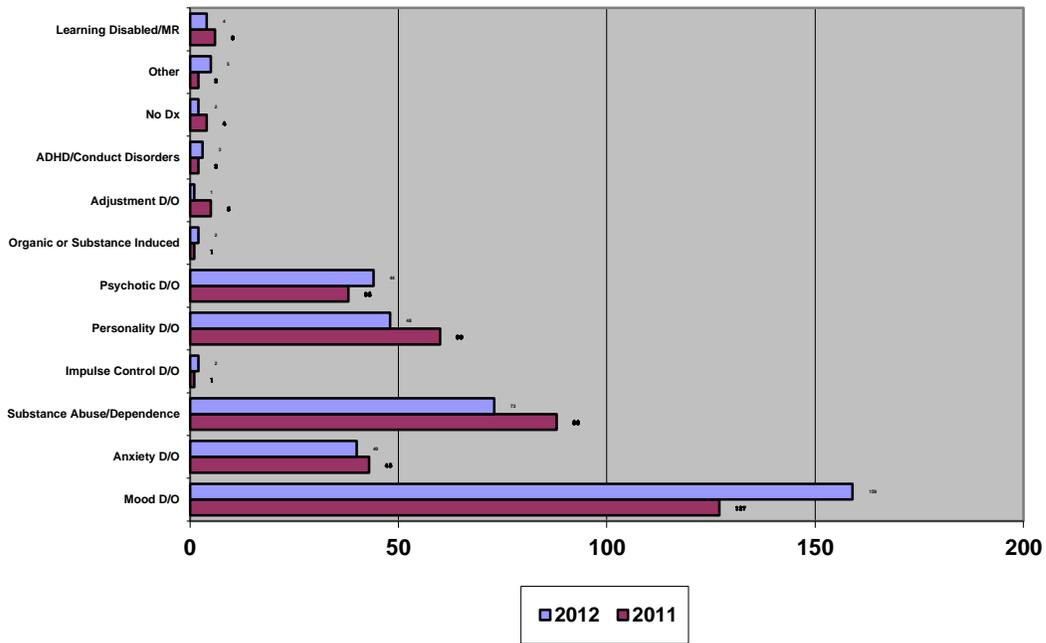


Figure 11. Mental Health Inmate by County

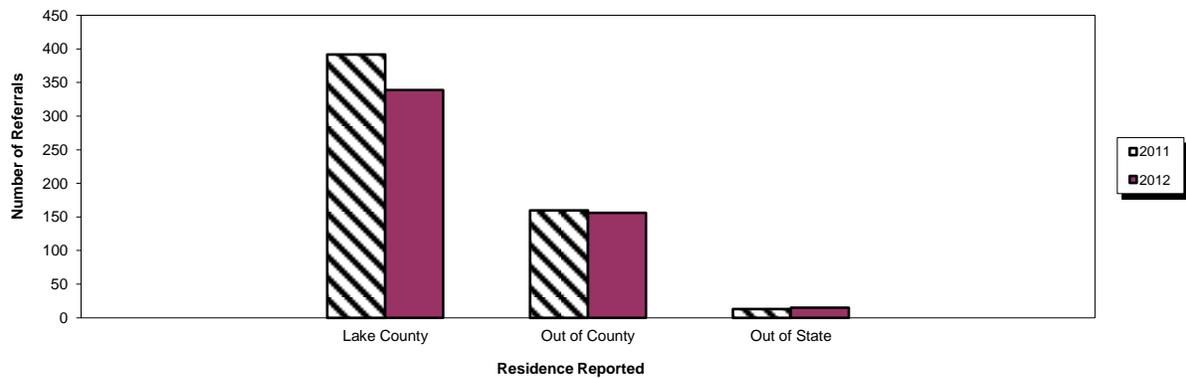
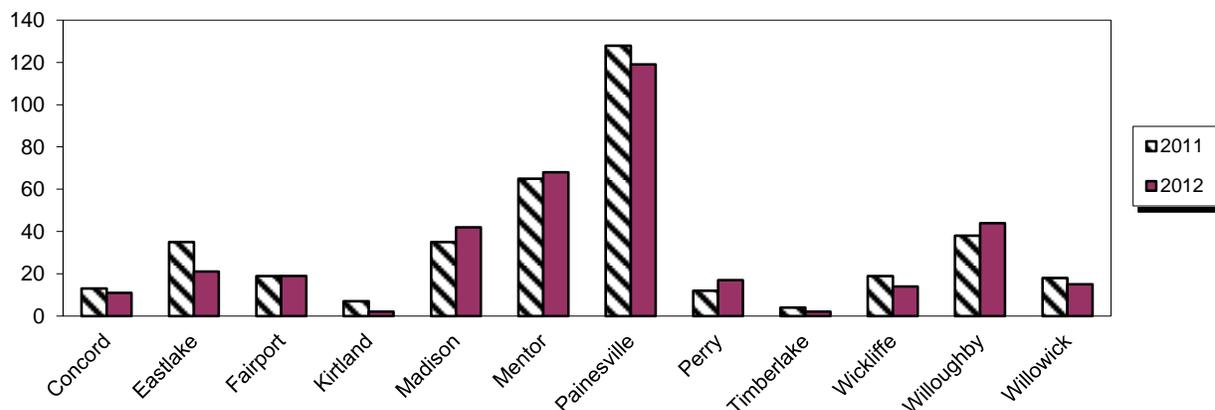


