

BCRC Employment Services

Fact Sheet – April 2015¹

ChancesR: Re-entry, Reunification, and Recovery Program (ChancesR) and Beaver County ReEntry Addressing Co-occurring Histories (BC-REACH) target individuals incarcerated in the Beaver County Jail who have been diagnosed with a substance use, mental health, or a co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder (COD). These programs address a number of issues that hinder an offender's successful return to the community, including difficulties in obtaining and keeping employment.

Beaver County Rehabilitation Center (BCRC) has provided vocational and employment services to individuals enrolled in ChancesR since 2011 and BC-REACH since 2013.²



BCRC SERVICES AIMED AT COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY AND EMPLOYMENT:

Supported employment further helps individuals in their job search and during employment. Program participants receive assistance researching labor markets, developing resumes, preparing cover letters, practicing interview skills, and developing job retention skills.

Psychiatric rehabilitation is an evidence-based process aimed at restoring community functioning and the well-being of an individual with a psychiatric disability. It has a strong employment focus on skill development.

GED/Academic support services help in the development of additional skills pertinent to acquiring employment including GED, math and computer skills.

Vocational assessment includes cognitive, interest and vocational aptitude testing, which results in specific recommendations for both incarceration and community re-entry to support employment acquisition and retention.

As a result of participating in BCRC services, 70 ChancesR participants received employment and at least 6 BC-REACH participants obtained employment outside BCRC.³

¹ Based on interviews with BCRC staff.

² BC-REACH specifically focuses on female offenders diagnosed with COD and eligible for work release.

³ Most of these jobs were in manufacturing (e.g. assembly lines) and food (e.g. restaurants) industries.

Benefits of Participation

The benefits participants receive include:

- While still incarcerated, assistance with developing a re-entry plan that includes their employment goals
- Assessment of their current skills
- Opportunities to develop new employment and recovery skills
- Assistance with researching the local labor market
- Resume and interview preparation
- One-on-one delivery of all services

If a client of either program expresses willingness and interest, BCRC continues to provide necessary support post-release.

BC-REACH Work Release

In addition, women enrolled in BC-REACH are employed by BCRC through which they gain experience and skills in:

- Working in a professional office environment
- Document management
- Microsoft applications
- Employment interviewing

Work release participants add professional office experience to their resumes and also have the opportunity to take BCRC classes that teach Microsoft programs and the use of office equipment

Continued Challenges to Successful Re-Entry

Participants re-entering the community might experience challenges to their recovery and/or obtaining employment including:

- Continued substance abuse
- Unavailability of childcare
- Inadequate or absent housing and/or transportation
- Failure to engage with community providers of behavioral health services, which might lead to an individual not receiving needed post-release counseling or employment search services
- Domestic violence or a return to a previously unhealthy living environment (e.g., an abusive or still substance-using significant other)
- Difficulty finding positive natural supports, such as community-based or family-based services

Success Stories

One female participant who was enrolled in the BCRC work release program initially found a temporary job through a temp agency inventorying for a retail store. Then she found another job through the same temp agency packaging for a manufacturing company. BCRC staff explained that she has been working there for about a year now. She recently visited BCRC and shared with them that she is very happy to be employed, has restored her relationship with her daughter, and is determined to find better housing.

Another female enrolled in the BCRC work release program found employment in retail and then at a manufacturing company. BCRC staff reported that she is back in her home and able to pay for her utilities. Previously she was unable to pay these bills.

Prepared by:

