

ChancesR: Re-Entry, Reunification, and Recovery

Fact Sheet - January 2012

The Beaver County ChancesR: Re-Entry, Reunification, and Recovery Program focuses on Beaver County residents with a substance use disorder (SUD) or a co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder (COD), and who have been sentenced for their crimes to the Beaver County Jail. ChancesR addresses the issues that hinder an offender's successful return to the community upon release from jail and places an emphasis on the difficulties those released face in obtaining and keeping employment. This fact sheet showcases the sponsorship services available for the individuals enrolled in the ChancesR Program.

The Programs

Since September 2011, ROOTS (Reaching Over Obstacles To Succeed) and T.R.A.I.L.S. Ministries (Transforming lives, Restoring hope, Advocating change, Identifying resources, Life planning, and Supporting families) have been providing a sponsorship service to individuals in the ChancesR Program. Trained sponsors are matched with individuals identified in the Beaver County Jail to provide friendship and mentoring.

The mentoring process begins with both sponsors and inmates completing questionnaires which address their own personal interests and experiences in an effort to best match a sponsor with an inmate (if the individual him or herself does not identify a sponsor of their choosing).

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

To date, 45 individuals have had initial meetings between client and potential sponsor in the jail and 11 sponsors/sponsee relationships have been established. Over 150 contacts have been made either

in person or via phone, averaging 3.3 contacts per client. During their time together, sponsors help to determine the individual's needs and assist in getting those needs met. Some help with housing, others with getting individuals involved with drug and alcohol services available; and all sponsors are available to simply listen. Over 75% of the individuals have had multiple contacts with their sponsor, with one individual having had eight contacts made to date.

The Investment

Almost 40 hours has been spent during these encounters with 38.3% having spent an hour or more together. Less than one-fourth (23.4%) of meetings were brief, i.e. fifteen minutes or less. The majority of the activities having been done with the clients include:

- **Collateral Contacts** (which includes contacts with outside supports such as their probation officers, counselors, etc) and
- **Transition/Re-Entry Support** (which focuses on assisting them with working towards goals and needs such as job and education support, housing support and linking them with services to assist with their drug and/or alcohol issues).

The Success

To date, over half (57.8%) of the 45 individuals have been released from jail. Almost 40% (10 of the 26 discharged) continue to maintain regular contact with their sponsor on at least a monthly basis.