Figure 12. City of Origin in Lake County



Lake County Reentry Coalition

As a result of the federal government and the State of Ohio focus on reducing recidivism and focusing in on the challenges of reentry, Lake County is committed to developing and implementing a reentry coalition.

In April 2012, the Lake County Reentry Coalition was formed to address the growing needs of the county with the population of the ex-offender in clear focus. The Lake County Reentry Coalition has developed a 5-Year Strategic Plan that addresses the necessities of the ex-offender population with a goal to reduce recidivism over a 5-year period by 50%.

Mission Statement: Lake County Reentry Coalition will remove barriers for ex-offenders to live, work and be productive citizens of Lake County.

Vision Statement: With the commitment of the Lake County Reentry Coalition and its partners:

1. Public safety will be improved due to reduction in crime;
2. Increase successful reintegration of ex-offenders into the community by addressing their needs and providing them assistance;
3. Work as one in regards to a holistic reentry approach regarding services and programs

Target Domains:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| ▶ Education | ▶ Employment | ▶ Family/Parenting |
| ▶ Housing | ▶ Identification | ▶ Legal Issues |
| ▶ Mental Health | ▶ Mentoring | ▶ Substance Abuse |

Focus Area	Strategic Goals	Strategic Objectives
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Make resources available prior to release and after in education/job readiness skills. ▶ Enhance the range and accessibility of education and vocational program opportunities for ex-offenders ▶ Provide comprehensive soft skills and life skills programs, which may incorporate cognitive behavior therapy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase collaboration with educational resources to expand services throughout the county 2. Advocate for available funding for educational opportunities 3. Support the development of life skills programs
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Provide a comprehensive suite of employment services and options that will increase the probability that ex-offenders will secure and retain long term employment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support employment programs that provide job readiness training, assessments, and retention services 2. Create a marketing strategy for promoting outreach to local business leaders regarding Lake County Reentry Coalition, WOTC & Fidelity Bond Program 3. Expand the current training sessions to local incarcerated offenders and ex-offenders at the county level regarding employability skills and job training skills 4. Work with Lake1Stop employment services regarding ex-offenders 5. Connect ex-offenders with special needs (such as ex-offenders with disabilities and veterans) to organizations providing specialized services

		<p>6. Improve employability through job readiness training and education alternatives</p>
<p>Family/Parenting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Support family stability during the absence of the ex-offender. ▶ Support family reunification with biological or chosen family where appropriate ▶ Will support ex-offenders and families by enhancing services during and after incarceration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilize family needs survey to assist families to expand structured support services for families and children (faith based and non faith based) 2. Identify services and supports available for families during family member incarceration. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Housing, food, transportation and utility needs - include use of Ohio Benefit Bank and public assistance eligibility. b. Trauma, mental health, A&D, domestic violence service needs c. Education or training needs (life skills such as relationship and parenting as well as employment oriented) d. Child mentoring e. Child and family visitation 3. Establish a family-centered case management wraparound protocol for families 4. Provide, via wrap-around planning, family supportive programs for the offender/ex-offender and their family members such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Family Reentry b. Parenting, Fatherhood, Motherhood

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Child development d. Education and support for incarcerated pregnant women e. Parenting support group during incarceration and after release <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Educate community on issues/obstacles of families 6. Development of resource guide for families
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ House ex-offenders in safe, decent, and affordable housing ▶ To assist ex-offenders in finding secure and stable housing ▶ Identify emergency, short term and long term housing options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Become involved with Housing Coalition agenda for county 2. Educate landlords with partnership with Fair Housing Resources Center and forming trusting relationships with them 3. Advocate for less restrictive screening criteria 4. Increase housing opportunities to ex-offenders 5. Compile a list of private and public housing options available to ex-offenders
Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ To mainstream the process for ex-offenders to obtain proper identification, a birth certificate, government-issued state identification and social security card. At minimum, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lake County Re-entry Coalition will identify and partner with Lake County resources to develop a guide for ex-offenders returning to the community. 2. Identify financial resources to assist with the cost of obtaining identification

	<p>all ex-offenders returning will possess government-issued stated I.D.</p> <p>► Identify and partner with Lake County resources to inform ex-offenders on how to obtain this identification and where to find the resources to assist with the costs.</p>	
<p>Legal Issues</p>	<p>► To reduce recidivism by early identification and intervention to resolve legal issues that will intervene with an offender’s ability to maintain stable employment and housing.</p> <p>► Attempt to remove legal issues that are barriers to successful reentry.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a legal needs assessment to identify and assist with outstanding legal issues 2. Develop a network of Lake County lawyers and law students qualified and willing to offer assist with outstanding legal issues and guidance <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pending charges, unpaid court costs – check websites for Lake County to determine if there are pending charges, unpaid fines or unpaid court costs. b. Unpaid restitution or unpaid probation fees. Develop contact list to verify with various courts c. Driver’s license issues, determining the status of an individual’s driver’s license and what needs to be done to obtain valid driving

		<p>privileges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Child support issues – Determine what steps an individual can take to clear a license suspension imposed due to child support arrears. e. Record sealed – at this point because of the legal issues involved, the individual should be instructed to seek advice from an attorney regarding this issue. <p>3. Provide information on securing needed legal documents such as driver’s license, Birth certificate, etc.</p>
<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>► Continue to support forensic services already offered and the expansion of new relevant services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to educate the community about forensic issues 2. Create resource guide for inmates 3. Continue to link offenders to services prior to release 4. Create a flow of information during the prerelease period tailored for Lake County 5. Support new diversion initiatives for ex-offenders with mental illness-classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to educate the family in regards to mental health issues of the offender returning home as well as reunification barriers
<p>Mentoring</p>	<p>► To connect ex-offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define and develop the mentoring program options and components.

	<p>with positive, inspiring supportive mentors prior to their release and maintaining that relationship for 12-18 months. This will promote a sense of connectedness in the community and reduce recidivism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pre and post release. b. One on one mentoring and group options. 2. Define characteristics of positive mentors and recruit individuals with these characteristics. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Successful community members b. Successful ex-offenders 3. Develop and implement a training program for all mentors, incorporating one or more of the best practice models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Thinking for Change b. Train to recognize history of abuse, trauma, poverty and criminal tendencies (triggers) Trauma Informed Care c. Ready for Work d. Support Systems e. Clear vision of how to break the cycle f. Resources 4. Match the mentors with the offenders while incarcerated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Manage the logistical challenges of remote prisons b. Mail, phone cards, etc 5. Support the ongoing mentor/mentee relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include the family in the ex-offenders’ mentoring process to encourage acceptance and growth
--	--	---

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Training for participants to learn about the mentoring process c. Logistics of pre-release mentoring d. When creating mentoring plan keep in mind to incorporate Social activities, Group activities, and Family activities e. Support collaborative efforts, faith based and non faith based initiatives in mentoring
<p>Substance Abuse</p>	<p>► To mainstream the process for ex-offenders to get proper treatment for their addiction with help of resources available to them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage agencies to develop standardized assessment processes develop and implement programs and protocols addressing needs of high to moderate risk offenders 2. Educate and train caregivers/family members, employers about substance abuse issues 3. Link ex-offenders to services prior to release 4. Create resource guide for inmates

EDUCATION

Statement of the Problem:

The lack of adequate education contributes to a higher recidivism rate which includes lack of sufficient career development, educational and vocational training programs both pre-release and post release. According to ODRC, Bureau of Research & Evaluation Lake County in 2011 had 34.3% of its intake sample have less than a high school education.¹³

What is our goal?

- ▶ Make resources available prior to release and after in education/job readiness skills.
- ▶ Enhance the range and accessibility of education and vocational program opportunities for ex-offenders
- ▶ Provide comprehensive soft skills and life skills programs, which may incorporate cognitive behavior therapy

Objective:

1. Increase collaboration with educational resources to expand services throughout the county
2. Advocate for available funding for educational opportunities
3. Support the development of life skills programs

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ The Lake County Reentry Coalition and key stakeholders shall seek out, prepare and submit grants and funding targeting this issue.

¹³ Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Bureau of Research & Evaluation PROFILE OF LAKE COUNTY INTAKE—2011 INTAKE

EMPLOYMENT

Statement of the Problem:

The absence of employment opportunities contributes to the risk of recidivism. According to the ODRC Intake Profile of Lake County for 2011, only 36.1% of offenders were employed full time at the time of arrest. Lake County's unemployment rate for 2011 was 7.1%. With the nation still in an employment crisis, returning offenders are competing for jobs with an average of 6 applicants for each position filled.

What is our goal?

► Provide a comprehensive suite of employment services and options that will increase the probability that ex-offenders will secure and retain long term employment

Objective:

1. Support employment programs that provide job readiness training, assessments, and retention services
2. Create a marketing strategy for promoting outreach to local business leaders regarding Lake County Reentry Coalition, WOTC & Fidelity Bond Program
3. Expand the current training sessions to local incarcerated offenders and ex-offenders at the county level regarding employability skills and job training skills
4. Work with Lake1Stop employment services regarding ex-offenders
5. Connect ex-offenders with special needs (such as ex-offenders with disabilities and veterans) to organizations providing specialized services
6. Improve employability through job readiness training and education alternatives

Performance Outcomes:

- Increase % of ex-offenders securing employment and/or education alternative for a career
- Increase % of ex-offenders retaining employment at six months and one year

► Assist local agencies with finding resources to expand or create programs to support employment

FAMILY/PARENTING

Statement of the Problem:

Entire families can become increasingly unstable when a family member is incarcerated.

Challenges can include:

- The family may lose the primary breadwinner, causing economic hardships.
- Children may lose their primary guardian, requiring new custody arrangements.
- The loss of a family member may cause psychological damage to others in the family, especially children, requiring supportive services.
- High rates of recidivism cause additional disruption as parents, and children, cycle in and out of the family.

Research has demonstrated that the family is a critical part of successful re-entry. Family support was identified as the most important factor that kept ex-offenders from returning to prison.

