

# Joint Task Force on Housing and Re-entry

## Session Notes

December 7, 2016

### I. PARTICIPANTS

April Angermeier, Rhiannon Edwards, Chelsea Haring-Cozzi, Julie Fidler, Vop Osili, Mary Morgan, Alan Witchey, Scott Armstrong, Karin Thornburg, Lia Hicks, Kay Wiles, Scott Vail, Jane Wiles, Teresa Wessel, Caleb Sutton, Katherine Tauhan

### II. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [The Accountability Pathway](#)

### III. NEW INDIVIDUAL ACTION COMMITMENTS

Name	Action(s)	With Whom	By When	Contribution to Result
April Angermeier	Finalize meeting summary	Dalton Haney	12/21/16	Keep task force members informed of the group's progress
Chelsea Haring-Cozzi	Discuss potential of compiling best practices related to identified housing barriers	Calli Pugh	12/21/16	Provide research to task force members that will inform strategy development.
	Send scheduling poll to task force members	CSI	1/2/16	Establish meeting time to develop strategies that contribute to the result

### IV. DISCUSSION

#### Joint Task Force Creation

This task force was formed so that two coalitions, the Marion County Re-entry Coalition (MCRC) and the Continuum of Care (CoC), could work collaboratively on strategies targeted at individuals that are in need of housing upon release from incarceration as well as individuals that have been released and are experiencing barriers to housing due to their criminal history. The goal of collaborating in this way is to increase reach and effectiveness and reduce duplication. Chelsea reviewed some key statistics on housing and re-entry to provide the group with context. Currently, CSI is completing a review of the data available on homelessness and incarceration/re-entry through a project with CHIP, which should provide more insight to this task force in early 2017.

#### RBA Overview

Results Based Accountability (RBA) is a framework used by Community Solutions and the MCRC and involves concepts such as:

- Establishing a result statement and work backwards from there
- Developing strategies targeted at achieving the result statement
- Reviewing data points to help inform and guide the strategies and the work that is done
- Accountability at the individual and group level
- Moving from talk to action (productivity)
- Utilizing your sphere of influence to implement strategies
- Utilizing documentation and tools (strategy Grids, action commitment forms, meeting summaries)

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## Result Statement

The group was asked to consider what the ideal world for those re-entering the community or those with a criminal history would look like with regard to housing. The group identified the following key aspects of a result statement for the task force:

- Remove barriers not based on criminal background
- Process (easily attainable) of obtaining housing...pre-release planning; establishment of relationships
- Co-location of supportive services-easy access
- Available transitional housing/transition in place/rapid rehousing
- Ability for everyone to have a place to live with access to supportive services
- Housing stability → may be needing to move from original housing
- Housing first-then assessment and appropriate placement
- Consider people that have been out of incarceration for a while
- Variety of housing types are necessary

Other topics of note during this conversation included:

- HUD has moved away from transitional housing to rapid re-housing and transition in place.
- Different types of populations require different types of services (IDOC offenders vs. home detention vs. work release)

The group decided to let April and Chelsea attempt a result statement for the group's review.

*Proposed Result Statement: All adults with a criminal history in Marion County are housed.*

## Barriers

The group engaged in a conversation about what they see as current housing related barriers for the re-entry population. Following the discussion and identification of barriers, task force members voted on the barriers they see as being the most important for the group to focus on. The top 4 are listed below:

*#1-Restrictions on existing housing for any offense*

*#2-Lack of affordable housing*

*#2-Lack of supportive services*

*#3-Transitional housing capacity*

Other identified barriers were:

- Sex offender status
- Drug offenses
- Arson offenses
- Lack of a common language
- Lack of understanding about needs of formerly/currently incarcerated people
- Restrictions of existing groups-CoC/HUD
- Stigmas
- Co-morbidities
- Lack of immediate income (unemployment) and fees (supervision, child support)
- Resource restrictions
- Mindset/mind frame/criminogenic thinking
- Lack of information pre-release-knowing where to go
- Going back to same negative environment
- Identification of people being release to homelessness (data) → coordinated entry
- Lack of understanding of the extent of the problem-i.e. lack of data (IDOC, MCSO, Probation, MCCC)
- Medication access/process
- Lack of data on cost effectiveness of providing data
- Lack of rental assistance

## Joint Task Force on Housing and Re-entry

The following topics were also mentioned during the discussion on housing barriers:

- Capacity issues
- What supplementary services the re-entry population needs to support their housing situation
- Identification of best practices, what works, and utilize those services and resources if possible
- The impact the CoC can have with the re-entry population if the individual isn't officially "homeless" at release and has an approved address
- CWF sites working with clients to modify fees if possible for services such as home detention
- Use of resource centers and connection to services and immediate assistance
- Existing data showing that an increase in services can lead to an increase in technical violations

### **Next Steps**

- At the next meeting, the group will discuss best practices to address the top barriers identified and start to develop strategies. Members asked for assistance in researching best practices. Chelsea agreed to discuss this with staff at UWCI. If possible, UWCI will compile information for the task force to review prior to the next work group meeting.
- Participants should consider the scope of the task force and determine if they would like to commit to active membership.
- Chelsea will send out a scheduling poll for the next meeting of the task force, which will likely occur in late January. ***Please note: This will be the last meeting for the task force in the current UWCI building.***