

**Capital Region Ex-Offender Support Coalition
Workforce Development Committee Update
November 11, 2012**

Members Present: Robert Garraty (Garraty Workforce Investment - GWI), Terri Kaufman (South Central Workforce Investment Board - WIB), Amanda Price (Keystone Correctional Services, Inc. - KCS) and Tim Whelan (United Way of the Capital Region - UW)

Members Absent: (it should be noted little advance notice was given for this meeting) Larissa Bailey (Harrisburg Regional Chamber), Jennifer Berkich (Dauphin County Work Release Center) and Don Klause (Allied Associates Management, Inc.).

1. The WIB offered to promote the hiring of ex-offenders during the county-by-county employer needs assessment report out. Each county has meetings where employers find out about their overall needs identified through a scientific survey. The potential for the hiring of ex-offenders to meet some of those needs will be promoted at these meetings.
2. The UW offered to promote the hiring of ex-offenders during their interactions with employers (CEOs and other employer representatives) during the year. They would like this committee to help them craft the message to include things like the overall lowering of criminality in the community by the hiring of ex-offenders by employers.
3. The WIB will attempt to encourage the registration of ex-offenders in the overall Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program via the PA CareerLinks because many of them will qualify to receive training under the "adult" portion of the program. A project for this committee could be to follow-up on this effort.
4. One project for this committee should be to quantify the overall costs associated with incarceration (including things like the impact of the loss of the main breadwinner of a family). The UW offered its research group to help explore this issue. The Chair will develop a draft research question and get feedback from committee members before submitting it to the UW for review.
5. The Chair agreed to call the President of EDSI to request information on the Ex-offender project they have going on in Philadelphia. It could be a model for an effort in this area.
6. A project for this committee could be to create an infrastructure for employer to use to fill out the paperwork for federal bonding. Many times this "red tape" gets in the way of an employer willing to hire an ex-offender and get the tax credits. The UW may have the resources to sponsor such activity.
7. Another project to be considered for this committee would be to create a model that is currently being used in Hazelton, Pa and other areas where an entity could be an employer-of record and could hire ex-offenders for maintenance and other types of jobs. The Chair will research Transitional Jobs Networks and bring back the results to the committee.
8. It was noted by KCS that the Commonwealth, through its Department of General Services, has a no hiring of ex-offenders policy for contractors. UW will research these types of contracts to see if an effort could be made to encourage a change in regulations.

9. KCS and the WIB decided to convene a regional multi-community correction center (CCC) symposium where the Worldwide Interactive Network (WIN) skills builder software would be able to be used by the CCCs at no charge from the WIB for ex-offenders.
10. It was decided that this committee will meet at least every other month prior to the full CRESC meeting. The Chair will work with the members to set up a regular schedule.