However it can be challenging for the family to maintain contact with the ex-offender's family member. Phone calls may be too expensive to hold regularly, the family may have difficulty traveling to the prison, and prison visiting rules may be difficult to navigate.

“Approximately 70% (of children with an incarcerated parent) will end up in jail themselves unless a mentor or another caring adult intervenes in their lives.¹⁴” The Lake County Reentry Coalition will attempt to reduce this number by reaching out to families while the ex-offender is incarcerated and upon their release. Family reunification may also present challenges. For example, the ex-offender may expect to return to the family in the same capacity as prior to incarceration, yet the family may have established new models of interaction. Also, adult offenders may return to aging parents, distant siblings and broken communities. It must also be

¹⁴ *Ed Cohn, CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Central Ohio*

recognized that some families contribute to criminogenic attitudes and behaviors, and ex-offenders would not benefit from returning to these families.

What is our goal?

- ▶ Support family stability during the absence of the ex-offender.
- ▶ Support family reunification with biological or chosen family where appropriate
- ▶ Will support ex-offenders and families by enhancing services during and after incarceration

Objective:

1. Utilize family needs survey to assist families to expand structured support services for families and children (faith based and non faith based)
2. Identify services and supports available for families during family member incarceration.
 - a. Housing, food, transportation and utility needs - include use of Ohio Benefit Bank and public assistance eligibility.
 - b. Trauma, mental health, A&D, domestic violence service needs
 - c. Education or training needs (life skills such as relationship and parenting as well as employment oriented)
 - d. Child mentoring
 - e. Child and family visitation
3. Establish a family-centered case management wraparound protocol for families
4. Provide, via wrap-around planning, family supportive programs for the offender/ex-offender and their family members such as:
 - f. Family Reentry
 - g. Parenting, Fatherhood, Motherhood
 - h. Child development
 - i. Education and support for incarcerated pregnant women
 - j. Parenting support group during incarceration and after release

5. Educate community on issues/obstacles of families
6. Development of resource guide for families

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Provide at least one education seminar annually to the community about the above-mentioned issues.
- ▶ Increase the number of offenders and ex-offenders engaged in pro-social family or support systems

HOUSING

Statement of the Problem:

There is shortage in all housing types (permanent, emergency, and transitional). Screening criteria for many programs is restrictive. Housing for offenders is critical at this time when homelessness is rising. The number of individuals released from prisons is 300% greater than it was twenty years ago. In order to prevent ex-offenders from further contributing to the overall homeless population, we must assist ex-offender with finding secure and stable housing. Secure housing is a vital component in the stability of the reentry process and in reducing the recidivism rate of ex-offenders. This is due to released prisoners require a safe place to sleep the very night they are released from prison, housing is a critical component of successful reentry, even if that initial housing is temporary or transitional in nature. Most inmates will reside with family, friends, or in their own home on the first night of release. While living with family and friends may appear to be the best and most affordable option for returning prisoners, these living arrangements may not be stable or even feasible in the long run. Many recently released inmates reported that they had few options but to live with their family in subsidized, housing; finding an apartment of their own was improbable, and few desired to live in the shelter system.

What is our goal?

- ▶ House ex-offenders in safe, decent, and affordable housing
- ▶ To assist ex-offenders in finding secure and stable housing
- ▶ Identify emergency, short term and long term housing options

Objective:

1. Become involved with Housing Coalition agenda for county
2. Educate landlords with partnership with Fair Housing Resources Center and forming trusting relationships with them
3. Advocate for less restrictive screening criteria
4. Increase housing opportunities to ex-offenders
5. Compile a list of private and public housing options available to ex-offenders

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Measure and determine the reduction in number of ex-offenders homeless or in need of housing

IDENTIFICATION**Statement of the Problem:**

Ex-offenders returning to the community are lacking proper identification. Currently there are limited resources available. Men and women need proper government-issued photo identification in order to obtain employment, housing, enroll in educational or vocational courses and services through agencies such as Jobs and Family Services. If a man or woman does not have a photo I.D., there are very few places to go within the community for continued assistance. The cost of photo identification is \$8.50 in Lake County, birth certificates are \$22.00 each and a social

security card may take up to one month to receive in the mail. Proper identification is vital for one in order to live a stable productive life within a community like Lake County.

What is our goal?

- ▶ To mainstream the process for ex-offenders to obtain proper identification, a birth certificate, government-issued state identification and social security card. At minimum, all ex-offenders returning will possess government-issued stated I.D.
- ▶ Identify and partner with Lake County resources to inform ex-offenders on how to obtain this identification and where to find the resources to assist with the costs.

Objective:

1. Lake County Re-entry Coalition will identify and partner with Lake County resources to develop a guide for ex-offenders returning to the community.
2. Identify financial resources to assist with the cost of obtaining identification

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Make resource guide available to each institution to be given out upon release
- ▶ Create and launch a website for the Lake County Re-Entry Coalition with this information on it
- ▶ Advocate for State ID to be issued upon release

LEGAL ISSUES

Statement of the Problem:

Many ex-offenders have more than one civil legal issue. For example, domestic related issues, driver's license issues, outstanding warrants, outstanding fines and costs, restitution and expungement. These legal problems often prevent the offender from maintaining stable housing and employment, two of the biggest predictive factors for whether an offender is likely to return to prison or face homelessness or other severe hardships.

What is our goal?

- ▶ To reduce recidivism by early identification and intervention to resolve legal issues that will intervene with an offender's ability to maintain stable employment and housing.
- ▶ Attempt to remove legal issues that are barriers to successful reentry.

Objective:

1. Develop a legal needs assessment to identify and assist with outstanding legal issues
2. Develop a network of Lake County lawyers and law students qualified and willing to offer assist with outstanding legal issues and guidance
 - a. Pending charges, unpaid court costs – check websites for Lake County to determine if there are pending charges, unpaid fines or unpaid court costs.
 - b. Unpaid restitution or unpaid probation fees. Develop contact list to verify with various courts
 - c. Driver's license issues, determining the status of an individual's driver's license and what needs to be done to obtain valid driving privileges
 - d. Child support issues – Determine what steps an individual can take to clear a license suspension imposed due to child support arrears.
 - e. Record sealed – at this point because of the legal issues involved, the individual should be instructed to seek advice from an attorney regarding this issue.

3. Provide information on securing needed legal documents such as driver's license, Birth certificate, etc.

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Increase the number of ex-offenders successfully resolving common legal problems during the first year of release

MENTAL HEALTH

Statement of the Problem:

Ex-offenders with mental illness lack hope of recovery from their mental illness. Mental illness, coupled with the high co-occurrence of criminogenic needs, impede the ex-offender's ability to function in society and leads to increased recidivism.

What is our goal?

- ▶ Continue to support forensic services already offered and the expansion of new relevant services.

Objective:

1. Continue to educate the community about forensic issues
2. Create resource guide for inmates
3. Continue to link offenders to services prior to release
4. Create a flow of information during the prerelease period tailored for Lake County
5. Support new diversion initiatives for ex-offenders with mental illness- classes
 - a. Continue to educate the family in regards to mental health issues of the offender returning home as well as reunification barriers

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Advocate for a better identification of mental health offenders prior to their release
- ▶ Increase the identification % of offenders with mental illness prior to their release

MENTORING

Statement of the Problem:

Ex-offenders released from prison often return to their communities without positive support to assist them in their transition. Resources for concrete problems such as housing and food may be readily available to ex-offenders; however, mentoring programs are not as widely accessible. By participating in a mentor program, ex-offenders can improve their self-esteem, communication, and relationship skills. Linkages with positive role models, often associated with faith based communities, can have a significant impact on reducing recidivism and improve community systems.

What is our goal?

► To connect ex-offenders with positive, inspiring supportive mentors prior to their release and maintaining that relationship for 12-18 months. This will promote a sense of connectedness in the community and reduce recidivism.

Objective:

1. Define and develop the mentoring program options and components.
 - a. Pre and post release.
 - b. One on one mentoring and group options.
2. Define characteristics of positive mentors and recruit individuals with these characteristics.
 - a. Successful community members
 - b. Successful ex-offenders
3. Develop and implement a training program for all mentors, incorporating one or more of the best practice models:
 - a. Thinking for Change
 - b. Train to recognize history of abuse, trauma, poverty and criminal tendencies (triggers) Trauma Informed Care
 - c. Ready for Work

- d. Support Systems
- e. Clear vision of how to break the cycle
- f. Resources
4. Match the mentors with the offenders while incarcerated.
 - a. Manage the logistical challenges of remote prisons
 - b. Mail, phone cards, etc
5. Support the ongoing mentor/mentee relationship
 - a. Include the family in the ex-offenders' mentoring process to encourage acceptance and growth
 - b. Training for participants to learn about the mentoring process
 - c. Logistics of pre-release mentoring
 - d. When creating mentoring plan keep in mind to incorporate Social activities, Group activities, and Family activities
 - e. Support collaborative efforts, faith based and non faith based initiatives in mentoring

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Advocate for more mentoring programs in Lake County
- ▶ Identify and advertise mentoring programs available in Lake County with the resource guide
- ▶ Increase % of ex-offenders who have a mentor prior to release and during the first year post release.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Statement of the Problem:

Substance abuse treatment is an essential component of establishing positive, long term behavioral change and the ability to pass drug screens for securing/retaining employment. Failing to provide this essential service drive up the cost of many community systems and hinders human potential. If you have substance abuse issues and the ability to function in society leads to increased recidivism. According to the ODRC Intake Profile of Lake County for 2011, recent alcohol abuse was reported 47.2% while 88.9% of offenders reported abuse in the past. Also, recent drug abuse was reported in 91.4% of offenders while 94.4% offender reported abuse in the past. The intake report goes on to say that 25% of the offenders were on some type of drug during the offense, while 16.7% were under the influence of alcohol and 22.2% of the offenders reported that they were under both at the time of the offense. Finally 41.7% of the offenders in the intake study had prior DUI convictions¹⁵.

What is our goal?

► To mainstream the process for ex-offenders to get proper treatment for their addiction with help of resources available to them.

Objective:

1. Encourage agencies to develop standardized assessment processes develop and implement programs and protocols addressing needs of high to moderate risk offenders
2. Educate and train caregivers/family members, employers about substance abuse issues
3. Link ex-offenders to services prior to release
4. Create resource guide for inmates

¹⁵ Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction, Bureau of Research & Evaluation PROFILE OF LAKE COUNTY INTAKE—2011 INTAKE

Performance Outcomes:

- ▶ Assist local agencies with finding resources to expand or create programs

- ▶ Increase the identification % of ex-offenders with substance abuse issues prior to their release

Coalition Agencies and Members:

Mentor Municipal Court
Mentor Municipal Court Clerk of Courts
Signature Health
Lake County Sheriff's Department
NAMI
Adult Parole Authority
COTAAN Program
Beacon Health
Catholic Charities
Lake County ADAMHS Board
Extended Housing
Beacon Health
Mentor Municipal Court Probation Department
Lake County Citizen
Lake County Citizen

Judge John Trebets
Bambic, Linda
Brickman, Paul
Brooks, Cynthia
Farmer, Christi
Grzincic, John A.
Johnson, Kathy
Kalina-Hammond, Julie
Kline, Senta
Lakomiak, Christine
Langenderfer, Sandra
Mezaris, Michelle
Radovanic, Susan
Schilero, Beverly
Stouffer, Mark

Special thanks to the Honorable John Trebets and Lake County Sheriff Dan Dunlap for their support of the Lake County Coalition and its effort to focus on the unique challenges of reentry in Lake County.